Ardal Gwarchodaeth Arbennig Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn / Anglesey Terns Special Protection Area

Advice provided by Natural Resources Wales under Regulation 37(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

June 2025

Nesting terns. Photo copyright © Tracey Dunford.

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Mae Adran 1 yn cyflwyno'r safle, pwrpas y cyngor a strwythur yr amcanion cadwraeth. Mae Adran 2 yn cynnwys esboniad o'r rolau a'r cyfrifoldebau, ac mae Adran 3 yn amlinellu amcanion cadwraeth pob nodwedd a gwybodaeth ategol. Mae cyngor ar weithrediadau mewn perthynas â'r safle hwn i'w gael yn Adran 4. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am yr AGA wedi'i chynnwys yn Atodiad 1.

Isod mae rhestr o nodweddion dynodedig yr AGA hon a dolen uniongyrchol i'r amcanion cadwraeth, ond mae'n bwysig darllen pob adran yn llawn.

Tabl 1. Crynodeb o nodweddion yr AGA a'r ddolen i'r amcanion cadwraeth.

Enw'r AGA	Nodweddion Dynodedig	Cysylltiad â'r Amcanion Cadwraeth
Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn	• Môr-wennol y Gogledd *Sterna paradisea* • Môr-wennol gyffredin *Sterna hirundo* • Môr-wennol wridog *Sterna dougallii* • Môr-wennol bigddu *Thalasseus sandvicensis*	Amcanion cadwraeth

Executive Summary

This document contains NRW's advice for Anglesey Terns special protection area (SPA) issued under Regulation 37(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Namely conservation objectives and advice on operations.

Section 1 introduces the SPA, the purpose of the advice and the structure of the conservation objectives. Section 2 includes an explanation of the roles and responsibilities before Section 3 outlines each feature's conservation objectives and supporting information. Advice on operations in relation to this SPA is found in Section 4. Further information on the SPA is captured in Appendix 1

Table 1 lists the designated features of this SPA and provides a direct link to the conservation objectives, but it is important that all sections are read in full.

Table 1. Summary of SPA features and link to conservation objectives.

SPA Name	Designated Features	Link to Conservation Objectives
Anglesey Terns	• Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* • Common tern *Sterna hirundo* • Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* • Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*	Conservation objectives

1. Introduction

The ardal gwarchodaeth arbennig Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn / Anglesey Terns special protection area (SPA) is in north-west Wales on the isle of Anglesey and the surrounding seas. The SPA comprises three separate colonies. Ynys Feurig lies on Anglesey's west coast close to Valley Airfield, with Cemlyn Bay situated on the north coast about 20 km away. The Skerries lie 3 km off Carmel Head to the north of Anglesey. The SPA also comprises a large area of sea around the west, north and east of Anglesey to incorporate foraging and loafing areas for the four tern species.

The SPA was classified in 1996 under Article 4.1 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) for the nesting sites of four Annex I species of breeding terns,

- Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, 1,290 pairs
- Common tern *Sterna hirundo*, 189 pairs
- Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*, 3 pairs
- Sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicencis*, 460 pairs

The site boundary was extended in 2017 to include foraging areas in the seas around Anglesey and renamed Anglesey Terns SPA (Figure 1).

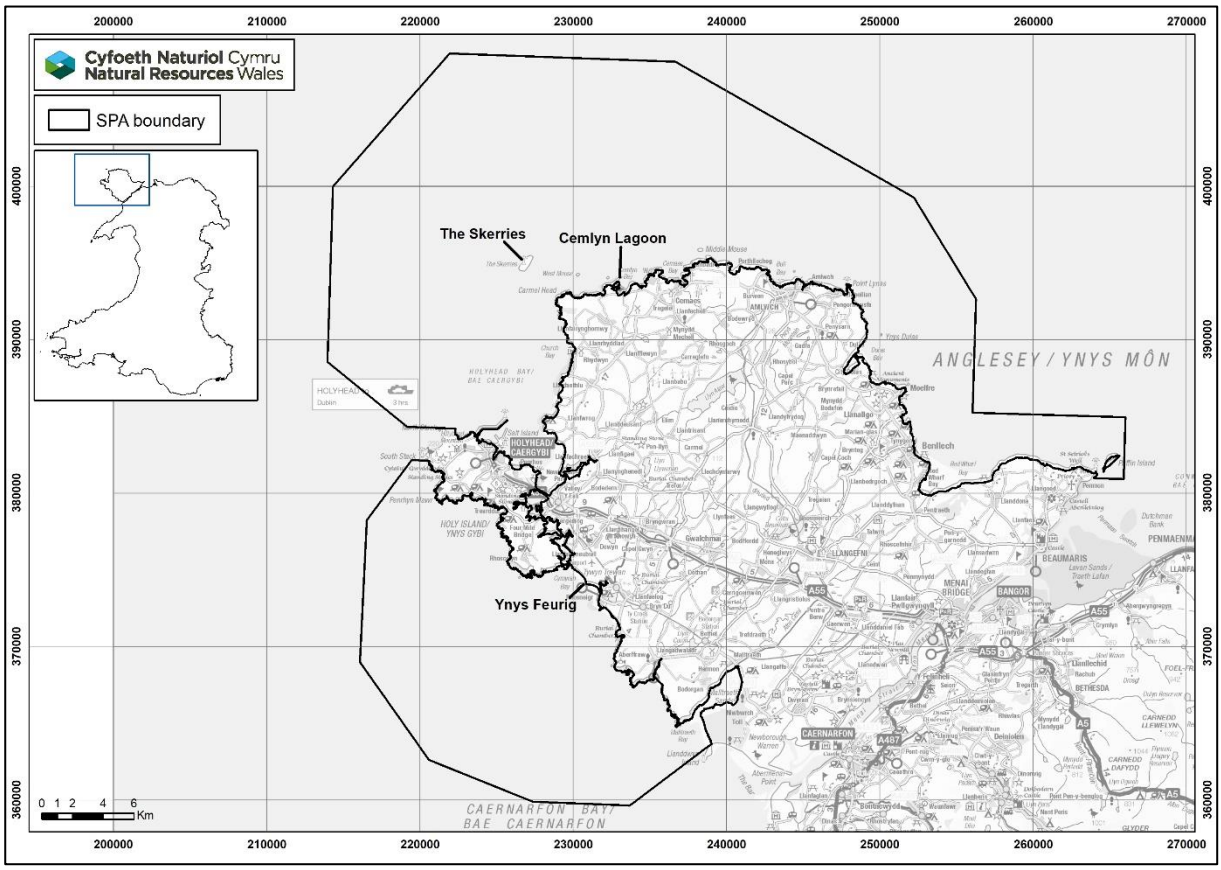
Ynys Feurig is a series of small islets off the west coast of Anglesey which are joined to the Anglesey mainland at mid to low tide. Most of the tern nesting at this part of the SPA are Arctic terns with a smaller breeding population of common terns. The Skerries is a group of sparsely vegetated rocky islets, approximately 17 ha in extent lying 3 km off the north-western coast of Anglesey. Most terns breeding on The Skerries are Arctic terns with a much smaller population of common terns. The other colony which makes up the SPA is at Cemlyn Bay on the north coast of Anglesey, which comprises a saline lagoon separated from the sea by a shingle ridge. At this site, the terns (mainly sandwich terns with much smaller numbers of common and Arctic terns) breed on two small islands within the lagoon.

The SPA is overlapped by other protected areas. The colony of Cemlyn Bay is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the lagoon and its shingle ridge. Three other SACs overlap with the site, as do two SPAs and 19 sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). A list of all protected sites partly or wholly in the SPA can be found in Appendix 2. More information on these sites, including the conservation objectives for the SPAs and SACs can be found on the NRW website. The boundaries and geographical extents of these sites can be seen on the JNCC MPA mapper.

1.1. SPA map

A map of the boundary of the Anglesey Terns SPA can be seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Map of the Anglesey Terns SPA.



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1.2. The purpose of conservation advice

Conservation advice provides a framework for assessing developments and activities with the potential to affect the features for which a European marine site (EMS) is designated. An EMS is a SAC or SPA which consists of marine areas. Conservation advice presents site specific information, in addition to highlighting activities that are potentially capable of having an impact on the site and its designated species (known as a feature).

This SPA is an EMS subject to protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended (referred to in this document as the 'Habitats Regulations'). Under the Habitats Regulations, relevant and competent authorities with functions in relation to an EMS must exercise those functions to comply with the requirements of the 1992 European Commission (EC) Habitats and Species Directive and the 2009 EC Wild Birds Directive. The key requirements of these Directives include the conservation of the features (habitat types or species) for which SACs or SPAs are designated. This requires taking appropriate steps to avoid deterioration or disturbance of

SAC or SPA features and carrying out appropriate assessment of any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or SPA.

This document contains the conservation advice for the Anglesey Terns SPA. It is prepared by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and given under our duty in Regulation 37(3) of the Habitats Regulations (see Section 2.1).

This advice is based on the best available evidence and information at the time of writing. In some cases, evidence can be limited. It will be kept under review by NRW and updated as and when appropriate.

1.3. Conservation objective structure

The conservation objectives for the designated features in this site are underpinned by conservation objective attributes. These attributes describe the ecological characteristics (e.g. population), and the ecological requirements that allow the conservation objectives for each feature to be met.

Conservation objective attributes have a target which is either quantified or qualified depending on the available evidence. The target identifies, as far as possible, the desired state to be achieved for the attribute. In many cases, the attribute targets show if the current objective is to either 'maintain' or 'restore' the attribute and are based on the latest condition assessment for the feature. Some aspects of feature condition may be assessed as unknown. In these cases, a maintain target will be set as necessary. For attributes that have been assigned 'unknown' in the condition assessment, further information on feature condition and/or activities impacting the feature will be required to inform further advice. Each attribute target will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis using the most current information available.

The conservation objective attributes that underpin the conservation objectives are used to measure if the objective is being met. This in turn can be used to see if site integrity is being maintained. Failure to meet any attribute means that the conservation objective is not being met and thus site integrity is not being maintained. Below is an example of a conservation objective and associated conservation objective attributes and targets.

Example Objective 1: The wintering population of the feature is stable or increasing relative to the SPA target population.

Example Objective attribute	**Example Site specific target**
Wintering population	Maintain/restore the wintering population of feature at or above X individuals (mean peak population year-year).

The conservation objectives for Anglesey Terns SPA are set out in Section 3. As noted in Section 1.2, NRW may refine these in the future as further information becomes available and increases our understanding of the feature.

The feature's conservation objective section provides:

1. A clear statement of each conservation objective for the feature.

2. A table summarising the attributes, and the targets for those attributes.

3. Supporting information that underpins the selection of the attributes and targets.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. NRW's role

Under Regulation 5 of the Habitats Regulations, NRW is a Nature Conservation Body and, in relation to Wales, is the Appropriate Nature Conservation Body (ANCB).

In its role as the ANCB, NRW has a duty under Regulation 37(3) of the Habitats Regulations to advise relevant authorities in respect of a EMS as to:

(a) the conservation objectives for that site

(b) any operations which may cause deterioration of natural habitats or the habitats of species, or disturbance of species, for which that site has been designated (see Section 1.1).

Advice on operations which may cause deterioration, together with the conservation objectives, is designed to assist relevant authorities and other decision-makers in complying with their statutory duties under the Habitats Regulations. The advice on operations which may cause deterioration given in this document is without prejudice to other advice given. This includes the conservation objectives themselves, and other advice which may be given by NRW from time to time in relation to any specific operations.

"Operations" is taken to cover all types of human activity, irrespective of whether they are under any form of regulation or management. Thus, the advice contains reference to operations which may not be the responsibility of any of the relevant authorities.

NRW will provide additional advice for the site to relevant authorities and competent authorities to allow them to fulfil their duties under the Habitats Regulations. For example, by providing advice to a competent authority assessing the implications of plans or projects on the features of the EMS. Each plan or project will be judged on its own merits, and this will determine the nature of any additional advice required.

2.2. The role of competent and relevant authorities

The expressions used in this advice of "relevant authority" and "competent authority" are as defined in Regulation 3 of the Habitats Regulations. Relevant authorities are specified in Regulation 6 of the Habitats Regulations. Competent Authorities are specified in Regulation 7 of the Habitats Regulations.

Under Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations, all competent authorities must undertake a formal assessment of the implications that any new plans or projects may have on the designated features of a protected site. The implications must be assessed in the context of other plans and projects affecting the same site. Activities outside the site may also affect the features of the site, therefore, plans and projects located outside of a designated site may still need to be assessed.

In respect of the assessment provisions in Part 6 (assessment of plans or projects) of the Habitats Regulations, NRW is also the ANCB in relation to Wales.

The assessment provisions comprise several distinct stages which are collectively described as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), for which guidance is available. Before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, the competent authority must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

In light of the conclusions of the HRA and subject to derogation under Regulation 64, the competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the EMS. In considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site, the competent authority must have regard to the manner in which it is proposed to be carried out or to any conditions or restrictions subject to which it proposes that the consent, permission or other authorisation should be given.

Carrying out the HRA process is the responsibility of the decision maker as the competent authority. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the competent authority with the information that they require for this purpose.

The competent authority has a duty to consult the ANCB for the purposes of the assessment. Under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations the competent authority must have regard to any representations made by the ANCB when reaching its decision.

Under Regulation 38(1) of the Habitats Regulations it states that, "*the relevant authorities, or any of them, may establish for a European marine site a management scheme under which their functions (including any power to make byelaws) are to be exercised so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Directives in relation to that site".*

In other words, a group of relevant authorities, or any individual relevant authority, may create a management plan for an EMS. Management plans should be used to help relevant authorities carry out their duties to secure compliance with the Habitats Regulations. Only one management scheme may be made for each EMS. A management scheme may be amended. An authority which has established a management scheme must as soon as practicable thereafter send a copy of it to the ANCB. Any management plans created on this site should be guided by the advice in this package.

Within their areas of jurisdiction relevant authorities must have regard to both direct and indirect effects of an activity on the designated features of the site. This may include consideration of issues outside the boundary of the site. Nothing within a Regulation 37(3) package will require relevant authorities to undertake any actions to maintain or improve the condition of designated features if it is shown that the changes result wholly from natural causes.

NRW will continue to review any new evidence or information about this site and will provide further advice as appropriate. This does not stop relevant authorities from taking any appropriate conservation measures to prevent deterioration to the designated features. Such actions should be undertaken when required.

2.3. The purpose of conservation objectives

The purpose of the conservation objectives for an EMS is to help meet the obligations of the Habitats Regulations in relation to that site. They do this by supporting:

- **Communication**. The conservation objectives help convey to stakeholders what is needed to maintain or restore a feature in/to favourable condition.
- **Site planning and management**. The conservation objectives guide the development of management measures for sites. Achievement of conservation objectives may require management action to be taken inside or outside the site boundary.
- **Assessment of plans and projects**. The Habitats Regulations require the assessment of plans and projects in view of a site's conservation objectives. Subject to certain exceptions, plans or projects may not proceed unless it is established that they will not adversely affect the integrity of a site. Conservation objectives can help develop suitable compensatory measures.
- **Monitoring and reporting**. Conservation objectives provide the basis for defining the evidence that will be used for assessing the condition of a feature.

This document includes both a statement of the conservation objectives and explanatory text on their intent and interpretation specific to the site (supporting information).

2.4. The purpose of advice on operations

NRW must provide advice to relevant authorities about operations that may cause,

- deterioration of designated natural habitats
- deterioration of the habitats of designated species
- the disturbance of designated species

This is statutory advice required by Regulation 37(3)(b) of the Habitats Regulations when considering operations which may cause impacts to designated features. These are operations which could take place within or outside the boundary of the Anglesey Terns SPA.

NRW can provide specific advice on existing activities and management, advising on the extent to which activities are consistent with the conservation objectives. This advice, together with the list of activities in Section 4 and the latest condition assessments should direct required management measures within a site.

2.5. When to use this advice

This advice should be used together with case-specific advice issued by NRW when developing, proposing or assessing an activity, plan or project that may affect the features of the site. Any proposal or operation that has the potential to affect a site must not prevent the achievement of the feature's conservation objectives. Any such prevention would amount to an adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

The advice given here is without prejudice to any advice which may be provided by NRW in relation to the consideration of individual plans or projects in the carrying out of the assessment provisions as defined in Part 6 of the Habitat Regulations.

2.6. Feature condition

NRW has a dedicated condition assessment process to assess feature condition. Each feature designated in Welsh EMS have their own set of performance indicators. These indicators have targets which are assessed with the most up to date evidence available. When all required indicator targets are met a feature is in favourable condition.

The condition assessment of a feature helps to determine if its conservation objectives are being achieved. Results determine if maintain or restore conservation objectives are needed. Appropriate management must be in place to enable conservation objectives to continue being met and for feature condition to be maintained or restored as required. The conservation objectives cannot be achieved if a feature is in unfavourable condition.

Feature condition is recorded in condition assessment documents. These are available on the NRW website. NRW will update this advice package when new condition assessment information is available.

2.6.1. Favourable conservation status and National Site Network

If features are in favourable condition, it is likely they are making an appropriate contribution to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) of the feature at the UK level. A feature cannot make an appropriate contribution to FCS without meeting its conservation objectives. More information on FCS can be found in the joint statement from the UK Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies.

Regulation 16A of the Habitats Regulations creates the National Site Network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK, and sets out the powers and duties of the appropriate authority (Welsh Government).

Information on how features in a site are meeting their conservation objectives will feed into the assessment of the National Site Network management objectives. The management objectives for the National Site Network are to maintain or restore designated SAC and SPA features to favourable conservation status across their natural range. More information on the UK National Site Network and its management objectives can be found on the gov.uk website.

3. Conservation objectives for Anglesey Terns SPA

The conservation objectives for each designated feature are outlined in the sections below. Each objective is accompanied by objective attributes and targets (see Section 1.3) and supporting information specific to each objective. General site and feature information can be found in Appendix 1.

The following terms are used in the conservation objectives.

Anthropogenic: In this document anthropogenic specifically relates to environmental changes caused or influenced by people, either directly or indirectly. NRW consider human influences to include climate change.

Maintain: Where existing evidence from the most recent condition assessment suggests the feature to be in favourable condition, the conservation objective is for the feature to remain in favourable condition.

Natural change: This is defined as species or habitat changes which are not a result of human influences.

Natural variability: This is defined as species or habitat variability, which are not a result of human influences.

Restore: Where existing evidence from the most recent condition assessment suggests the feature, or part of the feature, to be in unfavourable condition the conservation objective is to return the feature to favourable condition. As the feature is being returned to favourable condition, further decline in the aspects of condition that are causing it to be unfavourable should be prevented. The ability to achieve favourable condition should not be inhibited.

Significant anthropogenic disturbance: For anthropogenic disturbance on a species feature to be significant an action (alone or in combination with other effects) must impact on the species in such a way as to be likely to cause negative effects on the population associated with the site. For example, through changes to behaviour, distribution or abundance.

3.1. Feature 1: Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*

NRW published the latest condition assessment for Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* within Anglesey Terns SPA in 2025. They were assessed as **unfavourable** (medium confidence) at that time. NRW will review these conservation objectives when new condition assessment information is available.

Below are the attributes and targets for each conservation objective alongside supporting information.

Objective 1: The breeding population of Arctic tern is stable or increasing relative to the SPA target population.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
1a. Breeding population	Maintain the breeding population of Arctic tern at a minimum 5-year peak mean of 1,290 pairs across the SAC.
1b. Breeding and productivity	Restore the breeding productivity of Arctic tern on the largest of colony, The Skerries, to a 5-year mean of no less than 0.72.

Supporting information

1a. Breeding population

Arctic terns breed at higher latitudes than any other tern species, which is reflected in their UK distribution. The species nest in colonies on sand and shingle beaches along the coast. The breeding colonies in North Wales are at the southern limit of their breeding distribution (Mitchell et al., 2004, Brown and Grice, 2010).

The 5-year peak mean number of breeding pairs at designation was 1,290 (1992-1996). The latest condition assessment showed the 5-year peak mean of the Arctic tern population to be meeting the required target. The breeding population attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 1a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

1b. Breeding and productivity

Arctic Terns arrive in the UK around the middle of April to breed. They will usually lay 1-2 eggs, typically brooding once in a season (BTO bird facts).

The majority of Arctic terns breed on The Skerries. Therefore the productivity level on this island is used for this objective. The 0.72 productivity target is derived from the mean productivity on The Skerries over the long term. In this case between 2010-2023.

Storm events and avian flu can impact productivity within a breeding year. Terns are also sensitive to predation by native predators such as corvids, gulls, raptors, herons and otters. These attacks can reduce the colony productivity. For example, productivity was zero in 2020. A peregrine falcon nesting near the colony resulted in Arctic terns failing to breed at all. Different means can be used by wardens to address predation issues.

The latest condition assessment showed the 5-year mean productivity of the Arctic tern population to be less than required target. Therefore, the breeding and productivity attribute is not being met, resulting in a restore target being set for objective 1b. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 2: The breeding Arctic tern population that use the SPA continue to have access to, and can utilise, habitats necessary to maintain the population in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
2a. Breeding population distribution	The distribution of the breeding Arctic tern population that use the SPA should not be significantly impacted by anthropogenic activity.
2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)	The breeding Arctic tern population that use the SPA should not be subject to significant anthropogenic disturbance.
2c. Invasive mammals	No invasive mammals should be present on The Skerries island colonies.

Supporting information

2a. Breeding population distribution

This objective attribute seeks to ensure that Arctic terns can continue to access and use all areas within the Anglesey tern SPA needed for breeding, feeding, roosting, shelter and any other activities necessary to support their survival.

The ability of Arctic terns to move freely between feeding sites and their breeding grounds is critical to their fitness and survival. Therefore, tern movement inside and outside of the SPA must not be impacted or restricted.

There is no evidence that the Arctic terns in Anglesey Terns SPA are experiencing a significant level of anthropogenic disturbance that would affect their breeding distribution (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)

Disturbance occurs when an activity is sufficient to disrupt normal behaviours, for example, changes to feeding or breeding behaviour, increased energy expenditure due to time spent moving to avoid stressors, desertion of supporting habitats (both within and outside the protected area, where appropriate). If the activity occurs at a level that substantially impacts behaviour for long enough it can lead to changes in distribution, displacement through reduction of habitat available and consequently could affect the long-term viability of the population.

Disturbance associated with human activity may take a variety of forms including, light, sound, vibration, trampling, presence of people, animals and structures.

Terns are also sensitive to predation and require freedom from predation to thrive. Gulls, peregrines, herons, otters and corvids can cause severe damage to tern colonies. The nesting sites within the SPA are managed by wardens from the RSPB on Ynys Feurig and Skerries and the North Wales Wildlife Trust at Cemlyn. Public access should be tightly controlled or prevented during the breeding season, depending on the nest site, to prevent abandonment of nesting sites and reduction in breeding success.

No significant anthropogenic activity known to cause disturbance is currently occurring in the Anglesey Terns SPA (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

2c. Invasive mammals

Terns are sensitive to predation and require freedom from predation to thrive. Terns nest on the ground so are particularly vulnerable to ground predating mammals such as the common rat. Efforts should be made to control ground predators present, and the introduction of mammalian predators not native to The Skerries islands must be avoided. Should such predators be introduced they could severely threaten the tern population of The Skerries.

The Skerries islands are currently free of invasive mammals, and it was one of the islands that was covered in the biosecurity for LIFE project which aimed to plan and implement biosecurity measures to safeguard seabird islands against the threat of invasive non-native mammalian predators arriving and becoming established.

Objective 3: The quality of habitat and abundance of food supply is sufficient to maintain the population of breeding Arctic terns using the SPA in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	Site specific target
3a. Supporting habitat	Maintain sufficient extent, distribution, function and quality of habitat to support a Arctic tern population of 1,290 breeding pairs.
3b. Food availability	Maintain the distribution and abundance of food supply at levels sufficient to support an Arctic tern population of 1,290 breeding pairs.

Supporting information

3a. Supporting habitat

The extent, distribution and availability of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary), which supports the feature for all necessary stages of the breeding period (mating, nesting, roosting, feeding, should be maintained.

Vegetation and substrate should be managed to provide appropriate supporting habitat for breeding Arctic terns.

There has been no loss in extent or distribution of supporting habitat in the SPA. There is also no evidence to suggest that the functioning or quality of the supporting habitat is not sufficient to support the target population. Therefore the supporting habitat attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3b. Food availability

While Arctic terns are capable of feeding on a variety of prey items from fish to benthic worms and crustaceans, at these colonies their diet consists predominately of sandeels and clupeids such as sprat and herring (Eglington and Perrow, 2014).

As a specialist feeder within the UK, Arctic tern is vulnerable to declines in the abundance of its prey species, potentially driven by commercial fisheries and climate change, although the links between both remain poorly understood (Eglington and Perrow, 2014).

Arctic terns were commonly thought to only travel fairly short distances from their nests to forage, in the range of 10-20 km. However, recent research has demonstrated they are capable of foraging further with some terns traveling between 30-40km in a single trip (Eglington and Perrow, 2014; Morten et at., 2022). Morten et al. (2022) recorded one individual in Iceland travelling 114km in a single foraging trip.

There is no reason to believe the distribution and abundance of Arctic tern food supply is not sufficient to support the target population. The food availability attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3b. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3.2. Feature 2: Common tern *Sterna hirundo*

NRW published the latest condition assessment for common tern *Sterna hirundo* in Anglesey Terns SPA in 2025. They were assessed as **unfavourable** (medium confidence) at that time. NRW will review these conservation objectives when new condition assessment information is available.

Below are the attributes and targets for each conservation objective alongside supporting information.

Objective 1: The breeding population of common tern is stable or increasing relative to the SPA target population.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
1a. Breeding population	Maintain the breeding population of common tern at a minimum 5-year peak mean of 189 pairs across the site.
1b. Breeding and productivity	Restore the breeding productivity of common tern across the three colonies, to a 5-year mean of no less than 0.67.

Supporting information

1a. Breeding population

Common tern are the most widely distributed across the UK of all the tern species, although they are largely absent from Wales, only breeding on Anglesey and in the Dee estuary (Mitchell et al., 2004). Common terns breed on shingle beaches, rocky islands and inland on the gravelly shores of lakes and rivers

The 5-year peak mean number of breeding pairs in the SPA at designation was 189 (1992-1996). The latest condition assessment showed the 5-year peak mean of the common tern population to be meeting the required target. The breeding population attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 1a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

1b. Breeding and productivity

Common terns arrive in the UK around the middle of April to breed. They will usually pair with the same individual each year and lay 2-3 eggs, typically brooding once in a season (BTO bird facts).

Common tern breed across all three colonies in the SPA. The 0.67 productivity target is derived from the mean productivity from these colonies over the long term. In this case between 2010-2023.

Storm events and avian flu can impact productivity within a breeding year. Terns are also sensitive to predation by native predators such as corvids, gulls, raptors, herons and otters. These attacks can reduce the colony productivity. For example common terns have failed to breed at Ynys Feurig for three consecutive years due to attacks by great black backed gulls. Different means can be used by wardens to address predation issues.

Storm events and avian flu have reduced the common tern colony at Ynys Feurig, making them vulnerable to predation from black back gulls. The latest condition assessment showed common tern productivity was below the mean productivity of 0.66. The breeding and productivity attribute is not being met and a restore target has been set for objective 1b. See the latest condition assessment for more information (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 2: The breeding common tern population that use the SPA continue to have access to, and can utilise, habitats necessary to maintain the population in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
2a. Breeding population distribution	The distribution of the breeding common tern population that use the SPA should not be significantly impacted by anthropogenic activity.
2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)	The breeding common tern population that use the SPA should not be subject to significant anthropogenic disturbance.

Supporting information

2a. Breeding population distribution

This objective attribute seeks to ensure that common terns can continue to access and use all areas within and outside the Anglesey tern SPA needed for breeding, feeding, roosting, shelter and any other activities necessary to support their survival. The ability of common terns to move freely between feeding sites and their breeding grounds is critical to their fitness and survival. Therefore, tern movement inside and outside of the SPA must not be impacted or restricted.

There is no evidence that the common terns in Anglesey Terns SPA are experiencing a significant level of anthropogenic disturbance that would affect their breeding distribution (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

2b. Breeding population disturbance

Disturbance occurs when an activity is sufficient to disrupt normal behaviours, for example, changes to feeding or breeding behaviour, increased energy expenditure due to time spent moving to avoid stressors, desertion of supporting habitats (both within and outside the protected area, where appropriate). If the activity occurs at a level that substantially impacts behaviour for long enough it can lead to changes in distribution, displacement

through reduction of habitat available and consequently could affect the long-term viability of the population.

Disturbance associated with human activity may take a variety of forms including, light, sound, vibration, trampling, presence of people, animals and structures.

Terns are also sensitive to predation and require freedom from predation to thrive. Gulls, peregrines, herons, otters and corvids can cause severe damage to tern colonies. The nesting sites within the SPA are managed by wardens from the RSPB on Ynys Feurig and Skerries and the North Wales Wildlife Trust at Cemlyn. Public access should be tightly controlled or prevented during the breeding season, depending on the nest site, to prevent abandonment of nesting sites and reduction in breeding success.

No significant anthropogenic activity known to cause disturbance is currently occurring in the Anglesey Terns SPA (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 3: The quality of habitat and abundance of food supply is sufficient to maintain the population of breeding common tern that use the SPA in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
3a. Supporting habitat	Maintain sufficient extent, distribution, function and quality of habitat to support a common tern population of 189 breeding pairs.
3b. Food availability	Maintain the distribution and abundance of food supply at levels sufficient to support a common tern population of 189 breeding pairs.

Supporting information

3a. Supporting habitat

The extent, distribution and availability of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary), which supports the feature for all necessary stages of the breeding period (mating, nesting, roosting, feeding), should be maintained.

Vegetation and substrate should be managed to provide appropriate supporting habitat for breeding common terns.

At all nesting sites, there is a possibility of competition between tern species as well as between tern species and gulls for nesting areas.

There has been no loss in extent or distribution of supporting habitat in the SPA. There is also no evidence to suggest that the functioning or quality of the supporting habitat is not sufficient to support the target population. Therefore the supporting habitat attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3b. Food availability

While adult common terns are capable of feeding on a wide range of prey including fish, crustaceans, squid, marine worms and insects, (Eglington and Perrow, 2014). It is known that the common terns at the three nesting sites that make up the SPA mainly forage for small fish such as sandeels and clupeids such as sprat and herring. Common tern range between 20-30km during foraging trips (Eglington and Perrow, 2014).

There is no reason to believe the distribution and abundance of common tern food supply is not sufficient to support the target population. The food availability attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3b. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3.3. Feature 3: Roseate tern *Sterna dougallii*

NRW published the latest condition assessment for roseate tern *Sterna dougallii* in Anglesey Terns SPA in 2025. They were assessed as **unfavourable** (medium confidence) at that time. NRW will review these conservation objectives when new condition assessment information is available.

Below are the attributes and targets for each conservation objective alongside supporting information.

Objective 1: The breeding population of roseate tern is stable or increasing relative to the SPA target population.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
1a. Breeding population	Restore the breeding population to a minimum of 18 breeding pairs across the SPA.
1b. Breeding and productivity	Restore the breeding and productivity of roseate terns to be stable or increasing in the long term, allowing for natural variability.

Supporting information

1a. Breeding population

Roseate terns have the smallest range of all the breeding tern species in Britain and Ireland and the second smallest population (Newton, 2023). There was a steep decline in roseate terns from the 1960s to 2000 in the UK but the most recent census has shown a significant increase over the last 20 years of 150% (Newton,2023). Roseate tern is a Schedule 2 species as well as red listed species on birds of conservation concern in the UK and Welsh list.

As so few roseate tern return to breed at the colony peak counts are not possible. The 5 year mean number of breeding pairs in the SPA at designation was 3 (1992-1996). However, as this is so low the maximum population during that period has been chosen for the objective target, which is 18 pairs. The latest condition assessment showed the roseate tern population to not be meeting the required target. Therefore the breeding population attribute is not being met and a restore target has been set for objective 1a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

1b. Breeding and productivity

Roseate terns differ in nesting habitat compared to other tern species, choosing to nest in dense vegetation, amongst large rocks and even burrows, likely as a defence against aerial predation (Cabot and Nisbit, 2013).

Roseate terns arrive in the UK around the end of April to breed. They are monogamous within a breeding season and lay 1-2 eggs, typically brooding once in a season (Roseate Tern | BTO).

Storm events and avian flu can impact productivity within a breeding year. Terns are also sensitive to predation by native predators such as corvids, gulls, raptors, herons and otters. These attacks can reduce the colony productivity. Different means can be used by wardens to address predation issues.

Due to the very low numbers of breeding roseate terns within the SPA the breeding and productivity is not considered stable or increasing. They are also likely to be impacted by the predation experienced by other tern species in the SPA. Nest boxes have been set up to entice breeding terns back to the colony. The breeding and productivity attribute is not being met and a restore target has been set for objective 1b. See the latest condition assessment for more information (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 2: The breeding roseate tern population that use the SPA continue to have access to, and can utilise, habitats necessary to maintain the population in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
2a. Breeding population distribution	The distribution of the breeding roseate tern population that use the SPA should not be significantly impacted by anthropogenic activity.
2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)	The breeding roseate tern population that use the SPA should not be subject to significant anthropogenic disturbance.

Supporting information

2a. Breeding population distribution

This objective attribute seeks to ensure that roseate terns can continue to access and use all areas within the Anglesey tern SPA needed for breeding, feeding, roosting, shelter and any other activities necessary to support their survival. The ability of roseate terns to move freely between feeding sites and their breeding grounds is critical to their fitness and survival. Therefore, tern movement inside and outside of the SPA must not be impacted or restricted.

There is no evidence that the roseate terns in Anglesey Terns SPA are experiencing a significant level of anthropogenic disturbance that would affect their breeding distribution (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)

Disturbance occurs when an activity is sufficient to disrupt normal behaviours, for example, changes to feeding or breeding behaviour, increased energy expenditure due to time spent moving to avoid stressors, desertion of supporting habitats (both within and outside the protected area where appropriate). If the activity occurs at a level that substantially impacts behaviour for long enough it can lead to changes in distribution, displacement

through reduction of habitat available and consequently could affect the long-term viability of the population.

Disturbance associated with human activity may take a variety of forms including, light, sound, vibration, trampling, presence of people, animals and structures.

Terns are also sensitive to predation and require freedom from predation to thrive. Gulls, peregrines, herons, otters and corvids can cause severe damage to tern colonies. The nesting sites within the SPA are managed by wardens from the RSPB on Ynys Feurig and Skerries and the North Wales Wildlife Trust at Cemlyn. Public access should be tightly controlled or prevented during the breeding season, depending on the nest site, to prevent abandonment of nesting sites and reduction in breeding success.

No significant anthropogenic activity known to cause disturbance is currently occurring in the SPA (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 3: The quality of habitat and abundance of food supply is sufficient to restore the population of breeding roseate tern that use the SPA in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
3a. Supporting habitat	Maintain the extent, distribution, function and quality of roseate tern supporting habitat.
3b. Food availability	Maintain the abundance and distribution of roseate tern food supply at levels sufficient to maintain the population.

Supporting information

3a. Supporting habitat

The extent, distribution and availability of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all necessary stages of the breeding period (mating, nesting, roosting, feeding) should be maintained.

Vegetation and substrate should be managed to provide appropriate supporting habitat for breeding Roseate terns. Roseate Terns usually hide their nests under some sort of protective cover such as rocks, vegetation, or when provided nest boxes. To provide greater nesting opportunities for roseate terns, nest shelters may be placed within the colony prior to occupation each year.

There has been no loss in extent or distribution of supporting habitat in the SPA. There is also no evidence to suggest that the functioning or quality of the supporting habitat is not sufficient to support the target population. Therefore the supporting habitat attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3b. Food availability

Roseate tern are more similar to sandwich tern in foraging behaviour types, compared to Arctic and common tern, specialising on a few fish species caught through plunge diving beyond their body length (Eglington and Perrow, 2014). Their diet is dominated by sandeel, herring and sprat. (Eglington and Perrow, 2014 and references therein).

Roseate tern range up to 30 km during foraging trips, though often do much shorter distances of 3-10km (Eglington and Perrow, 2014).

There is no reason to believe the distribution and abundance of roseate tern food supply is not sufficient to support the target population. The food availability attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3b. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3.4. Feature 4: Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

NRW published the latest condition assessment for sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* in Anglesey Terns SPA in 2025. They were assessed as favourable (medium confidence) at that time. NRW will review these conservation objectives when new condition assessment information is available.

Below are the attributes and targets for each conservation objective alongside supporting information.

Objective 1: The breeding population of sandwich tern is stable or increasing relative to the SPA target population.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
1a. Breeding population	Maintain the breeding population of sandwich tern at a minimum 5-year peak mean of 460 pairs across the site.
1b. Breeding and productivity	Maintain the breeding productivity of sandwich terns on the largest of colony, Cemlyn Lagoon, at a minimum 5 year mean of 0.63.

Supporting information

1a. Breeding population

Sandwich terns are the UK's largest breeding tern, breeding in a few, often large high-density colonies in the UK (Mitchell et al., 2004). Cemlyn Lagoon within the Anglesey terns SPA is the only sandwich tern breeding colony in Wales.

The 5-year peak mean number of breeding pairs in the SPA at designation was 460 (1992-1996). The latest condition assessment showed the 5-year peak mean of the sandwich tern population to be meeting the required target. The breeding population attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 1a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

1b. Breeding and productivity

Sandwich terns begin to arrive in the UK in March ahead of the breeding season. They lay 1-2 eggs, typically brooding once in a season (BTO bird facts).

The majority of sandwich terns breed at Cemlyn Lagoon. Therefore the productivity level at this colony is used for this objective. The 0.63 productivity target is derived from the mean productivity at Cemlyn Lagoon over the long term. In this case between 2010-2023.

Storm events and avian flu can impact productivity within a breeding year. Terns are also sensitive to predation by native predators such as corvids, gulls, raptors, herons and otters. These attacks can reduce the colony productivity. For example, common terns have

failed to breed at Ynys Feurig three consecutive years due to attacks by great black backed gulls. Different means can be used by wardens to address predation issues.

The latest condition assessment showed sandwich tern productivity was sufficient to meet the target. Therefore, the breeding and productivity attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 1b. See the latest condition assessment for more information (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 2: Sandwich tern should continue to have access to, and can utilise, suitable habitats needed to maintain the SPA population in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
2a. Breeding population distribution	The distribution of the breeding sandwich tern population that use the SPA should not be significantly impacted by anthropogenic activity.
2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)	The breeding sandwich tern population that use the SPA should not be subject to significant anthropogenic disturbance.

Supporting information

2a. Breeding population distribution

This objective attribute seeks to ensure that Sandwich terns can continue to access and use all areas within the Anglesey tern SPA needed for breeding, feeding, roosting, shelter and any other activities necessary to support their survival. The ability of Sandwich terns to move freely between feeding sites and their breeding grounds is critical to their fitness and survival. Therefore, tern movement inside and outside of the SPA must not be impacted or restricted.

There is no evidence that the sandwich terns in Anglesey Terns SPA are experiencing a significant level of anthropogenic disturbance that would affect their breeding distribution (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

2b. Breeding population disturbance (by human activity)

Disturbance occurs when an activity is sufficient to disrupt normal behaviours, for example, changes to feeding or breeding behaviour, increased energy expenditure due to time spent moving to avoid stressors, desertion of supporting habitats (both within and outside the protected area, where appropriate). If the activity occurs at a level that substantially impacts behaviour for long enough it can lead to changes in distribution, displacement through reduction of habitat available and consequently could affect the long-term viability of the population.

Disturbance associated with human activity may take a variety of forms including, light, sound, vibration, trampling, presence of people, animals and structures.

The nesting sites within the SPA are managed by wardens from the RSPB on Ynys Feurig and Skerries and the North Wales Wildlife Trust at Cemlyn. Public access should be tightly controlled or prevented during the breeding season, depending on the nest site, to prevent abandonment of nesting sites and reduction in breeding success.

No significant anthropogenic activity known to cause disturbance is currently occurring in the Anglesey Terns SPA (Hatton-Ellis et al., 2025).

Objective 3: The quality of habitat and abundance of food supply is sufficient to maintain the population of breeding sandwich tern that use the SPA in favourable condition.

Objective attribute	**Site specific target**
3a. Supporting habitat	Maintain sufficient extent, distribution, function and quality of supporting habitat to support a sandwich tern population of 460 breeding pairs.
3b. Food availability	Maintain the distribution and abundance of food supply at levels sufficient to support an sandwich tern population of 460 breeding pairs. .

Supporting information

3a. Supporting habitat

The extent, distribution and availability of suitable habitat (either within or outside the site boundary) which supports the feature for all necessary stages of the breeding period (mating, nesting, roosting, feeding) should be maintained.

Vegetation and substrate should be managed to provide appropriate supporting habitat for breeding Sandwich terns.

There has been no loss in extent or distribution of supporting habitat in the SPA. There is also no evidence to suggest that the functioning or quality of the supporting habitat is not sufficient to support the target population. Therefore the supporting habitat attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3a. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

3b. Food availability

Sandwich terns are almost exclusively marine feeders and can forage in waters up to 18 m deep, though waters less than 15 m are more typical (Perrow et al., 2010; 2011). They appear to prefer sandy areas of sea bed occasionally following the tide into estuaries (Cabot and Nisbit, 2013). Adult Sandwich tern diets are poorly understood compared to that of chicks. The chicks are fed a more specialised diet than that of common and Arctic terns (Eglington and Perrow, 2014). It is dominated by a few fish species; namely clupeids (herring and sprat) and sandeels, gadoids and whiting (Perrow et al., 2010). At Cemlyn Bay sandwich terns have been observed feeding on more unusual species such as three bearded rockling (Perrow et al. 2010).

Sandwich terns forage further and deeper than other UK tern species (Cabot and Nisbit, 2013), often flying over 30 km in a single trip, though individuals have ranged further than this (Thaxter et al., 2012). Sandwich terns from Cemlyn Bay tend to forage to the north-east and east of Anglesey.

There is no reason to believe the distribution and abundance of sandwich tern food supply is not sufficient to support the target population. The food availability attribute is being met, allowing a maintain target to be set for objective 3b. For more information see the latest condition assessment (Hatton-Ellis et. al., 2025).

4. Advice on operations

NRW must provide advice to relevant authorities about operations that may cause,

- deterioration of designated natural habitats
- deterioration of the habitats of designated species
- the disturbance of designated species

This is statutory advice required by regulation 37(3b) of the Habitats Regulations.

This advice is to help relevant authorities direct and prioritise their management of activities that are of greatest threat to the features of the site. The advice given here is without prejudice to any advice provided in relation to the consideration of plans or projects within the meaning of Part 6 of the Habitat Regulations.

Activities operating at distance from the site may cause pressures that travel into the site. These external pressures may affect features within the site.

4.1. Operations which may cause deterioration or disturbance to the features of the site

Table 2 lists activities that have the potential to deteriorate or disturb the designated features of Anglesey Terns SPA and if they are known to occur within the SPA.

This list of operations is not exhaustive. If an operation or activity is not listed in Table 2 it does not mean it is exempt from management as it may still have the potential to deteriorate the features of the site. Activities occurring outside of the site may still have the potential to impact the features within the site. The occurrence information was correct at time of publication, but activities may have ceased or started since. Advice on individual operations should be sought on a case-by-case basis.

Additional information can also be found on the Natural England's designated sites website and Marine Scotland's Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool (FEAST). It is important to note that NRW has not agreed sensitivity thresholds with either Natural England or Nature Scot and the information should be used as a general guide. Specific advice on operations should be sought from NRW on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2. Advice on operations for Anglesey Terns SPA.

Operation/Activity	Occurrence in SPA
Harbours and marinas: Construction and maintenance, including dredging and disposal.	Holyhead port is dredged. The nearest dredge material disposal site is Mostyn Deep.
Shipping: Vessel traffic and maintenance (including antifouling)	Shipping traffic to Holyhead generally bypasses the SPA and tern main foraging area.
Shipping: anchoring (commercial)	Occasional anchorage by shipping during bad weather.
Shipping: Conventional and accidental discharges. (Including ballast water discharge, refuse, sewage, operational, petrochemical, cargo losses and salvage)	Possible impacts from emergencies. Ballast water convention in place.
Land claim (gain of land from the sea or coastal wetlands e.g. for agricultural purposes, industrial use and harbour expansions)	There are some localised private sea defences on Anglesey. These are not currently thought to be impacting the tern populations.
Coast protection: Hard defences (including sea walls, breakwaters, railways and foreshore deposit of rock, rubble etc.)	Ongoing flood defence works. See relevant shoreline management plan.
Coast protection: Barrages (including storm surge, tidal and amenity)	Not currently present in the SPA.
Artificial reef	Not currently present in the SPA.
Power station	Not currently present in the SPA. Historical station at Wylfa is being decommissioned. Potential for a new power plant at this site to become operational in the future.
Pipelines	May be present.

Operation/Activity	Occurrence in SPA
Power / communication cables	Cables present from Anglesey to mainland.
Effluent disposal: sewage, chemical, thermal and sludge.	NRW and DCWW datasets available on locations and inputs.
Miscellaneous wastes and debris	Risk of litter entering the sea is high due to large numbers of recreational visitors to Anglesey.
Run-off: Agricultural, urban and industrial run-off	Agricultural run-off is widespread, particularly around coast of Anglesey, where agricultural use is higher than on the mainland. There is also run off from industrial food manufacturing on Anglesey. Run off from mining activity is also possible.
Fishing: All trawling (Including beam, otter, toothed and any trawled gear)	Light otter trawling from vessels under 12m occurs in the waters of the SPA. Byelaws limit larger vessels.
Fishing: All dredging (including toothed, bladed, mechanical, hydraulic and any other great not listed)	Some scallop dredging occurs in the waters of the SPA. This is a regulated activity.
Fishing: All netting (including gill, tangle, trammel, seine, fyke and any other fishing with netted gear)	Multiple types of netting except demersal seine netting occur throughout site, but location extent and intensity information is unknown.
Fishing: All potting (including lobster, crab, prawn, whelk and any other fishing with potted gear)	Multiple types of potting occur within the SPA, but location extent and intensity information is unknown.
Fishing: All line fishing (including long-line and handline)	Line fishing occurs within the SAC, but location extent and intensity information is unknown.

Operation/Activity	Occurrence in SPA
Fishing: All methods of hand gathering (including cockles, Mussels, mussel seed, razor clam, bivalves, winkles, crustaceans, shellfish, algae and plants four human consumption and chemical extraction and biomass (excluding access issues)	Hand collection of species occurs within the site. Beddmanarch Bay and Red Wharf Bay are designated Shellfish waters. Intensity information is unknown.
Fishing: Bait collection commercial and recreational (including digging, pump, boulder turning etc)	Bait digging occurs within the site but location extent and intensity information is unknown.
Aquaculture: All forms of aquaculture (including algae, sea cages, impoundments, ranching, shellfish ropes and trestles and enclosed recirculation).	Not currently occurring, potential to occur in the future.
Aggregate extraction (including mineral & biogenic sands & gravels)	Not currently occurring within or near to the SPA.
Oil & gas exploration: All oil and gas exploration activity (including seismic survey, drilling and discharges both operational and accidental)	Not currently occurring within or near to the SPA.
Renewable energy generation: All forms of renewable energy (including tidal barrage and impoundments, tidal and wave energy, offshore wind both fixed and floating).	The Morlais tidal stream development is located at Ynys Cybi/ Holy Island.
Oil spill response: All activities of responding to oil spills at sea and on shore (including chemical, physical and access).	Reactive in case of emergencies.
Recreation: Fishing (e.g. angling and spearfishing).	Occurs within the site but location extent and intensity information is unknown

Operation/Activity	Occurrence in SPA
Recreation: Boating (e.g. power craft, sailing, canoeing, surfing, kite surfing, paddle boarding, etc).	Occurs within the site but location extent and intensity information is unknown
Recreation: Coastal activities (e.g. Scuba diving, snorkelling, dog walking, coasteering etc)	Occurs within the site location extent and intensity information is unknown. The nesting sites of the SPA are monitored by warderns that help to reduce disturbance from recreation.
Recreation: Coastal access	Areas of the foreshore within SPA occasionally have vehicles in relation to launching of boats.
Recreation: Light aircraft and drones	Small airfield at Caernarfon, light aircraft fly over SPA. Potential for disturbance from recreational drone use.
Recreation: Marine wildlife watching / eco-tourism	Birdwatching.
Military activity: All forms of military activity (including ordnance ranges, marine exercises, aircraft etc)	No military ranges within or near to SPA. Occasional military exercises in the Irish sea. RAF Valley airbase on Anglesey. Aircraft (tornados) transit over the SPA.
Science and outreach: Education	Occurs within the site but location extent and intensity information is unknown.
Science and outreach: Animal welfare operations and sanctuaries	Potential to occur within the site.
Science and outreach: Science research	Occurs within the site but location extent and intensity information is unknown.

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Appendix 1: Additional supporting information

General site and feature information

The SPA and its number of breeding pairs should not be thought of in isolation. Terns are liable to move between regular breeding sites unpredictably and therefore require a suite of alternative nesting areas. In the case of roseate tern many of the birds have moved from UK nesting sites to the growing colony at Rockabill, South East Ireland. Productivity at this colony is good and has been a major factor in the recent increase in the northwest European population as a whole.

It is advisable that historical areas previously used by nesting terns, some of which lie outside the SAC, are kept available for future re-occupation

- Ynys Dulas
- Ynys Gorad Goch
- Rhoscolyn Beacon
- Inland Sea
- Llyn Alaw

The Skerries is host to a notable breeding population of lesser black backed Gull *Larus fuscus* and herring gull *Larus argentatus* alongside the tern colony. The island, associated buildings and lighthouse are owned by Trinity House. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has had wardens present here during the nesting season since 1980's. Their work has included visitor control, predator (gull) control, manipulation of vegetation, nest boxes, and monitoring. Disrepair to the lighthouse building used to accommodate wardening staff could jeopardise the wardening service, which is crucial to the management and success of the tern colony.

Ynys Feurig is historically important for roseate tern the land is in private ownership and leased to the RSPB. RSPB staff warden this site during the nesting period. Their work has included visitor control, predator management (gull, rat, fox etc), manipulation of vegetation, nest boxes and monitoring.

Cemlyn lagoon is separated from the sea by a shingle bank with a narrow channel at the western end, across which a sluice system was built in the 1930s. The National Trust owns the land at Cemlyn. Parts of Cemlyn, including the top of the shingle ridge have been managed as a wildlife reserve by the North Wales Wildlife Trust since 1971. Their work has included visitor control, predator management (gull, otters etc.), manipulation of vegetation, nest boxes, monitoring and interpretation. At Cemlyn otters, foxes and "rogue" gulls have caused severe problems for the nesting terns in the past.

Terns require freedom from predation in order to thrive. Foxes, rats, cats, stoats, weasels, gulls, peregrines and herons can cause severe damage to tern colonies. Every effort should be made to control ground predators present. In the case of otter management a license is required for the temporary otter exclusion fences erected in the nesting season. The nesting sites experience varying predation issues and predator control in these areas relies heavily on wardens taking appropriate action.

Appendix 2: Additional conservation interest

SPAs that are partly or wholly within the SPA

- Glannau Ynys Gybi / Holy Island Coast
- Bae Lerpwl / Liverpool Bay

SACs that are partly or wholly within the SPA

- Bae Cemlyn/ Cemlyn Bay
- Glannau Mon: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh
- Gogledd Môn Forol / North Anglesey Marine
- Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay

Sites of Special Scientific Interest that are partly or wholly within the SPA:

- Cemlyn Bay
- Glannau Ynys Gybi / Holy Island Coast
- Glannau Rhoscolyn
- Beddmanarch-Cymyran
- Ynys Feurig
- Rhosneigr Reefs
- Ty Croes
- Tywyn Aberffraw
- Newborough Warren - Ynys Llanddwyn
- Clegir Mawr
- Carmel Head
- Henborth
- The Skerries
- Llanbadrig - Dinas Gynfor
- Coed y Gell and Morfa Dulas
- Traeth Lligwy
- Trwyn Dwlban

- Arfordir Gogleddol Penmon
- Glannau Penmon – Biwmares