

Habitats Directive

Kenfig

What's happening?

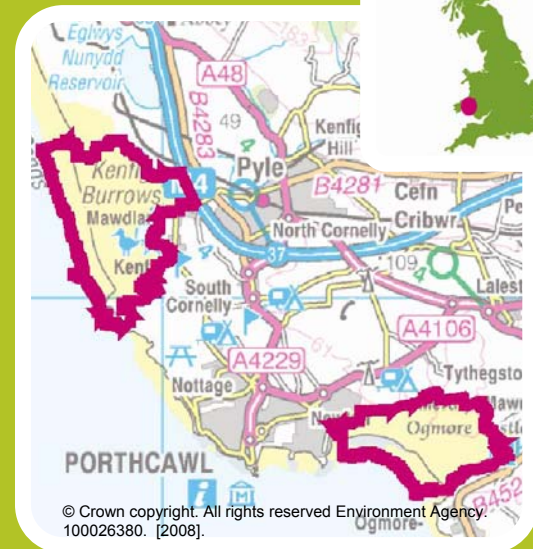
The Habitats Directive has introduced laws to safeguard Europe's most endangered plants, animals and habitats.

As part of this, the Environment Agency has to review all the existing consents that we regulate. Through this process we will ensure that there are no adverse effects on the nature conservation interests of designated sites, such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).

We are using a staged approach to do this:

- Stages One and Two – listing all consents and looking at those with the potential to have a significant effect.
- Stage Three – looking in detail at whether they have an adverse effect on special sites.
- Stage Four – those consents with no adverse effect will stand; we will examine those that do have an affect further to see what could be done about it.

Location



About this site

Kenfig SAC is made up of two sites, Kenfig Burrows and Merthyr Mawr, which are separated by the town of Porthcawl.

It is one of the largest areas of sand dunes in Britain. The sand dunes range from newly forming shifting dunes to stable fixed dunes. There are also low-lying depressions, called dune slacks, where the sand lies below the level of the water table. There is a broad range of diverse plant communities across the dunes, including the rare petalwort and the largest population of fen orchids in the UK.

There is a small area of salt marsh which supports plants such as sea heath and samphire.

The site also contains Kenfig Pool, the largest freshwater lake in the area. Its clear water supports rich communities of bottom-growing plants called stoneworts.



Research

We carried out a lot of research as part of this work to improve our understanding of the site.

- We monitored Kenfig Pool to detect changes in nutrient levels in the water, which could impact upon plant communities.
- We undertook air quality monitoring to determine levels of air-borne pollutants and developed models to help us predict future levels.
- We assessed the impacts of discharges to land via groundwater reviews.
- We carried out impact assessments to look at potential effects of abstraction on the dunes.

would block light reaching the bottom where the stoneworts live. The salt marsh is also sensitive to increased nutrient levels, which can lead to increased algal growth.

What will change?

We investigated different options for changes to discharge consents and waste management licenses that could potentially have an effect on the SAC.

We will revise discharge consents to make improvements to water quality.

The Environment Agency's Closed Landfill Project will consider the waste management activities that could impact on the SAC.

We believe that all other permissions do not have an impact on the SAC and will not need to be changed.

Conclusion

We are confident that the proposed modifications to the discharge consents and waste management licences, along with changes to the way operators practise, will prevent further impact to the plants, animals and habitat which make Kenfig SAC so unique.

Impacts

Our assessments showed that four discharges to water and three waste management activities had the potential to affect species and habitats of the SAC.

Kenfig SAC is largely rain and groundwater fed and is vulnerable to the impact of activities some distance away. Both water discharges and waste management activities can increase nutrient levels in the water. One of the most important features of Kenfig is the wide variety of different plant communities and increased nutrient levels could change this by encouraging nutrient-loving species to grow at the expense of rarer and more varied species.

Kenfig Pool is at risk from contaminated groundwater. The stoneworts in the pool are sensitive to increases in phosphates and nitrates in the water and increased sediment in the pool

Dangosod gollyngiad ar rywogaeth

Fen orchid

Kenfig supports around half of the UK's fen orchids! This beautiful and delicate flower was once known at about 30 sites in Britain but is now found in only three. At Kenfig fen orchids live on the dune slacks, which are wet depressions in the dune systems that flood at certain times of year.



Bwydir AG fwyaf, ac y weithgaredd gollyngiad gwastraff h gynyddu le nodweddi eang o wa cynnydd le twf rhywo rhywogaeth

Mae Pwll C

Further information can be found on our website

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Guidance can be requested from enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk



Y Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd

Cynffig

Beth sy'n digwydd?

Mae'r Gyfarwyddeb Cynefinoedd wedi dwyn i rym gyfreithiau gwarchod y planhigion, yr anifeiliaid a'r cynefinoedd sydd fwyaf tan fygythiad yn Ewrop.

Yn rhan o hyn, rhaid i Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd adolygu'r holl ganiatadau a reoleiddiwn ar hyn o bryd. Trwy hynny, sicrhawn nad effeithir er gwaeth ar fuddiannau cadwraeth natur safleoedd dynodedig, yr Ardal Gadwraeth Arbennig (AGA) a'r Ardal Warchodaeth Arbennig (AWA) yn eu plith.

Gwnawn hyn fesul cam:

- Y Cam Cyntaf a'r Ail – rhestru'r holl ganiatadau, ac edrych ar y rhai a ddichon fod ag effaith sylweddol.
- Y Trydydd Cam – edrych yn fanwl at a ydynt yn effeithio er gwaeth ar safleoedd arbennig.
- Y Pedwerydd Cam: bydd y caniatadau nad ydynt yn effeithio er gwaeth yn sefyll; archwiliasom y gweddill er mwyn gweld beth arall ellid ei wneud ynglŷn â hynny.

Lleoliad



[H] Hawfraint u Goron. Cedwir pob hawl. Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. 100026380. [2008].

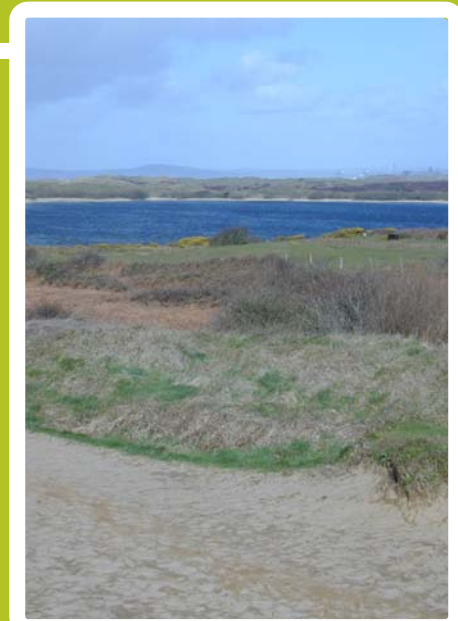
Ynglŷn â'r safle hwn

Mae AGA Cynffig yn ddau safle, Twyni Cynffig a Merthyr Mawr, sydd â Phorthcawl rhyngddynt.

Mae'n un o ardaloedd twyni tywod ehangaf Prydain, a'r twyni'n rhai symudol, newydd eu ffurfio, yn rhai sefydlog, a phob math arall rhwng y ddau begwn hynny. Mae hefyd bantiau isel â dŵr llonydd ynddynt, lle bo tywod eu gwaelodion islaw'r lefel trwythiant. Ceir amrywiaeth eang o wahanol gymunedau planhigion ledled y twyni, gan gynnwys llyisiau'r afu petalog prin a phoblogaeth fwyaf tegeirian y fign yn y DU.

Ceir ychydig halwyndir hefyd, ag yno blanhigion megis y grugeilun llyfn a ffenigl y môr.

Yma hefyd mae Pwll Cynffig, llyn dŵr croyw fwyaf yr ardal. Mae ei ddŵr tryloyw'n cynnal cymunedau cyfoethog o blanhigion gwaelod-dwf o'r enw rhawn yr ebol.



Ymchwil

Ymchwiliasom lawer er mwyn gwella ein hamgyffrediad o'r safle.

- Cadwasom olwg ar Bwll Cynffig er mwyn canfod newidiadau yn lefelau'r maetholion yn y dŵr, a allasent effeithio ar gymunedau planhigion.
- Arolygasom ansawdd yr awyr er mwyn canfod lefelau llygryddion hedegog, a datblygasom fodelau a fydd o gymorth inni ragweld lefelau'r dyfodol.
- Asesasom effeithiau gollyngiadau i dir trwy adolygiadau dŵr daear.
- Cynaliasom asesiadau effaith er mwyn edrych ar effeithiau dichonol tynnu dŵr ar y twyni.

gynnydd algâu sy'n cystadlu â rhawn yr ebol. Bygythiad arall yw cynnydd gwaddodion yn y pwll, a atalient oleuni rhag cyrraedd y gwaelod lle ceir rhawn yr ebol. Mae'r halwyndir hefyd yn agored i ddifrod cynnydd maetholion, a all arwain at hybu twf algâu.

Effeithiau

Dangosodd ein hasesiadau bod dichon i bedwar gollyngiad a thair gweithred rheoli dŵr effeithio ar rywogaethau a chynefinoedd yr AGA.

Bwydir AGA Cynffig gan law a dŵr daear gan fwyaf, ac y mae'n agored i'w heffeithio gan weithgareddau peth pellter i ffwrdd. Gall gollyngiadau i ddŵr a gweithgareddau rheoli gwastraff hwy ill dau effeithio ar yr AGA trwy gynyddu lefelau maetholion yn y dŵr. Un o nodweddion pwysicaf Cynffig yw amrywiaeth eang o wahanol gymunedau planhigion: gallai cynnydd lefelau maetholion newid hyn trwy hybu twf rhywogaethau maethgar ar draul rhywogaethau prinnach, mwy amrywiol.

Mae Pwll Cynffig tan fygythiad neilltuol dŵr daear halogedig. Mae rhawn yr ebol yn y pwll yn arbennig o agored i effaith cynnydd ffosffadau a nitradau yn y dŵr, gan y gallai hynny arwain at

Beth fydd yn newid?

Ymchwiliasom i wahanol ddewisiadau newid caniatadau gollwng a thrwyddedau rheoli gwastraff a ddichon effeithio ar yr AGA.

Newidiwn ganiatadau gollwng er mwyn gwella ansawdd dŵr.

Bydd Cynllun Safleoedd Tirlenwi Caeedig Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn ystyried y gweithgareddau rheoli gwastraff a allent effeithio ar yr AGA.

Credwn nad yw caniatadau eraill yn effeithio ar yr AGA, ac na fydd angen eu newid.

Casgliad

Rydym yn hyderus y bydd y newid arfaethedig ar ganiatadau gollwng a thrwyddedau rheoli gwastraff, ynghyd â newid arferion gweithredwyr, yn atal effeithio rhagor ar y planhigion, yr anifeiliaid a'r cynefin sy'n gwneud peri bod Cynffig mor unigryw.

Tegeirian y fign

Ceir tua hanner holl degeirianau'r fign Prydain yma! Cafwyd y blodyn prydferth, cain hwn yn nhua 30 safle ym Mhrydain ar un adeg, ond bellach yn nhri'n unig y'i ceir. Yng Nghynffig mae tegeirianau'r gors yn byw ym mhantiau'r twyni, sydd yn wlyb ac yn llenwi â dŵr ar adegau neilltuol o'r flwyddyn.



Cewch ragor o wybodaeth ar ein gwefan
www.asiantaeth-amgylchedd.cymru.gov.uk

Gallwch ofyn i enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk am arweiniad.