

Welsh Government

M4 Corridor around Newport

Environmental Statement Volume 3:
Appendix 10.34

Valued Ecological Receptors –
Designated Sites Summary Table

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Valued Ecological Receptors – Designated Sites Summary Table

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
Statutory Designated Sites			
River Usk SAC	The River Usk SAC extends from the Black Mountains in the west of the Brecon Beacons National Park to the Severn Estuary at Newport. The key features of the SAC in the tidal section at Newport are migratory fish and otter.	Special Area of Conservation	International (Very high)
Severn Estuary SAC	The Severn Estuary is designated for habitat types and species listed in Annexes I and II respectively of the Habitats Directive. The designation includes an overarching ‘estuaries’ feature within which subtidal sandbanks, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Atlantic salt meadows and reefs (of <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) and three species of migratory fish are defined as both features in their own right and as sub-features of the estuary feature. In addition hard substrate habitats including eel grass beds, the estuary-wide assemblage of fish species and the assemblage of waterfowl species are identified as notable estuarine assemblages which are an intrinsic part of the estuary ecosystem.	Special Area of Conservation	International (Very high)
Severn Estuary SPA	The SPA includes saltmarshes and the adjacent extensive areas of intertidal mud, sand and rocky shores. All these habitats provide essential food and resting places for the wide range of wintering and migratory waterfowl and are therefore identified as key ‘supporting habitats’ for the conservation of these species. Site supports populations of European importance bird species including bewick’s swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) and shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>). Site regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl including gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>), shelduck, pintail, dunlin, curlew, redshank, bewick's Swan, wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>), pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>), grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Special Protection Area	International (Very high)

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	<i>albifrons</i>) and whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>).		
Severn Estuary Ramsar Site	<p>Some of the qualifying interest features of the Severn Estuary Ramsar Site overlap with those of the Severn Estuary SPA and SAC.</p> <p>SAC habitats present include sandbanks which are slightly covered by the sea water all the time, estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater all the time and Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>).</p> <p>Supports populations of European importance bird species and regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl species as discussed under the SPA description above,</p> <p>The site is particularly important for the run of migratory fish between the sea and rivers via the estuary, including Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), sea trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>), allis shad (<i>Alosa alosa</i>) and European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>). The estuary is also important for migratory birds during the spring and autumn migrations, and regularly supports nationally important numbers of such species.</p>	Ramsar Site	International (Very high)
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bats SAC includes 4 SSSIs in Wales and 9 in England. The four component SSSIs in Wales are: Llangovan Church SSSI; Mwngloddfa Mynydd-bach SSSI; Newton Court Stable Block SSSI; and the Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe Bats SSSI which is a composite SSSI comprising 4 distinct sites.	Special Area of Conservation	International (Very high)
River Usk (Lower Usk) SSSI	<p>The River Usk (Lower Usk) is a rare example of a large mesotrophic lowland river which has not been subject to significant modification by man.</p> <p>The SSSI incorporates adjacent areas of riparian habitat which directly support the special interest of the river. These include woodlands dominated by alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.), marshy grassland, stands of tall herb, swamp and fen vegetation, salt marsh and coastal grassland.</p> <p>The river shows a clear downstream succession of plant communities, with a number of scarce species occurring along the river's tidal reaches. Of special interest are the rare craneflies and mayflies associated with the river. There are localised populations of</p>	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
	<p>the Atlantic stream crayfish. The fish fauna is of international significance, including several rare species such as river lamprey, twaite, shad and allis shad, which all migrate from the Severn Estuary and spawn at various localities in the river. Large numbers of elvers migrate up the river with spring tides. The river also supports otters <i>Lutra lutra</i> and several bat species as well as a wide range of breeding, wintering and passage bird species.</p>		
<p>Severn Estuary SSSI</p>	<p>The immense tidal range (the second highest in the world) and classic funnel shape make the Severn Estuary unique in Britain and very rare worldwide. The intertidal zone of mudflats, sand banks, rocky platforms and saltmarsh is one of the largest and most important in Britain. The estuarine fauna includes: internationally important populations of waterfowl; invertebrate populations of considerable interest; and large populations of migratory fish.</p>	<p>Site of Special Scientific Interest</p>	<p>National (High)</p>
<p>Gwent Levels SSSIs (see individual SSSIs below)</p>	<p>The Gwent Levels constitute the lowlands between Cardiff and Chepstow and are one of the most extensive areas of reclaimed wet pasture in Great Britain and the largest area of its kind in Wales. The Gwent Levels reens are rich in plant species and communities, many of which are rare or absent in other Levels systems. This is due to the variety of reen types and their management regimes and the timing of the management which results in a staggered programme across the Levels.</p> <p>The aquatic invertebrate fauna is very diverse and many nationally rare or notable species are present. The area is important in the Welsh context for its snails and dragonflies. The large number of hedgerows adds to the diversity of the area and together with the main reen banks provide a habitat for nationally important assemblages of terrestrial invertebrates.</p>		

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Gwent Levels– Rumney and Peterstone SSSI	The Rumney and Peterstone area supports a number of important plant species including the nationally rare brackish water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus baudotii</i> and several regional rarities including the pondweeds <i>Potamogeton obtusifolius</i> and <i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i> . The northern section of this SSSI is a stronghold on the Gwent Levels for the flowering rush <i>Butomus umbellatus</i> . The area also supports a rich and important invertebrate fauna with a number of nationally notable species largely confined to this sub-unit including the marsh-flies <i>Pherbellia brunnipes</i> and <i>Lamprochromus elegans</i> , the water-beetle <i>Plateumaris braccata</i> and the variable damselfly <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i> .	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Gwent Levels-St Bride's SSSI	The reens in the St Brides area support a number of interesting plant species most notably thread-leaved water-crowfoot <i>Ranunculus trichophyllus</i> and small pondweed <i>Potamogeton berchtoldii</i> . Reen bank and green lane habitats in this area are also important for relict meadow plant species such as the regionally notable grass vetchling <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> and common meadow-rue <i>Thalictrum flavum</i> . The St Brides area also supports rich invertebrate communities with a number of nationally notable and notable marshland species, e.g. the true fly <i>Chrysogaster macquarti</i> and the beetle <i>Hydaticus transversalis</i> . It is the only area on the Gwent Levels where the rare fly <i>Stenomicra cogani</i> has been recorded.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Gwent Levels- Nash and Goldcliff SSSI	The Nash and Goldcliff area forms an important part of the Gwent Levels system and is of particular botanical interest as it is the only area in Wales for the Least Duckweed <i>Wolffia arrhiza</i> . There is also an interesting community where two species of hornwort <i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i> and <i>C. demersum</i> grow together. The invertebrate interest is also high, as rare and notable species such as <i>Odontomyia ornata</i> , <i>Oplodontha viridula</i> and <i>Hydaticus transversalis</i> are present.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
Gwent Levels-Whitson SSSI	<p>The Whitson area is of particular importance for its large number of nationally rare and notable invertebrate species. A total of 65 of these rare invertebrates have been recorded in this area including <i>Anthomyza bifasciata</i>, <i>Coptophlebia volucris</i> and <i>Hydrophilus piceus</i>.</p> <p>This area is also important for its botanical interest as it contains the nationally rare hairlike pondweed <i>Potamogeton trichoides</i> and is the only location in Gwent for the tussock sedge <i>Carex elata</i>. Arrowhead <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> also grows in abundance in several main reens in this area.</p>	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Gwent Levels-Redwick and Llandeenny SSSI	<p>The Redwick and Llandeenny area supports rich assemblages of invertebrate species including <i>Chalcis sispes</i> a parasite of the <i>Stratiomys</i> fly larvae, the beetle <i>Scirtes orbicularis</i> and the drone fly <i>Pharhelophilus consimilis</i>.</p> <p>The area also contains a number of nationally rare plant species including the rare <i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i> located in peaty ditches in the northern part of the site and the brackish water crowfoot associated with the ditches bordering the sea wall.</p>	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Gwent Levels–Magor and Undy SSSI	<p>The Magor and Undy area is the most easterly of the Gwent Levels sites supporting nationally rare and notable invertebrate species such as the soldier fly <i>Stratiomys furcata</i>, the snail killing fly <i>Pherbellia brunnipes</i> and the water beetle <i>Haliphus mucronatus</i>. This area also supports a number of rare and notable aquatic plant species including the pondweed <i>Potamogeton trichoides</i> and <i>P. berchtoldii</i> and the narrow-leaved water plantain <i>Alisma lanceolatum</i>.</p>	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Newport Wetlands SSSI and National Nature Reserve (NNR)	<p>In winter, Newport Wetlands SSSI supports nationally (UK) important numbers of shoveler and black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>). Other over-wintering species that use the site include gadwall, wigeon, shelduck, dunlin, redshank, whimbrel and curlew.</p> <p>In summer, the wet grasslands, saline lagoons and reedbeds on the site support an exceptional variety of breeding birds, including nationally (UK) important breeding populations of avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>), redshank, lapwing, water rail, Cetti's warbler (<i>Cettia cetti</i>) and bearded tit (<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>). Also</p>	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
	breeding populations of ringed plover and the little ringed plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>) are also present. Diverse aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate assemblages with many nationally rare and scarce species present. The watercourses are rich in plant species and communities, many of which are rare or absent in other levels systems. There are extensive and other habitats including hedgerows, scrub, woodland and grassland.		
Magor Marsh SSSI	The largest remnant of the formerly extensive fenlands near the Gwent coast. The site supports a variety of submerged and emergent aquatic plants. There are areas of wet meadow and both willow and alder carr (woodland) with an intersecting system of drainage ditches, reens and ponds. Important breeding ground for water and marsh birds.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-Bach SSSI	The site consists of a disused mine adit which continues into the hillside along a straight line, for a total length of about 70 m. The bats are found mainly from 14 m to 20 m from the entrance with smaller numbers scattered along the length of the adit and at the furthest end. Up to 75 lesser horseshoe bats have been recorded using the roost. The site is used throughout the year by smaller numbers of adult and immature lesser horseshoe bats.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe Bat SSSI.	This is a composite bat site located in and around the valleys of the lower River Wye and its tributaries, Gwent. The site comprises 4 summer nursery roosts of the lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> at Penallt Old Church, The Priory, Llandogo, Itton Court Stud and Tregeiriog Farm. Individually, these roosts are important in a national context as nursery sites, and collectively they form part of the most important population centre for the species in the UK.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Rogiet Meadow SSSI	The only extant and recorded native site of meadow clary (<i>Salvia pratensis</i>) in Wales.	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
Penhow Woodlands SSSI and NNR	Two areas of ancient semi-natural woodland situated mainly on steep slopes and summits of limestone hills covered with superficial deposits of a calcareous nature. The dominant canopy tree species are lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>), ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), gean (<i>Prunus avium</i>), wych elm (<i>Ulmus glabra</i>), field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) and localised pendunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>). The absence of birch (<i>Betula</i> spp.) and oak from much of the wood and the presence of a number of fine ancient pollarded trees along with a complex of parish boundaries are additional features. The ground flora includes a number of nationally rare and locally distributed species, including upright spurge (<i>Euphorbia serrulata</i>), green hellebore (<i>Helleborus viridis</i>), bird's nest orchid (<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>), and wild daffodil (<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>).	Site of Special Scientific Interest	National (High)
Non-statutory Designated Sites			
Pant-Rhiw-Goch Wood SINC	An ancient semi-natural woodland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Coal Pit Lane Pond SINC	A mature pond with emergent vegetation.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
White Gates SINC	Species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Celtic Springs SINC	A post-industrial mosaic habitat with neutral grassland and calcareous grassland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
LG Duffryn Site 1 (South Lake Drive) SINC	A pond/ <i>Phragmites</i> reedbed, supporting Cetti's warbler.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
LG Duffryn Site 2 SINC	A large area of neutral grassland adjacent to Gwent Levels.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
Duffryn Pond SINC	A pond with emergent swamp vegetation, which supports a range of important invertebrates, plant, reptile, amphibian and mammal species.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Afon Ebbw River SINC	A major river system with associated semi-improved neutral grassland and marshy grassland, swamp, scrub and semi-natural woodland. Associated species include: bulbous foxtail near the confluence with the River Usk; kingfisher; sand martin; and grass snake (<i>Natrix natrix</i>).	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Marshall's SINC	A mosaic of neutral grassland, post-industrial habitat and wetland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Solutia Site SINC	A series of improved and semi-improved grasslands with traditional ditches and ponds; site supports a range of species including nesting birds such as Cetti's warbler, and invertebrates including hairy dragonfly.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Alpha Steel Site SINC	An area of reed beds, scrub and other habitats which support a range of species, including scarce moth species, birds such as Cetti's warbler, and plants including orchids (<i>Epipactis palustris</i> , <i>Ophrys apifera</i> , <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> , <i>Dactylorhiza</i> spp.)	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Spencer Works 3 SINC	Marshy grassland with wet drains.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Elver Pill Reen Grassland & Pond SINC	A lagoon with a mosaic of swamp, marshy grassland and dry semi-improved neutral grassland; supports Cetti's warblers.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Greenmoor Pool SINC	Formerly standing water which now supports reed swamp, which supports bird populations including Cetti's warbler.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Wilcrick Fort West SINC	Unimproved neutral grassland on slopes.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
Upper Cottage Pond SINC	A pond site surrounded by agriculturally improved fields. The main interest lies with the abundance of water whorl-grass (<i>Catabrosa aquatica</i>). There are mature pendunculate oak to the south of the pond.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Bowkett Field, Barecroft SINC	A large, linear, flat field which comprises tall swamp/marshy grassland and appears to be overgrown and neglected. Around the field margins, the reens, particularly on the eastern edge support mature willow scrub, host many bird species. A small piece of land at the entrance to the site (in the north) comprises overgrown willow scrub and some interesting herb species including common knapweed and tall melilot (<i>Melilotus altissimus</i>) which supports abundant invertebrate life.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Barecroft Fields SINC	Two large, flat fields, comprising semi-improved, relatively species-poor damp grassland/wet pasture. However, there are some localised and widespread patches of uncommon species such as common meadow rue and meadow thistle (<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>).	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Land at Barecroft Common SINC	Three large, flat fields on the Gwent Levels at Magor. All fields comprise semi-improved damp grassland, which is ungrazed/uncut. The fields have supported nesting birds such as lapwing and curlew.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Bluehouse Farm SINC	Two field units which are partially divided by a ditch but are otherwise physically continuous with each other. The site comprises a botanically interesting tall mosaic of damp and dry grassland habitats, lying on fairly level ground and enclosed by ditches and reens (which support important aquatic flora including least duckweed and form part of the Gwent Levels Magor & Undy SSSI).	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Blackwall Lane Field SINC	A small, horse grazed, flat meadow, off Blackwall Lane.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Grange Road SINC	Two fields including a flat low lying field with a watercourse and a gentle to moderately sloping fields towards the east of the site. The site includes an unmodified stream that runs north to south along the western boundary of the site. The fields include species-rich neutral grassland on the steeper slopes to the east of the site and semi-improved neutral grassland between the more diverse lope and the	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)

VER	Outline Description	Status	Value
	stream to the east. The richer grasslands include a range of forbs indicative of the unimproved nature of the ground.		
Upper Grange Farm Field SINC	A species-rich grassy bank, comprising some areas of rank, tussocky grass. This bank forms the south-eastern boundary of a larger field comprising improved grassland, which is cattle grazed.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Grange Wood & The Larches SINC	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Bridewell Common Field SINC	Two large flat fields; Field 1 comprising damp rush pasture and Field 2 comprising dense swamp.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Wood West of Common-y-Coed SINC	Ancient semi-natural woodland.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Breezy Bank to Rockfield Farm SINC	A narrow strip of broadleaved woodland/scrub on a north facing slope. It is well developed and has a good structure with a variety of species including a woodland ground flora.	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	County (Medium)
Nature Reserves			
Newport Wetland Reserve (RSPB)	See Newport Wetlands SSSI and NNR above.	RSPB Nature Reserve (and SSSI)	National (High)
Magor Marsh (Gwent Wildlife Trust)	See Magor Marsh SSSI above.	Gwent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve (and SSSI)	National (High)
Great Traston Meadows (Gwent Wildlife Trust)	Notable for its grasslands, crossed by a system of reens and grips (drainage features).	Gwent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve)	County (Medium)

Note: International and National Statutory Designated Sites are shown on Figures 10.1 and 10.2 of the ES (Volume 2)
Non-Statutory Designated Sites are shown on Figure 10.3 of the ES (Volume 2)