

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds
Citation for Potential changes to Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island

Counties/Unitary Authorities: The SPA and potential extension lie within or adjacent to Gwynedd Unitary Authority and the seaward part of the site is entirely within UK territorial waters.

Boundary of the potential SPA: See potential SPA map. The proposed site sits entirely within UK territorial waters extending almost to the 6 nautical mile limit with approximately half the proposed site lying within the 3 nautical mile limit. The proposed marine extension follows the mean low water mark at the landward edge where it does not abut the existing (terrestrial) SPA. The new site includes the existing terrestrial areas designated as Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island Special Protection Area by the Secretary of State for Wales in June 1992 under the 1979 EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC).

Just over half of the proposed marine extension lies within the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau / Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC, which was designated by the National Assembly for Wales in December 2004 under the 1992 EC Habitats and Species Directive (92/43/EEC). The existing terrestrial SPA is partly co-incident with Clogwyni Pen Llŷn / Seacliffs of Lleyn Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

It is not intended to include any additional land areas within the potential SPA, other than a small number of very small coastal rock outcrops that lie within the 9 km proposed extension, as it would not be practical to exclude these tiny areas from the possible amended SPA boundary.

Size of SPA: The existing terrestrial site and the potential SPA combined cover an area of 33,942ha approximately.

Site description: Glannau Aberdaron ac Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island is located at the very tip of the Llŷn Peninsula in north-west Wales. The site consists of Ynys Enlli / Bardsey Island and a length of adjacent coastline together with two small islands Ynysoedd y Gwylanod/ Gwylan Islands, in addition to an area of sea extending approximately 9km out from Bardsey. The coastline is rocky, with many crags and low cliffs, heather-covered hills and grassy valleys in a distinctive landscape of small fields and "cloddiau" (stone-faced banks). The site supports a population of chough which depend on the low intensity pastoral management of this mix of habitats. Bardsey Island holds a large breeding colony of Manx shearwaters which forage widely across the ocean and also loaf on adjacent areas of the sea for a number of essential activities, such as preening, bathing and displaying, before attempting their hazardous approach to the nest site after nightfall.

Qualifying species: The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex I species	Count and season	Period	% of GB population
Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> (breeding)	12 pairs	count as at late 1990s	3.5%
Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> (non-breeding)	24 individuals	count as at late 1990s	3.5%

The site also qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical population of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:

Migratory species	Count and season	Period	% of subspecies or population
Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> (breeding)	6,930 pairs	count as at 1996	2.6%

DATA: The 2001 SPA Review (Stroud *et al.*, 2001) updated the earlier assessment of UK SPAs published in 1992 in view of new information and possible gaps. The Government requested the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to review the UK SPA network and to recommend a definitive list of sites, identified against explicit selection guidelines. This established a baseline throughout the UK against which the need for future change can be assessed. The data quoted above is taken from this 2001 review, which was based on the most current and comprehensive data that was available at the commencement of the review. They provide a comparative assessment and a fixed baseline, even though more recent data have since become available.

Principal bird data sources:

ANON, 2005. **Developing the Chough SPA suite; report from the Chough subgroup.** SPA & Ramsar Scientific Working Group, May 2005.

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REID, J.B. & WEBB, A. 2005. **Marine Natura 2000 – Recommendations for the extension of existing seabird (colony) Special Protection Areas into the marine environment.** JNCC Committee paper 05 P14B.

RSPB (2009) **Chough Special Protection Areas in Wales: A report to the Countryside Council of Wales.** RSPB, May 2009.

STROUD, D.A., CHAMBERS, D., COOK, S., BUXTON, N., FRASER, B., CLEMENT, P., LEWIS, I., MCLEAN, I., BAKER, H. & WHITEHEAD, S. 2001. **The UK SPA network: its scope and content.** JNCC, Peterborough.
Volume 1: Rationale for the selection of sites. 90 pp.
Volume 2: Species accounts. 438 pp.
Volume 3: Site accounts. 392 pp.