

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Adjacent to Blaen-y-cwm School

GRID REF: S O 1 9 2 1 1 4

SURVEYOR(S) Gemma Bodé

Rebecca Price

SIZE (approx.): c.1.5ha

DATE OF SURVEY: 22nd September 2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

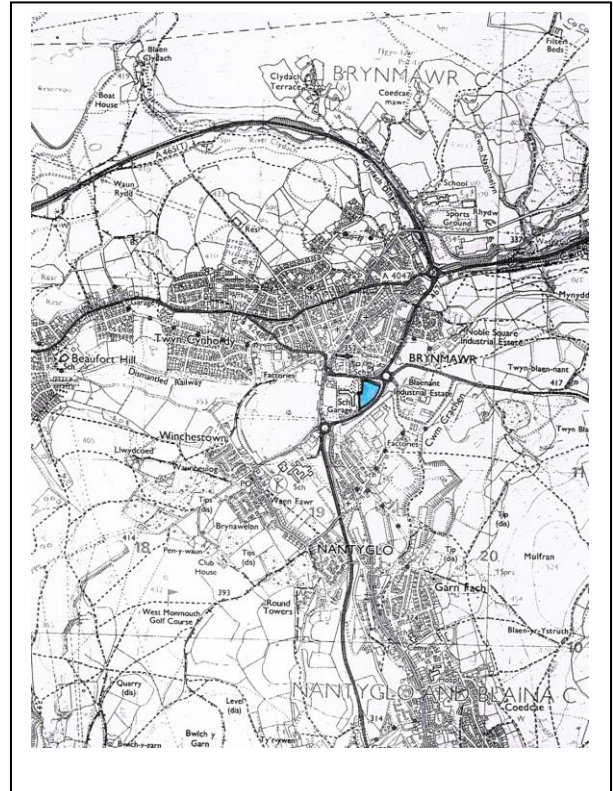
Blaenau Gwent

WARD: Brvnmawr

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Semi improved neutral grassland/ Semi improved poor grassland	MG5/6	
Scrub	-	
Open water/ditch	-	
Marshy grassland	MG23	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent land use, access and boundaries etc.):

c.1.5 hectares lying over fairly flat ground, neighbored by Blaen-y-cwm school to the west, but otherwise enclosed by the B4248 and A467. The site is used by dog walkers and well trodden routes are visible across the site. The site is surrounded by fences, with the exception of the western boundary which is open to the adjacent school access road.

The site supports a semi improved neutral grassland community, with wetter areas adding to the site's diversity. A small area of open water is edged by *Typha latifolia* (reedmace) and extends into an area of marshy grassland with frequent *Eleocharis palustris* (common spike rush). An east-west aligned ditch intersects part of the site.

Overall botanical species diversity is good, although the distribution of some species is rather restricted. Locally occurring herbs include *Lotus corniculatus* (bird's foot trefoil), *Centaurea nigra* (common knapweed), *Leucanthemum vulgare* (oxeye daisy) and *Lathyrus pratensis* (meadow vetchling) and unconfirmed *Dactylorhiza fuchsia* (common spotted orchid) and *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (southern marsh orchid).

Due to lack of management the site has a rank appearance with frequent coarse grasses and scattered scrub developing across the site. Scrub is particularly associated with the southern half of the site and includes hawthorn, bramble, birch, crab apple and willow (particularly in wetter areas). The tussocky grassland and associated structural diversity is likely of some value to invertebrates. Incidental invertebrate records included dragonflies and common blue and small heath butterflies.

The site is located as a fairly discrete ecological unit in an otherwise built local environment. It's north and east boundaries are flanked by deciduous hedgerow/scrub, shielding the site from the A467. This hedgerow/scrub line continues southwards alongside the A465, albeit only for 150m. The site's wildlife interest, combined with its vicinity to the school could make it of potential value as an educational resource/outdoor classroom.

Official Use Only: Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES NO Date:

Please state the section(s) of the Wildlife Site Guidelines that this site qualifies under:

Section H4) Neutral Grasslands.

In addition the site supports *Lathyrus nissolia* (grass vetchling). This is listed in **Section S7) Vascular Plants** as a contributory species and therefore is a supporting reason for selection of the site.

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved neutral grassland	15