

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S):

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

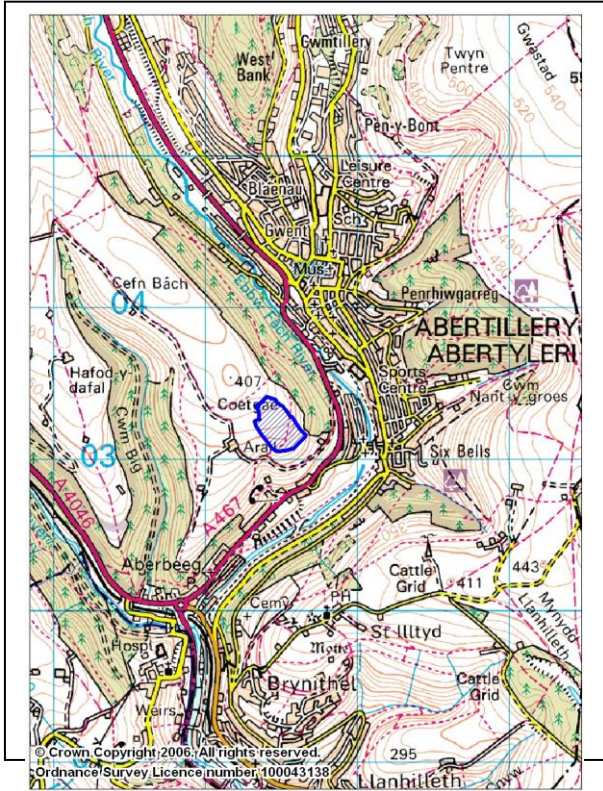
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Semi-improved acid grassland	U1/U4	
Scattered bracken/gorse	-	
Broadleaved woodland (beech)	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

Collection of sheep grazed acid grassland enclosures. The southern most and largest field supports a reasonably species-rich sward over a moderate southerly slope, with scattered raised hummocks and ant hills. The sward is characterised by *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue), *Agrostis tenuis* (common bent), *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair grass) and *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw). *Pilosella officinarum* (mouseear hawkweed), *Nardus stricta* (mat grass), *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil) and *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel) occur locally, most typically at south and east of site near undulating ground and a small spoil mound. *Lotus corniculatus* (birds foot trefoil) is locally occasional at the south.. The banks of the raised spoil mound include *Pilosella officinarum*, *Vulpia bromoides* (squirrel tail fescue), *Rumex acetosella* and *Aira praecox* (early hair grass). Limited scattered *Ulex europaeus* (gorse) is also present.

The site was formerly two fields, and at the east in particular, some agricultural improvement is evident with *Trifolium repens* (white clover) constant and *Cirsium spp.* (thistle species) frequent. Other occasional species include *Prunella vulgaris* (self heal), *Aira praecox*, *Luzula campestris* (field wood rush) and *Cerastium holosteoides* (common mousear). Mosses form an occasional part of the sward.

The field is enclosed by fences with the exception of the southern side where the grassland is open to a steep slope characterised by scattered bracken, which becomes continuous further south and merges into an area of broadleaved woodland. The field is grazed by sheep and has a low sward.

Two adjacent fields to the north support tightly sheep grazed acidic grassland. These are rather herb poor, with the presence of *Trifolium repens*, *Cirsium* species and other mesotrophic species reflecting a degree of agricultural modification. However *Agrostis tenuis*, *Festuca ovina* and *Galium saxatile* are constant and the sward retains an acidic nature. The fields do not qualify individually; however forming part of a comprehensive acid grassland management unit, they warrant consideration for inclusion within the Local Wildlife Site. Site boundaries consist of a mixture of fences and remnant hedge banks dominated by mature beech.

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:

H6) Acid grasslands	
Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved acid grassland	11 (field 1)