

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S):

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

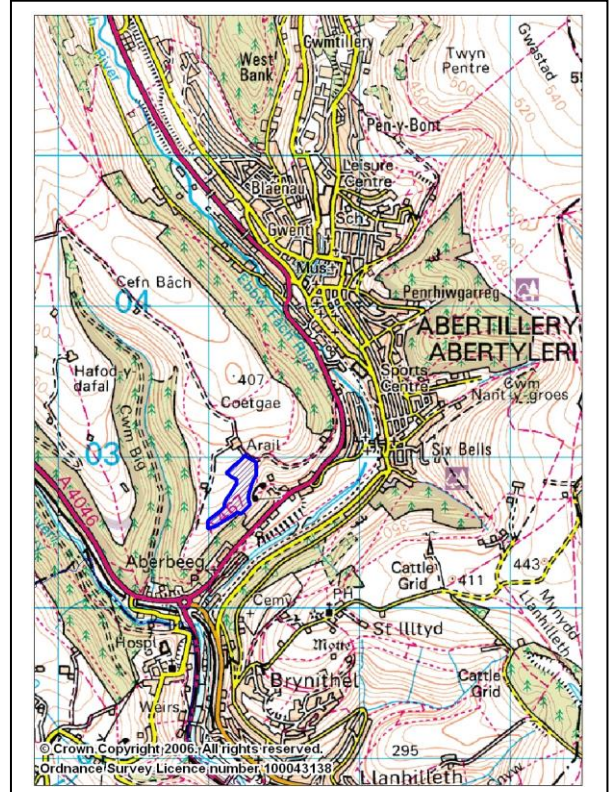
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

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

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

The main interest is associated with a large moderately sloping, east facing field (field 1) south of the Arail Farm buildings and intersected by a track to the farm. The field is enclosed by fences and remnant hedgerows and is lightly sheep grazed with frequent scattered ant hills. The rich sward is characterised by frequent *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue), occasional *Luzula campestris* (field wood rush) and *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil). The major herbs are *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw), *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel) and *Pilosella officinarum* (mouse-ear hawkweed), which are frequent and well distributed. Some agricultural modification is evident but species diversity and distribution across the site is good.

Further acid grassland lies to the south west within two formerly separate units (field 2 & 3). The former field boundary is marked with a defunct hedgerow. Small ant hills are scattered over the moderate south east facing slope. Herbaceous constants include *Galium saxatile* and *Lotus corniculatus* (birds foot trefoil) with associates *Rumex acetosella* and *Pilosella officinarum*. *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken) is locally frequent at the base of the slope. Some agricultural modification is evident with constant *Trifolium repens* (white clover) in the northern part of the enclosures. The area is tightly sheep grazed. Species richness is greatest in the eastern most part of field 2, towards the base of the slope (formerly a separate field). The whole site warrants Local Wildlife Site status. The site is enclosed by fences. Coniferous woodland lies to the east and semi improved poor/improved pasture lies at the top of the slope to the west. An unfenced bank separates the site from this improved field to the west.

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
H22) Other features – ant hills (contributes to site’s designation)

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved acid grassland	9 (field 1) 7 (field 2/3)