

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Bryn Serth

GRID REF: SO149109

SURVEYOR(S):

Jan Winder

SIZE (approx.): 37.17 ha

DATE OF SURVEY: September 2001 & 2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

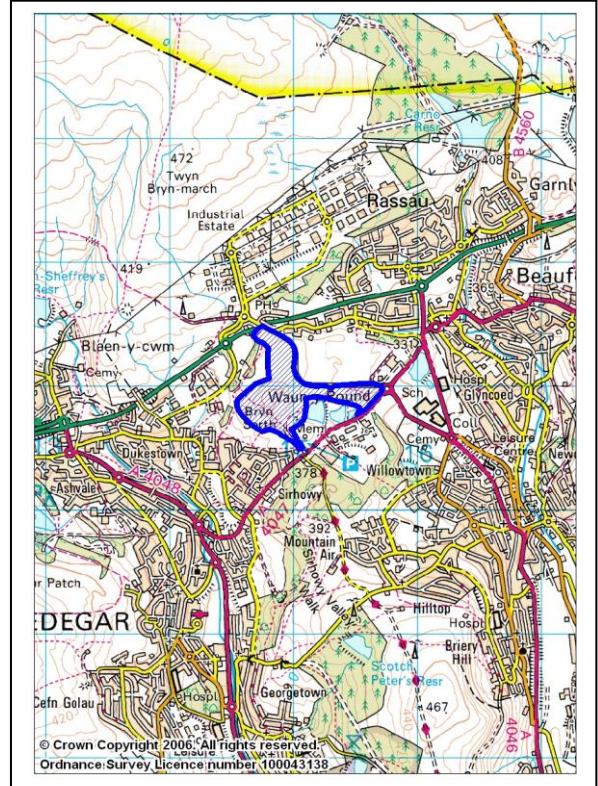
Blaenau Gwent

WARD: Beaufort

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Neutral grassland	MG1, MG9	
Acid grassland	U4	
Marshy grassland	M23, M25	
Heathland	H12	
Other grassland community		

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

Bryn Serth is located on the A4047, 2 Miles west of Beaufort and is adjacent to the site at Waun-y-pound.

The site is an important breeding site for lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*), all of which are UK BAP species. A total of ten lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) nests and several pairs of skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) were found in 2007 and located in area 4. There are also records for snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), jack snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*), whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), raven (*Corvus corax*), wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), magpie (*Pica pica*), linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*), meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) and reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) at Bryn Serth.

The site has a range of communities some in a mosaic with others.

M25 *Molinia caerulea*-*Potentilla erecta* mire is found in area 1, within which, there are patches of *Calluna vulgaris* (ling). The area is dominated by *Molinia caerulea* (purple moor grass) other species include *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil), *Juncus squarrosus* (heath rush), *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry), *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass), *Nardus stricta* (mat-grass), *Carex binervis* (green-ribbed sedge) and *Serratula tinctoria* (saw-wort).

M23 *Juncus effusus/acutiflorus*-*Galium palustre* rush-pasture is found mainly in area 6. There is a diverse range of species including *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (southern marsh orchid), *Carex flacca* (glaucous sedge), *Carex viridula* (sedge), *Carex panicea* (carnation sedge), *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (ragged robin) and *Filipendula ulmaria* (meadow sweet) and where it becomes drier, there are patches of *Calluna vulgaris* (ling) and acid grassland.

H12 *Calluna vulgaris*-*Vaccinium myrtillus* heath is represented mainly in area 7 and as a mosaic with **U4** and **M25** in area 2. Area 7 is purely dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* (ling) with an abundance of lichens. The area 2 to the north east of the site is the most diverse area of heath where species found include *Calluna vulgaris* (ling), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry), *Empetrum nigrum* (crowberry), *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw), *Hypochoeris radicata* (common cat's ear), *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair-grass), *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue), *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass) and *Nardus stricta* (mat grass).

The areas of pure **U4 *Festuca ovina*-*Agrostis capillaris*-*Galium saxatile* grassland** at the site are of value because they have a close association with the H12 community, mapped as a mosaic community. Species here include *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue), *Agrostis capillaris* (common bent), *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass), *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw), *Hypochoeris radicata* (common cat's-ear) and *Euphrasia officinalis* (eyebright). Area 5 is not a typical U4, but has a diversity of species including *Alchemilla* sp and *Centaureum erythraea* (common centaury).

Area 4, described as 'other grassland' is partially colonised shale giving a grassland cover of approximately 50%. This is the area where lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) are breeding.

Official Use Only: Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES NO Date: 15 January 2008

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

Acid Grasslands (H6), Marshy Grasslands (H7), Heathlands and Grass-Heath Communities (H9), Standing Open Water (H15), Swamp (H10), Mosaic Habitats (H20) Species (S2) Mammals (S1)	
Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Acid Grasslands	
Marshy Grasslands	
Heathlands and Grass-Heath Communities	
Standing Open Water	
Swamp	