

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

WATERCOURSE NAME:

GRID REF (start)  LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

GRID REF (finish)

Length (approx.):  DATE OF SURVEY:

## BROAD SITE DESCRIPTION

The River Clydach is a short, steep and fast-flowing river. It is around 10km / 6 miles in length. The river rises on the southern slopes of Mynydd Llangatwg then heads south-east through Clydach Dingle past Brynmawr. It then enters the spectacular Clydach Gorge dropping about 300m / 1000ft to Gilwern and its confluence with the River Usk.

The river's waters fall rapidly as they travel down the narrow and steep-sided and wooded Clydach Valley to the Usk, parts of which are of SSSI and SAC quality.

The majority of the watercourse lies within the Brecon Beacon's national park, however at its eastern extent, north of Brynmawr the river marks the border between BBNP and BGCBC administration area. This is the section of watercourse to which this SINC notification refers. Here the river flows adjacent to the A645 Heads of the Valleys Road, and Clydach Dingle.

## ADJACENT SINC/S/WILDLIFE SITES

Does the site already have any designations?  Yes  No

If yes please state designation/s:.....

## Known site history/ current management

Are there any LBAP Priority Habitats or Species present?

Habitats	Species
	SAP M5 European Otter

**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:

**H15) Watercourses**

In line with the *Criteria for the Selection of SINCs in the Mid Valleys Area*, due to its linear nature, importance as a habitat corridor and extensive influence, a blanket linear designation is used for the Selection of the River Clydach.

The mosaic of features found in rivers and streams can support a diverse range of plants and animals. A wide range of habitats are associated with rivers and streams from the steep fast flowing conditions in the upper reaches of catchment areas, to meanders, shingle beds and sand bars in the mid to lower reaches.

**Primary qualifying features include:**

- Probable migratory (anadromous species) and resident populations of fish of conservation significance in the mid valleys **(S5) Fish**).

**Supporting reasons for designation include:**

- Probable breeding Otter, plus areas for foraging, laying up and territorial use **(S1) Mammals**).
- In addition sections of the River Clydach support breeding dipper **(S2) Birds**).