

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S):

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

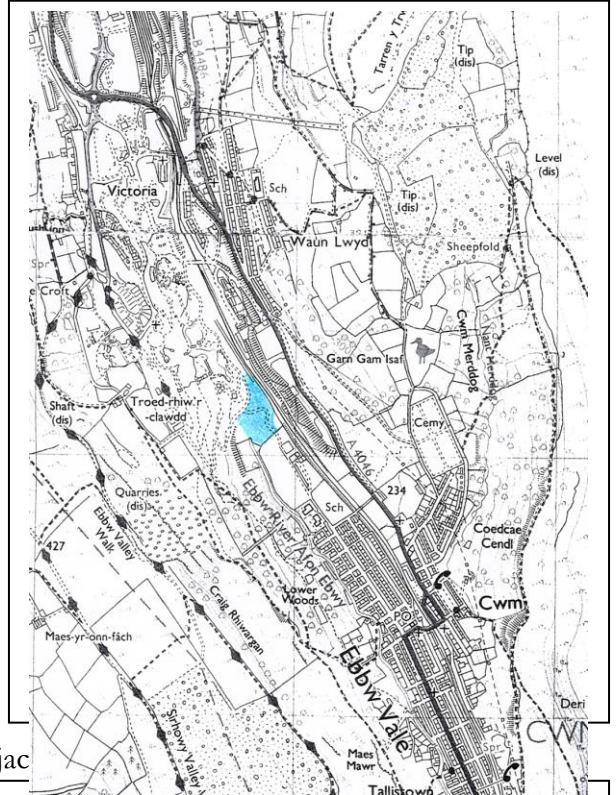
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Post industrial grassland/'secondary grassland' (mosaic of bare ground and developing semi-improved sward)	-	
Scrub	-	
Deciduous woodland	-	
Ditch	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent features)

Located on the southern edge of the Ebbw Vale Festival Site, the site comprises post industrial land with a steep south facing slope which levels out at the south of the site. The land is fenced with the exception of the northern boundary which is demarcated by a track/road, and the western boundary which is unmarked. The railway lies to the east and mixed deciduous woodland to the west. A playing field and the settlement of Cwm lie to the south. The east and west edges of the site are flanked by deciduous scrub. A well used zig zagging gravel footpath runs through the site and provides access to the festival site from Cwm.

Open grassland has developed over the steep undulating post industrial ground. Vegetation height and species composition is variable over the site. The steepest parts of the slope support a colourful herb rich sward, together with areas of bare/lightly vegetated ground. Herbs include locally frequent field scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) and small scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*), viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), fairy flax (*Linum catharticum*) and marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*). Elsewhere a tall, grass dominated sward is more typical with herbs more commonly represented by ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) and common knapweed (*Centurea nigra*). Ditches/drains lie adjacent to the zig zag path and part of the southern boundary. These are typically vegetated with willow, bramble, thistles and common nettle (*Urtica dioica*). Localised damp areas including hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), and hairy sedge (*Carex hirta*) occur in the south. Some ant hills occur locally on the slope.

The very north of the site supports deciduous woodland frequented by even aged alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*) with a bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) sapling and common nettle understory. Other species include rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), cherry (*Prunus sp.*), willow (*Salix sp.*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

Grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*) was recorded in north east and west of the site, a contributory species within Section S7) Vascular Plants of the Mid Valleys SINC criteria. Barn owl (*Tyto alba*) have been recorded.

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:

H5) Calcareous grasslands – primary qualifying feature H18) Mineral Spoil Tips and Other Post Industrial Land H1) Woodlands – qualifies as a secondary feature, contained within the cSINC site boundary	
Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Secondary grassland on post industrial land (with a calcareous nature)	14 calcareous indicator species