

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Highway verge – Section 11 – Nr Nantyglo

GRID REF: SO192103

SURVEYOR(S): Peter Sturgess

SIZE (approx.): C 0.94 ha

Katie Partington

DATE OF SURVEY: June 2010

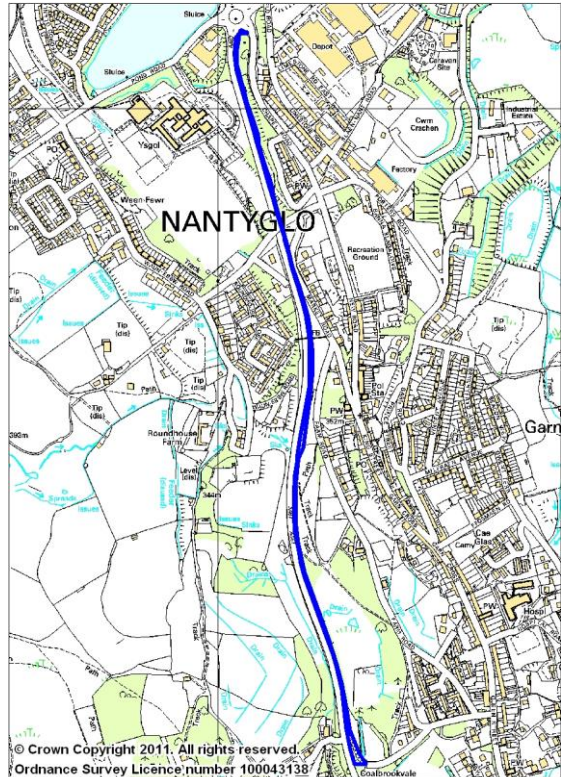
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:  
Blaenau Gwent

WARD:

### MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

| Habitat types     | NVC type | Area (ha) |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Neutral grassland |          |           |
| Woodland          |          |           |

### SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

A relatively new road with a pavement along its eastern side, and a verge largely comprising a narrow strip of grass bordered by tree / hedge-planting at the rear. The most notable feature of this verge is the presence of Wood Bitter-vetch, which occurs patchily throughout the section (and beyond its southern boundary).

Through most of this section the east side pavement is fringed by a regularly mown strip of short grass, with a strip of taller grass and tall herbs beside it. The majority of the verge supports trees and scrub. These tree planting areas are generally of limited value for nature conservation but some of the margins and more open areas (e.g. patches where the trees failed to establish) support a moderately diverse grassland flora. These include a number of typical woodland/ hedge plants, including Wood Bitter-vetch (*Vicia orobus*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*).

The dense tree planting on the west side of the road leaves only a very narrow strip of species-poor grassland in the verge. The ground flora on the west side is generally much less diverse than the east side. Possibly because the narrow width and absence of a pavement mean that it is not as protected from the traffic. However, Several plants of Wood Bitter-vetch and Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*) were noted in the slightly lighter, wider parts at the southern end of the section.

Official Use Only: Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES  NO  Date: January 2011

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

Habitats

H4) neutral grassland

- All stands of species-rich atypical NVC neutral grassland, with at least 8 species from Table 2 over 0.2 ha. In particular important grassland communities, which occur on road verges, or brown field sites, are often not easily referable to NVC community.

Species

S7) Vascular plants

- Presence of 'primary' species Wood bitter vetch

| Qualifying Habitat types          | Number of indicator species present |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| H4) neutral grassland             | >8                                  |
| S7) Presence of wood bitter vetch | NA                                  |

**Contributory species include Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Hairy St Johns wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*)**