

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Highway verge – Section 1 – Bryn Serth Road

GRID REF: SO152110

SURVEYOR(S): Peter Sturgess
Claire Pooley

SIZE (approx.): C 1.7ha

DATE OF SURVEY: Julv 2010

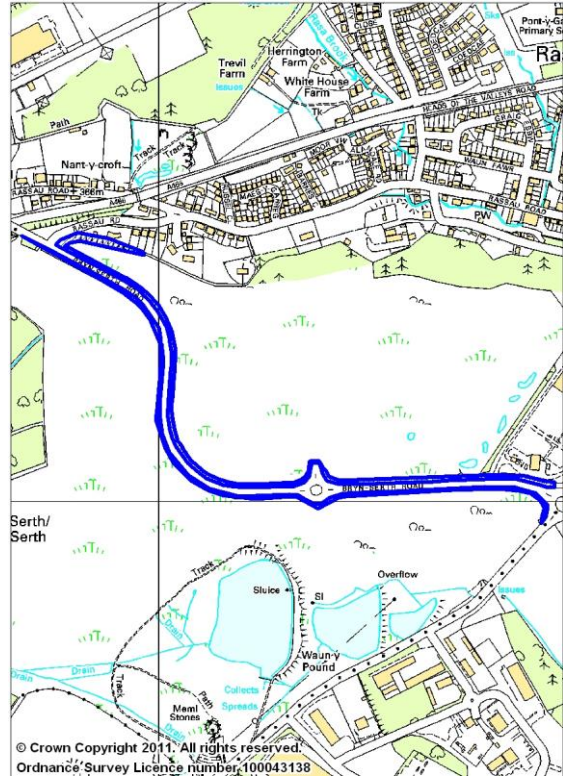
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:
Blaenau Gwent

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Neutral grassland		
Woodland		
Scrub		

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

A relatively new road bordered by a mix of damp, flower-rich neutral grassland (up to 8m wide) and linear blocks of young trees/ hedges.

The western part includes the longest uninterrupted grassland swards, but the relatively short section in the eastern part are just as diverse, and apparently support the greatest concentrations of Marsh orchids (*dactylorhiza sps*) and local Restharrow (*Ononis sps*). The flora of the long grassland section on the northern side is characterised by a high proportion of Cuckoo-flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), with local rushes. The long grassland section in the southern side of the road adjoins heathland, and several heath species occur in the verge, including Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillis*) and Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*). Several indicators of base-rich conditions are also present in this area, including Downy Oat-grass and Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*).

The recently constructed new road junction supports a high proportion of disturbed ground. Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Spiked Sedge (*Carex spicata*) were present close to the junction. A short section of stone wall provides an additional habitat and shelter, and is becoming colonised by common mosses.

The close-mown amenity grassland at either end of the section is of little value for nature conservation, although a few Marsh Orchids were observed at the eastern end. The tree planting areas appear to be of

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:

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.

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Neutral grassland	>8