

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Highway verge – Section 4 – Bedwelty pits

GRID REF: SO154060

SURVEYOR(S): Peter Sturgess
Claire Pooley

SIZE (approx.): C 1.45ha

DATE OF SURVEY: June 2010

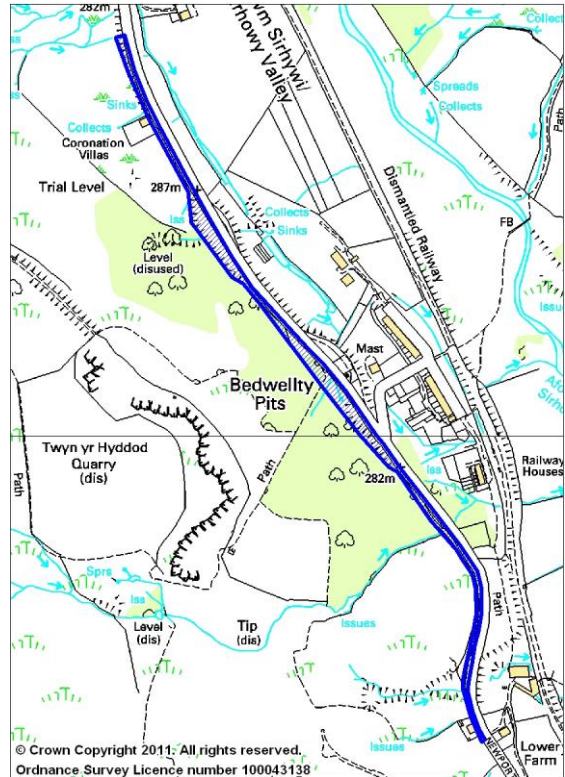
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:
Blaenau Gwent

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Heath		
Oak woodland		
Scrub		

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

A wide, east-facing bank with a mix of heath, Bracken, woodland and scrub. The most valuable habitat is the heath, which is dominated by Heather and includes a good range of other semi-natural heathland indicators, locally including Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Green-ribbed Sedge (*Carex binervis*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*). Violets are locally abundant. The heath vegetation is very variable, with some very dry heath with large ant-hills and invading Bracken, to rock outcrop vegetation, to wet, acid flushes dominated by Purple Moor-grass and Sphagnum mosses. The most diverse areas of heath were in the widest parts of the verge. The narrower parts were generally dominated by scrub. The scrub was generally less diverse than the more open habitats, but a few parts supported remnants of heath as a ground flora, and some wetter parts supported abundant Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*). A few areas supported mature Sessile Oak trees, and locally these were sufficiently dense to support woodland ground flora with Wood Sorrel, Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Creeping Soft-grass (*Holcus mollis*).

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:

H10) Heathland and grass heath communities

- All examples of degraded heathland, secondary heathland, coal spoil heaths (including lichen/bryophyte/heath) and grass-heath mixtures which either meet the guidelines for designation as acid grassland (and are thus designated as such) or which have at least 10% dwarf shrub heath cover

H6) Acid grassland

- Smaller areas (less than 0.5 ha) of unimproved or semi-improved acid grassland if they form an integral part of a larger SINC designation or complex habitat mosaics or fulfil a strategic linking function between SINC.

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
H10) Heathland and grass heath communities	NA
H6) Acid grassland	NA

Contributory species for the sites designation as a SINC include the vascular plants crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), ladys mantle (*Alchemilla filicaulis*) and tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*)