

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Highway verge – Section 5 – Pochin houses

GRID REF: SO160046

SURVEYOR(S): Peter Sturgess  
Claire Pooley

SIZE (approx.): C 1.1 ha

DATE OF SURVEY: June 2010

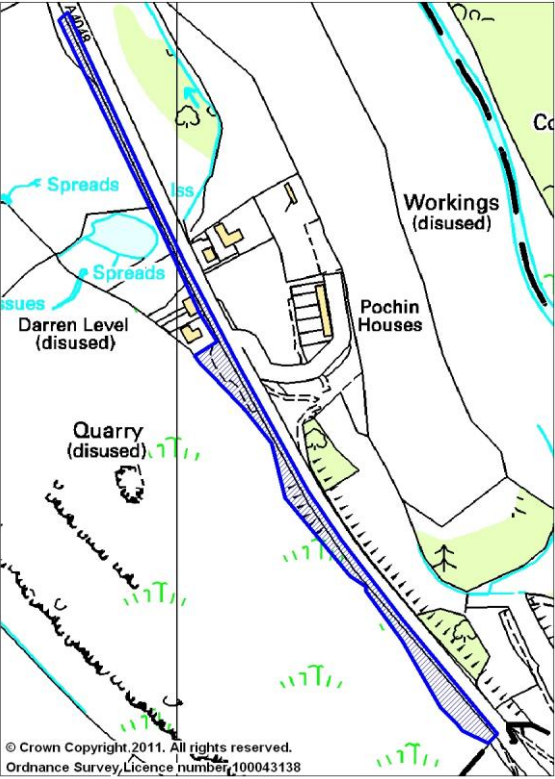
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:  
Blaenau Gwent

WARD:

**MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:**

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Heath		
Scrub		

**SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:**



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

A wide, east-facing bank mostly supporting a mix of heath, Bracken and scrub. The southern-most part supports the best heath habitat, and the proportion of Bracken gradually increases northwards. The heath flora includes Heather (*calluna*), Tormentil (*potentilla erecta*), Heath Bedstraw (*Gallium saxatile*), Sheep's Fescue and Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), with Common Dog-Violet (*Viola riviniana*) and Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) being especially abundant near to the foot of the slope. Local rock-exposures and French drains provide variation in the substrata.

The northern part is being used for storage of building materials (apparently by 'South Wales Reclamation'). It has been partially fenced off and screened by a row of young conifers.

A tall, dry-stone wall borders the northern part. It supports a good covering of mosses and lichens, but is locally in poor repair (apparently due to removal of stone).

**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

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