

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Land surrounding wetland centre

GRID REF: S O 1 7 3 0 6 3

SURVEYOR(S) Rebecca Price

SIZE (approx.): c.5 ha

DATE OF SURVEY: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

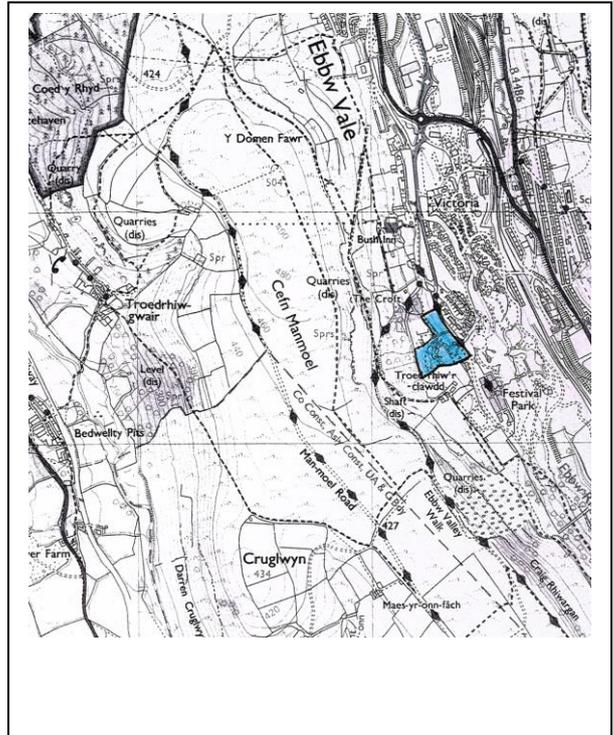
Blaenau Gwent

WARD: Cwm

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Broadleaved woodland ( <i>conifers less than 10%</i> )	-	
Open water/lake	-	
Ditch/stream	-	
SI neutral/SI poor grassland	MG6/10	
Mature trees	-	
Scattered scrub	-	
Marshy grassland/marginal vegetation	M23	
Swamp/reedbed	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

5 ha of land surrounding the wetlands building (gym) at Garden Festival, Ebbw Vale. The eastern boundary is flanked by a road, and the western boundary by a tall industrial metal fence and road to a large house. A small section of hawthorn hedgerow is located along the northern part of this boundary. The southern boundary is fenced. Rough grassland lies to the south and a recently fenced new house and garden to the north.

A large lake is the main feature of the site, with broadleaved woodland/plantation to the east, (and extending northwards), and unmanaged semi improved neutral/poor grassland, scrub and strip of alder and willow to the west. Most of the site has a gentle east facing slope and small streams run across the site via the lake. Within the eastern woodland the stream flows through a small rocky gully, the edges of which support ferns. Footpaths run down through the woodland and circle the lake.

The site includes some mature trees and in particular a group of mature ash, beech and a fern leaved beech create a high canopy near the woodland path in the east of the site. At the south east of the site a denser area of mixed plantation is present, with a developing understorey. Species include silver birch, rowan, oak, ash, field maple, pine, larch, poplar and sycamore. The northern part of the site lies over very steeply sloping ground and supports field maple, rowan, silver birch, oak, hawthorn together with some rhododendron, bramble, fern, larch and pine.

The streams and ditches connected with the lake, together with its margins support a reasonable variety of plant species. The grassland over the west of the site is semi improved neutral/ semi improved poor and includes some scattered ant hills. This is unmanaged, damp and tussocky with frequent grasses; and localised rushes and sedges especially where the stream intersects the grassland. Herbs are scattered through the site, although more frequent in the south. Bramble and willow scrub is developing over the area, and a dense strip runs through the middle of the grassland. Towards the north (near a wooden cabin) vegetation is sparser, with some bare ground but includes *Odonites verna* (red bartsia), *Nardus stricta* (mat grass), *Linum catharticum* (fairy flax). Of particular note here is *Echium vulgare* (viper's bugloss) and *Poa compressa* (compressed meadow grass).

**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:

**Section H4) Neutral Grasslands** - The grassland habitat is of **borderline SINC quality**. The grassland habitat contains just sufficient botanical indicators to qualify as a SINC under *Section H4) Neutral Grassland Criteria*; however these are infrequent in their distribution

**Section S7) Vascular Plants:** The site supports viper's bugloss, which is a Contributory Species and therefore are a supporting reason for selection of the site.

The large pond is well vegetated and has the potential to attract a variety of invertebrates and may be of potential value to amphibian populations. It is likely of SINC quality and further specialist pond survey is recommended. In addition the scrub, woodland and open water present a mosaic of habitats of potential value to birds, invertebrates and amphibians.

In view of this the site in its entirety should be considered for SINC identification under **Section H20) Mosaic Habitats and Common Land**.

**Section 6) Invertebrates – Butterflies:**

Dingy Skipper population is reported on site (List B, contributory species)

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved neutral/SI poor grassland	8