

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S):

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

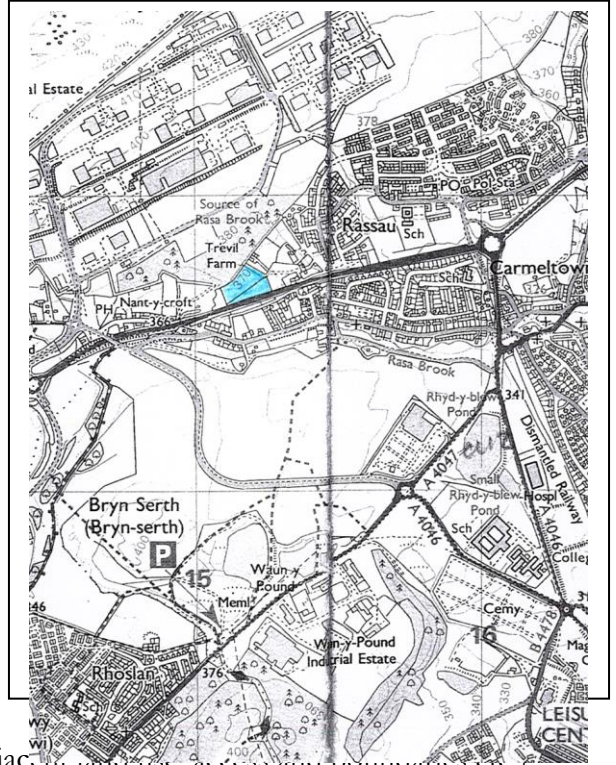
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Semi-improved neutral grassland	MG5/6 /U4	
Ditch	-	
Dry-stone walls	-	
Scattered mature scrub	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

Two horses grazed enclosures lying to the west of the residential area of Rassau and north of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road and situated over a gentle south facing slope. An access track and plantation woodland flanks the north of the site and a former quarry lies to the west.

The northern field supports a species-rich neutral sward lying over a thin stony soil and is enclosed by dry-stone walls and fencing. Overall herb diversity is good, particularly over the middle part of the slope and south west of the site with frequent bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), common cat's ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), rough hawkbit (*Leontodon hispidus*) and field wood rush (*Luzula campestris*). Quaking grass (*Brizia media*) and spring sedge (*Carex caryophyllea*) are also locally part of the sward in the south west. Sward structure and height is variable; the lower, southern part of the site supports a shorter herb rich sward. Taller, more grass dominated regions occur towards the margins. Some dry areas of an acid nature are also evident towards the east of the field. A dry ditch lines the east of the field.

To the south is a long, semi-improved neutral horse grazed field. It's enclosed by fenced stone wall with the exception of a post and rail fence at the southern margin. The northern boundary has a few aged elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and some large hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) bushes are situated within the field. The northern boundary is not complete and as a result the two fields form a single management unit. The sward is patchily grazed, however despite its poor appearance, a moderate variety of herbs are still identifiable locally, especially in the southern half.

Field two fails to qualify as a SINC in its own right but forming part of a single management unit with field 1 it is included within this candidate SINC.

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:

H4) Neutral grasslands

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi-improved neutral grassland	15 (northern field), 6 (southern field)