

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S):

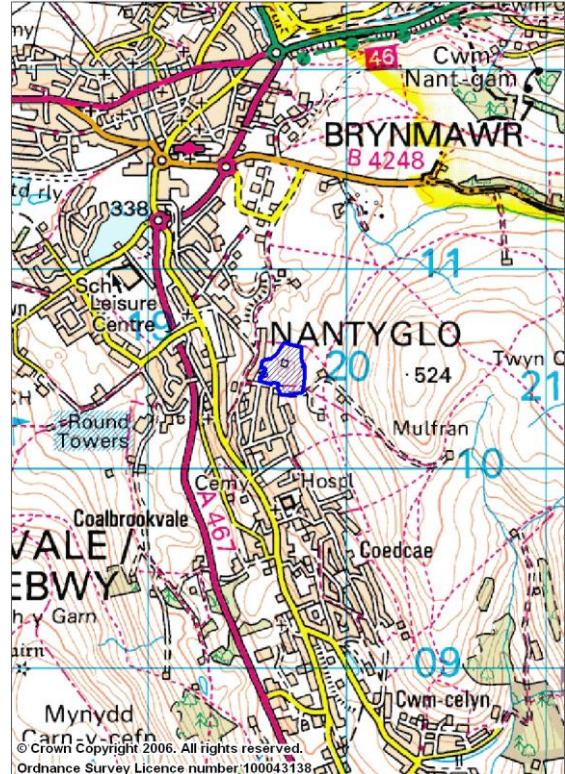
SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



### MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Semi-improved neutral grassland	MG5	
Improved grassland	MG6	
Marshy grassland	M23	
Semi-improved acid grassland	U4	
Ditch	-	
Semi-improved acid grassland	U4	
Semi-improved grassland /heathland mosaic	-	
Marshy grassland	M23	
Open water (Pool)	-	

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

Two field units under different ownership:

**Field 1:** An odd shaped enclosure with a moderate west facing slope, enclosed by post and wire fencing. The field supports a SI improved meadow (MG5/6) which was uncut at the time of survey. Over the slope in the southern half of the site the sward is species-rich with a good herb: grass ratio. The flowery sward includes *Rhinanthus minor* (yellow rattle), *Trifolium pratense* (red clover), *Hypochoeris radicata* (common cat's ear) and *Centaurea nigra* (common knapweed), *Lotus corniculatus* (bird's foot trefoil) and *Stellaria graminea* (lesser stichwort), which are all occasional/frequent. *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil) and *Euphrasia officinalis* (eyebright) are also locally present. *Hypericum sp.* (hawkweed species) and *Sanguisorba officinalis* (great burnet) and *Dactylorhiza sp.* (orchid species) were recorded though rare.

The flatter, top of the field (in east) is more improved and grass dominated. *Juncus effusus* (soft rush) is scattered and herbs are few and limited to *Rumex acetosa* (common sorrel) *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain) and *Ranunculus repens* (creeping buttercup). Localised marshy areas are present.

The northern part of the field supports a mosaic of wet and dry grassland supporting a good diversity of plants. The drier regions are grass dominated with scattered herbs. Wetter regions are located towards the base of the slope (characterised by sedges & rushes) and stretching out from central drainage channels. Local herbs include *Viola palustris* (marsh violet), *Ranunculus flammula* (lesser spearwort) and *Caltha palustris* (marsh marigold). A ditch at the bottom of the field is bordered by steep banks supporting an acid sward.

**Official Use Only:** Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES  NO  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (continued)

Field 2: Horse grazed SI acid sward over undulating ground associated with a former tip creating steep banks, hillocks and small depressions. Steeper banks in particular support well distributed *Calluna vulgaris* (heather), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry), *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass), *Nardus stricta* (mat grass), *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil), *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw), *Agrostis tenuis* (common bent), *Festuca sp.* (fescue species) and *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair grass). *Galium saxatile* and *Potentilla erecta* are well distributed across the site. *Cladonia sp.* (lichen) *Pilosella officinarum* (mouse ear hawkweed) and *Nardus stricta* also locally part of sward.

Lower lying areas are more grass dominated and some areas of scrub and ruderals are present. Field edges include some *Cirsium arvense* (creeping thistle), *Cirsium vulgare* (spear thistle), *Urtica dioica* (common nettle), *Rumex obtusifolius* (broad leaved dock) and *Galium aparine* (cleavers).

At the east steep banks partially enclose a pond and a wet area supporting marshy grassland including *Juncus effusus* (soft rush) (F), *Sphagnum sp.* (moss) (F), *Polytrichum sp.* (moss) (F), *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire fog) (F), *Epilobium sp.* (willowherb species) (LO), *Juncus squarrosus* (heath rush) (R/LO) and *Rumex acetosa* (common sorrel) (LO).

Mid away along northern perimeter, *Succisa pratensis* (devil's bit scabious) is locally frequent together with *Galium saxatile* and *Potentilla erecta*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Centaurea nigra* (common knapweed), *Rhinanthus minor* (yellow rattle) and *Polygala vulgaris* (common milkwort) were also recorded here.

Incidental Fauna: Field 1: Swallows, bumblebees, common frog, green veined white butterfly, common field grasshoppers

Incidental fauna: Field 2: Dragonflies hawking over pool, bumblebees, green veined white and meadow brown butterflies. A small number of waxcap fungi were observed.

### **Note:**

Nantyglo Meadow represents a combination of two previously separate SINC's (Nantyglo Meadow SINC & Nantyglo Acid Grassland SINC) originally approved at SINC panel meeting dated: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
The combination of the two SINC's was approved at SINC panel meeting dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010

# DETAILED SITE INFORMATION

SITE OWNERSHIP: Including names of any tenants/graziers

	Name	Address	Telephone number(s)
1	Field 1: Mr Cooksey (owner)	Beaufort, Ebbw Vale	
2	Field 1: Mr Martin Thomas (cares for site). Permission to survey granted by Mr Thomas		
3	Field 2: Owner unknown (Mr Evans?). Surveyed from footpath		
4			
5			

Are there any public rights of way on the site?

Yes  No

Does the site already have any designations?

Yes  No

If yes please state designation/s:.....

What is the current management at the site?

Field 1: Cut for hay in late summer Field 2: Horse grazed
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Are there any LBAP Priority Habitats or Species present?

Habitats	Species
HAP 5 Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pasture	SAP H3 Common Frog
HAP 7 Dwarf shrub heath	

Are there any Section 42 species present?

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Are there any threats to the site?

Forms part of a proposed LDP development site.  
Field 2: overgrazing

Are there any invasive species present?

Field 2: Japanese knotweed (small stand by western perimeter).

Please state the section(s) of the Wildlife Site Guidelines that this site qualifies under:

**H4) Neutral grasslands**  
**H6) Acid grasslands**  
**H10) Heathlands & Grass Heath Communities**  
**H18) Mineral Spoil and other Post Industrial Land**

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved neutral grassland (field 1)	14
Semi improved acid grassland (field 2)	10

