

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/ SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Pond Group 1, Beaufort Hill
SURVEYOR: Chris Hatch
DATE OF SURVEYS: 23.9.2008 to 15.10.2008

GRID REFS: Pond 1712/164 SO 1798012263
Pond 1712/165 SO 1795812081
Pond 1812/166 SO 1808512180

SIZE: 164 300m²
 165 11250m²
 166 9375m²

<u>Main Habitat types</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>NVC</u>
Oligotrophic standing water	GO	
Swamp		S12a
Coniferous plantation	A2.2	
Improved grassland	B4	MG 6/7
Semi-improved acid grassland	B1.2	U4
Marshy grassland	B5	
Wet flushes	E2.1	M6
Colliery spoil (revegetated)	I 2.2	

Description

A network of two large ponds with man-made embankments along the southern edge, together with two smaller permanent ponds, two seasonal ponds and wet flushes.

The area is situated at a height of approximately 1300 ft A.O.D., to the north of Beaufort Hill. Surrounding the network of ponds is an area of improved and semi-improved grassland, some of which is marshy and rush-covered. A semi-mature coniferous plantation is present on the north-east of the site.

Between the ponds are areas of colliery spoil, partly colonised with Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*) whilst the ponds are linked by streams. There are also some acid wet flushes in the area. An interesting area containing Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) occurs to the east of pond 165

Pond 165 has the largest area of open water. Pond 164 is dominated by *Typha*, whilst pond 166 has significant areas of *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. The edges of all the ponds are fringed by *Juncus effuses* and *Juncus bulbosus* is present in pond 166.

Public rights of way run adjacent to and through the site.

Qualifications under SINC Criteria

Habitats

H16 Standing open water

Qualify as examples of ponds which have largely unmodified semi-natural beds and banks, good water quality and which support good aquatic, emergent or bank-side plant communities.

H12 Bog habitats and flushes

Acid flushes unmodified by agricultural improvement.

H15 Watercourses

Stretches of smaller watercourses, comparatively unmodified which support good aquatic, emergent or bank side plant communities, and the water is not grossly polluted.

H18 Mineral spoil tips and other post-industrial land

Species rich coal spoil-tips which have naturally re-vegetated.

H20 Mosaic Habitats

Mosaic of at least 3 distinct habitat types.

Note

The adjacent fields consisting of semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland, wet flushes and re-vegetated colliery spoil are also designated as part of the SINC. As well as meeting criteria for designation as SINC under the habitats – bog habitat, flushes, mineral spoil tips, other post-industrial land and mosaic habitats, the adjacent fields are also considered to be important for species travelling between ponds and therefore designated under the ponds criteria as linking terrestrial habitat corridors.

Sketch map of sites location

