

## Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/ SINC Notification Form

### SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Pond Group 2, Brynmawr/Beaufort Hill

SURVEYOR: Chris Hatch

DATE OF SURVEYS: 23.9.2008 to 15.10.2008

GRID REFS: Pond 1812/178 SO 1829412844

Pond 1812/179 SO 1826812794

Pond 1812/180 SO 1824212744

SIZE: 178: 180m<sup>2</sup>

179: 300m<sup>2</sup>

180: 800m<sup>2</sup>

<u>Main Habitat types</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>NVC</u>
Oligotrophic standing water	GO	
Swamp		S12a
Coniferous plantation	A2.2	
Broadleaved woodland-plantation	A1.1.2	
Improved grassland	B4	MG 6/7
Semi-improved acid grassland	B1.2	U4
Marshy grassland	B5	
Opencast mining spoil (revegetated)	I 2.2	

### Description

Three small ponds situated just south of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Trunk Road, between Brynmawr and Beaufort Hill. The area is situated at a height of approximately 1300 ft A.O.D. Surrounding the ponds is an area of improved and semi-improved grassland, some of which is marshy and rush-covered. Much of the area consists of re-vegetated landscaped spoil created by opencast mining. A semi-mature coniferous plantation is present on the south of the site, whilst a small plantation of non-native broadleaved trees screens the ponds from the A465. The ponds were created as a result of landscaping work and are fed by natural drainage and by concrete channels. The ponds have matured well and are all surrounded by wide margins of *Juncus effusus*. Ponds 178 and 180 are covered by *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and all three ponds contain beds of *Typha latifolia*. Paths and tracks used as public footpaths run to the south and west of 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.

#### H20 Mosaic Habitats

Mosaic of at least 3 distinct habitat types.

### Note

As well as 10m surrounding the ponds, the linking terrestrial habitat between the ponds, which is made up of drains and improved/semi improved grassland, is also designated as part of the SINC due to its importance for species travelling between the ponds.

### Sketch Map of Sites Location:

