

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/ SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Pond Group 3, Hafod Y Dafal Farm, near Cwm

SURVEYOR: Chris Hatch

DATE OF SURVEYS: 23.9.2008 to 15.10.2008

GRID REFS: Ponds 1901/094, 1903/086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 092, 093, 2002/081 plus one seasonal pond:- all in area of SO20080365 (See attached maps)

SIZE: 1903/090 96m²

1903/091 1330m²

1903/092 640m²

1903/093 144m²

1903/094 180m²

1903/086 Combined area of 6300m²

1903/087

1903/088

1903/089

2002/081

Seasonal pond

| <u>Main Habitat types</u> | <u>Phase 1</u> | <u>NVC</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Oligotrophic standing water | GO | A2, A15, A24 |
| Swamp | | S10a, S12a, S14a, S22A |
| Coniferous plantation | A2.2 | |
| Improved grassland | B4 | MG 6/7 |
| Semi-improved acid grassland | B1.2 | U4 |
| Parkland/ Scattered trees | A3.1 | |
| Hedgerow | | |

Description

A series of man-made ponds situated at Hafod y Dafal Farm on the mountain plateau between Cwm and Abertillery at a height of approximately 1200 ft A.O.D. The network consists of 5 separate ponds to the east of the track leading to the farm, together with a complex of 5 permanent and one seasonal pond to the west of the farm track. The ponds are inter-connected by man-made streams, but are also supplied by natural drainage. A mature coniferous plantation lies to the north-west, whilst much of the area is improved grassland heavily grazed by sheep. There are also areas of semi-improved grassland, hedgerows and standard broadleaved trees (mainly beech) at the location. All of the ponds have matured well and mainly show oligotrophic characteristics. The small pond adjacent to the farm however, (1903/090) shows signs of eutrophication. A public right of way runs through the site and the colliery spoil tips to the east of the farm are being reclaimed for coal.

Most of the ponds are surrounded by a margin of *Juncus effusus*. Beds of *Typha latifolia* occur in some of the ponds, with the surface covered with *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. Other aquatic plants recorded include *Glyceria fluitans*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Iris*

pseudacorus and *Carex remota*. Pond 090 has an extensive surface growth of *Lemna minor*.

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.

Note

The pond group SINC boundary is taken to the boundary of the surrounding field. Although the adjacent terrestrial habitat consists mainly of improved grazed grassland this area forms part of an ecological unit. It has particular importance for amphibians, which rely on both aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Both Frogs and palmate newts have been recorded using the ponds.

Sketch map of sites location:

