

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/ SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Pond Group 5, near Ty Llwyn, Ebbw Vale

SURVEYOR: Chris Hatch

DATE OF SURVEYS: 23.9.2008 to 15.10.2008

GRID REFS: Pond 1708/030 SO 1772008957

Pond 1708/031 SO 1782208820

Pond 1708/032 SO 1782208782

Pond 1708/033 SO 1790080431

SIZE: 030 360m²
 031 120m²
 032 18750m²
 033 75m²

<u>Main Habitat types</u>	<u>Phase 1</u>	<u>NVC</u>
Oligotrophic standing water	GO	A15,A24,A24b
Swamp		S12a,S22a,
Improved grassland	B4	MG 6/7
Semi-improved acid grassland	B1.2	U4
Purple moorgrass and rush pasture	B5	M23/25
Wet flushes	E2.1	M6

Description

A linear group of two small ponds to the north, leading into a very large pond, with a small pond at the southern end. The ponds are situated to the west of Ty Llwyn, Ebbw Vale, on the lower slopes of Mynydd Carn y Cefn at a height of approximately 800 ft. above A.O.D. The ponds appear to be oligotrophic in nature, although the presence of barley straw bales in the large pond 032 indicates that growths of blue-green algae may occur. The ponds were formerly used as feeders for the Ebbw Vale steel works and a system of sluices and pipework is still in place. The ponds are fed by streams, by natural run-off from the mountain and by inlet pipes which presumably tap into spring sources further up the slopes. Some wet flushes occur in the area. The surrounding area comprises mainly of semi-improved grassland, with considerable bracken encroachment, improved grassland and areas of purple moorgrass and rush pasture. Some of the semi-improved grassland has significant numbers of the mounds of Yellow Meadow Ants (*Lasius flavus*), which provides a good foraging area for Green Woodpeckers. The ponds themselves have the following features:-

030-Shallow pond with small area of open water covered with *Potamogeton poygonifolius*. The rest of the pond is filled with *Juncus effusus* and *Sphagnum*.

031-Shallow pond with large area of open water containing *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. The whole pond is fringed with *Juncus effusus*, with the southern end containing *Sphagnum* and *Glyceria fluitans*.

032-Very large deep pond. Most of the eastern side of the pond is fringed by *Juncus effusus*, *Glyceria fluitans* and *Carex remota*. The western side, which consists of a man-made embankment is fringed by *Salix* and *Juncus effusus*. There are several extensive beds of *Typha latifolia* and several areas covered by *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. Other species present include *Myosotis scorpioides*, *Ranunculus flammula* and *Eupatorium cannabinum*.

033-Shallow pond with some open water. The pond is fringed by *Juncus effusus*, with *Molinia caerulea* interspersed. A bed of *Typha latifolia* is present at the southern end.

Qualifications under SINC Criteria

Habitats

H7 Marshy Grasslands

Areas of purple moorgrass and rush pasture.

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.

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 2 main ponds 030/032 and 033, which is made up of drains and marshy grassland, is also designated as part of the SINC due to its importance for species travelling between ponds.

Sketch map of sites location

