

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

**WATERCOURSE NAME:**

**GRID REF (start)** 
**LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:**

**GRID REF (finish)**

**Length (approx.):** 
**DATE OF SURVEY:**

## BROAD SITE DESCRIPTION

The Ebbw Fach River SINC runs from the vicinity of West Side (c 2.5km south of Nantyglo) southwards to link with the Ebbw Fawr River at Aberbeeg, forming the main Ebbw River which joins the Severn Estuary at the mouth of the River Usk.

The river runs to the eastward side of Mynydd Carn-y-cefn and Cefn yr Arail and west of Abertillery and Blaina. Near Abertillery sections of the river run very close (and flow beneath) the A467 and other adjacent residential roads in a number of places. Here the river is flanked by steep embankment and lies adjacent to houses/urban development.

Moving north a less urban landscape is encountered. At its northern extreme water appears to drain through a network of ditches and streams down the slopes of Cefn yr Arial towards the Ebbw Fach River. The source is difficult to determine by OS map alone.

## ADJACENT SINCS/WILDLIFE SITES

Does the site already have any designations?  Yes  No

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

## Known site history/ current management

Are there any LBAP Priority Habitats or Species present?

Habitats	Species
	SAP M5 European Otter

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

## FURTHER SITE INFORMATION

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

### **H15) Watercourses**

In line with the *Criteria for the Selection of SINC's in the Mid Valleys Area*, due to its linear nature, importance as a habitat corridor and extensive influence, a blanket linear designation is used for the Selection of the Ebbw Fach River.

The mosaic of features found in rivers and streams can support a diverse range of plants and animals. A wide range of habitats are associated with rivers and streams from the steep fast flowing conditions in the upper reaches of catchment areas, to meanders, shingle beds and sand bars in the mid to lower reaches.

### **Primary qualifying features include:**

- Migratory (anadromous species) and resident populations of fish of conservation significance in the Mid Valleys area, including salmon, bullhead & brown trout (**S5) Fish**).
- *Good distribution of fish records, including within the upper reaches of watercourse.*

### **Supporting reasons for designation include:**

- Probable breeding Otter, plus areas for foraging, laying up and territorial use (**S1) Mammals**).
- In addition sections of the River Ebbw fach support breeding dippers (**S2) Birds**).