

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF:

SURVEYOR(S): Richard Carter, Stephen Wilson, Alex Ramsay and Jen Rigney (RSK Carter Ecological Limited)

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

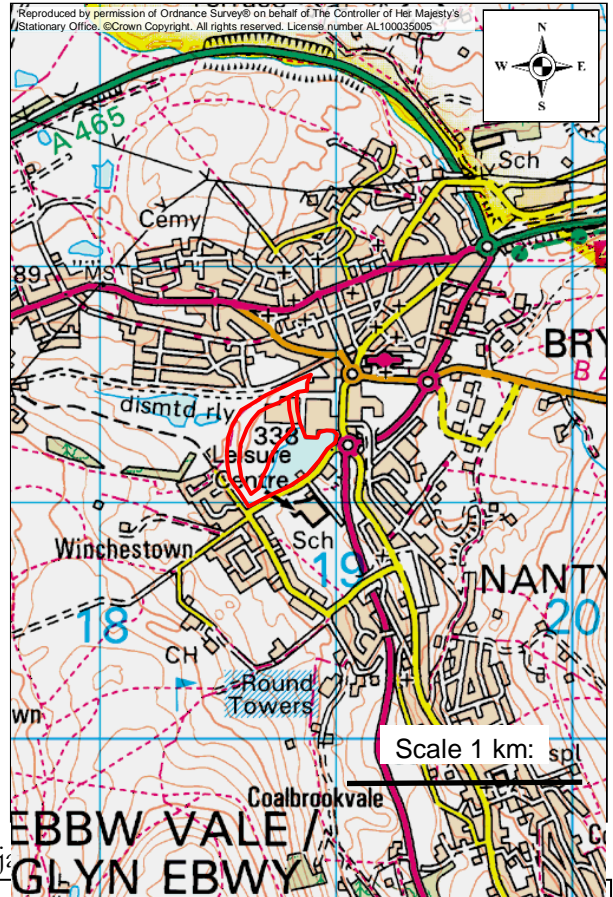
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Open Water	A15/A16a	4.09
Scrub	W21a/W24a	0.56
Neutral Grassland	MG1a/MG1b	1.60
Swamp	S12a/S14a/S19a/S23	0.09
Open Vegetation	OV24b/OV27b/OV27c	0.12

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent features, etc.):

Semtex Pond is located between the towns of Brynmawr and Nantyglo, south of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It is a post-industrial site dominated by a large waterbody, which was originally created as a reservoir for the Nantyglo Ironworks.

The site is owned and managed by members of the local community, who are assisted in their work by the council and volunteers.

Notable habitats present at the site include mesotrophic standing water (i.e. the pond), unimproved neutral grassland and hedge fragments; all of these habitats appear on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Mesotrophic standing water host a diversity of aquatic macrophytes: Semtex Pond contains examples of **A15 *Elodea canadensis* community** and **A16a *Callitriche stagnalis* community, *Callitriche* spp. sub-community**; recent records of the Nationally Scarce charophyte *Nitella flexilis* (Smooth stonewort) are also known from the site. Other habitats include swamp vegetation, scrub, new plantation woodland, sown & rough grassland, tall-herb vegetation and small streams. In total 240 vascular plants were recorded at Semtex Pond during the site visit. Bryophyte and lichen records are limited to incidental records as no full bryophyte or lichen survey has been undertaken.

Official Use Only: Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES  NO  Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Cont. FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent land use, access and boundaries etc.):

This range of vegetation types supports a variety of plant, animal, bird and invertebrate assemblages.

A total of 25 bird species have been recorded on site within the last 10 years, with 23 of these designated under various conservation categories or legislation. Of the 23 designated species, two (Kingfisher & Common Goldeneye) are protected under *Schedule 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. The site is managed to increase public interest in, and understanding of, nature conservation and for recreational enjoyment; various initiatives, including a conservation management plan, café and a sensory garden are intended to expand the site's appeal and value further.

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

Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Post-industrial Land – Section H18	63