

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME:

GRID REF: SO152101

SURVEYOR(S):

SIZE (approx.):

DATE OF SURVEY:

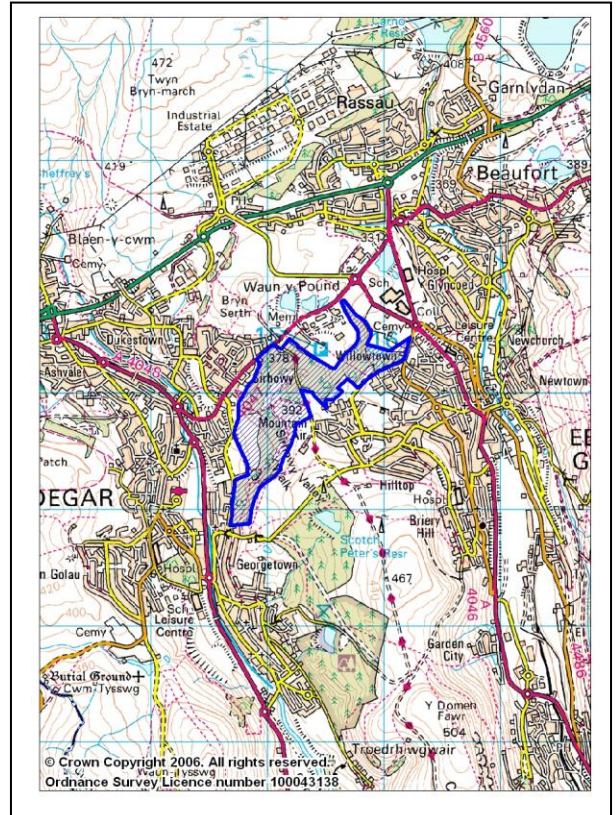
LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

WARD:

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Dry acid grassland	U1, U4e, U4b, U5	
Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic	H12, U4, U1	
Damp acid grassland	U6	
Marshy grassland	M23b, M25	
Open water (ponds)	-	
Neutral grassland	MG5, MG5c, MG1 MG6	
Semi mature mixed woodland	-	
Rock habitats	-	
Ephemeral/short perennial vegetation/tall ruderals	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

The site is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Rassau, off the heads of the valleys road (A465). The site is divided into two separate areas by the Man Moel Road. The area north of the road (c.28 ha) which is managed by BGCBC, is known as the 'Sirhowy Hill Woodlands North' whilst the southern area (c.50ha) is managed by Tredegar Development Trust, is known as 'Sirhowy Hill Woodlands South'. There is an extensive network of maintained paths extending throughout the site, and the whole of the site is open to public access. The majority of the site was historically worked for coal, whilst the remainder of the site was used as a depository for steel industry waste, together with a household refuse tip. The tips were closed in the early 70s and a series of tree planting schemes have since occurred on the site.

Large areas are dominated by tree planting of various sizes with approximately half of the woodland being coniferous. Understorey development is very variable but generally patchy, and the ground flora varies between neutral grassland, acid grassland and heathland or grass-heath mosaic all of which are of Local Wildlife Site quality. The damp acid grassland and marshy grasslands for example supports four plant species considered local in the region, and seventeen species considered indicative of species-rich marshy grasslands in the *Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales*. The site also contains ponds identified as a key habitat for conservation in the Blaenau Gwent LBAP. The site contains one large permanent pond (Cardiff Pond) and two smaller ponds, all of which are considered potentially suitable for great crested newt although this species has not been recorded on the site to date. The site also contains open rock habitat in the form of cliff faces, scree and small rocks. No nationally rare or scarce species were recorded by the present survey. However, eleven species were recorded which are regarded as being local or uncommon in the Gwent region. These include southern marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), yellow sedge (*Carex viridula ssp oedocarpa*), bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), heath milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), and crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). The latter is listed as a contributory species within the *Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales*.

Two other pSINC's border the site, comprising Mynydd Manmoel pSINC and Waun y Pound pSINC.

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

Section(s) of the Wildlife Site Guidelines that this site qualifies under & Qualifying Habitat types:

H6) Acid grasslands,
H10) Heathlands and Grass Heath Communities,
H7) Marshy grassland,
H4) Neutral grassland,
H20) Mosaic Habitats