

# Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Slopes west of Mynydd Carn-y-cefn (part1)

GRID REF: S O 1 8 1 0 8 3

SURVEYOR(S): Rebecca Price

SIZE (approx.): 15.01 ha

Sali Palmer & Ros Thompson

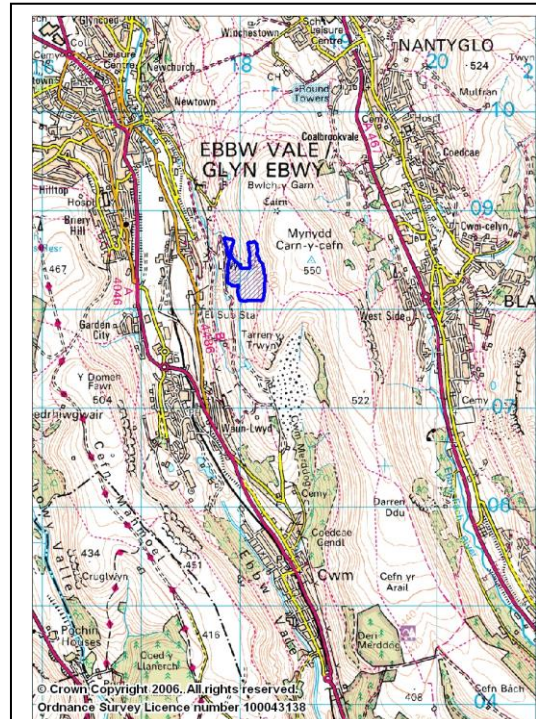
DATE OF SURVEY: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

Blaenau Gwent

WARD: Ebbw Vale

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
SI acid grassland	U4	
Marshy grassland/wet flush	M23/-	
Bracken	-	
SI poor grassland	MG6	

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

Extensive area of semi improved acid grassland (U4) with marshy areas over a moderate, easterly facing slope on the western side of Mynydd Carn-cefn. The area has an open 'upland feel' and is enclosed by drystone walls and fences. Defunct drystone walls and field banks are scattered throughout the area, marking the smaller enclosures of the past. The quality of the sward is variable throughout these former units, however the site's current position as a single management unit, and the overall number and frequency of acid grasslands indicators, justifies consideration of the whole site as a Local Wildlife Site (WS).

The east of the site (upper part of the slope) (area 1) supports a rich mix of SI acid grassland and fairly extensive marshy areas (M23) situated next to the stream/s running down hillside. The sward is characterised by *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue), *Agrostis tenuis* (common bent), *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil) and *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw). *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry) is occasional/locally frequent. *Danthonia decumbens* (heath grass) *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair grass) and *Nardus stricta* (mat grass), *Pilosella officinarum* (mouseear hawkweed), *Luzula campestris* (field wood rush) are occasional to locally frequent. The sward also includes *Achillea millefolium* (yarrow), *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (sweet vernal), *Lotus corniculatus* (birds foot trefoil) and *Viola riviniana* (common dog violet). In places *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry) becomes more dominant with tendencies towards a heathland sward. It is particularly associated with the old banks and stone walls and assumes increased abundance towards the east of the site. Limited *Calluna vulgaris* (heather) is also present. The marshy grassland supports a variety of species associated with the constant *Juncus effusus* (soft rush) and *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire fog). These include frequent *Ranunculus flammula* (lesser spearwort), occasional *Agrostis stolonifera* (creeping bent), *Deschampsia cespitosa* (tufted hair grass), *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil) and *Lotus uliginosus* (greater birds foot trefoil) and locally occasional *Valeriana officinalis* (common valerian). Other occasional herbs include *Filipendula ulmaria* (meadowsweet) and *Pulicaria dystenterica* (fleabane). Some wetter regions are flush like in character with *Anagalis tenella* (bog pimpernel) and *Juncus bulbosus* (bulbous rush) occurring locally and *Ranunculus omiophyllus* (crowfoot), *Molinia caerulea* (purple moor grass) and *Viola palustris* (marsh violet) (at west) also present. Areas of the sward are more mesotrophic and some poaching and improved ground is present near old buildings. Some waxcap fungi were present and the site may be of potential interest for grassland fungi. The northern most part (two fields) of the site is closely cropped and was only examined from outside of the field due to presence of a large bull.

To the north, a smaller separate field (area 2) warrants inclusion within the WS, supporting acid grassland and an area of marshy grassland/acidic flush lying adjacent to a large pool. Species present include *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* (marsh pennywort), *Anagalis tenella* and *Scutellaria minor* (lesser skullcap). The wider field is ungrazed, lying over undulating ground with outcropped stone, extensive scattered bracken and some gorse. The tall grassland is dominated by the grasses; *Agrostis tenuis*, *Festuca ovina* and *Holcus mollis* (creeping soft grass).

Area 3 supports a mosaic of marshy grassland, bracken, open acid grassland and herb poor grassland. The site is horse grazed and some swathes are closely cropped and rather species poor. Rising springs and wet areas add to the site's diversity and include localised *Sphagnum sp.* (moss). The south in particular supports a mosaic of *Juncus effusus* and *Holcus lanatus* frequented wet vegetation and short grassland.

Fauna: Stonechat, meadow pipit, buzzard.

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

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

H6) Acid grasslands H7) Marshy grasslands	
Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved acid grassland	10 (area 1), 9 (area 2), 8 (area 3)
Marshy grassland	12 (area 1)