

Blaenau Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Slopes west of Mynydd carn-y-cefn (part 2)

GRID REF: S O 1 8 1 0 7 9

SURVEYOR(S): Rebecca Price

SIZE (approx.): 4.22ha

Ros Thompson

DATE OF SURVEY: 18th July 2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA:

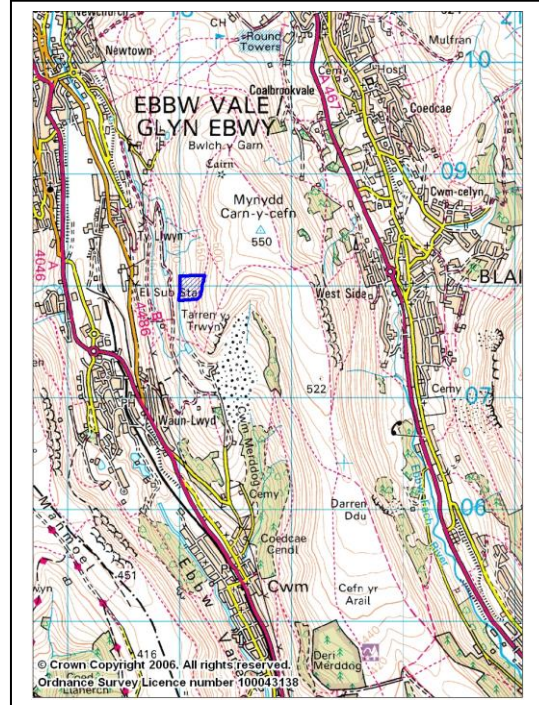
Blaenau Gwent

WARD: Ebbw Vale

MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Semi-improved acid grassland	U4	
Bracken, continuous	-	
Marshy grassland	M23	
Species-poor grassland	-	
Ditch	-	

SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



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

A moderate west facing, unmanaged field, which supports semi-improved acid grassland of variable type. Former field banks are visible within the current field unit, which is newly fenced at the north alongside ditch. The site is enclosed by a mixture of stone walls and fences. Bracken covered slope lies to the west, species-poor acid grassland to the south and the open bilberry heath of Mynydd carn-y-cefn to the east. The candidate Local Wildlife Site 'Slopes to the west of Mynydd carn-y-cefn (part 1)' lies to the north.

North east of site: The richest part of the field is associated with the slope at the north east where the sward shows affinity to U4/U2 and is characterised by frequent *Deschampsia flexuosa* (wavy hair grass) and frequent/locally abundant *Vaccinium myrtillus* (bilberry) in association with frequent *Agrostis tenuis* (common bent), *Potentilla erecta* (tormentil) and *Holcus mollis* (creeping soft grass). *Galium saxatile* (heath bedstraw) and *Nardus stricta* (mat grass) are occasional.

The wider field is characterised by a dry tall sward characterised by *Agrostis* (bent grass) and *Festuca ovina* (sheep's fescue) together with *Deschampsia flexuosa*, and *Holcus mollis*. *Nardus stricta*, *Potentilla erecta* and *Deschampsia cespitosa* (tufted hair grass) are also present, and *Rumex acetosella* (sheep's sorrel) and *Galium saxatile* are scattered locally.

South east of site: is heavily covered by *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken) with little sign of an understorey sward.

South west of site: The bracken appears to have extended across the south west of the site in the past and there are signs of control through burning. This south west quarter of the site is rather grass dominated, characterised by dominant *Agrostis tenuis* together with *Holcus mollis* and *Festuca ovina*. *Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa* and *Deschampsia cespitosa* occur locally. *Rumex acetosella* and *Potentilla erecta* are scattered locally.

Scattered marshy areas in the south west of the field support *Juncus effusus* (soft rush), *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire fog), *Cirsium palustre* (marsh thistle) and *Carex flacca* agg. (yellow sedge agg.) Bracken lines the ditch at the western margin. There are signs of past scraping/ploughing (?) with ruts and a disturbed sward at the very north of the field.

Though the quality and richness of the acidic grassland sward is inconsistent through the field, overall sufficient acid indicators are present to warrant consideration as a WS. The site's value is further bolstered by its location next to the candidate Local Wildlife Site: 'Slopes to the west of Mynydd carn-y-cefn (part 1)'.

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	
Qualifying Habitat types	Number of indicator species present
Semi improved acid grassland	10