

## Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/SO50/79	Beacon Hill	SO515054	28ha	Heathland and grass-heath communities, ponds	Lowland Heath, Nightjar ( <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ).	Beacon Hill lies within the Wye Valley AONB and is situated to the east of the village of Trellech, approximately 6 miles south of Monmouth. It is approximately 28ha in size and occupies an elevated position at 250-295m, lying on the Trellech plateau, overlooking the Wye Valley. The site has an overall gentle-moderate east facing slope. The soil type is a quartz conglomerate overlying Devonian Sandstones. The site is fenced on all boundaries and enclosed by mature conifer plantations, part of a network of commercial plantations owned and managed by Forestry Commission Wales. These plantations interlink with a wider network of deciduous woodlands and semiimproved grasslands centred along the Wye Valley of national and local conservation importance. Cleddon Bog SSSI and FC's Broad Meend Plantation (also undergoing heathland restoration) lie approximately 1km to the south. A number of paths and forestry tracks run through the site and a public bridleway forms part of the south eastern boundary of the site. The margins of many of the tracks support a herb rich community over the dry, interface supports the highest plant diversity of the site. The main point of entry is via a small car park off Beacon Road to the west of the site. The interior of the site is unfenced, but the site's network of paths divides the site into six broad compartments. These have been clear felled at slightly different times and one compartment was subject to bracken control through herbicide spraying in 2009. As a result heathland vegetation height and relative species density varies between compartments. The site also contains two recently dug ponds.	H10 Heathland and grass-heath communities. The site's species-rich track edges are a supporting reason under Section H5 Calcareous Grasslands.