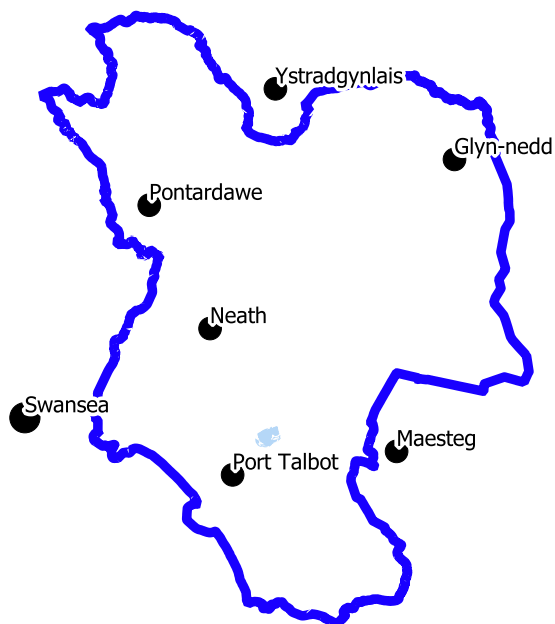


HAWTHORN CLOSE

Reference No: NPTSINC004
Ward: Bryn and Cwmafan
Grid ref at centre: SS7842792044
Area (ha): 3.66

Reason for selection:
H1:3 Native Woodlands



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

HAWTHORN CLOSE

Site Description:

Hawthorn close woodlands fit into the definition of semi-natural woodlands based on the species composition and cover. The upper canopy is primarily composed of Oak (*Quercus* spp), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with estimated coverage of these major species at over 90%. The understory contains the same components, as well as Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The streamside areas contain typical native wet woodland species, primarily Willow (*Salix* spp) and Alder (*Alnus* spp). The woodland has a complex multi layered structure with a varied age classes across the primary species.

This is an area of broadleaved woodland which forms part of the riparian corridor of the River Afan. The village of Cwmafan is on the North side of the river, sprawling further up the Afan valley to the east, and down towards Port Talbot in the west. Other sites of nature conservation interest in the vicinity include Cwmafan Coal Tip (NPTSINC068) approx 350m east of the site. These two sites are ecologically connected by the river and its scrubby riparian zone. It doesn't appear as though any management is undertaken in the woodland

Qualifying features

H12:1 Rivers

H1:3 Native Woodlands

Important species

Species recorded: Otter, Dipper, Daubenton's, Noctule, Oak, Hazel, Holly

Habitat suitable for: Nesting birds

Management Recommendations

Woodlands require little management. Removal of INNS is desirable.

Last surveyed: 2017 Surveyor: Coed Cymru Author: LEP

To be read in conjunction with Wildlife Sites Guidance Wales (WBP 2008) and the NPT amendments. This area has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. This does not formally protect the site or place any restrictions upon the landowner. Neath Port Talbot Council's Countryside & Wildlife Team will endeavour to support and encourage activities that maintain and enhance the biodiversity interest of the land; where funding is available, funds may be provided to facilitate these activities. The information given is used to ensure that nature conservation is taken into account in planning decisions. The designation itself does not confer any rights of access to the site and places no restriction on the management of the land.