

LITTLE WARREN

Reference No: NPTSINC008

Ward: Sandfields

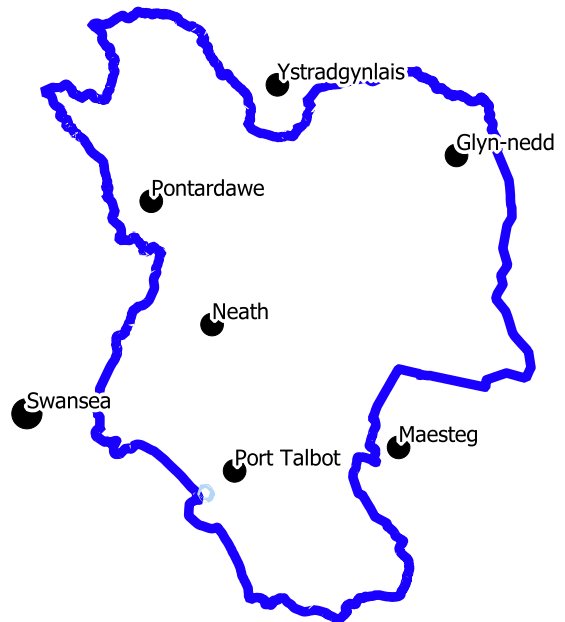
Grid ref at centre: SS7504888898

Area (ha): 1.47

Reason for selection:

H15:2 Coastal Sand-Dunes

S6 Vascular Plants



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

LITTLE WARREN

Site Description:

A small area of sand dune supporting an important population of *Matthiola sinuata* (Sea stock). The site is located at the southern end of the Aberafan seafront developments at the mouth of the River Afan. The dune's northern and eastern boundaries are adjacent to housing development whilst the southern and western boundaries grade to river mouth and sea shore. The Afan's estuary is also designated as a SINC (NPTSINC009). Baglan Bay dune system (NPTSINC006) is located at the northernmost end of this coastal stretch, with the vast development of Sandfields and Baglan Energy Park between them. The site is currently managed by The Wildlife Trusts of South and West Wales.

Qualifying features

H15:2 Coastal sand dune, together with associated slacks, seepages, grassland and scrub habitat
S6 Vascular plants - (PS) Sea stock

Important species

Species recorded: Sea stock, Bulbous buttercup, Sea holly
Habitat suitable for: Small blue, reptiles

Management Recommendations

The site is heavily used by walkers. Litter and dog waste are causing nutrient enrichment and therefore localised losses of characteristic dune species.

The promenade runs between the front of the system and the beach itself, curving around to the south-east. Along with the housing development to the north and east, this means that the system is encircled by hard surfacing. Sea level rise will squeeze this system against the development. If no land is provided to allow backwards movement then it is highly likely that the dunes will eventually be lost, along with the protection that they provide.

Last surveyed: 2011 Surveyor: CH Author: ER

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.