

# LOWER RIVER AFAN ESTUARY

Reference No: NPTSINC009

Ward: Sandfields

Grid ref at centre: SS7520388832

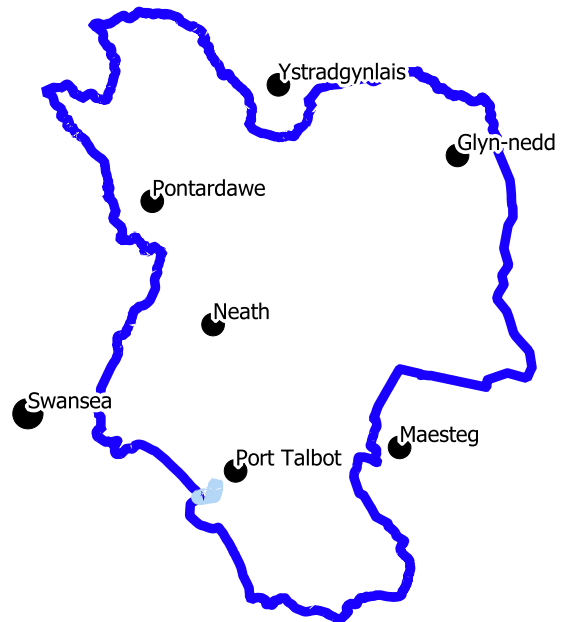
Area (ha): 6.63

Reason for selection:

H18:1 Coastal Saltmarsh

H18:2 Intertidal Mudflats

S6 Vascular plants



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**SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

# LOWER RIVER AFAN ESTUARY

## Site Description:

Lower Estuary with an excellent mosaic of saltmarsh plants along a strip between mudflats and coastal grassland which includes pockets of dune habitat along the higher shore which are associated with the Little Warren system. This SINC is located at the mouth of the River Afan in front of Port Talbot docks and North of Port Talbot steelworks. The entrance lock to the docks is located adjacent to the SINC boundary. There are breakwaters on either side of the river mouth, and the surrounding terrestrial land is highly developed. The Neath Port Talbot coastline is subject to huge development pressure, and the afore mentioned protected sites are isolated by industrial works, residential developments and business parks. A tarmacked cycleway runs along the top of the site from the Afan promenade towards Port Talbot to the east.

## Qualifying features

H18:1 Coastal Saltmarsh  
H18:2 Intertidal Mudflats  
S6 Vascular plants - (PS) Sea stock

## Important species

Species recorded: Sea stock, Sea holly, Sand sedge, Common sea-lavender  
Habitat suitable for: Small blue, reptiles

## Management Recommendations

The area is heavily used by walkers and is therefore subject to litter and dog fouling, leading to nutrient enrichment. Upstream of the site, Green Park Weir presented a barrier to fish passage, NRW completed a new 3 tier pass in 2017.

Last surveyed: 2017 Surveyor: WJL/LEP 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.