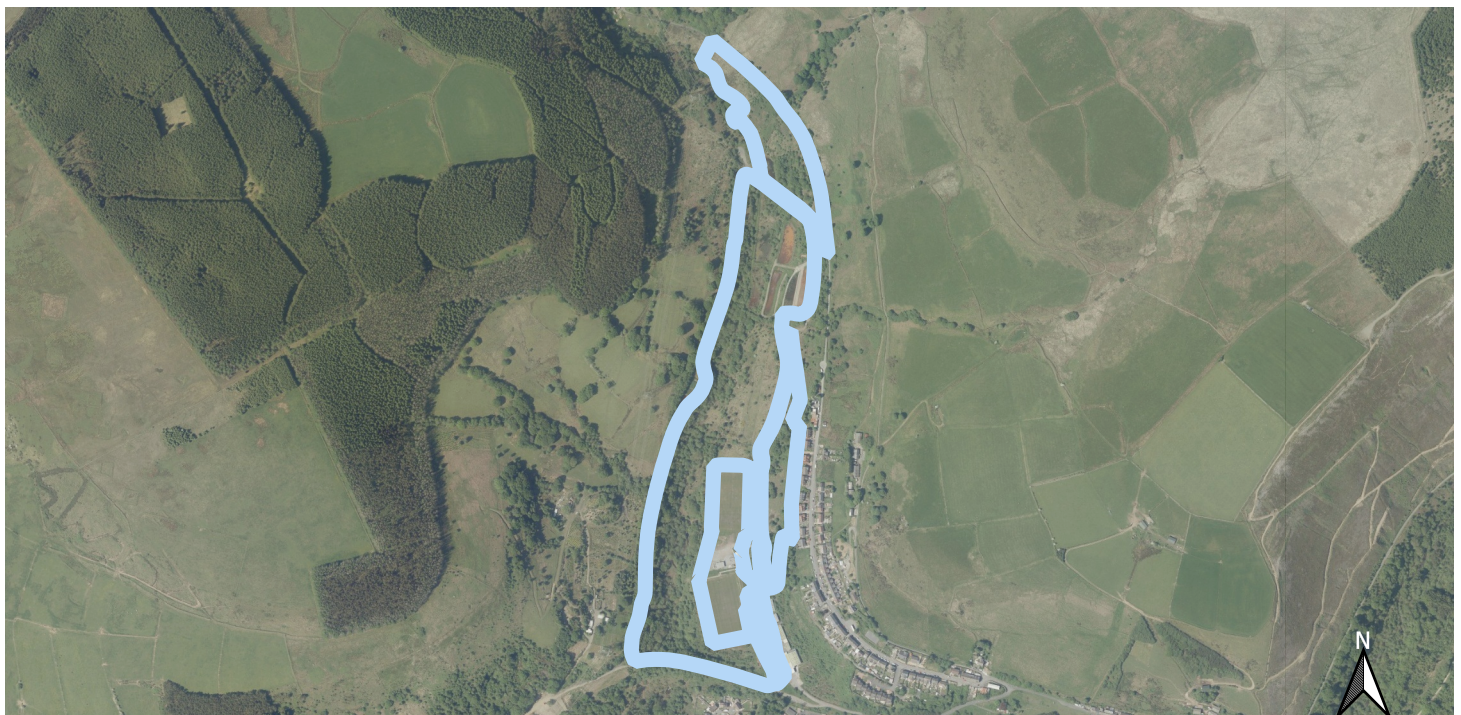
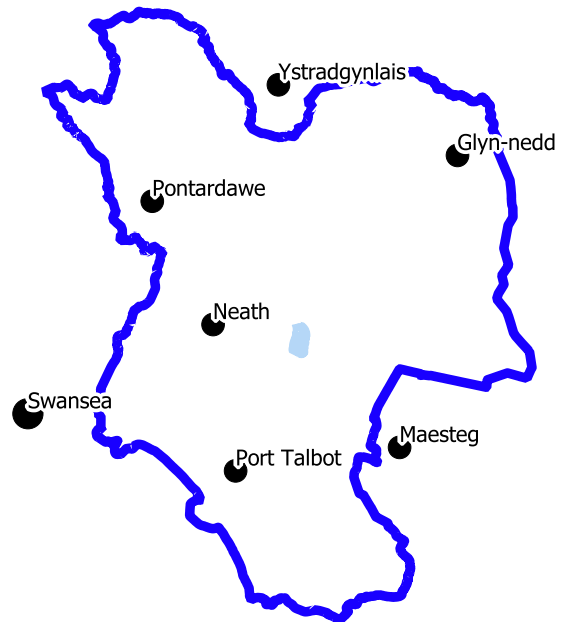


TONMAWR MINEWATER TREATMENT & SURROUNDING HABITATS

Reference No: NPTSINC014
Ward: Peledda, Tonna
Grid ref at centre: SS7990096855
Area (ha): 17.17

Reason for selection:
H1:4 Scrub Communities
H8:1 Lowland Heathland
H9:4 Reedbeds
S3 Herptiles



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

TONMAWR MINEWATER TREATMENT & SURROUNDING HABITATS

Site Description:

An area of lichen heath and acid grassland supporting plants such as Ling heather, Bell heather, Tormentil and Purple Moor-grass. The site is a known reptile 'hotspot' with records of many species in significant numbers. The Gwenffrwd stream runs down the western boundary of the site in to a large treatment pond in the south western corner of the site and the minewater treatment reedbeds to the south. There is also a small pond close to the south eastern corner which provides excellent opportunities for herpetofauna and invertebrates. The Pelenna wetlands were constructed between 1995 and 1999 with an aim of treating the most contaminated minewater discharges affecting the Pelenna valley. The design of the schemes aimed to lower the dissolved iron concentration in the river to below the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) of 1 mg/l. This system treats three separate minewaters, Whitworth A, Whitworth B and Gwenffrwd.

Qualifying features

Lowland heathland with a minimum of 10% dwarf shrub heath cover. Reedbed. Site supports 3 reptile species - Grass snake, Adder, Viviparous lizard. Pond has not yet been surveyed against National Pond Survey criteria. A structurally-diverse and species-rich mixed scrub site

Important species

Species recorded: Grass snake, Adder, Viviparous Lizard, Toad , Otter, Weasel

Management Recommendations

The heathland and grassland areas are threatened by scrub encroachment including self-sets from adjacent forestry. Scrub control necessary. Periodic management needed on large, most northern, treatment pond which may affect a Reptile hibernacula on the western bank - liaise with site owner's engineers. Ponds will need periodic management to maintain function as a minewater treatment plant.

Last surveyed: 2012 Surveyor: ER 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.