

# EARLSWOOD AREA

Reference No: NPTSINC020

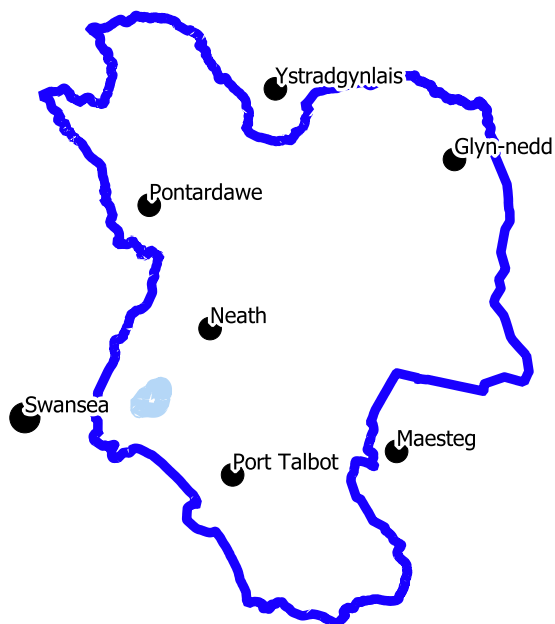
Ward: Coedffranc

Grid ref at centre: SS7234693988

Area (ha): 122.78

Reason for selection:

H1:3 Native Woodlands H1:4 Scrub  
Communities H5:1 Lowland Meadows  
H8:1 Lowland Heathland H14:1 Inland  
Rock Outcrop/Scree Habitats H15:2  
Coastal Sand-Dunes S6 Vascular Plants



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**SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

# EARLSWOOD AREA

## Site Description:

A complex of habitats associated with the Earlswood Golf Course, bound by the Tennant Canal in the west and the A484 to the south and east. The site ranges in elevation between 10m and 86m asl, with the underlying geology being that of the South Wales Upper Coal Measures Formation, overlain by a patchwork of glacial till and aeolian sand. The principal habitats are deciduous woodland, Bracken slopes, lowland meadows and heath with a few parcels of dune vegetation, rock outcrops and ponds. The site is in private ownership and is primarily used for golf, though some woodland areas are unmanaged. Recorded taxa include 323 vascular plants, 60 bryophytes, 31 invertebrates, 31 birds, 1 lichen, 4 fungi.

## Qualifying features

H1:3 Native woodland W10a/c  
H1:4 Scrub communities  
H5:1 Lowland meadows MG5  
H8:1 Lowland heathland  
H13:2 Ponds  
H14:1 Inland rock outcrop  
H15:2 Coastal sand dune  
H16:2 bracken  
S6) Vascular plants - (PS) 4 (CS) 1

## Important species

Species present: Rough horsetail, Common cudweed, Yellow bartsia, Lesser bulrush, Fennel pondweed, Broad-leaved helleborine, Great burnet, Lesser centaury, Lesser water-plantain, Reflexed saltmarsh-grass, Rough horsetail, Sea bindweed, Shoreweed, Spindle, Thread-leaved water-crowfoot, Three-nerved sandwort, Wild madder.

## Management Recommendations

Grazing should be continued in those grasslands supporting Yellow Bartsia and the sward should not be improved by applications of fertilizer or organic manure. The woodland is largely unmanaged and is best left to non-intervention. Pond vegetation should be revised periodically to assess the necessity for clearance.

Last surveyed: 2011 Surveyor: BS Author: BS

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.