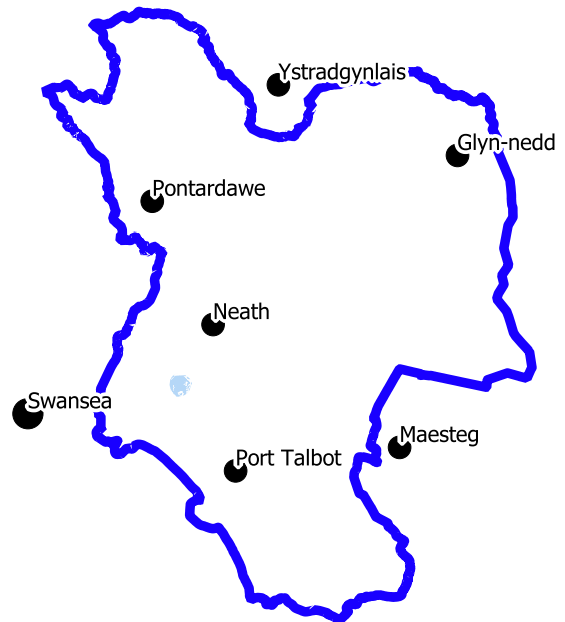


# SHELONE WOODS

Reference No: NPTSINC022  
Ward: Briton Ferry West  
Grid ref at centre: SS7363494550  
Area (ha): 9.82

Reason for selection:  
H1:3 Native woodland  
H14:1 Inland rock outcrop  
H16:2 Other bracken communities



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**SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

# SHELONE WOODS

## Site Description:

A 50m high hill with a few sandstone outcrops from the South Wales Upper Coal Measures, situated a short distance inland from the Neath River-mouth . A large part of the site is W10 Restored Ancient Woodland Site that overlooks Britton Ferry / Lansawel, with pedunculate Oak being the dominant canopy species and Bramble abundant in the field layer. Other frequent woodland components include a range of common mosses, Enchanter's Nightshade, Ash, Bluebell, Rough Meadow-grass, Wood Millet, Atlantic Ivy and Sycamore. Open glades were largely characterised by dense stands of Bramble and Bracken, but H9 heathland occurs on outcrops around the ridge supporting stands of Heather, with associates such as haircaps, lichens, Heath-grass, Heath Bedstraw, Sweet Vernal-grass, and Wavy hair-grass. Grassland areas are mostly neutral to mildly acidic MG6-7 with abundant Common bent and Cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog and Perennial Rye-grass. Near the top to the hill there is a gradual change to U4 acid grassland. A total of 97 vascular plants and bryophyte species were recorded during one survey

## Qualifying features

H1:3 Native woodland  
H1:4 Scrub communities  
H7:1 Lowland dry acid grassland 12/7  
H8:1 Lowland heathland  
H14:1 Inland rock outcrop  
H16:2 Other bracken communities

## Important species

Species recorded: Dunnock, Mistle thrush, Lesser redpoll, Autumn hawkbit, Bluebell, Broom, Brown bent, Common bird's-foot-trefoil, Enchanter's-nightshade, Eyebright, Goldenrod, Heath bedstraw, Heather, Heath-grass, Wavy hair-grass, Wood millet  
Habitat suitable for: Kestrel, Song thrush, Starling, House sparrow, Linnet, Bullfinch, bats, reptiles, Bent-leaved beard-moss.

## Management Recommendations

Grazing should be continued in the semi-improved acid grassland 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, although efforts to reduce the dominance of Bramble in areas where there are drifts of Bluebells would enhance the public enjoyment of the wood and would provide a small ecological gain.

Last surveyed: 2019 Surveyor: LEP/MBP 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.