

SQUARE POND

Reference No: NPTSINC028

Ward: Neath East

Grid ref at centre: SS7389896097

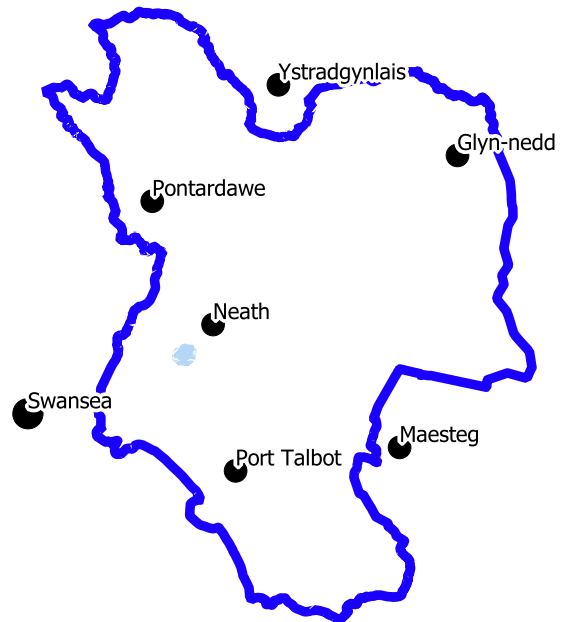
Area (ha): 14.26

Reason for selection:

H1:3 Native Woodlands

H5:1 Lowland Meadows

H9:3 Purple Moor-grass and Rush
Pastures



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

SQUARE POND

Site Description:

Sited on the floodplain in the Neath Valley to west of the urban conurbation of Neath, Penrhiwtyn and Briton Ferry, the Square Pond site supports a highly diverse aquatic and emergent flora and is surrounded by a mosaic of willow carr, reedbed, fen and grassy, herb-rich rides. The SINC is contiguous with the mosaic of other important habitats associated with the Neath Estuary and Neath Canal SINC and forms an important connection between the two. The site is largely unmanaged and has significant stands of Japanese Knotweed, which whilst provides dense cover for Otters, reduces the site's biodiversity potential.

Qualifying features

H1:3 native woodland - Wet woodland components
H1:4 scrub communities
H2:1 hedgerows
H5 neutral grasslands 11/8
H9:3 Purple Moor-grass & rush-pasture 24/12

Important species

Species recorded: Otter, Bittern, Little egret, Peregrine, Kingfisher, Song thrush, Cetti's warbler, Starling, House sparrow, Narrow-leaved water-plantain, Blunt-fruited Water-starwort, Calystegia x scanica, Yellow Loosestrife, Spiked Water-milfoil, Ivy-leaved Duckweed, Yellow Water-lily, Royal Fern & Unbranched Bur-reed
Habitat suitable for: bats and a range of scarce invertebrates.

Management Recommendations

The habitats on site are generally overgrown and rank and cutting or grazing would prove beneficial. The proportion of scrub could be reduced to increase the area of fen vegetation, though would require longer term management in the form of grazing and/or periodic rotational cutting to control regrowth. The introduction of grazing would improve the structure of the vegetation. Japanese Knotweed is abundant on site and a systematic eradication programme targeting key areas should be undertaken. The site is ideally situated for Community Projects.

Last surveyed: 2012 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.