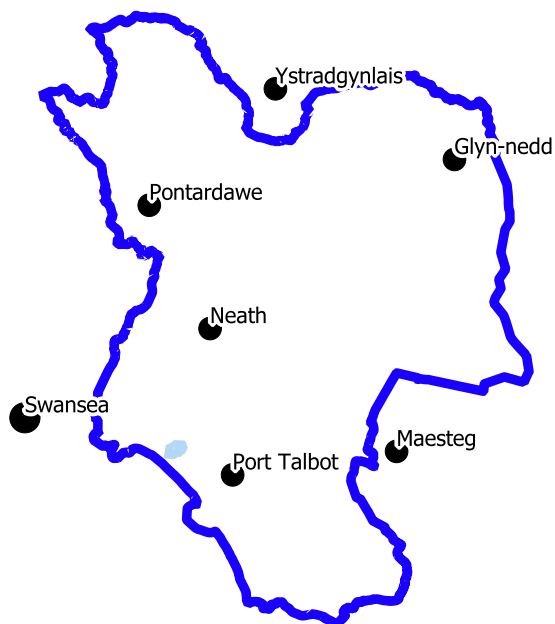


BAGLAN PANHANDLE

Reference No: NPTSINC029
Ward: Sandfields West
Grid ref at centre: SS7356091383
Area (ha): 5.05

Reason for selection:
H15:2 Coastal sand dune
H14:3 Open Mosaic on Previously
Developed Land
S3 Herptiles
S5 Invertebrates



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

BAGLAN PANHANDLE

Site Description:

An area of remnant dune on the coastal plain, lying between the former BP site at Baglan and the Sandfields Estate. The soils comprise blown sands from the Quarternary Period, with a few patches of modern disturbance and slag deposition. There has been some limited amenity planting on site, but the vegetation is otherwise semi-natural fixed dune. The site has no public access and there has been no management in recent years, although a healthy rabbit population has helped maintain patches of shorter vegetation. Brown banded carder bee is know from this site.

Qualifying features

H15:2 Coastal sand dune
H14:3 OMPDL
S3 Herptiles - Slow-worm significant population
S5 Invertebrates - Brown-banded carder bee

Important species

Species recorded: Brown-banded carder bee, Marram, Kidney vetch, Hairy rock-cress, Thyme-leaved sandwort, Sand sedge, Sea fern-grass, Common stork's-bill, Lady's bedstraw, Yellow feather-moss, Great plait-moss, Sand cat's-tail, Knotted pearlwort, Creeping willow, Sandhill screw-moss and Wild thyme.
Habitat suitable for: Basil thyme, Wild pansy, Sticky stork's-bill and Red-shanked bumblebee

Management Recommendations

The habitats on site are generally overgrown and rank and cutting or grazing would prove beneficial. The proportion of non-native plantings could be reduced to increase the area of species-rich dune grassland and periodic rotational cutting of the stands of Creeping Willow would enhance these heavily scrubbed areas. The introduction of grazing would improve the structure of the vegetation. Those areas with limited interest could be enhanced by provision of herpetile refugia. 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.