

GNOLL COUNTRY PARK

Reference No: NPTSINC036

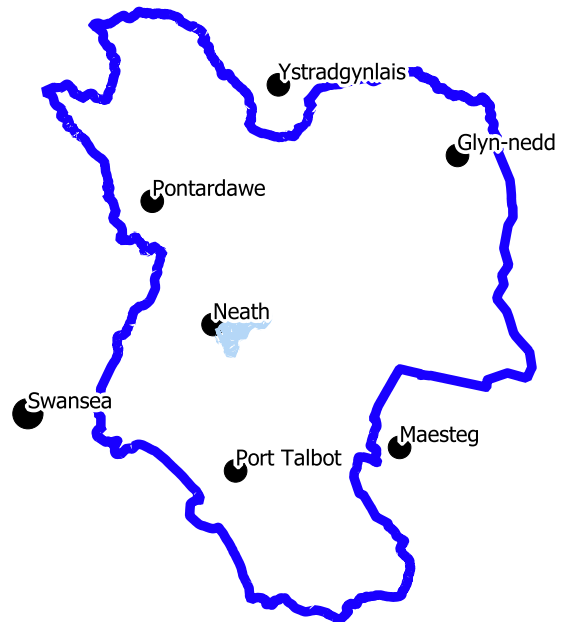
Ward: Neath North, Cimla, Tonna

Grid ref at centre: SS7719297761

Area (ha): 88.68

Reason for selection:

H1:3 Native Woodlands



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Gnoll Country Park

Site Description:

An area of woodland (some of which is designated on the Ancient Woodland Inventory), and several ponds which lie within and adjacent to the Gnoll country park. The majority of the site is covered in broadleaved species, but there are some coniferous trees within the SINC boundary. In 2012/2013 the larch plantation was felled as part of the control of *Phytophthora ramorum*. Several streams, some modified by canalisation and weirs, criss-cross the site. Mosshouse woods & Gnoll ponds SINC stretches from the south east of Neath eastwards along the hillside. Other sites of nature conservation interest in the vicinity include areas of ancient semi natural woodland (NPTSINC015) and other broadleaved woodlands such as Fairyland Wood (NPTSINC093), all of which are ecologically connected to each other and provide good dispersal potential in and around the Neath, Cimla and Tonna areas. The site experiences high public use as it is within a popular country park.

Qualifying features

An Ancient Woodland recorded in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, which retains characteristic ground flora, Ponds have not yet been surveyed against the National Pond Survey methodology (Pond Action 1998)

Important species

Species recorded: Grass snake, Daubenton bats

Habitat suitable for: Bat species

Management Recommendations

The area experiences high public use as it is within a popular country park. Any management activities must therefore be sympathetic to this.

Last surveyed: 2019 Surveyor: LEP/MBP Author: LEP

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.