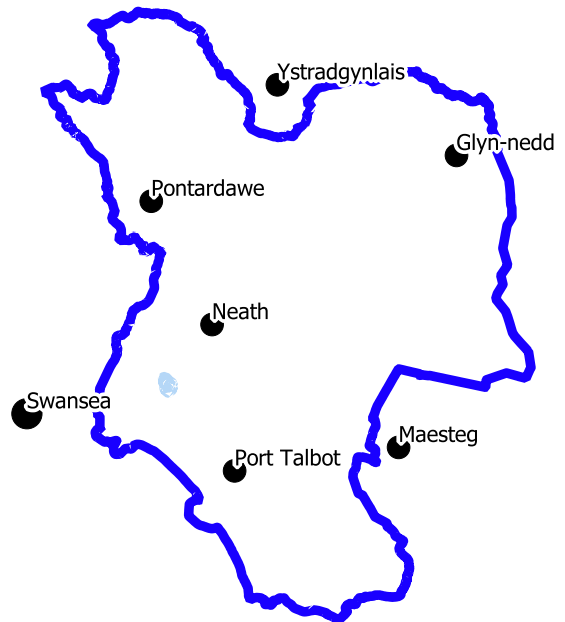


EARLSWOOD GRASSLANDS

Reference No: NPTSINC038
Ward: Coedffranc West
Grid ref at centre: SS7307894494
Area (ha): 5.75

Reason for selection:
H8:1 Lowland Heathland
H7:1 Lowland Dry Acid Grasslands
H1:3 Native Woodlands
S6 Vascular Plants



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

EARLSWOOD GRASSLANDS

Site Description:

This small grassland site is situated to the East of M4 slip road at Jct 42, and lies between Earlswood SINC and SSSI and Neath Estuary SINC. This area includes an area of species-rich neutral grassland supporting the LBAP plant Yellow Bartsia surrounded by old dry stone walls and scrub. To the west of the meadow, an area of oak woodland with Bluebells dominates the slope with the potential to support protected species including bats and badgers. On a plateau above the woodland there is a mosaic of heathland and acid grassland populated with a number of large anthills.

Main management issue is inappropriate grazing; Over-grazing in some places, and under grazed in others which has resulted in bramble scrub encroachment

Qualifying features

H1:3 Native woodland
H7:1 Lowland dry acid grassland
H8:1 Lowland heathland
S6 Vascular Plants - (PS) Yellow bartsia

Important species

Species recorded: Yellow bartsia, Bluebell
Habitat suitable for: Brown hare, Reptiles, Badger, Bats

Management Recommendations

Scrub control followed by implementation of suitable grazing regime

Last surveyed: 2010 Surveyor: WJL/ER Author: WJL

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.