

JUNCTION 38 WETLAND COMPLEX

Reference No: NPTSINC057

Ward: Margam

Grid ref at centre: SS7874586334

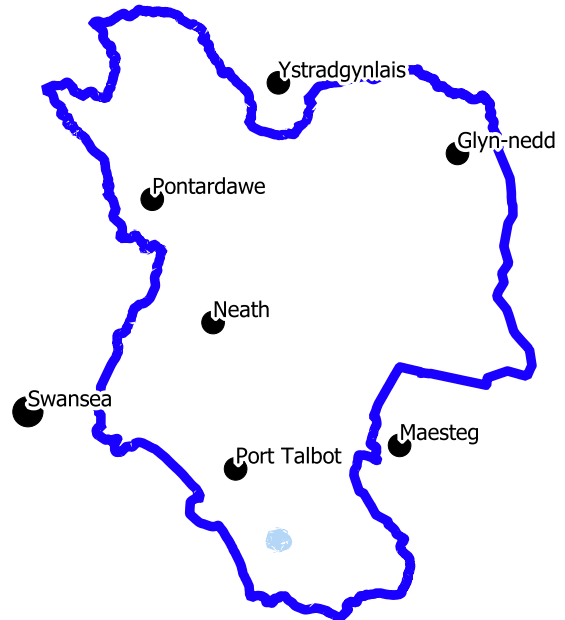
Area (ha): 20.47

Reason for selection:

H1:3 Native woodland

H9:2 Lowland Fen

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

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Site Description:

This is a cohesive wetland site comprised of wet woodland, reed beds, ditches, and marshy grassland. Some drier areas support indicators of the neutral grassland NVC type MG5. Much is known about this site because it has been included in several planning applications over recent years. The site is located to the rear of Port Talbot Steelworks near Junction 38 of the M4 motorway. Margam Moors SSSI is approx 800m south west of the site, and is fairly well connected by the network of drains and ditches in the area. Eglwys Nunydd SSSI is about 750m directly south of the site and is designated due to the waterfowl populations it supports and as a SINC (NPTSINC056) it additionally includes the surrounding wetland and scrub habitats. The area is very wet but is occasionally grazed by cattle. There is a National Grid substation directly west of the site and high voltage power lines cross the site in several directions; resilience clearance works are undertaken under these pylons on a fairly regular basis.

Qualifying features

H1:3 Native woodland - A semi-natural woodland with a wet woodland component
H9:2 Lowland Fen
H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures 20/12

Important species

Species recorded: Water vole, Otter, Grass snake, Common lizard, Reed bunting, Cetti's warbler

Management Recommendations

The western field may one day be managed by the Wildlife Trust as part of a package related to the proposed development of fields to the north. There is Rhododendron in the wet woodland which should be eradicated.

Last surveyed: Surveyor: Author: ER

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.