

# ABERNANT COLLIERY

Reference No: NPTSINC067

Ward: Pontardawe

Grid ref at centre: SN7015008316

Area (ha): 11.55

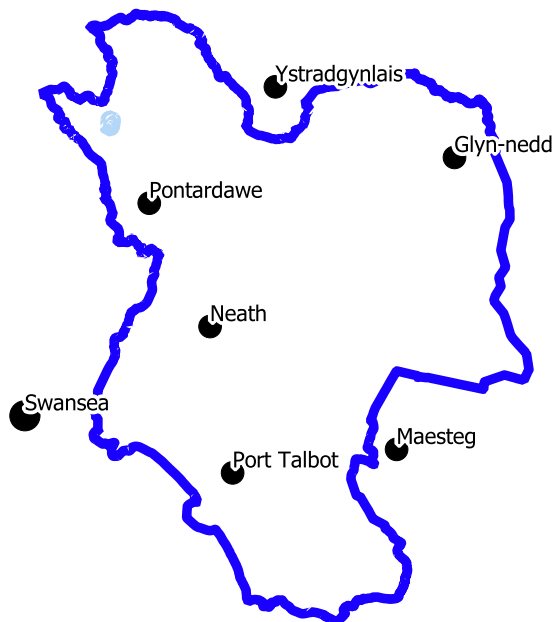
Reason for selection:

H5:1 Lowland meadows

H9:3 Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures

H14:3 Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

H1:4 Scrub communities



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**SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION**

# ABERNANT COLLIERY

## Site Description:

A former colliery site, now a levelled plateau in the Upper Clyach River valley, lying to the south of Cwmgors. The bulk of the site lies at an elevation of 165m asl. The underlying geology is that of the South Wales Upper Coal Measures Formation overlain by glacial till and regraded colliery spoil. The plateau primarily supports a mosaic of secondary wet grasslands fitting the description for rush-pasture and lowland meadows, with scattered scrub. Ownership is unknown and there is no apparent management, though there is some disturbance by off road biking activities. Recorded taxa include 119 vascular plants, 19 bryophytes, 9 invertebrates, 18 birds & 1 lichen

## Qualifying features

H5:1 Lowland meadows 15/8  
H9:3 PMRP 22/12  
H14:3 OMPDL a19/20 + b7  
H1:4 Scrub communities

## Important species

Species recorded: Red kite, Skylark, Lesser redpoll, Reed bunting, Small heath, Dinky skipper, Bristle club-rush, Common bird's-foot-trefoil, Common centaury, Common cottongrass, Compact rush, Floating sweet-grass, Glaucous sedge, Greater bird's-foot-trefoil, Heath speedwell, Heath wood-rush, Jointed rush, Lesser spearwort, Marsh ragwort, Oval sedge, Oxeye daisy, Pendulous sedge, Sharp-flowered rush, Small sweet-grass, Sneezewort, Southern marsh orchid, Trailing tormentil.

## Management Recommendations

There is no formal management at the site. Occasional monitoring should be undertaken to inform the necessity of control scrub / bramble control. It is likely that periodic topping of areas dominated by rushes and or coarse grasses would be highly beneficial for maintaining diversity in the sward. Options for introducing horse or cattle grazing on site would be highly beneficial. An assessment to determine the merits of eradicating Japanese Knotweed should be carried out.

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.

