

MORFA GLAS

Reference No: NPTSINC090

Ward: Glynneath

Grid ref at centre: SN8712106655

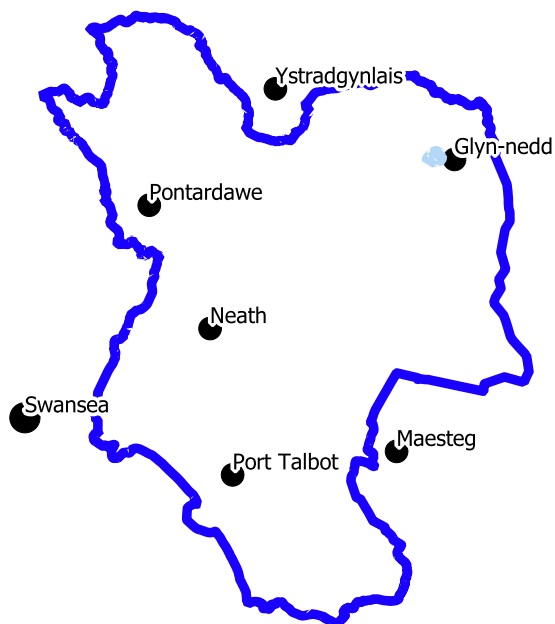
Area (ha): 9.82

Reason for selection:

H5:1 Lowland meadows

H7:1 Lowland dry acid grassland

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

MORFA GLAS

Site Description:

A patchwork of small grazing units (some unmanaged, with mature hedgerows) on south-facing slopes of the Neath Valley immediately above the small village of Morfa Glas. The elevation ranges from 60m up to 100m asl, the underlying geology comprising of the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation in parts overlain by glacial till with a few areas of alluvial fan deposits. The habitats primarily comprise a mosaic of lowland meadows, dry acid grassland and Purple Moor-grass and rush-pasture, with a mature hedgerow system. Ownership is unknown, but management includes grazing and haylage on some of the pastures. Recorded taxa include 136 vascular plants, 20 bryophytes, 15 birds, 1 lichens and 7 invertebrates

Qualifying features

H5:1 Lowland meadows 17/8 MG5
H7:1 Lowland dry acid grassland 7/7
H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures 31/12

Important species

Species recorded: House Sparrow, Betony, Bog Pimpernel, Carnation Sedge, Clustered Dock, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Common Dog-violet, Common Knapweed, Common Reed, Devil's-bit Scabious, Eyebright, Floating Sweet-grass, Goldenrod, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Lesser Spearwort, Lousewort, Mat Grass, Pendulous Sedge, Purple Moor-grass, Ragged Robin, Saw-wort, Sharp-flowered Rush, Sheep's Fescue, Sneezewort, Square-stalked St John's-wort, Tufted Forget-me-not, Velvet Bent, Water Mint, Yellow iris, Yellow Pimpernel, Yellow Rattle

Management Recommendations

Management has been abandoned on several of the pastures and scrub encroachment has reduced the importance of the vegetation in these areas. Restoring abandoned pasture should be a priority at the, with work targeted at; i) controlling scrub / bramble encroachment, ii) topping of areas dominated by rushes and or coarse grasses, including Molinia.

Last surveyed: 2011 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.