

CATWG WETLAND

Reference No: NPTSINC109

Ward: Cadoxton

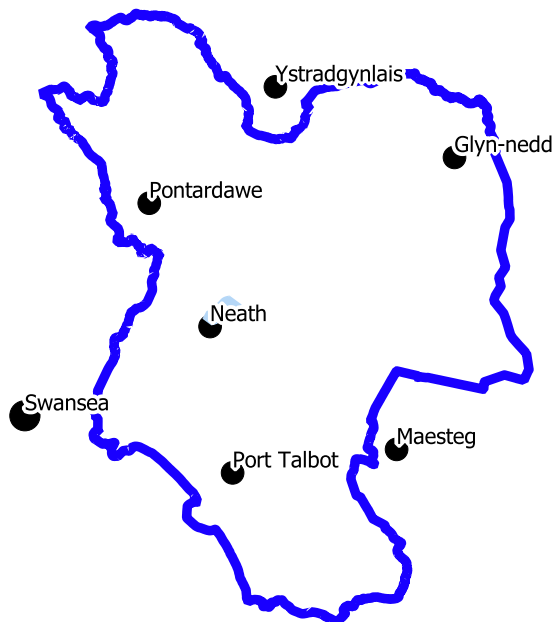
Grid ref at centre: SS7613398640

Area (ha): 17.77

Reason for selection:

H1:4 Scrub communities

H9:4 Reedbed



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

CATWG WETLAND

Site Description:

A narrow site on the floodplain of the Neath Valley, sandwiched between the Neath Canal and the Heads-of-the-Valleys-Road to the south-east side of Cadoxton Juxta-Neath. The soils comprise alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel which have been excavated in places resulting in flooded pits. Other parts of the site also flood and are more-or-less permanently wet. A footpath runs the length of the site which is unmanaged and largely overgrown. The site also provides a very effective wildlife corridor buffer between the Neath Canal and the A465. The unmanaged and difficult access to much of the site provides refuge and breeding habitats for secretive species as well as a high level of structural diversity. Japanese knotweed is becoming a problem.

Qualifying features

H1:4 Scrub communities - there are sizeable elements of H1:4 Scrub communities with 15/6 woody species & H9:4 Reedbed that greatly augments the wetland corridor of Neath Canal.

Important species

Species recorded: Bullfinch, Alder, Common bird's-foot trefoil, Common reed, Greater bird's-foot trefoil, Oxeye daisy, Pedunculate oak, Red bartsia, Sneezewort, Southern marsh-orchid, Vervain
Habitat suitable for: Bats, nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles

Management Recommendations

The sites position on the urban fringe with excellent access off the canal towpath lends itself to being flagged as a small local nature reserve. The habitats are mid-to-late successional swamp and scrub which if left unmanaged will eventually produce wet woodland. In order to maintain an element of more open tall-herb fen periodic clearance of scrub and other tall vegetation is recommended, particularly where this will result in the creation of an open water margins or sheltered sunny glades with graded grassland-tall herb-scrub edges. Those areas with limited interest could be enhanced by provision of pond(s) for amphibians and invertebrates and herpetile refugia. Consideration should be given to provision of some basic interpretation.

Last surveyed: 2019 Surveyor: LEP/MBP 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.