

RHEOLA BORROW PITS GRASSLAND

Reference No: NPTSINC123

Ward: Resolven

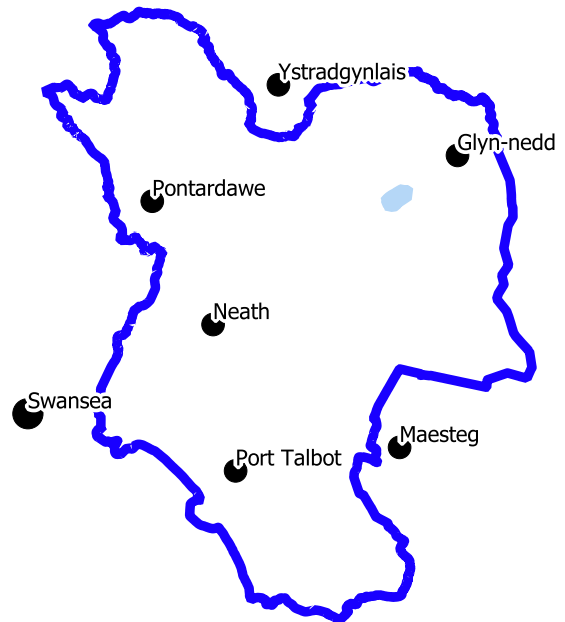
Grid ref at centre: SN8502404336

Area (ha): 12.35

Reason for selection:

H5:1 Lowland meadows

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

RHEOLA BORROW PITS GRASSLAND

Site Description:

Species-rich, lowland meadow and marsh surrounding 2 borrow pit lakes. The site is situated between the A465 and the River Neath near Rheola. The site shows some alluvial meadow features with local populations of Meadow foxtail, Great burnet and Meadow saxifrage. Other notable species include Water avens, and Lesser pond-sedge. A marshy area in the north-west section is dominated by Hemlock water-dropwort and Meadowsweet with a locally dominant sward of Wood club-rush. Other significant species include Crosswort and Betony.

There are significant amounts of Japanese knotweed and Indian balsam.

The site is significant for its ecological connectivity with the Upper Vale of Neath floodplain/alluvial grasslands and its high diversity species composition.

Qualifying features

H5:1 Lowland meadows 16/8

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures 36/12

Important species

Species recorded: Meadow saxifrage, Great burnet, Water avens, Wood club-rush, Lesser pond-sedge, Sneezewort, Southern marsh-orchid, Crosswort, Betony

Habitat suitable for: Bats, Herps, Song thrush, Mistle thrush, Spotted flycatcher

Management Recommendations

Removal of Japanese knotweed and Indian balsam. Light grazing and/or hay cutting.

Last surveyed: 2016 Surveyor: MRC/CH Author: CH

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.