

BLAENDULAIS MARSHY GRASSLAND

Reference No: NPTSINC125

Ward: Seven Sisters

Grid ref at centre: SN8190108174

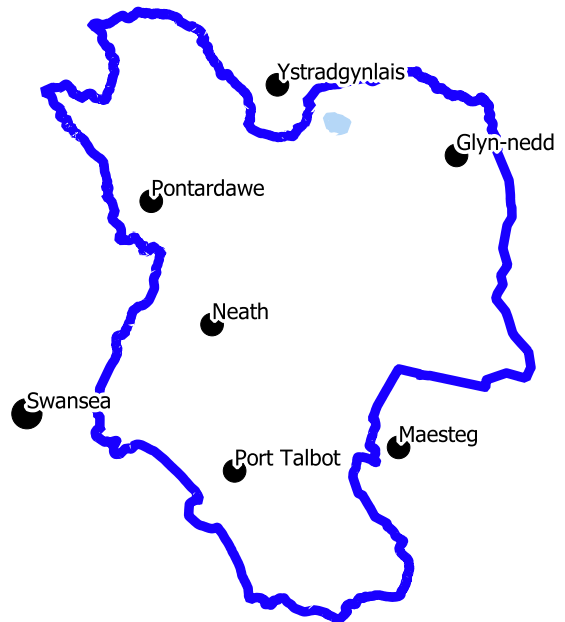
Area (ha): 18.95

Reason for selection:

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures

S5 Invertebrates

S6 Vascular Plants



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SITE OF IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

BLAENDULAIS MARSHY GRASSLAND

Site Description:

Species rich area of Purple moor-grass and rush pasture, quality varies throughout the site. Highlights include the designatory species Large-flowered eyebright and a contributory species Butterwort. The site supports a large number of significant and several locally scarce marshy grassland species such as Whorled caraway, Meadow thistle, Heath spotted orchid, Marsh pennywort, Marsh lousewort, Marsh arrowgrass, Marsh valerian, Dyer's greenweed, Saw-wort. The presence of upland health species such as Deer-grass, Pill sedge and Heath rush show the variety of habitats within the site.

The lower lying, west portion of the site has a large population of Saw-wort and a wet channel running diagonally across the site has a large population of Lemon-scented fern. The occurrence of a bryophyte community containing *Scorpidium cossonii* and *Campylium stellatum* is notable and indicative of base-flushing. It is the only site in NPT for Fen bedstraw.

In 2018 Butterfly Conservation found 3 Marsh fritillary larval webs in the centre field.

Qualifying features

H9:3 Purple moor-grass and rush pastures 50/12

S5 Invertebrates - Marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*

S6 Vascular plants - 1 Primary species Large-flowered eyebright *Euphrasia rostkoviana* ssp *montana*

Important species

Species recorded: Large-flowered eyebright, Butterwort, Dyer's greenweed, Saw-wort, Bog asphodel, Fen bedstraw, Whorled caraway, Meadow thistle, Marsh spotted-orchid, Marsh lousewort, Marsh arrowgrass, Marsh fritillary

Habitat suitable for: Bats, Reptiles, Cuckoo, Narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth, Grasshopper warbler

Management Recommendations

Areas of the site would benefit from light pony/cattle grazing. Section C is largely neglected and requires some grazing to bring it into a reasonable condition.

Last surveyed: 2016 Surveyor: MRH/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.