



rhondda cynon taf  
local development plan  
*cynllun datblygu lleol*

Supplementary Planning Guidance:

# Nature Conservation

Adopted March 2011



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR



## Contents

1.	Introduction .....	4
2.	Policy Context .....	4
3.	Issues .....	5
4.	Planning Objectives and Requirements.....	7
	4.1 General considerations.....	7
	4.2 Specific Types of Development Sites .....	10
5.	Appendices.....	13
	5.1 Appendix 1: Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) .....	13
	5.2 Appendix 2: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) ....	14
	5.3 Appendix 3: Sources of Guidance and Advice .....	17
	5.4 Appendix 4: Description of Rhondda Cynon Taf.....	19
6.	Bibliography.....	21



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Nature Conservation has been produced in conjunction with the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan and provides additional guidance to support the policies, allocations and constraints identified in the Plan. For the purposes of this SPG, nature conservation includes biodiversity, soil and earth science features.
- 1.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf is situated in the South Wales Coalfield. The earth science heritage reflects the rocks, geological processes, geomorphology and industrial history of the County. The geology, climate, soil, landscape, wildlife, land-use, history and culture of the area are closely interconnected. In common with other areas of the Valleys, the extent of semi-natural habitat is unusually high, as is the diversity of habitats. This is one of the key reasons why so much of the County Borough is of nature conservation value. There is a huge variety of original habitats in a small area, from upland crags and scree to floodplain meadows. There are important concentrations of nationally significant habitats and locally distinctive post-industrial biodiversity features. As a consequence, the County Borough supports a wide range of species.

## 2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The documents listed in the bibliography have informed the Local Development Plan and this Nature Conservation Supplementary Planning Guidance. For each reference, a brief description of its relevance to Rhondda Cynon Taf or the planning process is outlined.
- 2.2 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out the policies that will be applied in Rhondda Cynon Taf. It also identifies the constraints on development and allocates sites for specific uses.
- 2.3 Relevant Policies in the LDP:

### **Policy AW 8 - The Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment**

Rhondda Cynon Taf's distinctive natural heritage will be preserved and enhanced by protecting it from inappropriate development. Development proposals will only be permitted where:-

- 1) They would not cause harm to the features of a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) or other locally designated sites, unless it can be demonstrated that:-
  - a) The proposal is directly necessary for the positive management of the site; or
  - b) The proposal would not unacceptably impact on the features of the site for which it has been designated; or
  - c) The development could not reasonably be located elsewhere and the benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site.

- 2) There would be no unacceptable impact upon features of importance to landscape or nature conservation, including ecological networks, the quality of natural resources such as air, water and soil, and the natural drainage of surface water.

All development proposals, including those in built up areas, that may affect protected and priority species will be required to demonstrate what measures are proposed for the protection and management of the species and the mitigation and compensation of potential impacts. Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate ecological surveys and appraisals, as requested by the Council.

Development proposals that contribute to the management or development of Ecological Networks will be supported.

#### **Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park**

Development that will contribute to the achievement of the Cynon Valley River Park Strategy will be supported. This includes:

1. Proposals for the protection, enhancement, enlargement, connectivity and management of important wildlife sites, species and features of nature conservation value and water quality.
2. Proposals to promote public access on foot and by cycle, mitigate and adapt to climate change, encourage health and well-being and support heritage and tourism.

- 2.4 The Constraints Map shows the location of the Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, with the Proposals Map showing the locations of the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, Regionally Important Geological Sites and Local Nature Reserves within the County Borough.

## **3. Issues**

- 3.1 Biodiversity is defined as ‘the variety of life’ and includes plants and animals (species), the places where they live (habitats) and the relationships between them (ecosystems). Planning policy aims to halt biodiversity loss, protect ecosystem services and where possible contribute to its enhancement.
- 3.2 Earth Science includes the underlying geology (solid rock and surface deposits) together with the natural geomorphologic processes at work in the landscape. Earth science features have developed over very long timescales and cannot be replaced. Earth science resources may also be of economic value. The objective of the planning policy is to retain the significant feature(s) of the identified sites.
- 3.3 The soil is the interface between earth science and biodiversity. Soils have a major biodiversity value, with at least half of all species living below ground. Soils are also significant carbon stores. The main threats to Welsh soils are from climate change and the decline in organic matter, from soil sealing (for example by buildings and roads), from contamination (including acidification and eutrophication), soil erosion, and degradation of soil structure and soil loss to extraction.



- 3.4 Ecosystem services are those services provided by the natural environment that benefit people (Defra 2007). Some, such as food, fibre and fuel provision, recreation and appreciation of nature, are well known. Other services such as climate regulation, purification of air and water, flood protection, soil formation and nutrient cycling receive less recognition but directly and indirectly affect human well-being.
- 3.5 Section 40(1) of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) places a duty on every public authority, in exercising its functions, to “have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.” This guidance sets out the manner in which the Local Planning Authority will comply with this duty.
- 3.6 **Protected Sites**  
Protected sites include Special Areas of Conservation, designated by the Welsh Government, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, designated by the Countryside Council for Wales, and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) designated as part of the LDP.
- 3.6.1 RIGS have been designated on the basis of an Earth Science Audit. For each site the primary and secondary features of importance have been identified. The Earth Science Audit and the RIGS descriptions are published separately. Further information is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.6.2 SINC have been designated on the basis of specific criteria for the Mid Valleys area of South Wales. For each site the primary and secondary features of importance are identified. The Mid Valleys Criteria and the SINC descriptions are published separately. Further information is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.6.3 The Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are owned or managed for nature conservation by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. Wildlife Trust Reserves (WTR) in Rhondda Cynon Taf are owned or leased by the Trust. All the LNR and WTR fall within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 3.7 Ecological Connectivity and habitat fragmentation are important wildlife conservation issues. Small, isolated populations of species are far more vulnerable to extinction than populations that can disperse and interbreed with other populations. The effects of climate change are likely to increase local extinctions among small isolated populations. It is therefore important to maintain and enhance ecological networks of semi-natural habitats that have a high degree of connectivity. The Habitat Regulations (37) require planning policies which conserve features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, including those linear features that are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
- 3.8 The management of land has important nature conservation implications, and in a planning context, this is also recognised by the Habitats Regulations.
- 3.9 **Protected Species**  
The presence (or likely presence) of a protected species is a material planning consideration and developers must consider this prior to submitting a planning application.
- 3.9.1 European protected species are protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 (Referred to in the UK as the Habitat Regulations) Schedules 2 and 4 list the protected species.
- 3.9.2 Bats are unusual compared to other protected species as it is extremely difficult to predict where they may be roosting and foraging. Guidance on bats and the planning process is currently being produced for use by Local Planning Authorities in Wales.

3.9.3 UK protected species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). Protected species are listed under Schedules 1 (Birds), 5 (Animals) and 8 (Plants).

3.9.4 Badgers and their setts are protected under the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act.

3.9.5 All wild birds (with certain exceptions) are given basic protection from intentional killing or injuring, and damage or destruction of a nest whilst it is in use or being built. Certain birds are given additional protection.

### 3.10 Habitats and Species

The Welsh Assembly Government has published a list of habitats and species of principal importance in Wales, as required under Section 42 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The presence of these habitats and species is a material consideration and has informed the SINC criteria.

3.10.1 Action for Nature: the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Rhondda Cynon Taf sets out a programme of action for a range of partners to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rhondda Cynon Taf. The LBAP lists the habitats and species of particular importance in Rhondda Cynon Taf and these have informed the SINC criteria.

3.10.2 Trees, woodlands and hedges are among the habitats of importance for wildlife but, additionally, may be protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), the Hedgerow Regulations and felling license requirements. TPOs and the Hedgerow Regulations provide protection for specific trees, woodlands and specific types of hedgerow and are a material consideration in planning decisions. Felling licences are required (from the Forestry Commission Wales) for the removal of trees totalling above 2m<sup>3</sup> in volume (for sale) or 5m<sup>3</sup> in other circumstances (per calendar quarter).

3.11 River corridors are an important component of the natural environment in the County Borough. All major rivers qualify as SINC habitat and many support protected species. River corridors provide connectivity through urban and rural areas. The Water Framework Directive requires that all rivers achieve and maintain good ecological status. Development proposals likely to affect river corridor habitat, protected species or water quality should have regard for these issues.

## 4. Planning Objectives and Requirements

### 4.1 General Considerations

4.1.1 As a general principle, the Council will expect the developer to provide sufficient information to inform a decision about the nature conservation value of the site. Because of the extent of semi-natural habitat in the County Borough, there are few development sites where nature conservation is not a relevant issue. Even within the built up area, bats and nesting birds will need to be considered.

4.1.2 It is therefore recommended that nature conservation issues are considered as early as possible within the scoping and design of development proposals and that early consultation is undertaken with the Council to ensure that relevant information is supplied at the outset and delays avoided.

4.1.3 Information supplied to the Local Planning Authority, as part of a planning application, will normally be available for the public to view on the application file. Developers will be expected to provide the ecological information, submitted in support of their application, to the South East Wales Biodiversity Record Centre.



- 4.1.4 The following are material considerations to be addressed as part of a planning application;
- 4.1.5 Development should not lead to the net loss of biodiversity, should protect ecosystem services and, where possible, contribute to biodiversity enhancement, in accordance with the policy principles in LDP policy AW 8.
- 4.1.6 The significant features of European and nationally designated sites, SINCS and RIGS should be protected. Applicants will be expected to show how the features for which the site is designated are to be protected, and where possible, enhanced.
- 4.1.7 Where European sites may be affected by development, assessments of likely significant effects and, where necessary, appropriate assessment should be made.
- 4.1.8 Development should be carried out in a way that conserves features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, including those linear features that are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
- 4.1.9 Ecological connectivity between habitat patches is generally good in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the impact of development on this connectivity will be a material consideration. Development that reduces connectivity between habitats will not normally be favoured, however there may be opportunities for development to contribute to ecological connectivity. Planning decisions will be informed by research work being undertaken at the local, regional and Wales level with regard to ecological connectivity.
- 4.1.10 The presence of a protected or priority habitat or species is a material consideration and must be addressed by the application.
- 4.1.11 The following paragraphs are relevant to the consideration of applications with nature conservation implications.
- 4.1.12 Pre-application enquiries are welcomed, to identify whether the application is likely to affect a designated site or important species and to identify any opportunities for enhancement. This initial scoping will identify that either:
- i) there is no requirement for detailed ecological assessment or mitigation, or
  - ii) a SEWBREC search for statutory protected species is required and/ or
  - iii) a detailed ecological survey and assessment will be required or
  - iv) there is sufficient ecological information to recommend refusal on nature conservation grounds.
- 4.1.13 The level and detail of the necessary ecological survey and assessment must be specific to each planning application and should be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecological consultant at the appropriate time of year. To determine the requirements, the Local Planning Authority may consult with statutory consultees. An iterative approach to survey assessment is generally advocated, with baseline assessments advising the requirement for, and extent of, more detailed follow-up survey work where necessary.

- 4.1.14 In many cases ecological concerns will be restricted to one species or feature. For example building demolitions may often only require bat and bird surveys. In other cases a baseline ecological assessment (using standard Phase I Habitat Survey methodology) may be sufficient in order to assess habitat features and to identify the potential for statutory protected species. In other cases a detailed suite of surveys may be required, which could include habitat assessment to Phase II standards, and/or detailed audits of lower and higher plants, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals.
- 4.1.15 Ecological survey reports must also include an appraisal of the significance of features and species within the application site, the impacts and implications of the proposed development on those features and the extent of mitigation, and enhancement measures, which the application will provide.
- 4.1.16 Where a planning application affects trees, woodlands or hedges on or adjacent to the development site, applicants will be expected to provide information about these and the impact of their proposals on them, both in respect of their nature conservation and amenity value. Where important features are affected, the Council will require a tree report as specified in the British Standards Institutes, BS 5837: Trees in relation to construction.
- 4.1.17 This report should be based on a survey by an appropriately qualified arboriculturalist, categorise the trees and set out the arboricultural implications of the proposed development. For trees etc. that are to be retained, or areas to be planted, an Arboricultural Method Statement and a Tree Protection Plan should be provided and Construction Exclusion Zones identified on the site layout plan. Any specified works to trees etc. should conform to BS 3998: Recommendations for Tree work.
- 4.1.18 Where a European Protected Species is likely to be affected by a planning application, the following three tests will be applied:
- i) there is ‘no satisfactory alternative’,
  - ii) it is ‘not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at favourable conservation status in their natural range’ and
  - iii) it is ‘in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment’.
- 4.1.19 To apply these tests, suitable survey and assessment information is required before the application is determined, where an application site is considered to have potential to support a European Protected Species.
- 4.1.20 Where a European Protected Species is likely to be affected, a licence is normally required from the Welsh Government under the Habitats Regulations, and a condition will be added to any grant of planning permission to produce details of this licence prior to starting works.
- 4.1.21 Following receipt of the survey and assessment this will be subject to internal and statutory consultation to assess whether:
- i) sufficient nature conservation assessment has been undertaken and whether a sufficient resolution of issues has been made. If this is the case, the consultation will identify whether the planning application is either:
    - a. acceptable under adopted planning policy, and can proceed or;
    - b. unacceptable, leading to a policy objection.
  - ii) insufficient nature conservation assessment has been undertaken and further survey and clarification is required. The planning application may be recommended for refusal due to a lack of information.



- 4.1.22 Mitigation measures are those measures required to reduce to an acceptable level the impacts and implications of development on features, habitats or species of importance. Compensation measures are designed to offset any impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated. In certain circumstances, proposed mitigation and / or compensation may result in the development being considered acceptable. The extent of mitigation and compensation required will be specific to the proposal, but could include the retention and long-term management of habitats and the provision of species-specific measures. The planning proposal may also be able to provide enhancement measures to actively benefit nature conservation. This could include positive management of, or providing connections to, adjacent habitats.
- 4.1.23 Planning conditions and / or planning obligations will be used to ensure that the proposed measures are undertaken. Planning obligations will be used where measures require long-term application (over five years), where monitoring will extend over a prolonged period, or the Council or a third party, takes on the management of an area with commuted management sums.
- 4.1.24 Similarly, where development proposals include areas of informal open space, water and landscape features, retained or planted trees, nature conservation areas or features, planning conditions and or planning obligations will be sought where appropriate to ensure that the land or feature is appropriately managed.

#### 4.2 **Specific Types of Developments / Sites**

- 4.2.1 In addition to the general considerations outlined above, the following paragraphs provide guidance on specific types of developments/ sites. These are not exhaustive.

- 4.2.2 The design of household extensions can have implications for nature conservation, typically in relation to bats or nesting birds. Where an extension will affect a large tree, an existing roof, or involves demolition of a building or structure, the applicant should seek advice from the Council prior to submitting an application. Opportunities to achieve a net benefit for biodiversity, for example through the provision of nesting or roosting boxes, will be encouraged.
- 4.2.3 Buildings can be of particular importance as nesting or roosting places for birds or bats. This is true of rural buildings such as barns and urban buildings such as schools, chapels and housing. The conversion of older buildings should provide opportunities to build replacement or new features into developments.
- 4.2.4 In respect of larger development sites, the SPG on Design and Placemaking identifies the need to integrate nature conservation concerns into the design of new developments from the outset. This will enable areas of high nature conservation value to be avoided and positive contributions to nature conservation to be identified.
- 4.2.5 The holistic consideration of landscaping, sustainable urban drainage, active travel, informal and formal open space and nature conservation should be a key element of place making.
- 4.2.6 All larger developments should consider opportunities to achieve net benefit for biodiversity within their design. These should include, where appropriate, the use of up to date best practice, such as:
- The use of technologies, such as green / brown roofs;
  - The inclusion of planting and landscaping schemes that benefit wildlife;
  - Siting of development to exclude areas of biodiversity interest;

- Enhancement, creation or restoration of locally distinctive natural habitats;
  - Enhancement measures for species including the provision of artificial nesting sites / roosting sites / hibernacula;
  - Sustainable management;
  - Sustainable urban drainage systems; and
  - Ecological connectivity.
- 4.2.7 The development of each strategic site should aim to achieve no net loss of biodiversity. However, it is recognised that because of the strategic importance of these sites this objective cannot always be achieved. Where a loss of biodiversity cannot be avoided, the Council require a comprehensive management, mitigation and compensation package. This will require the integration of nature conservation considerations from the outset. Sufficient survey and assessment work will need to be undertaken at each stage to establish the extent of the existing nature conservation interest, the areas that should be protected and areas where enhancement can be achieved.
- 4.2.8 Where schemes are required to reach a minimum of Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes/ or BREEAM “Very Good” standard for commercial development, schools, etc, the ecology requirements of these standards should be considered in light of this SPG. Developers should discuss this element of the proposals with the Council’s Ecologist at an early stage.
- 4.2.9 Roads should be designed to minimise negative impact on the natural environment and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement should be pursued where possible. Again, the holistic consideration of landscaping, active travel, informal and formal open space and nature conservation is encouraged. The route and design should seek to minimise habitat damage (including the effects of lighting, noise, pollution, drainage and habitat fragmentation) and mitigate impacts and compensate for residual habitat loss. Where protected species are likely to be present, special measures will be required (for example newt gully pots, dormouse crossings, dark corridors).
- 4.2.10 Where geological exposures are created by highway works, consideration should be given to protecting these exposures for geological study and conservation. Geo-netting should not be undertaken without prior consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales.
- 4.2.11 The landscaping of highways provides opportunities for mitigation and enhancement measures. Linear corridors can contribute to ecological connectivity between habitat patches in both urban and rural areas. In general, native grassland should be encouraged and tree or hedge planting with indigenous species of local provenance will be expected. Exotic planting, soil enrichment, imported seed mixes and high maintenance specifications should be restricted to high profile urban locations.
- 4.2.12 Where any development requires the creation or upgrading of a highway or access, the nature conservation implications of this should be addressed.



- 4.2.13 Renewable energy proposals that will cause significant damage to existing carbon/methane stores, such as ancient woodland or deep peat deposits, should be assessed for their net greenhouse gas emissions. This should be undertaken using national and international guidance and best practice relating to carbon budgets.
- 4.2.14 The design of wind farms on the upland afforested plateau must address the impact on the deep peat soils and hydrology, of the individual turbines, the access and the power line infrastructure. Developers will be expected to survey, to map the extent of the habitat and features present on the site and in the surrounding area. The assessment should include the alternative designs or locations considered; how adverse effects will be avoided wherever possible; how unavoidable impacts will be reduced and mitigated; and how impacts, that cannot be avoided or mitigated, will be compensated. Proposals for the long-term management of habitat and monitoring of impacts will be required. Major wind farms may also have significant impacts on bird and bat populations and the developer should indicate how these impacts have been avoided, minimised or compensated for. However, it should be considered that large windfarm projects will be subject to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. The issues set out in this SPG should therefore not result in a duplication of the scoping requirements for the environmental statement of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- 4.2.15 Small scale and domestic wind turbines may also have impacts on birds and bats, which should be considered in the design and location of the turbine.
- 4.2.16 Biomass energy proposals should also be assessed for their net carbon savings contribution. Energy crops that are dependent on high levels of manufactured fertiliser input or high transport energy demands are unlikely to lead to reduced carbon emissions. Displacement of local food production on better quality agricultural land will not be encouraged, although agricultural waste (e.g. straw) may provide feedstock for small scale biomass developments.
- 4.2.17 The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (semi-natural areas and uncultivated land) will apply if semi-natural or uncultivated land is brought into production. Biomass proposals should avoid areas of high nature conservation value.
- 4.2.18 Hydroelectric power schemes should be designed to minimise their impact on the river environment and in particular on otters and migratory fish. The Environmental Agency Wales may be consulted by the Council with regard to nature conservation impacts.
- 4.2.19 Small scale solar, photovoltaic and geothermal energy proposals are unlikely to have major nature conservation implications. However, where bats are likely to be present, further advice should be sought.

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Appendix 1: Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS)

The Council commissioned an Earth Science Audit of Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2003/4 from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and Cardiff University.

The Council commissioned an Earth Science Audit of Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2003/4 from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and Cardiff University. The work was overseen by an expert panel, from the Council, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Geological Association, the University and the National Museum and Galleries of Wales. An initial desk study of the literature and geological maps was followed by a field survey. An access database was developed linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS) map layer. A transparent methodology for assessing the geo-conservation value of the sites was developed, using the earlier MINESCAN methodology. As recommended in the report, sites scoring above 100 have been included in the list of RIGS. The sites with the highest geo-conservation scores are already statutorily protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Most of the remaining sites lie within Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and frequently their features are a contributory factor affecting or determining the ecological value of the site. A small number of sites, including the two active quarries, remain outside the SINC boundaries. The LDP Proposals Map indicates the location (but not the extent) of each RIG site. Each site name, location by grid reference and identification number is shown below. Further information such as full site descriptions, size, primary and secondary features of importance and photographs are available on request.

## List of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf

(from Earth Science Audit 2003-4, L Cherns, MG Bassett and A Haycock)

Loc. No.	Locality Name	Grid Ref	** Total score
59	Graig Fawr	SS 9225 9600	335
27	Craig-y-Llyn	SN 9150 0320	310
60	Graig Fach	SS 9290 9540	310
54	Tarren Saerbren cirque	SS 9270 9760	310
118	Brofiscin Quarry	ST 0700 8130	310
138	Mwyndy Mine tips	ST 0550 8190	310
38	Blaenrhondda road cutting (A4061)	SN 9300 0060	285
4	Bwa Maen	SN 9150 0795	270
127	Mynydy Cross, Llantrisant road cutting	ST 0520 8200	270
377	Cefn Park Mine	ST 0480 8220	270
378	Rhiwsaeson tips	ST 0640 8240	270
48	Cwm Lluest	SS 9180 9970	240
161	Navigation Quarry	ST 0870 9400	225
304	Tarren Felen Uchaf track cutting	SS 9505 9495	220
30	Craig y Bwlch	SN 9435 0350	220
20	Llech Syrhyd waterfall	SN 9915 0730	220
287	Pen Pych and west Blaenrhondda crags	SS 9240 9950	215
40	Craig Blaenrhondda	SN 9205 0130	205



Loc. No.	Locality Name	Grid Ref	** Total score
52	Craig Selsig and Craig y Ddelw	SS 9170 9775	205
51	Blaencwm landslide	SS 9180 9840	205
133	Forest Wood Quarry	ST 0150 7970	205
159	The Gap quarry	ST 0785 9643	200
32	Lower Craig Blaenrhondda crags and tip	SN 9231 0135	200
50	Nant y Gwair stream gully and Cwar y Offeiriad	SS 9115 9872	200
93	Tarren y Bwllfa	SN 9650 0175	180
34	River Rhondda Waterfall	SN 9228 0150	170
546	Coed-y-wiw tips	ST 0005 8065	170
49	Nant yr Ychen stream gully and crags	SS 9160 9925	160
536	South Ty Rhos crags	SN 9740 0395	160
174	Glyncoch Quarry	ST 0790 9190	155
124	Hendy/Miskin Quarry	ST 0555 8120	155
210	Craig yr Eos South Dinas Quarry	ST 0028 9136	150
163	West Navigation quarry	ST 0857 9410	150
375	Daren y Celyn Quarry	ST 0785 9635	140
531	Bwllfa Road tips	SN 9700 0300	140
407	Mynydd yr Eglwys landslide	SS 9760 9550	140
348	Gelynog colliery spoil tips, Beddau	ST 0568 8534	120
92	Craig-yr-ysgol	SN 9590 0265	115
383	Taffs Well hematite workings	ST 1360 8370	110
1	Old Dinas quarry, Pen-cae drain	SN 9170 0795	105
120	Small crags west of Gadir Wen House	ST 0660 8062	105

Loc. No.	Locality Name	Grid Ref	** Total score
3	Lower section of River Sychryd	SN 9108 0789	100
430	Tarren Maen-du quarry and landslide	SS 9375 9760	100
158	River Taff terrace deposits	ST 0825 9350	100
348	Gelynog colliery spoil tips, Beddau	ST 0568 8534	120
92	Craig-yr-ysgol	SN 9590 0265	115
383	Taffs Well hematite workings	ST 1360 8370	110
1	Old Dinas quarry, Pen-cae drain	SN 9170 0795	105
120	Small crags west of Gadir Wen House	ST 0660 8062	105
3	Lower section of River Sychryd	SN 9108 0789	100
430	Tarren Maen-du quarry and landslide	SS 9375 9760	100
158	River Taff terrace deposits	ST 0825 9350	100
** Total score refer to the geo-conservation assessment			

## 5.2 Appendix 2: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

SINC are an important resource in Rhondda Cynon Taf, protecting locally and nationally important habitats and species.

The Mid Valleys Criteria used for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan provide objective, scientific, sub-regional criteria for the Mid-Valleys area (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr, Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent).

The geography of the County Borough is reflected in the nature of the SINC. In the uplands, where there is less built development and extensive areas of semi natural habitat, SINC tend to be larger than in the lowlands.

The locations of the SINC are shown on the Proposals Map. Individual SINC plans and the site descriptions are available on request. The site description includes the primary and secondary features of importance together with information about survey and other evidence relating to the site.

The sites, shown on the Local Development Plan Proposals Map, are based on criteria applied within the context of the evidence considered at the time when the LDP was prepared.

If an unconstrained development site meets the criteria for designation as a protected site, it will be treated as if the site was so designated.

If the development proposed does not adversely affect the special features of the protected site then the designation would not prevent the development.

If the developer claims that the site does not meet the criteria for protection, it will be necessary to show that the site did not meet the criteria at the time of designation.

## List of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Coed Wernhir	21	Mynydd Bwllffa /Mynydd-y-gyngon
2	Werfa Farm	22	Cwm Dare North
3	Nant Fforch	23	Cwm Dare South
4	Brickyard Mire	24	Dare Valley
5	Rhigos Tramway	25	Aberdare South
6	Cwm Gwrelych	26	Mynydd Ystradffernol
7	Hirwaun Industrial Estate	27	Garn Wen and Panwen Garreg-wen
8	Clydach Vale	28	Rhos Gwawr
9	Hirwaun Ponds	29	Aberdare Mountain
10	Hirwaun Common	30	Nant y Wenallt
11	Gelli-ben-uchel	31	Cwm y Felin Newydd
12	Hirwaun Ponds (North)	32	Aberdare Canal
13	Hirwaun Iron Works	33	Mid Cynon Floodplain
14	Glyncornel	34	Cwmbach Slopes
15	Upper Cynon Floodplain	35	Gelli Slopes
16	Nant Hir Valley and Reservoir	36	Coed Tir Estyll
17	Nant Hir Gwyddel	37	Cefnpennar
18	Llwydcoed Slopes	38	St Gwynno Forestry
19	Bryn-defaid Heath	39	Mynydd Merthyr
20	East Llwydcoed	40	Mynydd Brith-weunydd / Llwynypia hillside



No.	Name	No.	Name
41	Twyn Tyllaudefaid Valley Mire	61	Blaenllechau Woodland
42	Pont-y-gwaith Hillside	62	Penrhiw Cradoc Fields
43	Mynydd Troed-y-rhiw Slopes	63	Cwm Clydach
44	Penrhiw Flushes	64	Mynydd Ty'n-tyle Slopes
45	Birch Grove Slopes	65	Old Smokey Slopes
46	Y Ffrwd	66	Coed Fforest Isaf-Uchaf
47	Mynydd Dinas / Mynydd y Cymmer	67	Perthcelyn Slopes
48	Bronwydd Park	68	Pen-twyn-isaf
49	Trebanog Slopes	69	Tyntetown Slopes
50	Cilely Farm Rhos Pasture	70	Darren y Celyn
51	Cwm Hafod Woodland	71	Coed Pen-y-parc
52	Coed-yr-Hafod Woodland Complex	72	Heol-y-Mynach Pastures
53	Llys Nant and Graig Twyn-y-glog Woodlands	73	Buarth-y-Capel wetland
54	Mynydd Blaenrhondda and Mynydd Ty-Isaf	74	Dan y Cribyn
55	Craig Pwllfa	75	Lower Clydach Woodlands
56	Abercwmboi Lake	76	Maerdy Colliery
57	Lower Cynon	77	Craig-yr-Hesg / Lan Wood
58	Treherbert Slopes	78	Craig-Evan Leyshon Common
59	Mynydd y Ffaldau	79	Mynydd Eglwysilian
60	Mountain Ash Slopes	80	Pont Sion Norton Woodland and Ffridd

No.	Name	No.	Name
81	Pontypridd Golf Course	101	Cefn Hendy Community Woodlands
82	Coed-Pen-Maen Common	102	Coed-yr-Hendy
83	Mynydd Meiros / Upper Ewenny Fach	103	Pant Marsh
84	Meiros	104	Y Graig
85	Llantrisant Forestry and Craig Melyn	105	Llantrisant Common
86	Cynllan Wood	106	Cefn Craig Amos
87	Hendre Owen / Trecastell Tip	107	Tonyrefail Mountains
88	Coed Trecastell	108	Llanilid Valley
89	Gwaun Llanhari Wood	109	Garth-Grabban Slopes
90	Ty'n Y Waun	110	Rhiwfelin Fawr
91	Coedcae Marsh	111	Nant Muchudd
92	River Ely	112	Coedcae-mawr
93	Ty-Du	113	Pant-y-ddraenen
94	Ty-Draw (Pontyclun floodmeadows)	114	Crofft -yr-haidd Marshy Grassland
95	Llanharry Quarry	115	Nant Gelliwion / Waun Castellau
96	Cowbridge Road Playing Field	116	Darran Park
97	Ceulan Farm	117	Tonyrefail East
98	Heol Miskin Woodland	118	Cae'r-ysgol Woodland
99	Talygarn Woodland and Lake	119	The Glyn
100	East Miskin	120	Mynydd y Glyn

No.	Name	No.	Name
121	Penrhiw-fer Road Woodland	141	Coed y Fardre
122	Penrhiw-fer Road West	142	Taff and Rhondda Rivers
123	Ystrad Slopes	143	Llantwit Fardre West
124	Mynydd Gelli-wion and Gellwion Slopes	144	Caeau'r-Ilan Slopes
125	Coed Craig-Fach	145	Diswylfa Woodland
126	Treforest Slopes	146	Efail Isaf South
127	Coed Castellau	147	Afon Clun Valley and Rhiwsaeson Hill
128	Pen-y-coedcae Grassland	148	Nant Myddlyn / Afon Clun / Tor-y-Coed Woodland
129	Coedcae-du	149	Ty Newydd Woods and Grassland
130	Rhyd-y-llech	150	Mwyndy Lake
131	Cwm Colliery Grasslands	151	Cefn Parc Cemetery
132	Cwm Colliery Spoil and Lake	152	A4119 Road Verge
133	Maendy Quarry	153	Hendy Quarry and Miskin Manor Slopes
134	Croesged Grassland	154	Fforest Wood Quarry
135	Beddau East	155	Rhydhalog
136	Duffryn Dowlais	156	Coed y Gedrys and Garth-fawr
137	Llantwit Fardre Marsh	157	Fforest Fawr
138	Tonteg Marsh	158	Ty-Rhiw Woodlands and Penrhos Cutting
139	Heol-y-Cawl	159	Craig Yr Allt Slopes
140	Brynhill Chapel Grassland	160	Coed Caedrys / Tir Thomas Jones Tip

No.	Name	No.	Name
161	The Willowford	173	Fernbank East
162	Taff Trail Cycletrack	174	Llanharan Marsh / Brynna Woods / Jubilee Marsh
163	Fforestnewydd	175	Ewenny Fach and associated woodlands
164	Graig Cottages	176	Llanilid
165	Mynydd yr Eglwys	177	Dolau Slopes
166	Parc Eirin	178	Cwmparc
167	Gilfach Road Wetlands	179	Mynydd Tyle-coch
168	Mynydd y Gilfach	180	Nant Pentre Forestry
169	Gilfach Goch Slopes	181	Treorchy Slopes
170	Nant Ciwc	182	Treorchy Cemetery
171	Llanbad-fawr Marsh	183	Ton Pentre Slopes
172	Cwm Llanbad		

### 5.3 Appendix 3 - Sources of Guidance and Advice

#### Countryside Council for Wales

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

Headquarters, Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DW  
Telephone: 0845 1306229, Fax: 01248 355782, Email: [enquiries@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccw.gov.uk)

South and East Wales Office, Unit 7, Castelton Court,  
Fortran Road, St Mellon's, Cardiff CF3 0LT

Telephone: 0845 1306229, Fax: 01248 355782, Email: [southern@ccw.gov.uk](mailto:southern@ccw.gov.uk)



### **Environment Agency Wales**

Environment Agency Wales reports to the Welsh Government and is the environmental regulator with wide responsibilities for managing the environment, acting as a champion for the environment, reducing pollution and enforcing pollution legislation, overseeing the management of waste, water resources and freshwater fisheries, reducing the harm caused by flooding and influencing others to achieve positive environmental outcomes by changing attitudes and behaviour.

Head Office, Cambria House, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff CF24 0TP

South East Area Office, Rivers House, St Mellons Business Park

St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 0EY

Telephone: 08708 506506

Email: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

[www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk)

### **Forestry Commission Wales**

Forestry Commission Wales are responsible for managing the 38% of Welsh woodlands owned by the Welsh Government. They advise on the development of forestry policy and its implementation. They also encourage sustainable woodland management within the private sector and are responsible for administering grants and regulatory work, including licensing for felling and replanting.

Victoria House, Victoria Terrace, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2DQ

Telephone: 0845 604 0845, [www.forestry.gov.uk/wales](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wales)

### **Welsh Government Department of Rural Affairs**

Welsh Government Department of Rural Affairs is responsible for the implementation of The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007.

[www.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc](http://www.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc)

### **Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales**

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is a charitable organisation working exclusively on all aspects of wildlife conservation in South and West Wales. They provide habitat and species management advice directly to those managing land and work with key partners and local people to promote habitat enhancement and restoration.

The Nature Centre, Bridgend

Telephone: 01656 724100

The Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran

Telephone: 01239 621212, E-mail: [info@welshwildlife.org](mailto:info@welshwildlife.org), [www.welshwildlife.org](http://www.welshwildlife.org)

### **South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre**

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBREC) is the centre for the collation, management and dissemination of biodiversity data for South East Wales.

13 St Andrews Crescent, Cardiff CF10 3DB

Telephone: 029 2064 1110, Fax: 029 2038 7354

Email: [info@sewbrec.org](mailto:info@sewbrec.org),

[www.sewbrec.org.uk](http://www.sewbrec.org.uk)

### **Planning for Biodiversity by David Tyldesley and RTPI (1999)**

This is a good practice guide that aims to help raise awareness of biodiversity conservation in the planning system and to improve understanding, help resolve conflict and create opportunities and provide practical guidance on planning instruments that may contribute to biodiversity conservation.

[www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)

### **British Standard Institute**

The British Standard Institute has published PAS 2010:2006 Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity. This has been developed to help the planning system play its part in halting the decline of biodiversity.

[www.bsigroup.com/Shop](http://www.bsigroup.com/Shop)

### **Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)**

**THE IEEM is a non-profit professional body that represents and supports ecologists and environmental managers in the UK and abroad. It provides a variety of services to develop competency and standards in ecology and environmental management.**

IEEM, 43 Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9EH

Telephone: 01962 868626, Fax: 01962 868625

Email: [enquiries@ieem.net](mailto:enquiries@ieem.net), [www.ieem.net](http://www.ieem.net)

### **Think Wildlife Think Protected Species**

Provides guidance on the protected species likely to be associated with particular development types or sites in the Glamorgan or Gwent areas.

### **Developing Naturally by Mike Oxford et al (2000)**

This is a good practice guide developed for the Association of Local Government Ecologists relating to development and the planning system in the UK.

## **5.4 Appendix 4 - Description of Rhondda Cynon Taf**

Rhondda Cynon Taf is situated in the South Wales Coalfield. The geology, landscape, wildlife, land-use, history and culture of the area are closely interconnected.

Rhondda Cynon Taf extends from the uplands of the Brecon Beacons to the edge of the Vale of Glamorgan. The central feature is the coalfield plateau, which is cut by the Rhondda, Cynon and parts of the Taff and Ely river valleys. The coalfield plateau is higher (600m), more remote and exposed in the north, with dramatic cwms and extensive areas of forestry. Further south, hill farming predominates. The Cynon and Rhondda valleys are generally steep-sided with narrow and mostly built up valley floors, and bracken covered, farmed or wooded slopes. South of Pontypridd, the Taff Valley is wider but heavily developed. The southern part of the County Borough has a softer, more lowland landscape of farms, woods, commons, towns and villages.

The geology is dominated by the Upper Carboniferous rocks, in particular the South Wales Pennant Formation with its Coal Measures. Older Palaeozoic rocks are exposed around the rim of the Coalfield.



Minor outcrops of younger, Triassic rocks occur in the south of the borough near the M4. The coalfield plateau was shaped by the Tertiary uplift and the deep valleys were cut by the glaciers of the late Devensian glaciation. Boulder clay and other glacial debris overlie the rocks, periglacial and more recent landslips are also evident.

The iron and coal in the rocks led to the development of the Valleys towns during the industrial revolution, with most of the houses being built of local stone. The narrow, steep-sided valleys have contained built development, roads and railways in narrow ribbons by the river. The thin, acid soil and mild climate have supported traditional agriculture, native woodlands and more recently forestry plantations.

The biodiversity of the County is bound to this heritage. While much of the central band of the County lies on acid soils and rocks, limestone outcrops in both the north and south. The combination of a complex topography, geology, and geomorphology, and generally poor and unproductive soils creates great natural variety of landform, landscape and biodiversity. The diverse mixed land uses, post-industrial legacy and wet, mild climate further increase this environmental diversity. A huge variety of habitats occur in a small area: from upland crags and scree to floodplain meadows. In common with other areas of the Valleys, the extent of semi-natural habitat is unusually high, as is the diversity of habitats. As a consequence, the County also supports a wide range of species, some of these being of importance in a Welsh context.

The biodiversity, landscape and historic value of the South Wales Valleys is something which has only recently been recognised, and provides new considerations, and opportunities for the land use planning of the LDP.

The soils of Rhondda Cynon Taf reflect the geology, past and present climate, the geography and ecosystems, and the land-use history of the County Borough. In general, the upland plateau comprises 'loamy acid permeable soils with a wet peaty surface', on the highest ground there is a significant area of 'deep acid peat soils'. In the border Vale, the more productive agricultural land is mostly on 'well drained loamy soils', with some 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet, loamy and clayey soils'. These also occur on the valley floors within the coalfield as well as the more typical 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid soils with a wet peaty surface'. (From the simplified National Soil Map of Wales). There are also areas of exposed rock and scree and mineral spoil tips with minimal or very thin soil development.

## 6. Bibliography

Association of Local Government Ecologists (2008) **Biodiversity tool kit Initial draft of the ‘Validation of Planning Applications’ local requirements template.**

In preparation, with Defra and Natural England, to assist applicants submitting on-line planning applications. <http://www.alge.org.uk/publications/index.php>

Bodé, G. (2004) **Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales**, The South Wales Wildlife Sites Partnership, Dingestow.

This document informed the Wales-wide criteria and the Mid Valleys Criteria.

BRIG, (2007) **Revised priority habitats and species lists for the UK**

British Standard Institute (2006) **PAS 2010:2006 Planning to halt the loss of biodiversity**

British Standards Institute (2005) **BS5837:2005- Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction**

British Standards Institution (1989) **BS3998:1989- British Standard Recommendations for Tree work**

Caerphilly County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (2008) **Criteria for the Selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the County Boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff (the ‘Mid-Valleys Area’)**

The Mid Valleys Criteria used for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan follow the structure and format of the South Wales Guidelines (Bode, 2004) and develop the earlier ‘Landscapes Working For Wales’ proposed SINC sites (WDA et al., various).

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Bangor, National Soil Resources Institute, Institute of Grassland and Environment Research, Geoenvironmental Research Centre (Cardiff University), Cynefin Consultants (2002) **Critical Appraisal of State and Pressures and Controls on the Sustainable Use of Soils in Wales**

Identifies the important role of soils for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Considers the importance of soil carbon and its role in the global carbon cycle. Also addresses the role of soil in food and fibre production, as a source of materials and minerals and as a repository of historic artifacts and a palaeo-ecological record. The main threats to Welsh soils are identified. The description of soils in RCT in Appendix 4 is taken from the simplified National Soil Map of Wales in Chapter 2.

[http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sections/bef/Wales\\_Soil\\_Scoping\\_Study.html](http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sections/bef/Wales_Soil_Scoping_Study.html)

Lesley Cherns, Michael G Bassett and Andrew Haycock (2004). **Rhondda Cynon Taff Earth Science Audit**

This report describes the Earth Science Audit database and the scoring system for RIGS Countryside Council for Wales, National Museums and Galleries of Wales (1996–2000). **MINESCAN Partnership Project**

DEFRA (2007) **Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate: guidance on building capacity to adapt**

UK wide guidance establishing six principles: protecting existing biodiversity, reducing sources of harm, developing ecologically resilient landscapes, establishing ecological



networks, making decisions based on analysis and integrating measures into management, planning and practice.

Environment Agency (2009) **Water for life and livelihoods - A consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin District**

Prepared under the EU Water Framework Directive to achieve good ecological status of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, aquifers, estuaries and coastal waters by 2026. Includes information on the current ecological status of rivers in RCT and proposed actions.

English Nature et al (2007) **The Monarch Report a synthesis for biodiversity conservation**

Modelling Natural Resource Responses to Climate Change in Britain and Ireland.

European Union (2000) **Water Framework Directive 2000/86/EEC**

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s15005.htm>

European Union (2006) **Soil Framework Directive 2006/0086**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/three_en.htm)

European Union (2006) **Sustainable Development Strategy and the Sixth Environment Action Programme**

[http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/renewed\\_eu\\_sds\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/renewed_eu_sds_en.pdf)

European Commission (2006) **Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 and Beyond- Sustaining Ecosystem Services for Human Well-being**

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0216:FIN:EN:DOC>

This Communication from the Commission highlights two particular threats to EU biodiversity. “First, that of ill-considered land use and development. Member States have particular responsibility, through improved planning, to reconcile land use and development needs with the conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of

ecosystem services. Second, the increasing impact of climate change on biodiversity. This reinforces the imperative for effective action on greenhouse gas emissions beyond the Kyoto Protocol targets. We must also support biodiversity adaptation to climate change, while ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are not themselves harmful to biodiversity.”

Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group/Greater Gwent Biodiversity Action Group

(2007) **Think Wildlife Think Protected Species**

<http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/content/uploads/documents/Guidance%20Legislation/Think%20Wildlife%20final%20v2%20Feb%2007.doc>

HMSO (1992). **The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.**

HMSO (1994). **The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations**

European protected species listed in Schedules 2 and 4 can be viewed at [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi\\_19942716\\_en\\_8.htm#sdiv2](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi_19942716_en_8.htm#sdiv2), and [www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi\\_19942716\\_en\\_10.htm#sdiv4](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1994/uksi_19942716_en_10.htm#sdiv4).

HMSO (1981). **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** (as amended)

Schedules 1 (birds), 5 (animals) and 8 (plants) list the species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The up to date list can viewed at [www.naturenet.net/law/wcagen.html#intro](http://www.naturenet.net/law/wcagen.html#intro)

There is no ‘official’ site, although the Statutory Instruments can be viewed on the HMSO website ([www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)).

HMSO (2000) **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)** (as amended)

HMSO (2006) **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

Section 42 of the NERC Act (2006) (formerly Section 74 of CROW) requires the Welsh Government to published a list of habitats and species of principal importance in Wales. Section. 40 establishes the biodiversity duty for public bodies.

HMSO (1949) **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949**

HMSO (1990) **Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

Provides for the statutory protection of trees of amenity value.

HMSO (1992), **Protection of Badgers Act 1992**, HMSO, London

Provides protection for badgers and their setts.

HMSO (1997), **Hedgerow Regulations. Statutory Instrument 1997 no.1160**

HMSO (1967) **Forestry Act 1967** (as amended)

Requires a felling licence for certain works to trees:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/treefellingaugust.pdf/\\$FILE/treefellingaugust.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/treefellingaugust.pdf/$FILE/treefellingaugust.pdf)

Liz Howe (May 2007) **Advisory Targets for Habitat Creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf Consultation Draft**

The Countryside Council for Wales has set minimum targets for habitat creation across Wales, for the Wales Biodiversity Partnership.

Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management **Guidelines for survey methodology**

<http://www.ieem.net/guidelinesforsurveymethodology.asp>

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2003) **Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey**

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

DL Jones and G Jones (2008) **A strategic conservation assessment of heathland and associated habitats on the coal spoils of South Wales. Phase II Assessment of environmental parameters.** Countryside Council for Wales CCW Science Report no 824.

P.S. Jones, D.P Stevens, T.H. Blackstock, C.R. Burrows & E. A. Howe (eds) (2003). **Priority Habitats of Wales** – a technical guide Countryside Council for Wales.

J Latham, TH Blackstock and EA Howe (2007) **Ecological Connectivity in Wales: planning action to help terrestrial biodiversity respond to habitat fragmentation and climate change** Countryside Council for Wales (staff science report no 08/7/1)

The Wales maps in this report highlight the importance of the Coalfield Valleys for the extent of semi-natural habitat and the diversity of semi-natural habitat/ Shannon Index.

Monmouthshire CC **UDP Inspectors report**

Sites which meet the criteria for designation as a protected site, it will be treated as if the site was so designated.

Mike Oxford et al (2000) **Developing Naturally** Association of Local Government Ecologists

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (2008) **Action for Nature: the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Part One**

Adopted by the Council July 2009

Action for Nature; the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Rhondda Cynon Taf sets out a programme of action for a range of partners to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Rhondda Cynon Taf. The LBAP lists the habitats and species of particular importance in Rhondda Cynon Taf. It was adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the Structure and Local Plans for the Rhondda Cynon Taf area, in October 2000. This was renewed in 2009, pending the adoption of the Local Development Plan. Part Two provides the detailed habitat and species action plans.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, (2008) **Deposit Draft Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council **Draft Cynon Valley River Park Strategy (2007)**

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council **Natural Environment Topic Paper (2008)**

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Welsh Development Agency, Chris Blanford Associates (1997) **Landscapes Working for Wales: Draft Landscape Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf**  
 This document combines earlier studies undertaken by consultants for the WDA and the local authorities for Rhondda, Cynon and Taff Ely, prior to local government re-organisation in 1996. Volume 4, appendix D4 Ecological Appraisal and Annex 2 (confidential) lists proposed SINCs sites used to inform the Local Plans prepared in the 1990s and subsequently adopted by RCT.

RTPI Environmental Planning & Protection Network **E-Bulletin, 18.04.08**

The development of an on-line biodiversity planning tool in association with the Planning Portal.

David Tyldesley (1999) **Planning for Biodiversity** Royal Town Planning Institute.

United Nations (1993) **Convention on Biological Diversity**

International Treaty to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. <http://www.cbd.int/2010-target/>

UK Climate Impacts Programme (2009) **A changing climate for business- business planning for the impacts of climate change**

Wales Biodiversity Partnership (February 2008) **Wildlife Sites Guidance Wales: A guide to developing local wildlife sites in Wales,**

These guidelines were endorsed by the Minister for Planning, Sustainability and Housing in February 2008.

National Assembly for Wales Circular 23/2001- **New Guidance for Local Planning Authorities on European Protected Species and Changes in Licensing Procedures**

Welsh Assembly Government **The Welsh Soils Action Plan (consultation document) (2008)**

The draft Plan describes how the planning system should consider the soil resource in Wales and contains a number of actions with regard to planning and ecosystem services. These include scrutiny of LDPs, the retention of Agricultural Land Classification, capturing data on soil loss to development, quantifying area and impact upon loss of function, a revision to the British Standard for Topsoil (BS3882) and revisions to relevant Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Research and targeted management to protect carbon rich soils, enhance flood risk management and track pollution are also proposed.

Welsh Assembly Government letter dated 18th February 2008 to Chief Planning Officers **re Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 ref CL-01-08**

Welsh Assembly Government, Planning Policy Wales (2002)

Welsh Assembly Government) **People, Places, Futures - The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 Update (2008)**

Welsh Assembly Government Special Planning Unit (Jan 2008) **South East Wales: Developing the Networked Environmental Region, draft consultants brief**

Welsh Assembly Government (2008) **Design (consultation draft)**

Welsh Assembly Government (2008) **Climate Change (consultation draft)**

Welsh Office (1996), **Nature Conservation and Planning: Technical Advice Note (Wales) 5**

Welsh Assembly Government **The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2007**

The Welsh Government Department of Rural Affairs is responsible for the implementation of these regulations which cover the conversion of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas to intensive use and the large-scale restructuring of rural land holdings.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2007/wsi\\_20072933\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2007/wsi_20072933_en_1)

Welsh Assembly Government, **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature Conservation and Planning.**

Welsh Assembly Government **Climate change strategy - High level policy statement consultation (2009)**

Welsh Assembly Government **Climate change action plan consultation (2009)**

Welsh Assembly Government, **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design (2009)**

Welsh Assembly Government (2007) **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act S.42 List of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales**

S42 species list:

S42 habitats list:

Welsh Assembly Government, **Local Development Plans Wales: Policy on preparation of LDPs (2005)**

Welsh Assembly Government, **Local Development Plans Manual (2006)**

Wales Biodiversity Partnership, **Wales Biodiversity Framework: Making the connections for biodiversity action in Wales September (2008)**

Annex H advises that “The aim of a Biodiversity SPG is to raise the profile of biodiversity issues in planning, provide more detailed guidance to planners and developers to ensure that biodiversity is taken into account in all development proposals and to strengthen links between the LBAP and the Local Development Plan.”

Welsh Assembly Government, (2009) **Bioenergy Action Plan for Wales (and Progress Report (2010).**





Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
Regeneration and Planning Division  
Spatial Development Team  
Sardis House  
Sardis Road  
Pontypridd  
CF37 1DU

 01443 494735

 [LDP@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:LDP@rctcbc.gov.uk)

 [www.rctcbc.gov.uk](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk)