

SITE NAME: **Sirhowy Hill Woodlands / Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland / Parc Bryn Bach / Garden City / Central Valley**

ATTACHMENTS:            SITE MAPS

1. Background

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council had seven Local Nature Reserves designated; Cwmcelyn Pond (2013), Cwmtillery Lakes (2009), Parc Nant y Waun (2009), Roseheyworth Community Woodlands (2013), Six Bells / Parc Arrail (2013), Trevor Rowson (2013) and Silent Valley (1997).

The designation and declaration of five further Local Nature Reserves in January 2020; Sirhowy Hill Woodlands, Beaufort Hill Ponds & Woodland, Parc Bryn Bach, Garden City, and Central Valley brings this total to twelve.

The area designated and declared now totals 447.8 hectares.

The designations have been supported by local community groups and Gwent Wildlife Trust, please see attached letters of support. The reserves are managed for their value to local people and to enhance ecosystem resilience. The council oversees their management through ecological management plans. The council and community groups work in partnership to deliver objectives for maintaining and enhancing the nature conservation interest of the sites. Further efforts to involve more people and to promote awareness and understanding of nature recovery issues are underway through Welsh Government grant funded projects such as A Resilient Greater Gwent.

2. LNR Management Plans have been produced?

The LNR management plan (**date**) is being implemented **and/or currently being reviewed**.

3. The objectives for the proposed Local Nature Reserve as identified in the Management Plan are:

- A biologically diverse site, where existing features and informed management combine to maximise the value of the site for nature conservation;
- A site that all members of the community are able to use and enjoy;
- A site that proudly retains its sense of history, at the same time as offering new possibilities as a focus for the community in the local area;
- And, above all, a site that helps develop a sense of the reserve as a special place, of great value to the local area and the wider region.

4. Reason for Declaration:

Declaration and designation will contribute to the council's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Resilience Forward Plan (2019-22) to comply with the duty placed on us by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

5. Resource Implications:

Designating and declaring five more Local Nature Reserves the plan will have a cost neutral impact on budgets.

The sites and managing community groups will be able to access [Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being Grant](#) and other funding streams.

## 6. Compliance

Under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), Local Authorities have the power to designate Local Nature Reserves on any land in their area, provided that the power is exercised in consultation with NRW.