

## **Matters Arising from Hearing Session 19 Cwmtillery Settlement Boundaries**

- Identified and plotted various habitat areas on 1:500 scale base map
- Subdivided such habitat areas to various components
- Described each habitat and listed species via common and scientific names.  
No estimation of species dominance promoted except in general terms

Prior to commissioning the David Clements report, the responder was aware of the protocol required when considering ecological issues? In the Authority's letter dated 8 September 2008 (previously supplied as Schedule C Article 6), a memorandum was attached as Appendix 2 from the Authority's ecologist putting forward optimal survey times. Amongst others, such survey times included the following:

Land and aquatic habitats May – August

Grassland May – August

Ponds/watercourses May – August

Woodlands/hedgerows April – June

in 1991 by Gwent Wildlife Trust and the 1998 J. Win

justification is given. Otherwise there may be a risk that the required test of 'substantive nature conservation interest' will not be met, and the site could successfully be challenged."

However the DCEL June 2011 report (previously provided under Schedule G Document 2 accompanying the 'Alternative Sites Comment form') specifically separated Ty Pwdr land from Greenmeadow Farm land. Although the report recognised Ty Pwdr's land being in part 'acid grassland', mitigation measures could be put into practice overcoming potential loss and subsequent enhancement.

When the survey was completed in November 2009, it was done in the recognition the land was a candidate SINC. However, when compared with GWT 1991 indicator species covering Ty Pwdr land alone, it seems only 4 acid grassland species are present. As such the other 4 species must occur outside the limits of the Ty Pwdr land.

### **Overall Survey Comments**

There is an issue regarding the Authority's reliance on J. Winder's completed



isolation to the inaccessible and therefore unmanageable Ty Pwdr land. A clearer description of the two different parcels of land supported by a lack of acid grassland indicators identify that Ty Pwdr should be excluded from the SINC classification boundary.