

# West Glamorgan Stepping Stones for Wildlife



# Buglife's Brownfield Stepping Stones Projects

- Essex
- Teesside
- Scunthorpe
- Peterborough
- Scotland (CSGN)
- Wales!





# Green haying at Canvey Wick





# Untidy Industries





# Wat Tyler Succession Trail





## Rubble

### What is it?

Building rubble is generally the broken up waste material from demolished buildings, and commonly includes brick, concrete and stone of different sizes.



### Habitat value:

Rubble piles are the perfect microclimate for invertebrates, with areas of different temperatures and moisture levels. The crevices can provide perfect hiding places for active ground invertebrates such as spiders, centipedes and millipedes, as well as one of our rarest beetles, the Streaked bombardier beetle. The finer material can be utilised by burrowing bees and wasps, as well as wild flowers that can be a valuable nectar source.







# Beautiful brownfield bugs

Brownfields such as disused industrial sites, abandoned quarries, old railway lines and landfill sites can be havens for wildlife - especially rare and threatened bugs.



## The perfect home for bugs

The dry and low-nutrient environment provided by many brownfields mimic natural habitats such as wildflower-rich grassland and heathland, which have declined in the wider landscape due to agricultural improvement.

Many brownfield sites in Essex contain introduced substrates such as pulverised fuel ash, sandy Thames dredgings, rubble or bare piles of rock, creating a unique range of conditions for plants to establish.

The best brownfields have gone through cycles of disturbance and abandonment, creating a mosaic of habitats.

Many bugs (invertebrates) have complex life cycles requiring two or more habitat features in close proximity, such as bare ground to bask and burrow, and wildflowers rich in nectar to feed - brownfields can provide perfect conditions.

## Brownfields under threat

Wildlife-rich brownfield sites in South Essex are under threat - nearly 30% of important sites have been lost to development in the last 4 years. Buglife is working to create, improve and safeguard a network of brownfield habitats in South Essex called 'Stepping Stones'.



Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. To find out more or become a member visit

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

The Saltmarsh short-spur beetle (*Anisodactylus poeciloides*) benefits from the varied hydrology and salinity of many brownfields



Common blue butterflies (*Polyommatus icarus*) use bare ground to bask and their caterpillars feed on Bird's-foot trefoil



Fire-banded weevil wasps (*Cerceris quinquefasciata*) burrow into sand to nest, sealing their eggs in with weevil prey to feed their young



The Distinguished jumping spider (*Sitticus distinguendus*) is found at only two sites, both are covered with pulverised fuel ash and clinker



The Streaked bombardier beetle (*Brachinus sclopeta*) hides in between rocks and rubble, which provides a range of microclimates



Short carder bees (*Bombus agrorum*) and Brown-banded carder bees (*Bombus humilis*) rely on the network of wildflower-rich brownfields in South Essex to support their nationally important populations





# All of a Buzz in the Thames Gateway



6900 Ha mapped

450 sites assessed

24% of sites of high value

New tools for planners & developers

MAP 2

The map shows the results of the first phase of the All of a Buzz project, which has identified and assessed 450 sites of high value for biodiversity across the Thames Gateway. The map is divided into three zones: the central zone (red), the northern zone (orange), and the southern zone (green). The map also shows the locations of the 450 sites assessed, with high value sites highlighted in red. The map is a map of the Thames Gateway area, showing the river Thames and the surrounding urban and rural areas. The map is a map of the Thames Gateway area, showing the river Thames and the surrounding urban and rural areas. The map is a map of the Thames Gateway area, showing the river Thames and the surrounding urban and rural areas.





# Scunthorpe

































# Teesside

































# Bryn Tip









# Cymmer Tip









# Kilvey Hill









Pluck Lake









**TATA STEEL - NPT**



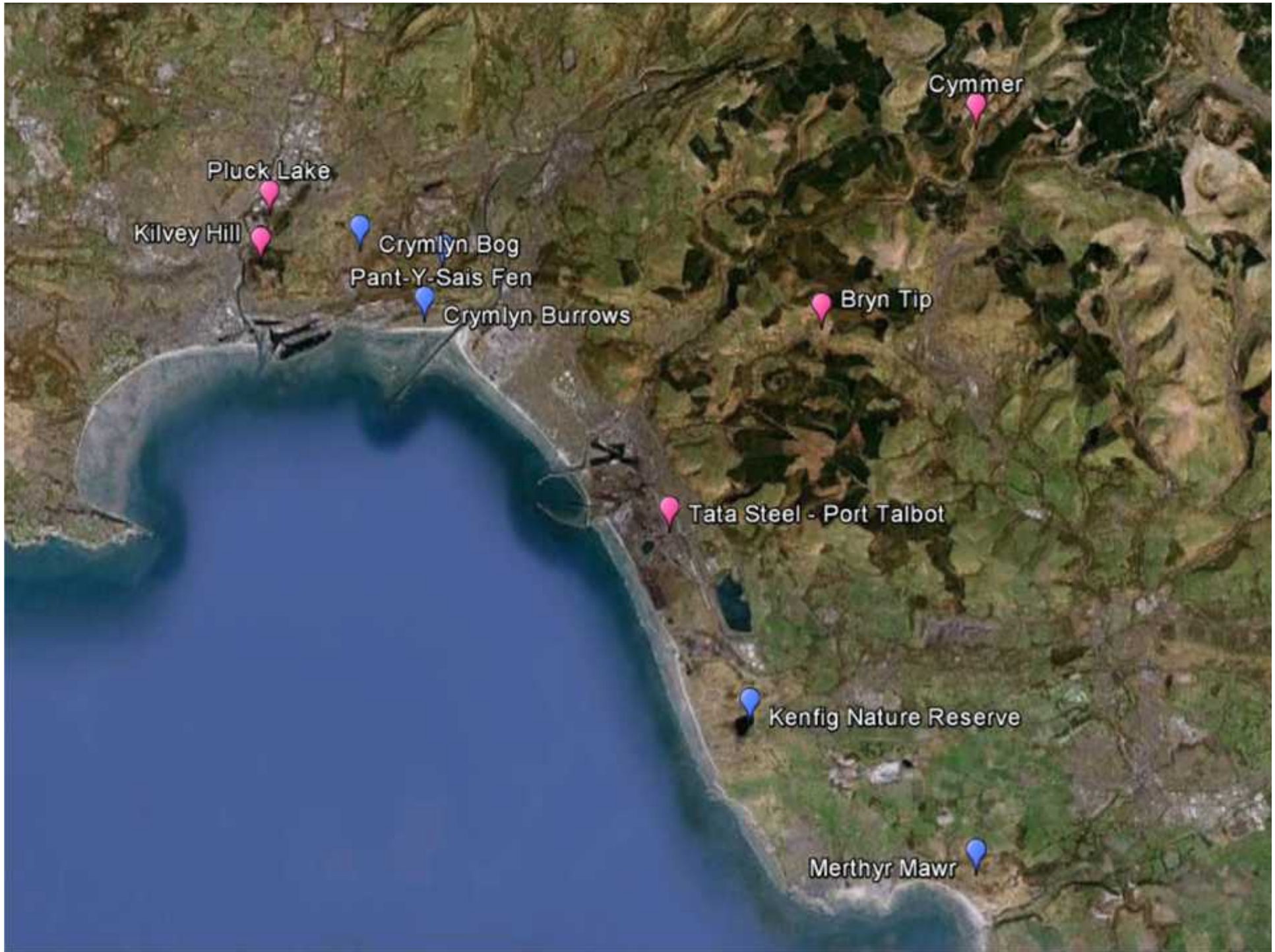
**Project areas**

**Margam Moors SSSI**









Pluck Lake

Kilvey Hill

Crymlyn Bog

Pant-Y-Sais Fen

Crymlyn Burrows

Cymmer

Bryn Tip

Tata Steel - Port Talbot

Kenfig Nature Reserve

Merthyr Mawr