

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP policy reference: NH 3.2</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Pen March and Traed y Milwyr, Llechryd</b>
<b>Grid Reference: SO091109</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 491</b>
<b>Survey date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>
<b>(UDP policy references: C11.1 and C11.2)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>An extensive upland area supporting a mix of wet and dry acid grassland and heath. Dominant species include Purple Moor-grass, Heather, Bilberry, Mat Grass, Cross-leaved Heath, Deer-grass, Heath Rush, Soft Rush, Common Cotton-grass and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. The area includes several flushes and ditches, with particularly diverse flushes located beside the Nant Pitwellt stream at SO091110, and adjacent to the road at SO089090.</p> <p>Some parts of the area support more heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland with Common Bent and Soft Rush. The former tips in the south-west of the SINC are heavily grazed and support acid grassland species, together with Carline Thistle and Fairy Flax. Bracken is present in some of the more sheltered small valleys.</p> <p>Two reservoirs are present. These have relatively sparse vegetation, but the one at SO098104 supports the locally uncommon Floating Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>).</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Extensive area of open countryside where semi-natural upland features predominate.</p> <p>Acid grassland, heath and semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of <i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Ponds and ditches.</p> <p>Bracken.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>Potential habitat for breeding wading birds.</p> <p>Likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>Potential to support uncommon species of bryophytes and lichens.</p> <p>The short-cropped areas may support populations of grassland fungi.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Currently grazed by sheep, cattle and horses. A few areas show evidence of agricultural improvement/ over-grazing, and these are probably the greatest threats to the area. A reduction in grazing pressure by sheep would probably be beneficial for biodiversity, as would local blocking of some of the drainage ditches in the centre of the site.</p> <p>Several areas of heath and Gorse in the south-west of the SINC had been burned. There is also a limited amount of fly tipping and litter beside the road.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>The majority of the western part of the area is classified as open-access land. However, there is</p>	

no formal public access to the enclosed areas in the central and eastern side, or adjoining the reservoir.

### Additional information

The large size of this SINC meant that the survey was based on spot-checks and scanning with binoculars. Further, more detailed survey is recommended, particularly to determine whether or not to include the nearby reservoir at SO102103 and damp grassland at SO107105.

### Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Acid grassland and heath species (combined list as the area is a complex mosaic of wet and dry heath/ acid grassland and flushes): *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Erica tetralix*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Nardus stricta*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Agrostis canina*, *Aira praecox*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Polytrichum commune*, *P. juniperinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum tenellum*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum cf inundatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Cladonia* spp..

*Additional species only noted from wet flushed areas and ditches included: Scutellaria minor, Cardamine pratensis, Callitriche sp., Stellaria alsine, Viola palustris, Galium palustre, Epilobium palustre, Euphrasia sp. and Pellia sp..*

*The disused tips at SO085090 supported semi-improved acid grassland including Carlina vulgaris, Linum catharticum, Pilosella officinarum, Galium saxatile, Festuca ovina, Nardus stricta, Agrostis capillaris, Danthonia decumbens, Polytrichum juniperinum, Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, Pleurozium schreberi and Cladonia and Peltigera lichens.*

*The reservoir at SO098104 supports a sparse aquatic flora that includes Lythrum portula and Sparganium angustifolium.*

*Ungrazed land adjoining the road included: Solidago virgaurea, Succisa pratensis, Briza media, Deschampsia cespitosa. The northern edge of the old heads of the valleys road supports a base-rich flush community with abundant bryophytes including Palustriella falcata and Philonotis fontana.*

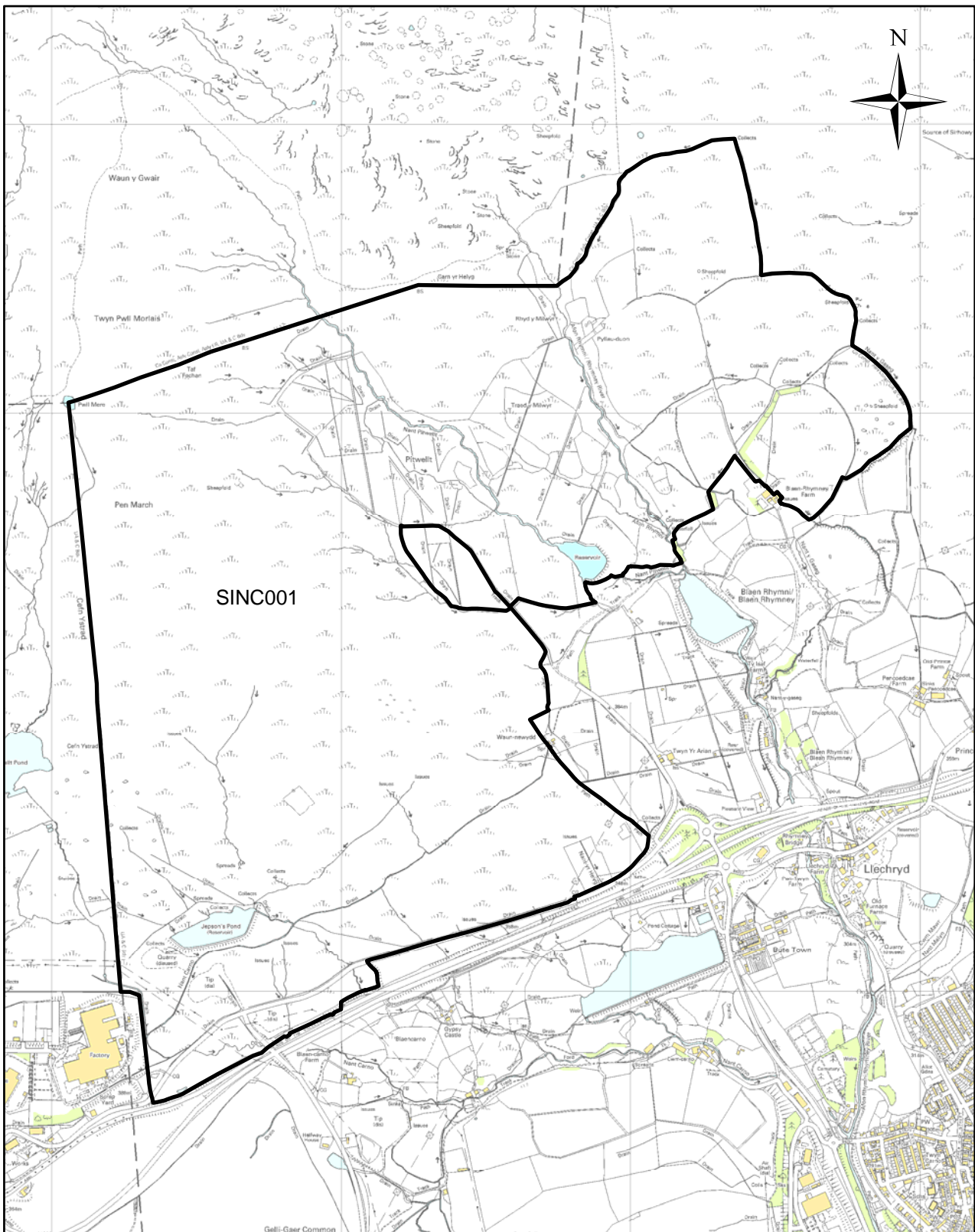
*Trees and shrubs were few in number and widely scattered. They include Crataegus monogyna, Sorbus aucuparia, Ilex aquifolium, Larix sp., Ulex gallii and Fraxinus excelsior.*

Fauna observations: **Skylark**, **Buzzard**, *Meadow Pipit*, *Raven*, *Linnet*, *Stonechat*, *Willow Warbler*, **Common Frog**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, **Common Blue Damselfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Large Red Damselfly**.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.2 (SINC 001)  
Pan March and Traed y Milwyr, Llechryd. 489 Ha

1:20,000



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Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.