

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.5</u>	SINC name: Tair Carreg Moor, northwest of Fochriw
Grid Reference: SO089068	Area (hectares): 49
Survey date: 6th September 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)
(UDP policy reference: C11.3)	
Summary description	
<p>The majority of this extensive upland area supports a mosaic of wet and dry acid grassland and heath. Dominant species include Purple moor-grass, Mat grass, Cross-leaved heath, Heath rush, Soft rush, Common cotton-grass and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Several ponds are present near to the SINC boundaries. Some parts of the area support more heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland with Common bent and Soft rush.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<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> <p>Locally significant populations of dragonflies.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Ponds and ditches.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>Potential habitat for breeding wading birds.</p> <p>Ponds have potential to support Great Crested Newts.</p> <p>The short-cropped areas may support good populations of grassland fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Currently grazed by sheep, cattle and horses. A few areas show evidence of agricultural improvement/ over-grazing and a reduction in grazing pressure by sheep would probably be beneficial.</p> <p>There is evidence of fly tipping and litter beside the road.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>The whole area is classified as open-access land.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>This SINC is effectively part of the same ecological unit as the adjacent northern part of Cefn Gelligaer SINC (C11.9). Consideration could be given to merging the two SINC's in future.</p>	
Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)	
<p>(LBAP species shown in bold, species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i>)</p> <p><u>Acid grassland and heath species (a mosaic of wet and dry heath/ acid grassland):</u> <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>, <i>Erica tetralix</i>, <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, <i>Potentilla erecta</i>, <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>, <i>Cirsium palustre</i>, <i>Rumex acetosella</i>, <i>Galium saxatile</i>, <i>Euphrasia sp.</i>, <i>Molinia caerulea</i>, <i>Nardus stricta</i>, <i>Festuca ovina</i>, <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>, <i>Agrostis canina</i>, <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, <i>Danthonia decumbens</i>, <i>Carex echinata</i>, <i>Carex panicea</i>, <i>Carex binervis</i>, <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>, <i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>,</p>	

Juncus squarrosus, *Juncus effusus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *P.fomosum*, *P.juniperinum*, *Cladonia spp.*

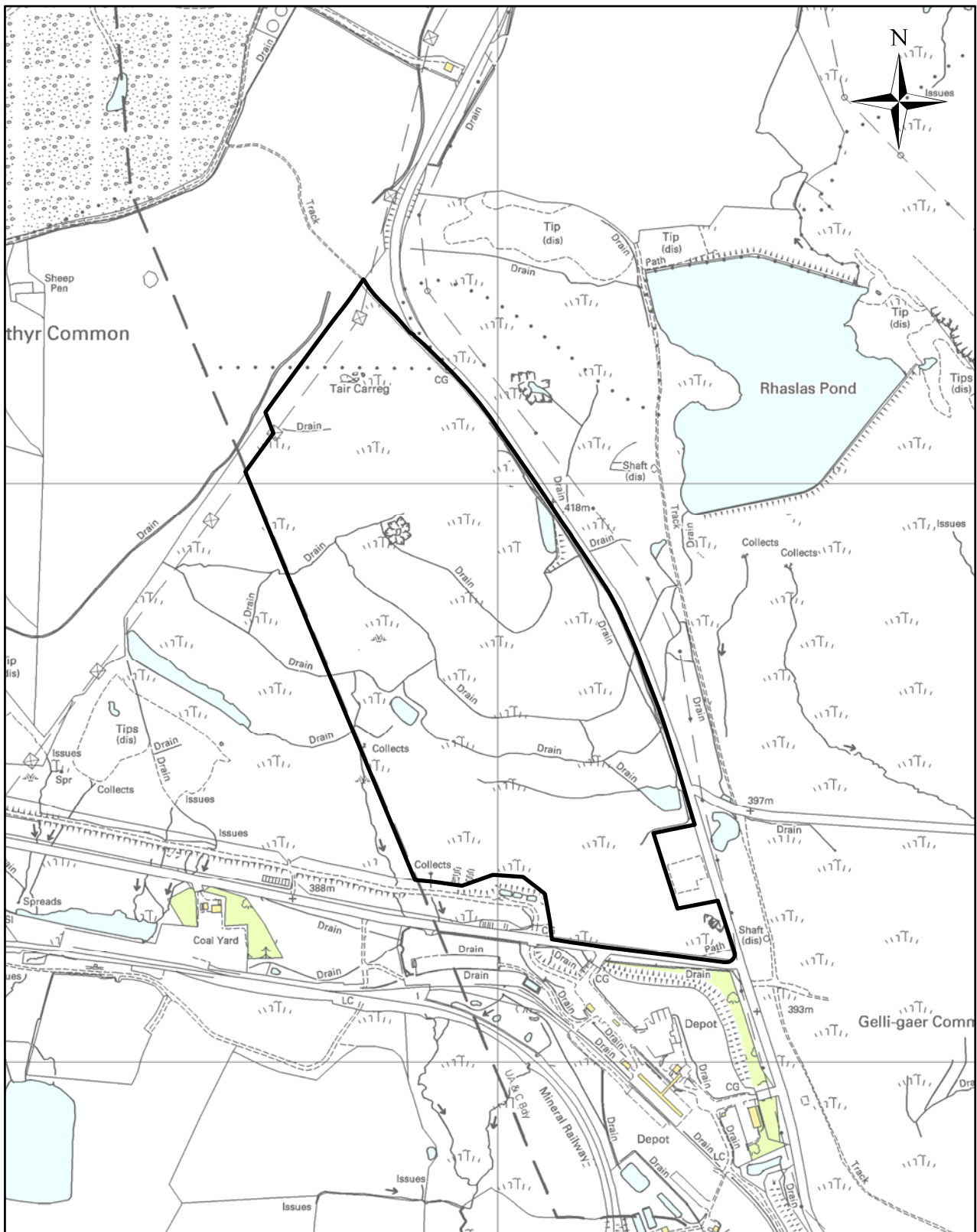
Wetland species associated with ponds and ditches (combined list): *Nymphoides peltata*, *Sparganium angustifolium*, *Elodea sp.*, *Lythrum portula*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Galium palustre*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Carex echinata*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Polytrichum commune*.

Fauna observations: **Skylark**, **Buzzard**, *Snipe*, *Raven*, *Meadow Pipit*, **Common Frog**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, **Black Darter Dragonfly**, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Emerald Damselfly**, **Common Blue Damselfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Common Lizard**, **Curlew** (2000), *Stonechat*, *Ring Ouzel*, **Reed Bunting**, **Peregrine**, **Lapwing**, **Common Hawker Dragonfly**, **Azure Damselfly**, **Blue-tailed Damselfly**, **Large Red Damselfly**, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, **Common Hawker Dragonfly**, **Scarce Blue-tailed Dragonfly**, **Four Spotted Chaser Dragonfly**, **Keeled Skimmer Dragonfly**, *Grayling Butterfly*, *Viola palustris*, *Eriophorum vaginatum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.5 (SINC 003)
Tair Carreg Moor, North West of Fochriw. 49 Ha

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