

| <b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>   |  |
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| <b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.8</u></b>  | <b>SINC name: Cefn y Brithdir, south of Pontlottyn</b> |
| <b>Grid Reference: SO125038</b>   | <b>Area (hectares): 245</b>                            |
| <b>Survey date: 23<sup>rd</sup> August &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007</b>  |  |
| <b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>  |  |
| <b>(UDP policy reference: C11.5)</b>  |  |
| <b>Summary description</b>  |  |
| <p>An extensive upland area supporting a mix of acid grassland and heath, with patches of semi-improved acid grassland on the level upper parts. Dominant species include Purple Moor-grass, Heather, Bilberry, Mat Grass, Heath Rush and <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>. The western slopes support Bilberry, Heather and Wavy Hair-grass, with locally dominant Bracken. The northern margins include old workings with a mix of acid grassland and Bracken, and locally abundant ant-hills. Rocky outcrops on the eastern boundary include heath vegetation and mosses including <i>Andraea rothii</i>. There is a narrow margin of ancient upland oak woodland along the south-western boundary.</p> |  |
| <b>Qualifying features</b>  |  |
| <p>Extensive area of open countryside where semi-natural upland features predominate.<br/>           Acid grassland, heath and semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.<br/>           Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p>  |  |
| <b>Secondary features</b>   |  |
| <p>Bracken.<br/>           Species-poor semi-improved grassland.</p>  |  |
| <b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>  |  |
| <p>Potential habitat for breeding wading birds.<br/>           Likely to support reptiles.<br/>           Potential to support uncommon species of bryophytes and lichens.<br/>           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 and cattle, locally this grazing is very heavy, and there appears to have been some agricultural improvement. A reduction in grazing pressure by sheep, and cessation of agricultural improvement would be beneficial for biodiversity.<br/>           Minor problems in the SINC include off-road motor-cycling, fly-tipping (especially beside the road) and shooting (although these are of minor significance in comparison to the over-grazing).</p>  |  |
| <b>Access/ community use</b>  |  |
| <p>The whole area is classified as open-access land.</p>  |  |
| <b>Additional information</b>   |  |
| <p>The large size of this SINC meant that the survey was based on spot-checks and scanning with binoculars. Adjacent areas that may also meet SINC selection criteria could include land at SO124035 (acid grassland and wooded valleys) and SO121053 (semi-improved acid grassland with abundant anthills).</p>  |  |

## 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 heath, acid grassland and semi-improved acid grassland): *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Aira praecox*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *P.juniperinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Cladonia spp.*

Woodland species at SO128026: *Quercus petraea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

Pond at SO118046: *Lythrum portula*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bufonius*.

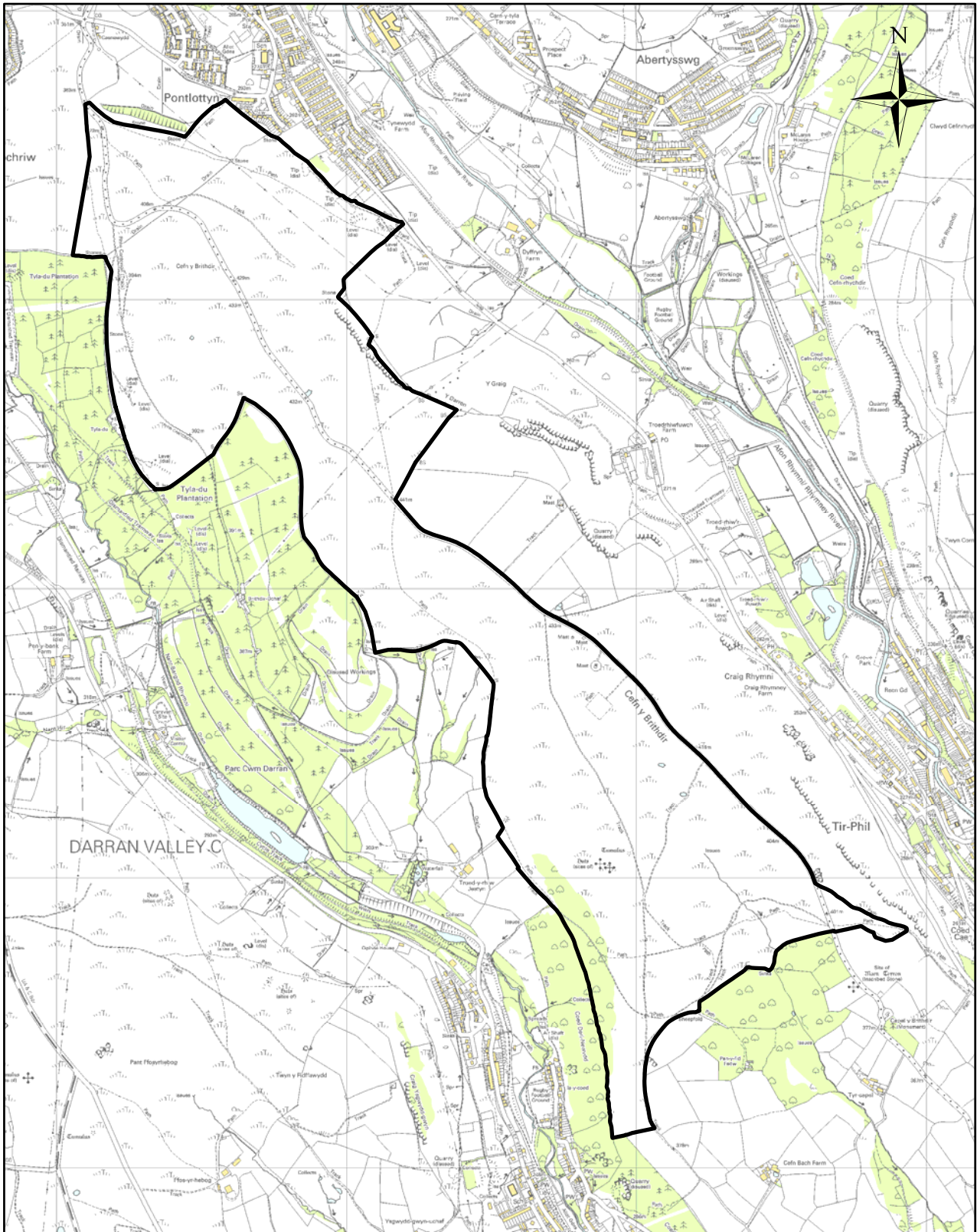
Rock outcrops at SO121047: *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Betula pendula*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Erica tetralix*, *Aira praecox*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Racomitrium cf heterostichum*, *Andraea rothii*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Barbilophozia floerkei*, *Ptilidium ciliare*, *Gymnocolea inflata*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, **Peregrine**, *Meadow Pipit*, *Raven*, *Stonechat*, *Wheatear*, **Grey Wagtail**, *Chaffinch* *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Common Pipistrelle**, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, **Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly**, *Small Heath Butterfly*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.8 (SINC 005)  
Cefn y Brithdir, South of Pontlottyn 242 Ha

1:20,000



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