

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.14</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Coed Cefn-rhychdir, north of New Tredegar</b>
<b>Grid Reference: SO140042</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 44</b>
<b>Survey date: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>	
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.7)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The SINC includes several stands of ancient woodland on a west-facing valley side. The main canopy species are Oak and Beech, with lesser amounts of Rowan, Holly and Downy birch. The ground flora includes a high proportion of Wavy hair-grass, Bilberry and Bracken, with herbs including Bluebell and Wood sorrel. The adjacent slopes support a mix of dry heath, acid grassland and Bracken, with several disused quarries.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland / heath with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Rock outcrops, cliffs and scree.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The steep cliffs may provide breeding sites for Peregrine, Raven and other cliff-nesting birds.</p> <p>The rocky area, heath and acid grassland are likely to support good numbers of reptiles.</p> <p>The woodland areas are likely to offer roosting and feeding habitat for bats.</p> <p>A disused adit / cave in the southern quarry may have potential as a bat roost.</p> <p>The rock faces and scree have potential to support significant plant communities, particularly of bryophyte and lichens.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Sheep graze most of the site. The southern woodland area is fenced and appears less intensively grazed. A management plan exists for the southern woodland area (Extracts are included in the desk study information. The extent to which the plan has been implemented is unclear.) A considerable draught was issuing from the entrance of the disused adit at SO140038). It is feasible that it could connect with a deeper mine and be used as a roost site for bats. The adit may be a health and safety risk in its present form but a grille could be fitted to allow bats to access it. Bracken appears to be encroaching over some of the heath-covered slopes. The area is subject to occasional fires, as well as vandalism, motorcycling and shooting. They do not appear to have reduced the overall value of the area for nature conservation, but it is possible that disturbance could affect some nesting birds, potentially including Peregrine falcon.</p>	

### Access/ community use

The majority of the area is open access land, and much of it is well used by local people, particularly for dog walking.

### Additional information

The upper parts of the valley side support a mix of acid grassland, semi-improved acid grassland and Bracken, particularly adjoining the north of the SINC at SO138050. Parts of this exceed the SINC selection criteria for acid grassland habitat, but there are also areas of relatively low diversity.

A nearby horse-grazed area at SO135053 appears to support diverse acid grassland, heath and flush vegetation, with anthills and evidence of old workings. This area should be considered at future SINC review.

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

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

Tree and shrub species in woodland areas: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Corylus avellana*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Salix caprea*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Lonicera periclymenum*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola riviniana*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus mollis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

Acid grassland and heath species (including disused quarries): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Jasione montana*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Aira praecox*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula campestris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Cladonia* sp..

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard**, **Peregrine**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Song Thrush**, **Skylark**, *Raven*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Goldfinch*, *Linnet*, *Stonechat*, *Blackbird*, *Wheatear*, *Wren*, *Treecreeper*, *Chaffinch*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, *Meadow brown Butterfly*, *Small Copper Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study and consultation: Beautiful Yellow Underwing moth, Grayling Butterfly, Small Skipper Butterfly, Six-spot Burnet Moth.

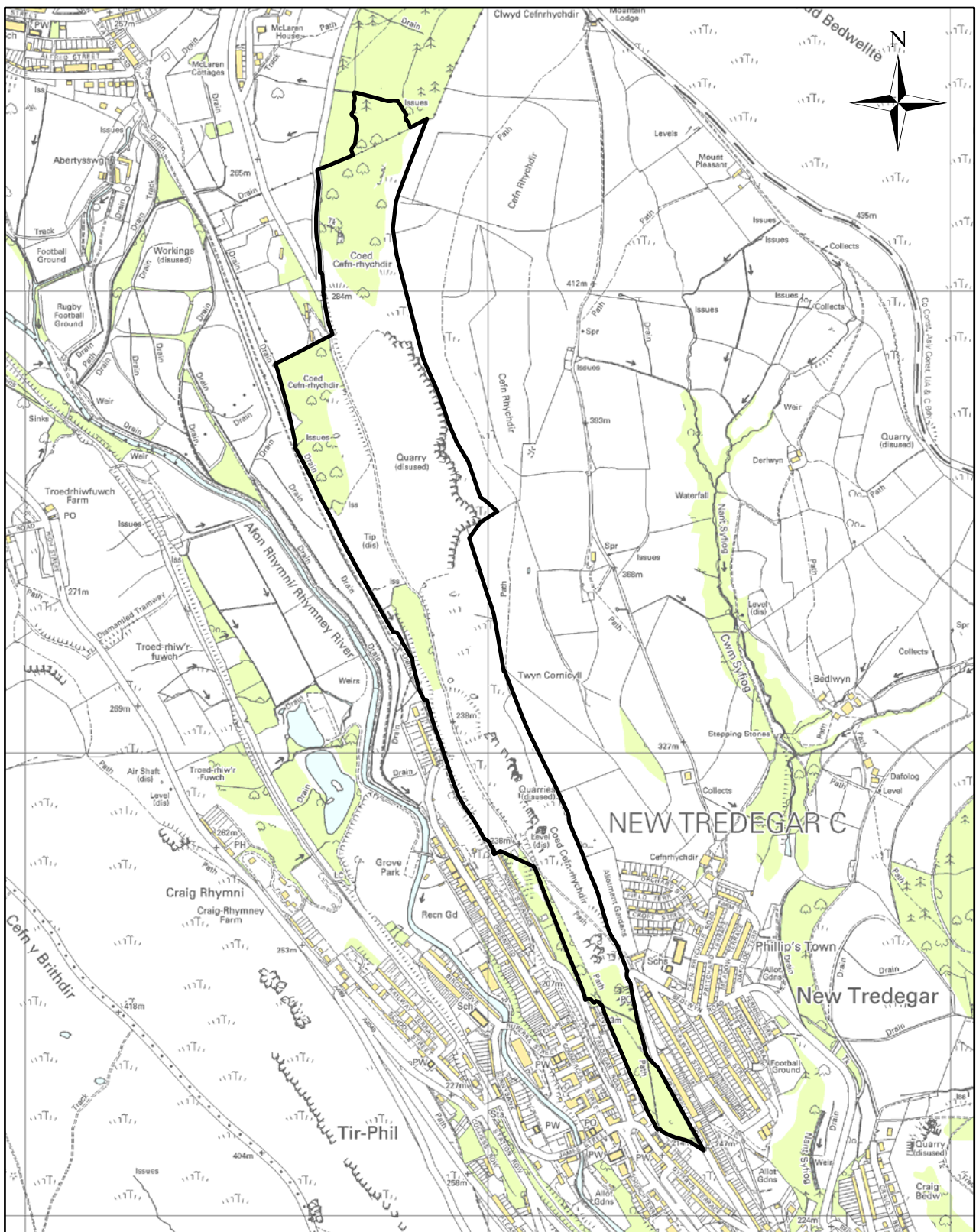
Local dog-walker reported bird species breeding in the quarry.

**Grey Partridge** (1986 record from SO1403). **Otter**, **Salmon**, **Eel**, **Stone Loach**, **Sea Trout** and **Grey Wagtail** from nearby River Rhymney.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly, **Curlew** and **Kestrel** within same 1km grid squares.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.14 (SINC 007)  
Coed Cefn-Rhychdir, North of New Tredegar 43 Ha

1:12,500



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