

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.24</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Mynydd Manmoel, north of Manmoel</b>
<b>Grid Reference: SO164051</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 171</b>
<b>Survey date: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.8)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The main part of this SINC is a common with extensive areas of dry heath dominated by Bilberry, heather and Crowberry, and a mosaic of acid grassland and Bracken. The western part grades from heath and Bracken into a steep valley side with rock outcrops and broad-leaved woodland. The acid grassland and bracken on the lower valley sides includes grassland with abundant anthills. The eastern part of the SINC comprises reprofiled land at the former Marine Colliery. This includes developing acid grassland, ponds and small plantations.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Extensive area of open countryside where semi-natural upland features predominate.</p> <p>Acid grassland / heath with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Ponds.</p> <p>Rock outcrops/ cliffs.</p> <p>Grassland with anthills.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>Lapwings have been recorded in the area and may breed on the former colliery land.</p> <p>The steep western side of the SINC may support cliff-nesting bird species such as Peregrine and Raven.</p> <p>Likely to support good numbers of reptiles.</p> <p>The broad-leaved woodland areas likely to have value for bats.</p> <p>Close-cropped semi-improved acid grassland is likely to support good waxcap populations.</p> <p>Former colliery may support locally significant bryophyte and lichen communities.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Currently grazed by sheep, horses and cattle, and maintained in good condition. The greatest potential problem is likely to be Bracken encroachment, and the associated potential for fires. Therefore Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>The common land is open for public access, and a road passes through it. There is no formal public access to the woodland, fields and former colliery.</p>	

## Additional information

The steep western side of the site was not accessed. The data was gathered using binoculars and aerial photographs. Some of the reprofiled colliery land is heavily grazed by sheep and does not meet habitat SINC criteria. However it is retained within the SINC as it may develop a more diverse acid grassland flora with time, and may support Lapwing, which have been recorded in the area.

## 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 associated with western woodland areas (viewed by binoculars): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Acid grassland and heath species (occurring as a mosaic): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Ulex gallii*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Aira praecox*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex binervis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *P.juniperinum*, *Cladonia* sp..

The following waxcap fungi were also noted *Hygrocybe flavipes*, *H.conica*, *H.coccinea*, *H.reidii*.

Species from former colliery tips: *Rumex acetosella*, *Tussilago farfara*, *Filago minima*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Linum catharticum*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Erigeron acer*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Erophila verna*, *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, *Sherardia arvensis*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Aira caryophyllea*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Lolium perenne*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Juncus effusus*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Racomitrium ericoides*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Cladonia* spp., *Peltigera* sp..

The pond areas on the former tips included: *Salix cinerea*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Galium palustre*, *Lemna minor*, *Myosotis scorpioides*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Potamogeton berchtoldii*, *Epilobium brunnescens*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Typha latifolia*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Didymodon tophaceus*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*, *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Chara vulgaris*.

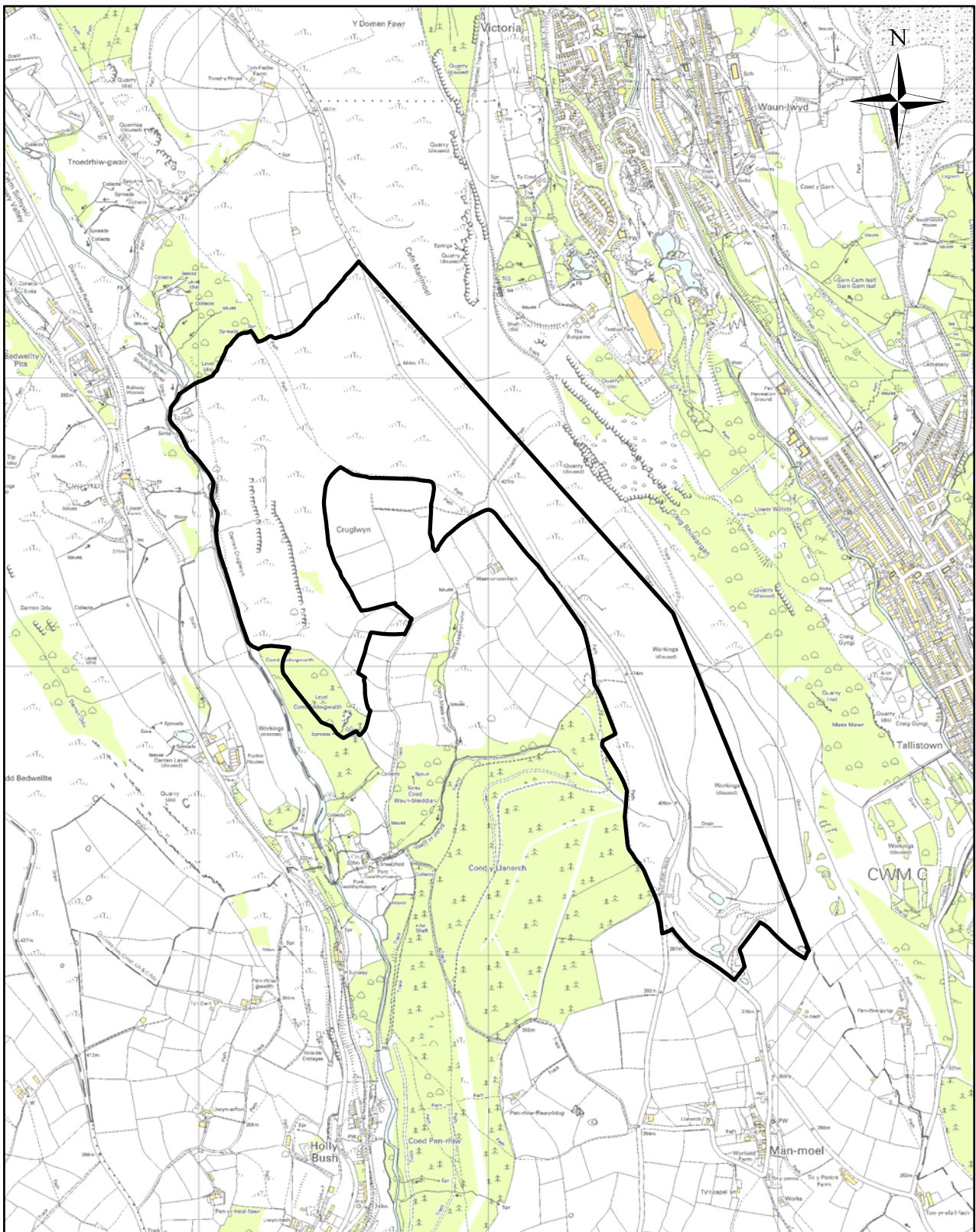
Fauna observations: **Peregrine**, **Buzzard**, *Raven*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Goldfinch*, *Stonechat*, *Blackbird*, *Chaffinch*, **Common Frog**, **Common Toad**, **Palmate Newt** (by colliery ponds), *Small Heath Butterfly*, **Common Blue Damselfly**, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, cf **Southern Hawker Dragonfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Water Vole** (Caerphilly CB Council undated record, no grid reference given), **Green Woodpecker**, *Erica tetralix*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Thymus praecox*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*.

**Lapwing** (exact location not given). **Little Owl** (exact reference point not given, possibly outside site boundary).

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.24 (SINC 008)  
Mynydd Manmoel, North of Manmoel 153 Ha

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Mae atgynhychu heb awurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.