

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.18</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Craig Ysgwydd-Gwyn, Deri</b>
<b>Grid Reference: SO123021</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 48</b>
<b>Survey date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.10)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The majority of this SINC is an east-facing valley-side, dominated by a mix of Bracken, heath, and semi-improved acid grassland with occasional flush areas and disused quarry workings. A small area of ancient woodland dominated by Sessile Oak is present in the centre of the site at 125017, and this extends westwards along the steep-sided Nant y Felin stream. Old Oaks also occur on the steep-craggs at SO122022. Marshy grassland/ flush vegetation dominated by Purple moor-grass is present in the north of the SINC at SO117028. A few of the semi-improved acid grassland areas have high densities of anthills.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Acid grassland, heath and semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Birch woodland/ scrub.</p> <p>Species-poor semi-improved grassland.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The heath and acid grassland areas are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The rock outcrops have potential to support uncommon species of bryophytes and lichens.</p> <p>The woodlands are likely to provide roosting and foraging habitat for bats.</p> <p>The locally abundant Violets may provide habitat for some Fritillary butterflies.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Sheep lightly graze most of the site. Horses graze the northern-most fields with marshy grassland. Several areas showed signs of recent burning, particularly in the south of the SINC. Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity. This would ideally be coupled with an increase in grazing by horses or cattle, and a reduction in numbers of sheep. The greatest threats to the site are the increasing dominance of Bracken, and potential for agricultural improvement in some areas.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>Most of the area is classified as open-access land. However, there is no formal public access to some of the central and southern parts</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. A nearby area that almost certainly meets SINC selection criteria is the ancient Oak woodland along the western margin of Coed Groes-faen at SO133009. It is recommended that this be included at future SINC review. The land at SO120013 appears to be an area of acid/ marshy</p>	

grassland with Purple moor-grass. It that has recently been disturbed but may be worthy of investigation 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*)

Acid grassland, Bracken and heath species (combined list for whole site): *Betula pubescens*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Salix repens*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Aira praecox*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Juncus effusus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *P.juniperinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Cladonia spp.*

Woodland species (combined list): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Viola riviniana*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*.

Marshy grassland / flush vegetation at SO117028: *Ranunculus flammula*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Epilobium brunnescens*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex binervis*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum inundatum*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Scapania undulata*, *Pellia sp.*

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, **Reed Bunting**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Nuthatch*, *Raven*, *Redstart*, *Chaffinch*, *Willow Warbler*, *Robin*, *Great Tit*, *House Martin* (nesting on adjacent houses), **Common Lizard**, **Common Toad**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

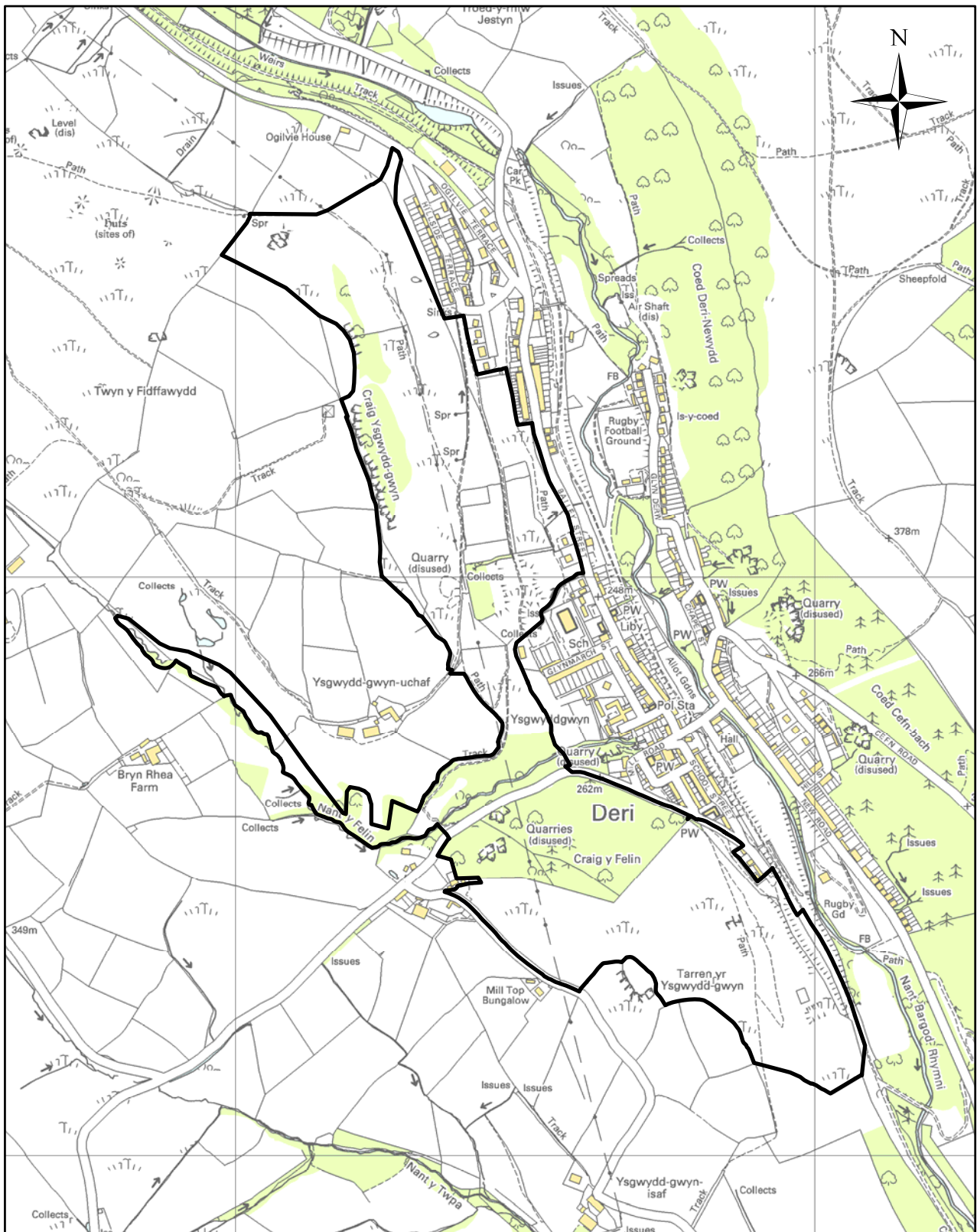
Additional records from desk study: **Brown Long-eared Bat** (house adjacent to site), *Rorippa islandica*, *Scirpoides holoschoenus*, *Juncus x diffusus*, *Anagallis tenella*.

Additional species recorded in woodland: *Molinia caerulea*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Carex remota*, *Sphagnum sp.*

Species recorded from same grid-square: **Yellowhammer**, **Curlew**, **Lapwing**, *Hobby*, *Whinchat*, *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly*, *Dingy Skipper Butterfly*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.18 (SINC 010)  
Craig Ysgwydd-Gwyn, Deri 48 Ha

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