

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.19</u>	SINC name: Ysgwydd-gwyn-isaf Valley, south of Deri
Grid reference: SO126006	Area (hectares): 46
Survey date: 6 th September 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)
(UDP policy reference: C11.14)	
Summary description	
<p>The majority of the SINC comprises marshy grassland. The marshy areas in the west area dominated by rushes, with Lesser spearwort, Marsh pennywort and Marsh speedwell; they locally grade into drier semi-improved grassland. Purple moor-grass dominates the areas to the east, with associated species including Devil's-bit scabious, Bog asphodel, Marsh violet and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. The Nant y Twpa stream runs through the SINC. It is fringed by broad-leaved woodland, some of which is classified as ancient; with canopy species include Sessile oak and Beech. The easternmost side of the SINC comprises a former quarry and colliery spoil heap, and includes a mix of acid grassland, plantation woodland, Bracken and rock outcrops.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland and semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved acid grassland with anthills.</p> <p>Hedges.</p> <p>Stream.</p> <p>Bracken.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Further survey is likely to confirm the presence of additional species of higher plants and bryophytes.</p> <p>The local abundance of Violets may provide suitable habitat for Violet-feeding fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>The Marshy grassland with Devil's-bit scabious appears potentially suitable for Marsh fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>The area is likely to provide good feeding and roosting habitats for bats.</p> <p>The tussocky grassland areas are likely to support reptiles.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to the site, although there are informal paths in the eastern side of the SINC. The disused quarry appears to be used by rock-climbers.</p>	

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

Horses, with some cattle and sheep also present, lightly graze the majority of the fields. The woodland shows no sign of recent management, although livestock gain access to some parts. The acid grassland on the former tip appears to be grazed by sheep.

Additional information

The marshy grassland fields in the west of the site are borderline with respect to the SINC criteria, because the indicator species occur at relatively low frequency.

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: (Mainly in central woodland strip following stream corridor) *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ulex gallii*.

Woodland ground flora: *Viola riviniana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*. The stream includes *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Rhynchostegium riparioides*.

Marshy grassland in western fields (SO120008 & SO124006): *Potentilla erecta*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Montia fontana*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, ***Dactylorhiza sp.*** (*praetermissa?*), *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Festuca rubra*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex nigra*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Pellia sp.*

Marshy grassland in eastern fields (SO128006 & SO127005): *Potentilla erecta*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola palustris*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Erica tetralix*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Galium palustre*, *Galium saxatile*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum cf inundatum*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*.

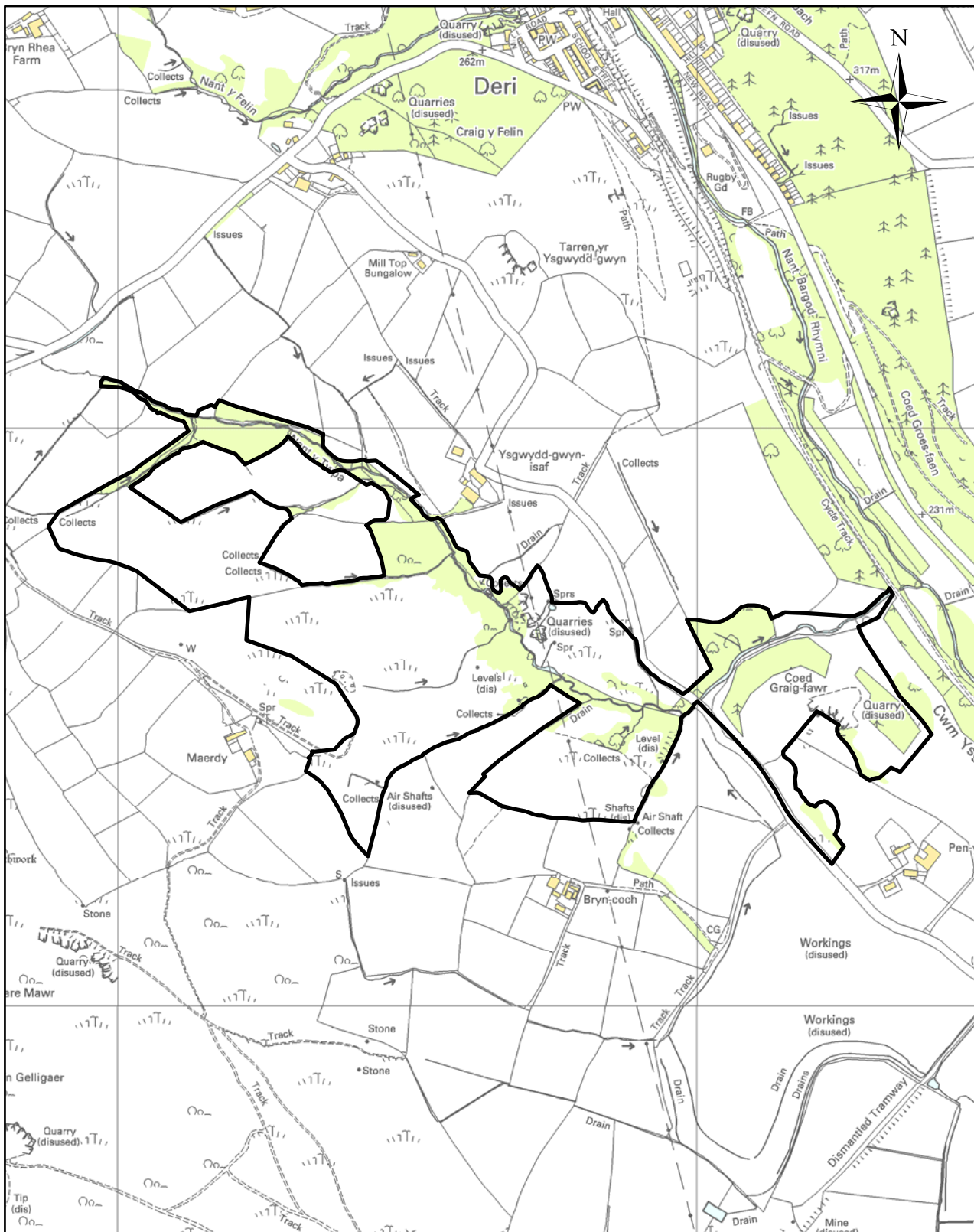
Acid grassland at disused tip (SO131005): *Rumex acetosella*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Jasione montana*, *Filago minima*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Arenaria serpyllifolia*, *Viola riviniana*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira caryophyllea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Racomitrium ericoides*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Cladonia sp.* (locally abundant).

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, **Linnet**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Chaffinch**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Meadow Brown Butterfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study: Pied Flycatcher, Tawny Owl, **Common Frog**, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly, **Large Red Damselfly**, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Genista anglica*, *Carex binervis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex hostiana*, *Carex pallescens*, *Carex pulicaris*, *Briza media*, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Ysgwydd-Gwyn-Isaf Wood, South of Deri 39 Ha

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