

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.20</u>	SINC name: Coed Deri – Newydd, Deri
Grid reference: SO127024	Area (hectares): 21
Survey date: 5th September 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.15)	
Summary description	
<p>The main part of this SINC is a steep west-facing slope supporting ancient woodland on its upper slopes and semi-improved acid grassland on its lower slopes. The woodland comprises mainly Sessile oak with occasional Downy birch. The ground flora is very sparse, but includes Bracken, Creeping soft-grass, Bluebell and Wood sorrel. A small quarry at the southern end of the SINC has been fenced to exclude livestock and the woodland around it supports an understorey of Bilberry, Heather and Wavy hair-grass. The grassland areas are most grazed short by horses, and include patchy Bracken, scrub and occasional anthills. A small stream fringed by Alder and Willow scrub flows adjacent to the northwestern boundary of the site (SINC NH 3.4 Nant Bargod Rhymini).</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Conifer plantation.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Disused quarry.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The scrub margins in the semi-improved grassland are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The semi-improved grasslands are likely to support waxcap fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep heavily graze the woodland. As a result its ground flora is very poor and there is no regeneration of trees. The ground flora would benefit from restricting grazing in the woodland, at least during the spring and summer. The eastern grassland areas are grazed by horses, and appear to be in a favourable condition. Local scrub clearance may be beneficial where dense Bramble is encroaching over the grassland. The fields on the west side of the stream appear too heavily grazed and would benefit from a reduction in grazing pressure. Japanese knotweed occurs locally beside the stream.</p>	
Additional information:	
<p>Scanning by binoculars suggests that the adjacent horse-grazed fields to the north of the site may support suitable habitat for grassland fungi. The small triangular heavily grazed field at SO126023 appears to fall short of the SINC criteria for semi-improved acid grassland, but has been retained within the SINC as it still includes anthills, and is considered to have potential for recovery if the grazing pressure is reduced. Coed Groes-faen to the south (SO133009) appears (from the adjacent road) to support a fringe of semi-natural Oak woodland and would probably meet the</p>	

SINC selection criteria. This should therefore be considered at future SINC review.

Access/ community use

The wooded slope is classified as open-access land, and contains several informal paths. There is no formal public access to most of the grassland habitat, but a footpath runs along the western site boundary following a disused railway line, and along the western edge of the woodland.

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

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

Woodland canopy species (main wooded slope): *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Corylus avellana*, *Malus sp.*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Ilex aquifolium*.

Woodland ground flora (main wooded slope): *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*. Additional species present in the less intensively grazed area in the south of the SINC include *Larix sp.*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*.

Tree and shrub species (stream-side woodland): *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*.

Woodland ground flora (stream-side woodland): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Ranunculus repens*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Myosotis sp.*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pellia sp.*.

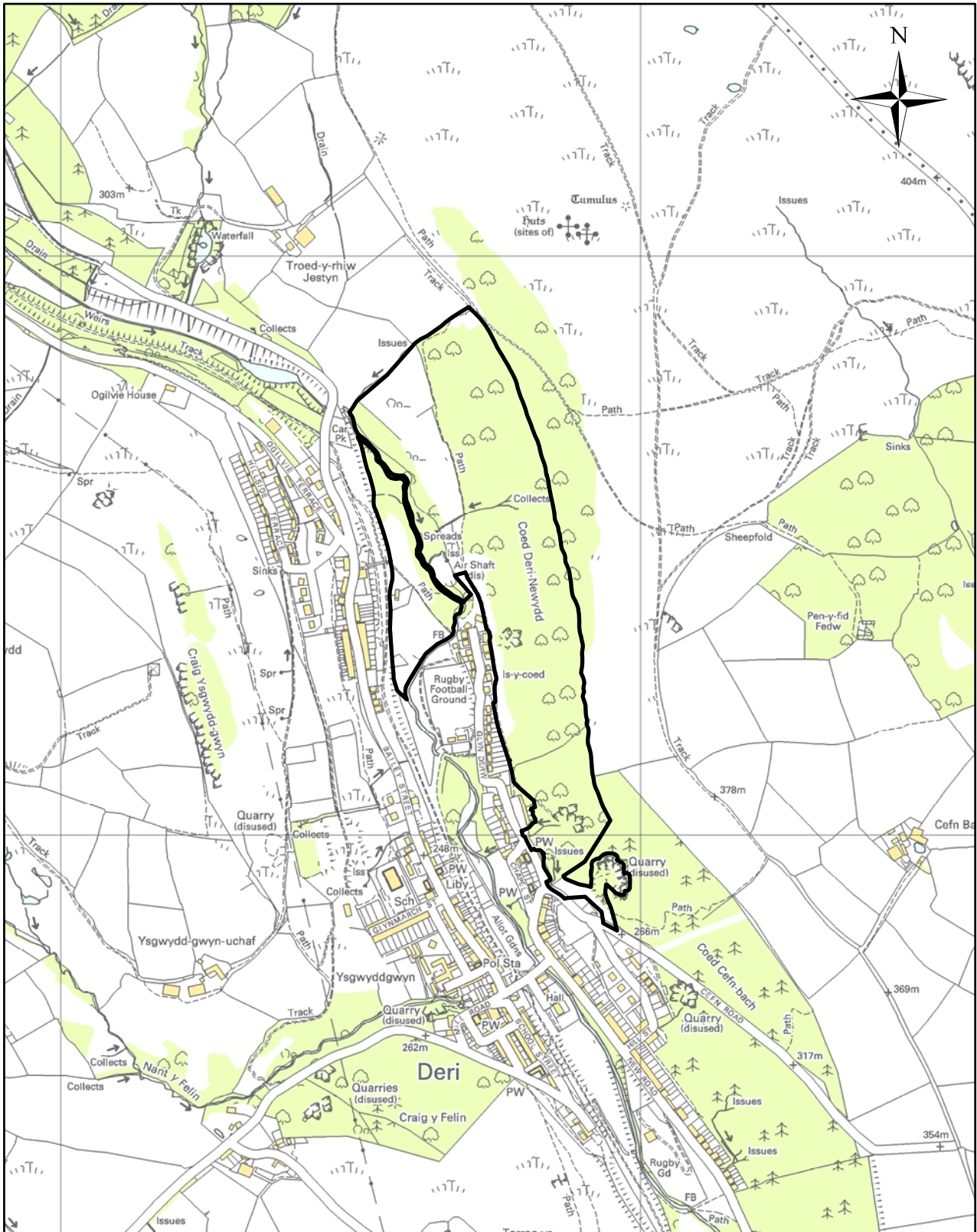
Semi-improved acid grassland species (combined list for several similar fields): *Centaurea nigra*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Trifolium repens*, *Sagina sp.*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex cf caryophyllea*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, Rabbit, Mole, Sparrowhawk, Redstart, Nuthatch, Peacock Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: **Pipistrelle bat**, **Buzzard**, Dingy Skipper Butterfly, Marbled White Butterfly, *Conopodium majus*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Festuca ovina*, *Populus alba*. Many moth records exist for this site. Grassland fungi recorded from the eastern field include *Hygrocybe psittacina*, *H.chlorophana*, *H.coccinea* and *H.pratensis*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.20 (SINC 015)
Coed Deri-Newydd, Deri 21 Ha

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