

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.13</u>	SINC name: Cwmsyfiog Woodland, north of New Tredegar
Grid reference: SO145042	Area (hectares): 33
Survey date: 23rd August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)
(UDP policy reference: C11.17)	
Summary description	
<p>The western part of the SINC comprises the Nant-Syfiog stream and its smaller tributaries, the ancient semi-natural woodland on the adjoining steep banks and several fields of semi-improved acid grassland. The woodland canopy is mainly formed by Oak and Beech, with a relatively sparse ground flora of Common bent, Creeping soft-grass, Bluebell, Wood sorrel and mosses. Alders occur beside the stream. The semi-improved acid grassland areas support a moderately diverse sward, which includes Mouse-ear hawkweed, Tormentil, Creeping St John's-wort and waxcap fungi. The eastern part of the SINC is an area of Mynydd Bedwellte Common. This supports a mix of acid grassland, heath and semi-improved acid grassland. The predominant plant species include Bilberry, Wavy hair-grass, Mat-grass, Purple moor-grass and Heath rush.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.	
Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.	
Acid grassland and heath with at least 7 indicator species.	
Extensive upland area where semi-natural habitat predominates (Mynydd Bedwellty Common).	
Secondary features	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
Stream.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The woodland is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The semi-improved grasslands are likely to support additional species of waxcap fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The whole area appears to be grazed by sheep (but they are at a relatively low density in some parts of the woodland). The ground flora would benefit from restricting grazing in the woodland during the spring and summer.	
Additional information	
Aerial photography and scanning by binoculars indicates that several adjacent fields (particularly in the north of the area) are also likely to support habitat of value for nature conservation, including semi-improved acid grassland and damp, flushy fields.	
Access/ community use	
The Common is classified as open-access land, and a footpath runs east to west across the SINC. There is no formal public access to the remainder of 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*)

Woodland canopy and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Rhynchosytem riparioides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pellia* sp..

Semi-improved acid grassland species (combined list for several similar fields): *Pilosella officinarum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Polygala cf serpyllifolia*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ulex gallii*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Rhynchosytem squarrosus*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*. *Hygrocybe intermedia* was noted in the field at SO145044.

Heath and acid grassland species on Mynydd Bedwellty Common: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex binervis*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*.

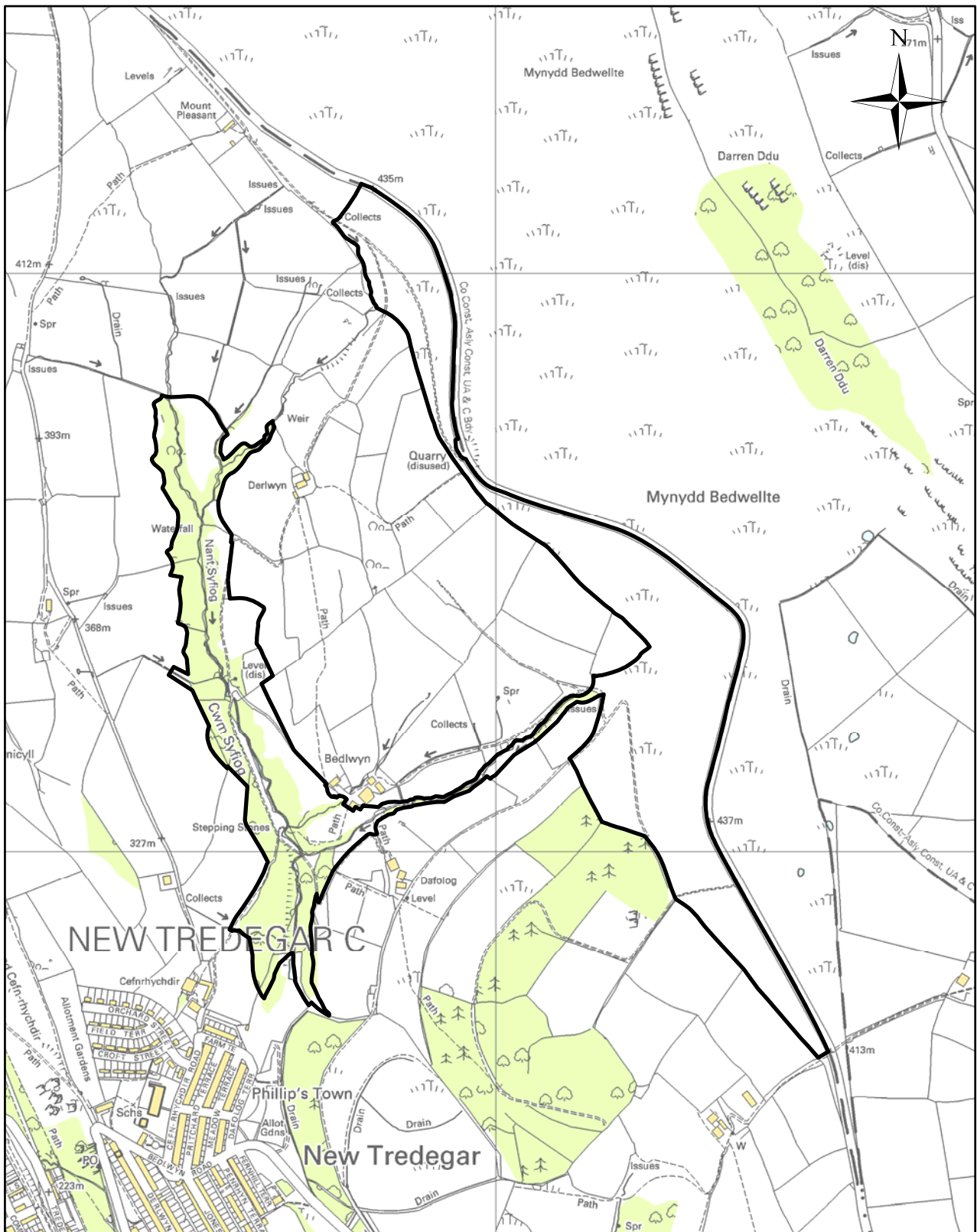
Fauna observations: *Mole*, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Raven*, *Nuthatch*, *Chaffinch*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Robin*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: *Centaurea nigra*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Carex caryophylla*, *Stachys officinalis*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Conopodium majus*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*.

Curlew and **Grey Partridge** (both in grid square SO1404),

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Cwm Syfiog Woodland, North of New Tredegar 32 Ha

1:10,000



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