

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.15</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Troed-rhiw'r-fuwch, New Tredegar</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO133041</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 36</b>
<b>Survey date: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.18)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The western part of the SINC is a former quarry with rock exposures, scree, acid grassland and heath habitat. To the south this grades into heathland with a higher proportion of heather and Bracken (similar in character to the adjacent SSSI), while to the north it grades into acid grassland and semi-improved acid grassland, locally with high densities of anthills and scattered Bracken.</p> <p>The southeast of the SINC includes several old fields of marshy grassland with areas of Bracken, scrub and acid grassland. Purple Moor-grass and Sharp-flowered Rush are locally dominant. To the north it follows the course of the belt of scrub beside the railway line to further fields of semi-improved acid grassland and at its northern extent, to a narrow strip of damp woodland, which is dominated by Oak, Ask and Alder and has a relatively species-poor ground flora.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Acid grassland and heath with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Wet woodland.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Rock outcrops and scree.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Grassland with high densities of anthills.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The disused quarry has potential to support breeding Peregrine and Raven.</p> <p>The heath and scree areas are likely to support good populations of reptiles.</p> <p>The woodland and quarry areas are likely to provide roosting and foraging opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The semi-improved grasslands are likely to support waxcap fungi.</p> <p>The area is likely to support additional plant species with nature conservation value. In particular, the former quarry has potential to support uncommon bryophytes and lichens.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Sheep graze the habitats in the west of the area and horses graze the marshy grassland in the southeast. At the time of the survey engineering work was in progress on the land nearest to Troed rhiw fuwch Farm and the A469 road. This may have potential to affect some of the grassland areas nearby.</p>	

### Additional information

The fields at SO132043 are borderline with respect to the SINC selection criteria since some parts are relatively species poor. However, they have potential to support additional interest such as grassland fungi and reptiles. The land to the east of the railway at SO130048 was not accessed due to the live railway line. However, it appears to support wet woodland adjacent to the River Rhymney. The wet woodland habitat continues southwards beside the railway to two lakes surrounded by trees at SO136039. This whole area may exceed SINC selection criteria and should be included at future SINC review.

### Access/ community use

Most of the western part of the SINC is classified as open-access land, and two footpaths cross it. A footpath crosses the eastern part at SO 130046 but there is no public access to the remainder of the SINC.

### 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 and scrub tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Urtica dioica*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*.

Heath and acid grassland species (west side of SINC): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Festuca ovina*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Marshy grassland species (south-east side of SINC): *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Viola palustris*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum inundatum* / *denticulatum*, *Polytrichum commune*.

*Locally this habitat grades into semi-improved acid grassland species including the following species:* *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Sagina apetala*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Fauna observations: **Peregrine**, *Linnet*, *Raven*, *Stonechat*, *Goldfinch*, *Robin*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Skipper Butterfly*, *Common Blue Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Common Frog**, **Green Woodpecker**.

Woodland area: **Grey Wagtail**, *Blechnum spicant*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Viola riviniana*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum* sp.

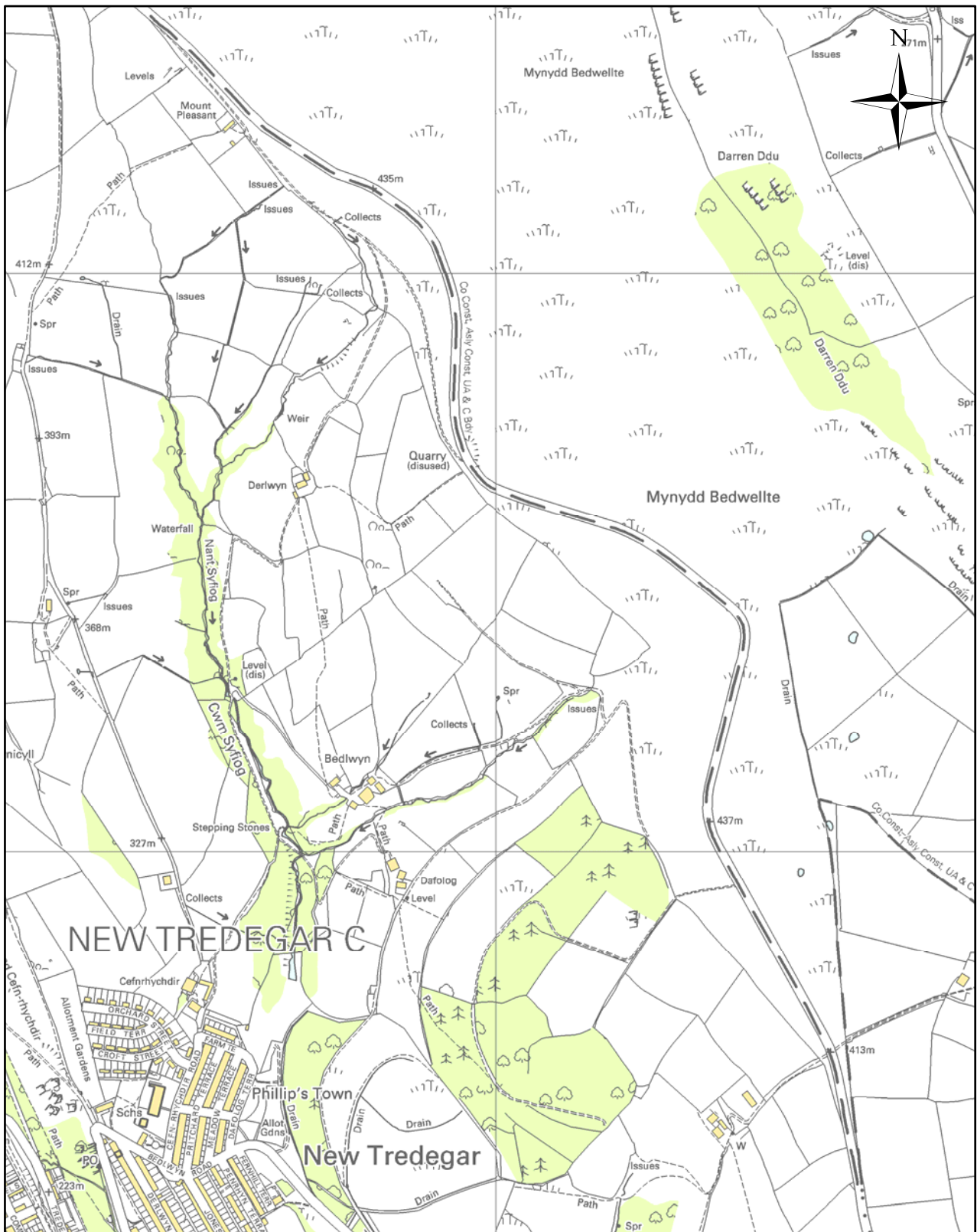
Marshy grassland area: *Cardamine pratensis*, *Carex nigra*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Carex viridula*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Carex pilulifera*.

From within 1Km grid square: Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.15 (SINC 018)

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Troed-Rhiw'r-Fuwch, north west of New Tredegar 36 Ha



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