

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.10</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Y Graig Mire, south of Abertyswg</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO124049</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 2</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: C11.19)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A northeast-facing slope supporting heavily grazed semi-improved acid grassland, with areas of marshy grassland dominated by Soft Rush. The drainage ditches running through the site are fringed by flush vegetation including a high proportion of sedges and bryophytes. Alder and Sessile oak border a small stream along the southeastern boundary. Some of the drier grassland areas support anthills.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Marshy grassland/ flush with at least 14 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Stream/ drainage channels.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The damp ground vegetation has potential to support uncommon species of bryophytes, particularly 'brown moss' flush communities.</p> <p>The habitat has potential to support breeding wetland birds such as Reed Bunting.</p> <p>The heavily grazed drier areas have potential to support populations of grassland fungi.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The whole site has been subject to drainage by ditches and pipes, and is subject to very heavy grazing by sheep. The remaining areas of damp ground are vulnerable to further drainage works or over-grazing. Reducing the grazing pressure and re-filling the ditches to try to reinstate some of the communities previously present would increase the value of the site for biodiversity. However, peat loss is irreversible and restoration to its former condition is unlikely to be feasible. Creating new ponds on the low diversity drained areas may be an alternative means of enhancing the ecology of the area. There was evidence of litter/ tipping beside the adjacent A469 road.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>There is no formal public access to the area.</p>	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The majority of the nature conservation value has been lost since previous surveys due to drainage and overgrazing. Appropriate management to enhance the site for biodiversity is required. The steep ground beside the road towards Pontlottyn to the northwest supports semi-improved grassland with high densities of anthills and should be considered at future SINC review.</p>	

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

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

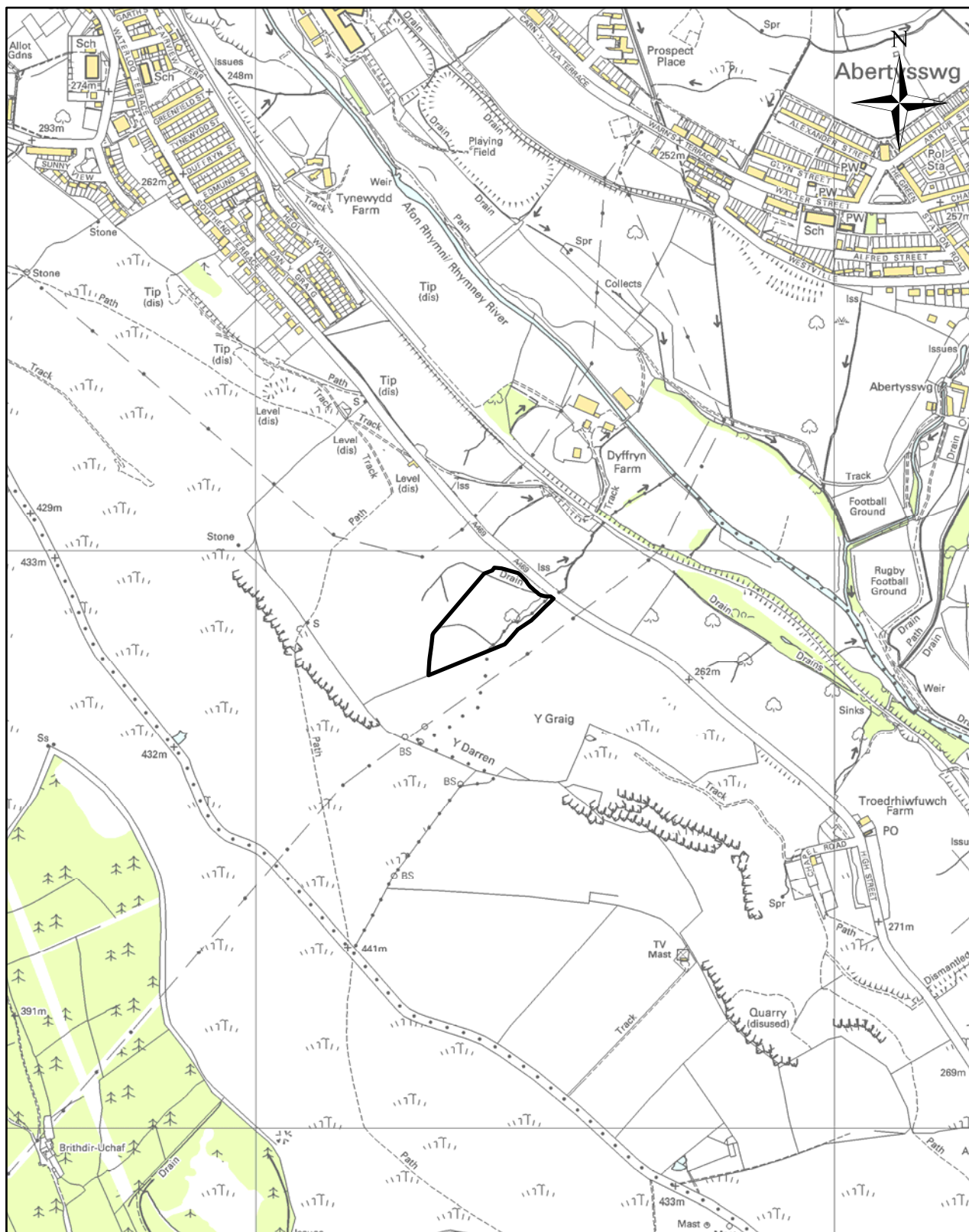
*Cirsium palustre, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Epilobium palustre, Anagallis tenella, Wahlenbergia hederacea, Alnus glutinosa, Quercus petraea, Galium palustre, Urtica dioica, Molinia caerulea, Agrostis stolonifera, Agrostis capillaris, Glyceria fluitans, Holcus lanatus, Carex viridula, Carex echinata, Carex nigra, Carex ovalis, Carex binervis, Juncus effusus, Juncus bulbosus, Juncus acutiflorus, Juncus conglomeratus, Eriophorum angustifolium, Athyrium filix-femina, Philonotis fontana, Aulacomnium palustre, Sphagnum fimbriatum, Sphagnum denticulatum, Sphagnum cf inundatum, Bryum pseudotriquetrum, Campylopus introflexus, Campylium stellatum, Cratoneuron filicinum, Warnstorfia exannulata, Calliergonella cuspidata, Pellia sp..*

Fauna observations: **Peregrine, Linnet**, Raven, Stonechat, Green-veined White Butterfly, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Dactylorhiza maculata**, Pedicularis sylvatica, Viola palustris, Drosera rotundifolia, Narthecium ossifragum, Hypericum elodes, Equisetum sylvaticum, Erica tetralix, Mentha aquatica, Potamogeton sp., Ranunculus aquatilis, Vaccinium myrtillus. [NB The site has been substantially degraded by drainage and over-grazing since the previous surveys and many of these species would no longer be expected to occur].

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.10 (SINC 019)  
Y Graig Mire, south of Abertyswg 2 Ha

1:10,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatad rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.