

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.26</u>	SINC name: Coed Waun-Bleiddian, north of Hollybush
Grid reference: SO167045	Area (hectares): 9
Survey date: 3rd August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.20)	
Summary description	
<p>Several fields occupying a gently south-facing hillside. The main vegetation in all of the fields is semi-improved acid grassland and Bracken, but the two southern fields also support areas of flush vegetation and small streams. These areas support a good diversity of wetland plants including Marsh violet, Ivy-leaved bellflower, Marsh pennywort, sedges and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Mature trees, mainly Beech, mark the field boundaries. The Nant yr Helyg stream runs along part of the eastern boundary. It flows in a narrow, natural channel through a wooded valley, mainly dominated by Oak and Beech, with a ground flora including Wood sorrel and violets.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Marshy grassland/ flush with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Stream.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, potentially including Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies (which have been recorded in the past).</p> <p>The site is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The tussocky grass areas and Bracken margins are likely to be good for reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Horses lightly graze the area. Bracken encroachment is a threat to the semi-improved acid grassland areas and Bracken control would be helpful in managing the habitat. It would be relatively straightforward to use the small stream at the west of the site to construct a pond for wildlife (with care to avoid damaging the flush).</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to the site.</p>	

Additional information

The wooded stream corridors extending upstream northwards and eastwards from the SINC boundary are likely to have value as linking habitats for wildlife, such as commuting/ foraging routes for bats, and may provide a habitat link with SINC NH 3.24 (SINC 8). Several fields in to the north of the SINC boundary appear to support flower-rich grasslands that may meet SINC criteria. These areas should be considered at future SINC review.

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 tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Salix cinerea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Malus sp.*, *Hedera helix*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Ulex gallii*.

Woodland ground flora: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*.

Marshy grassland and flush species: *Ranunculus flammula*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Viola palustris*, *Lythrum portula*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Galium palustre*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Urtica dioica*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Erica tetralix*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex nigra*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Philonotis fontana*.

Acid grassland species (including dry acid grassland, semi-improved acid grassland and Bracken areas): *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola riviniana*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Trifolium repens*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

The small northwestern field (partially on coal spoil) also contained *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Linum catharticum*, *Euphrasia sp.* and the waxcap fungi *Hygrocybe flavipes* and *H.intermedia*.

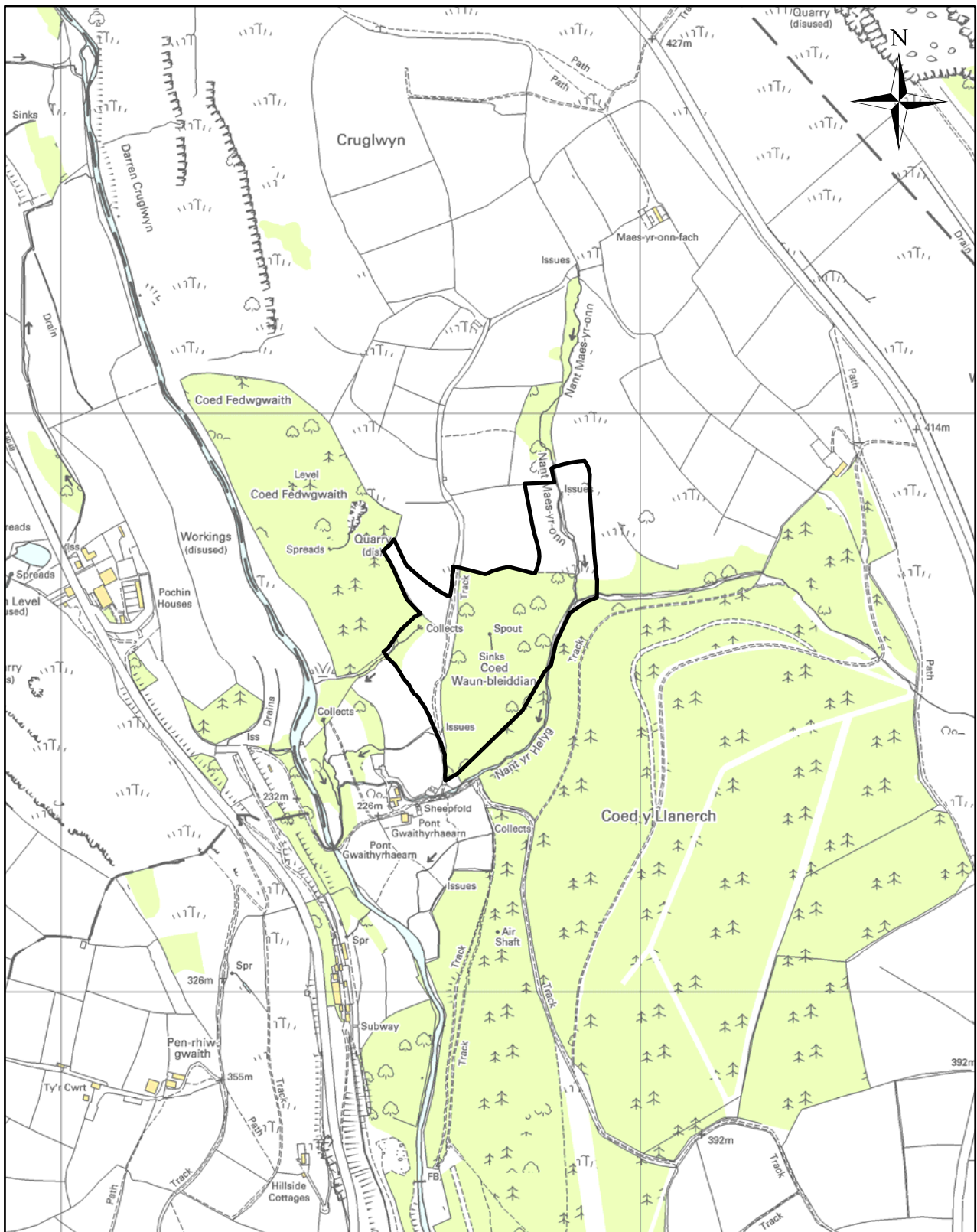
Fauna observations: Mole, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, **Green Woodpecker**, Raven, Jay, Robin, Blackbird, Large White Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, **Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly**. (Grey Heron beside river west of SINC).

Additional species noted from desk study: Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly, Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Carex hostiana*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*.

Salmon, Seat Trout, Bullhead, Eel and Stone Loach have been confirmed nearby at SO165043 (the Nant yr Helyg stream).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.26 (SINC 020)
Coed Waun-Bleiddian, North of Hollybush 9 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg 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.