

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.25</u>	SINC name: Twyn y Bleiddiaid, southeast of Manmoel
Grid reference: SO187027	Area (hectares): 9
Survey date: 30th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.22)	
Summary description	
<p>Two fields of sheep-grazed grassland. The larger field to the north has a short, marshy grassland sward, fringed by drier semi-improved acid grassland at its margins. The vegetation includes Soft rush, Mat grass, Creeping bent, Velvet bent, Bog asphodel, sedges and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. The smaller southern field supports drier semi-improved acid grassland with areas of disturbed ground and scattered Gorse. Several species of waxcap fungi are present.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Marshy grassland.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with waxcap fungi.</p>	
Secondary features	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Further survey may confirm the presence of additional species of higher plants, bryophytes and fungi.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>A public footpath (part of the Ebbw Valley Walk) runs along the track between the two fields.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep heavily graze the fields and there appear to have been attempts to drain and re-seed the field. The intensity of the grazing in the northern field does not allow many herb species to grow and a slight reduction in stocking density may be beneficial for biodiversity. Creation of a pond in the wet grassland area would also be beneficial and may help to attract birds, such as Lapwing, to the area.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>Both fields appear to fall slightly short of the SINC selection criteria, but their status has been retained at this review as a slight relaxation of grazing pressure may allow more marshy grassland species to persist in the northern field. Further survey work may provide records for significant waxcap fungi species in the southern field. The small southern field has been subject to disturbance and improvement. The southern half of it has minimal value for nature conservation. Similarly, the drier margins of the northern field are of very limited value. These areas have only been retained in the SINC as they provide a buffer to the rest of the site, and help to simplify mapping.</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*)

Tree and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica* (mature trees near boundaries). *Ulex gallii* (occasional, especially in southern field).

Marshy grassland in northern field: *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola palustris*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Agrostis canina*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Poa annua*, *Nardus stricta*, *Lolium perenne*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa pratensis*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*.

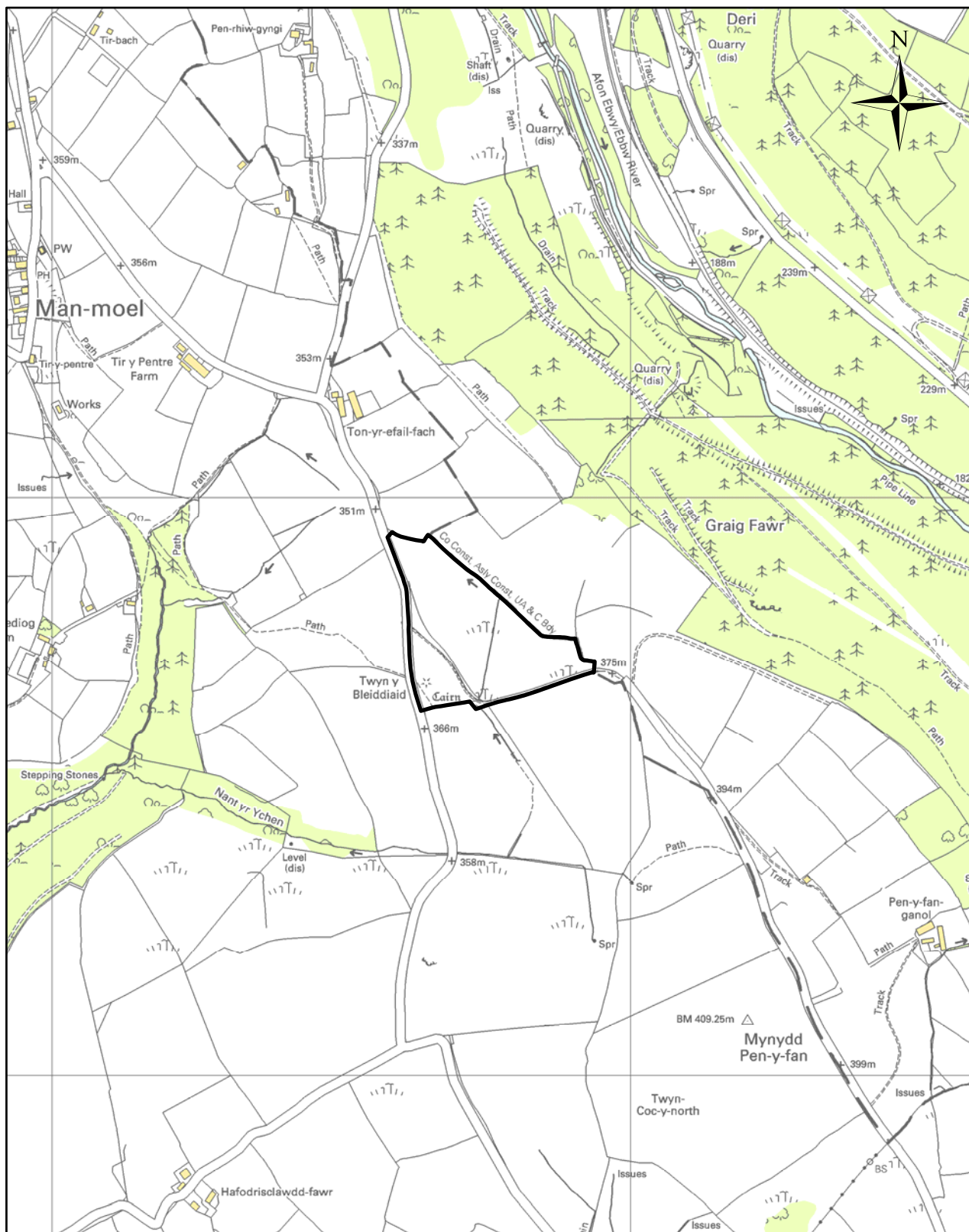
Semi-improved acid grassland in southern field: *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Nardus stricta*, *Luzula campestris*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*. Grassland fungi seen during the survey were *Hygrocybe insipida*, *H.reidii*, *H.coccinea* and *Agaricus* sp.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, Meadow Pipit, Stonechat, Wheatear.

Additional species noted from desk study: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex ovalis*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus squarrosus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.25 (SINC 022)
Twyn y Bleiddiaid, South East of Manmoel 6 Ha

1:10,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatod 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.