

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.46</u>	SINC name: Mynydd Pen-y-fan, southeast of Manmoel
Grid reference: SO193015	Area (hectares): 20
Survey date: 1st August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.23)	
Summary description	
<p>The eastern part of the SINC is a group of horse- and sheep-grazed fields supporting a mix of short semi-improved acid grassland and Bracken. This becomes wetter towards the south and west, grading into flush and marshy grassland, with a high proportion of sedges, Ivy-leaved bellflower and mosses. The westerly field supports a taller sward of cattle-grazed marshy grassland, with a high proportion of rushes and Purple moor-grass. Associated vegetation includes Common Cotton-grass, Marsh Pennywort and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Some field boundaries are formed by dry stone walls and some by mature Beech trees. Occasional mature trees also occur away from the field boundaries and a small group of old Scots pines is also present. The remains of former mine workings are evident in some places.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Marshy grassland / flush vegetation with at least 12 indicator species</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken</p> <p>Derelict dry stone walls</p> <p>Small pond</p> <p>Hedgerows and mature trees</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Further botanical survey would undoubtedly confirm the presence of additional species.</p> <p>The short-grazed fields in the drier areas are likely to support good populations of grassland fungi.</p> <p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, and could potentially include Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Marsh Fritillary Butterflies.</p> <p>The area is likely to support reptiles, particularly in association with the derelict stone walls.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Public footpaths run beside the southern and eastern boundaries.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Horses, sheep and cattle currently graze the fields, which is ideal management for these habitats. The main potential problem is encroachment by Bracken, which covers a high proportion of the area. Some form of Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity, also allowing livestock to graze more of the area.</p>	

Additional information

The field to the northwest (SO189017) was not accessed, but also has potential to support marshy grassland habitat meeting SINC criteria and should be considered at future 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*)

Tree and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Ulex gallii*.

Marshy grassland and flush species (mainly in the west of the area): *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Galium palustre*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Erica tetralix*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Viola palustris*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex binervis*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum cf inundatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Drepanocladus aduncus*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species (mainly in the east of the area): *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Veronica officinalis*,

Festuca ovina, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Carex binervis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Grassland fungi were present in this area, including Hygrocybe reidii, H.insipida, H.flavipes, H.chlorophana and Entoloma chalybaeum var lazulinum.

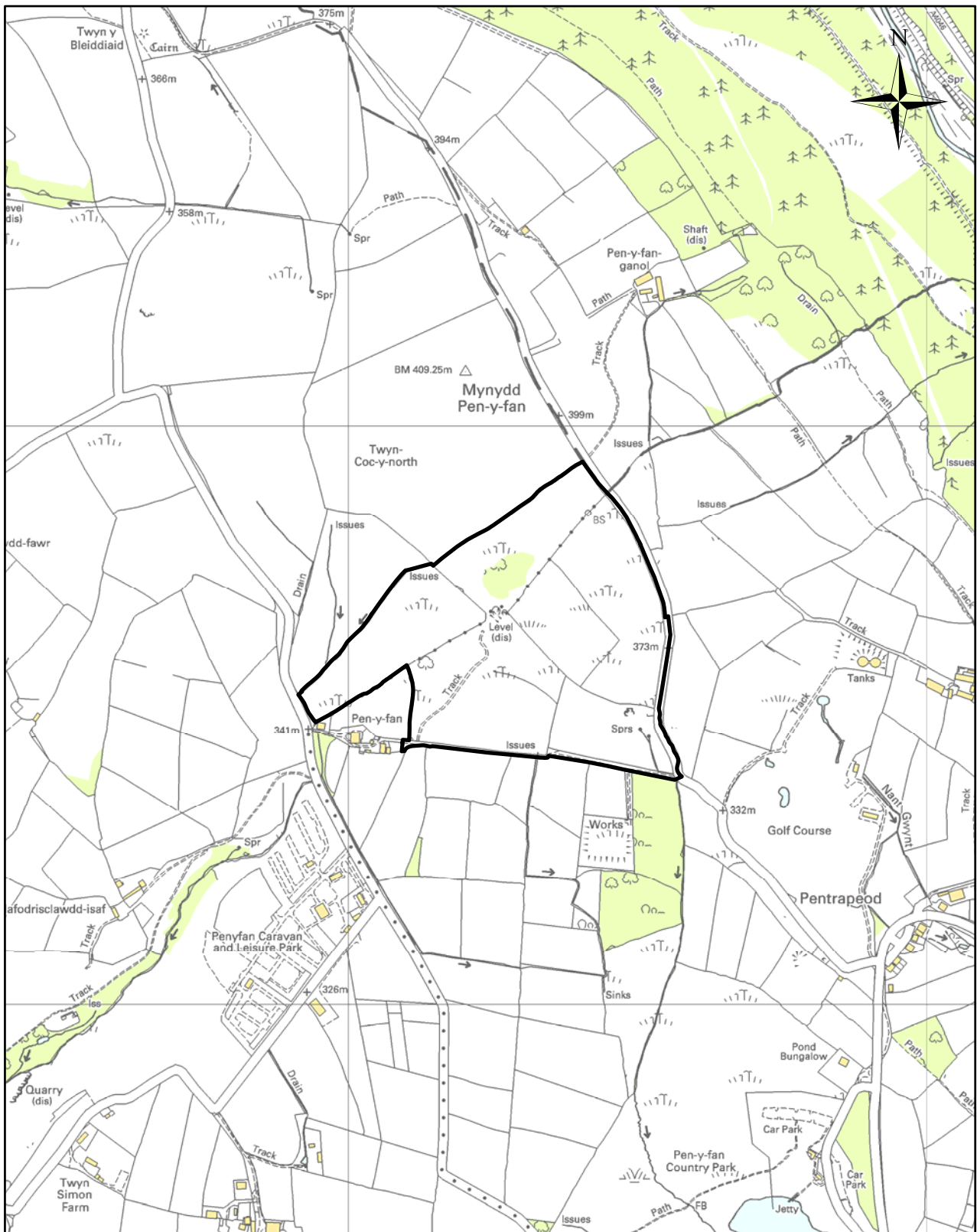
Pond vegetation (SO192016): *Callitriche sp.*, *Potamogeton cf natans*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bufonius*.

Fauna observations: Fox, **Common Frog** (tadpoles), **Song Thrush**, Chaffinch, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Robin, Nuthatch, Raven, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, **Common Darter Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study: None.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.46 (SINC 023)
Mynydd Pen-y-Fan, South East of Manmoel 20 Ha

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