

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.34</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Hafodrisclawdd, east of Markham</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO185009</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 8</b>
<b>Survey date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.25)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A steep-sided valley with woodland on its south side and grassland, flush and a pond on its north side. The woodland is dominated by mature Sessile oak, with Downy birch and Beech, and a ground flora including Bluebell and Wood sorrel. A narrow stream runs along the valley floor in a tree-lined, stony channel, shaded by Alder, Hazel and Willow. A small adit diverts some of the flow to the small, heavily silted pond on the northern valley side. The pond supports a good range of wetland vegetation and is bordered by semi-improved acid grassland, which grades into flush vegetation further west of the pond. The remains of disused quarries and mine workings are present throughout the area.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Ancient broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ flush vegetation with at least 12 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Pond.</p> <p>Stream.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The woodland has potential habitat for Dormouse.</p> <p>The woodland margins are likely to provide habitat for reptiles.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Cattle graze the field and pond/ flush area. The woodland is ungrazed. Several changes have occurred since the most recent aerial photographs were taken in 2006. The caravan park has been extended, several access tracks have been cleared through the woodland and a large clearing has recently been created in a disused quarry (which is used for clay-shooting).</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>Several public footpaths cross the site.</p>	

## Additional information

The wooded stream corridor to the west could serve as a habitat connection to NH 3.37. The aerial photograph also suggests that other areas of broadleaved woodland and flush might also exist on the hillside further west. The stream corridor continues further east and extending this to form a closer link to SINC NH 3.49. These areas should be considered for inclusion 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*)

Woodland canopy and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Hedera helix*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Malus cf sylvestris*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Salix caprea*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

Marshy grassland, flush and pond species: *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Isolepis setacea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*.

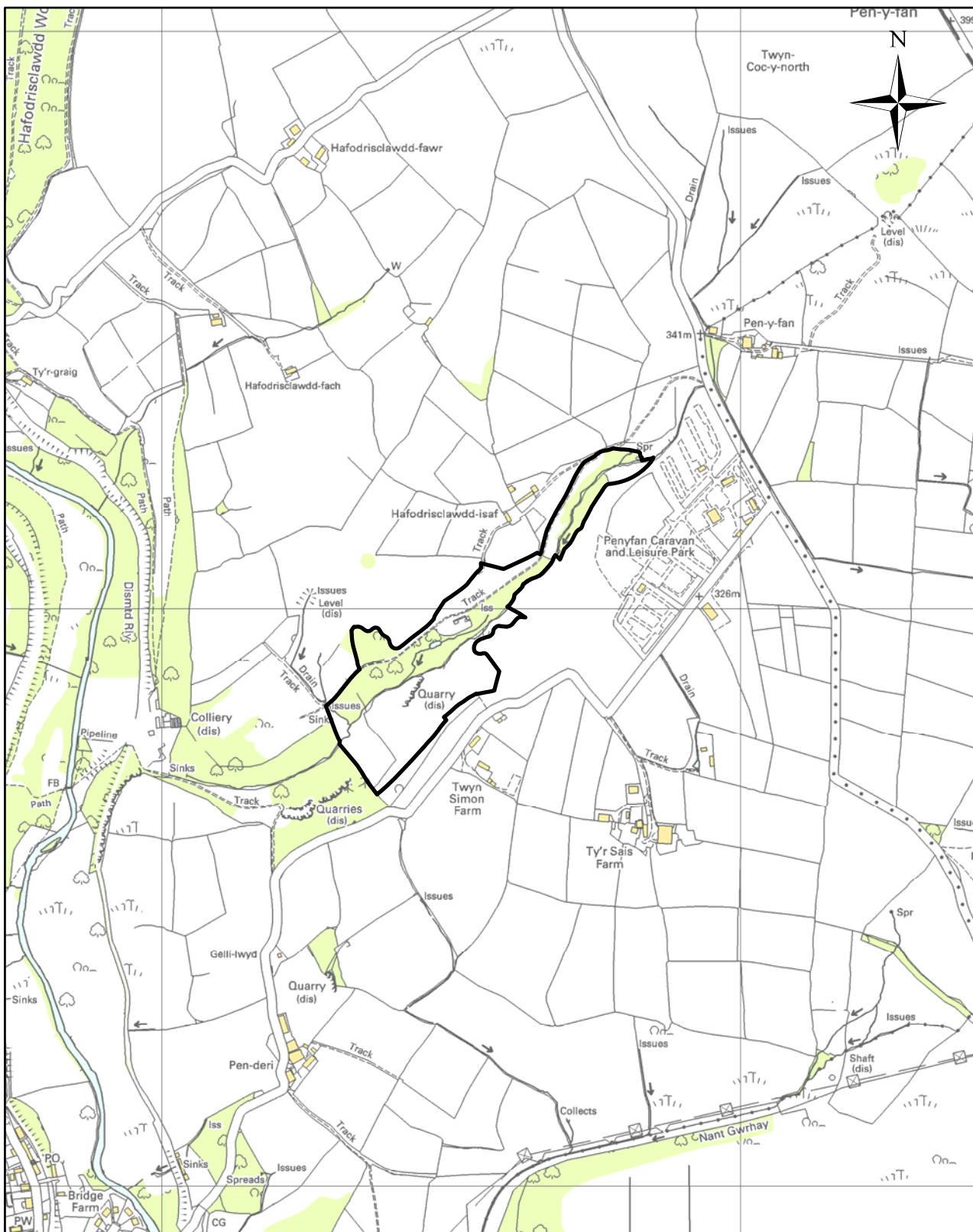
Semi-improved acid grassland species: *Potentilla erecta*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Centaurium erythraea*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Lolium perenne*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Luzula campestris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Chaffinch*, **Common Frog**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Common Blue Butterfly*, *Burnet Moth*, **Large Red Damselfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Skylark**, **Linnet**, **Curlew** and **Common Blue Damselfly** recorded in 1998 at SO187010 (now levelled as caravan park).

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Hafodrisclawdd, East of Markham 8 Ha

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