

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.29</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Nant-y-felin Wood, northeast of Markham</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO176019</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 30</b>
<b>Survey date: 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>	
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.26)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The SINC comprises the Nant-y-felin stream and the adjoining steep wooded banks, which support ancient semi-natural woodland. The northern part includes similar habitat along the smaller (and mainly dry) Nant yr Ychen stream. Sessile oak and Beech mainly form the woodland canopy with some Downy birch and Rowan. The ground flora is generally sparse, but includes Bluebell, Wood Sorrel, Bracken and Creeping Soft-grass. There is a higher diversity of ground flora near to the stream, where the canopy also includes Ash and Alder. Much of the adjacent valley-side habitat has been planted with dense conifers, but a small parcel of land adjoining the northwest of the SINC at SO177024 remains unplanted and supports a mix of acid grassland and Bracken with numerous anthills. The field at SO182023 supports a mix of damp semi-improved acid grassland with Bracken, Purple moor-grass and small flushes.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Bracken,</p> <p>Stream.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ flush.</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 wood margins (including the adjoining woodland rides) are likely to be good habitat for reptiles.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The whole woodland area appears to be accessed by sheep (but at a relatively low density). There may be some benefit in limiting the grazing within the woodland during the spring and summer to encourage the ground flora. Sheep and cattle graze in the field at SO182023. The intensity of sheep grazing appears to be limiting the plant diversity, while not preventing the spread of Bracken. A reduction in sheep grazing would be beneficial in this field. Much of the ancient woodland on the surrounding valley sides has been replanted with conifers, and this may be a threat to the remaining semi-natural woodland within the SINC. Conversely, there may be an opportunity to remove the conifers and restore broadleaved woodland to the whole valley, since the conifers are still relatively young and still retain some semi-natural ground flora.</p>	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The adjacent conifer plantations still retain considerable value for biodiversity, particularly associated with the forestry rides. Several small cleared areas have regenerated an acid grassland/ heath flora. The adjacent small field at SO184023 includes damp semi-improved grassland and Bracken, with marshy grassland indicators at small flushes. These areas should be</p>	

considered at future SINC review.

### **Access/ community use**

A public footpath runs along the western side of the SINC. Informal paths also follow the forestry rides in the adjacent plantations.

### **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*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Salix caprea*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Hedera helix*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Larix sp.*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Galium saxatile*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*.

*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Urtica dioica*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Rhynchosytemum riparioides* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum* by stream.

Heath and acid grassland species at wood edges/ clearings: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Jasione montana*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*.

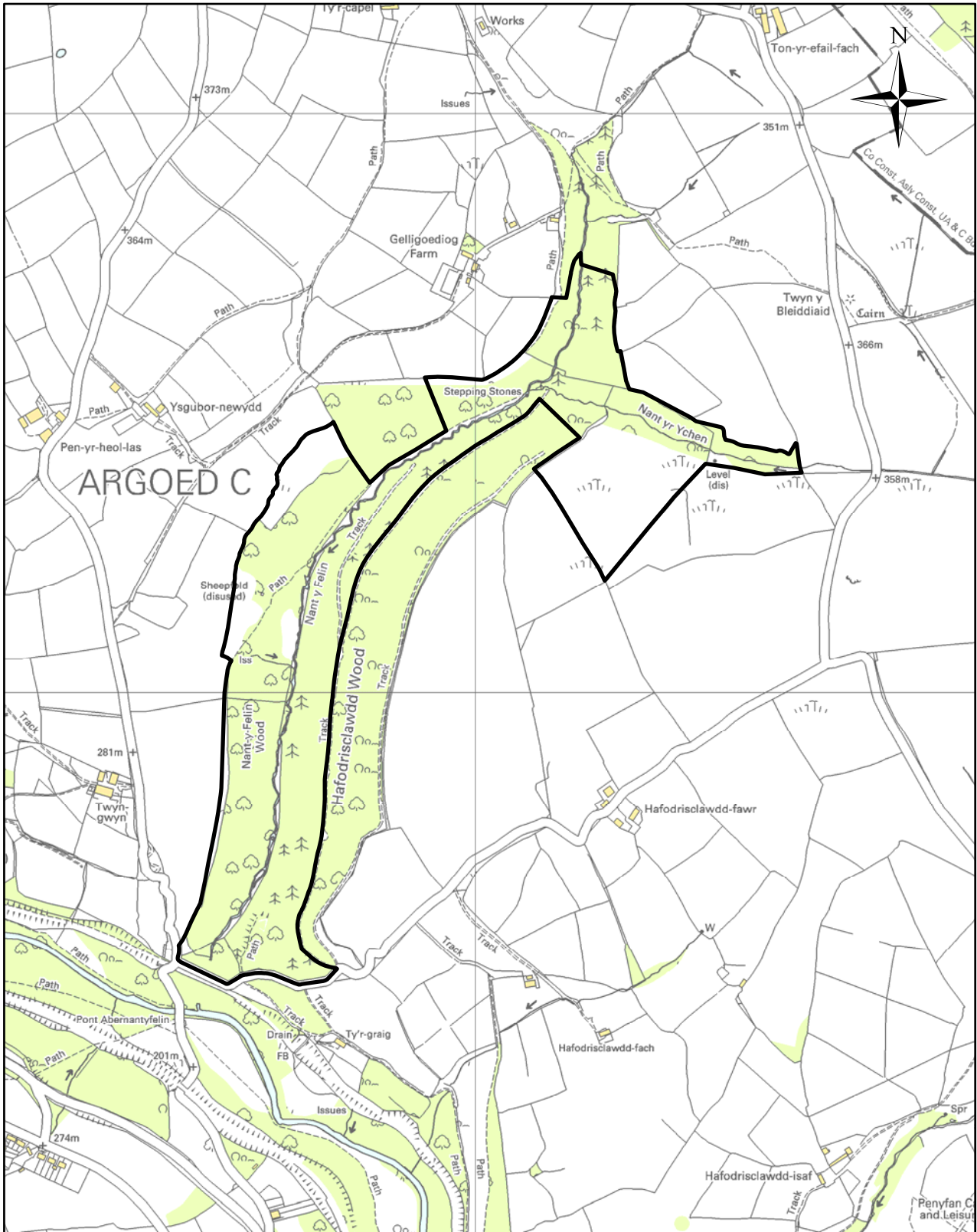
Damp semi-improved acid grassland / flush species (SO182023): *Potentilla erecta*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Galium palustre*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Viola palustris*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Viola riviniana*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Festuca ovina*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis canina*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum inundatum/denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*.

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, Raven, Tree Creeper, Wren, Blackbird, Jay, Gatekeeper Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: *Conopodium majus*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Ranunculus circinatus*, *Quercus robur*, *Dicranum majus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.29 (SINC 026)  
Nant-y-Felin Wood, North East of Markham 30 Ha

1:10,000



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