

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.28</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Llwyn-Bach Woodland, south of Hollybush</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO161030</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 2</b>
<b>Survey date: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.30)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
Two areas of mature woodland on an east-facing slope. Sessile Oak and Beech dominate the canopy and there is limited understorey of Holly, Hawthorn and Bramble. The ground flora is relatively sparse, with the main species including Bracken, Bluebell, Wood sorrel, Creeping soft-grass and Wavy hair-grass. The northern area has a more open canopy and grades into dry acid grassland and Bracken.	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Acid grassland / heath.	
Bracken.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The acid grassland margins are likely to provide habitat for reptiles.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
The woodland was not grazed at the time of the survey, but appears to be lightly / intermittently grazed by sheep and possibly horses. There is no evidence of any recent woodland management, although several fallen trees had been sawn up and woodpiles created in the southern woodland area.	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
A public footpath crosses the lower edge of the northern woodland area. There is an informal path through the southern area, though it does not appear to be heavily used.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
There may be other parts of this east-facing valley side, which have significant nature conservation value. In particular, semi-improved acid grassland areas with high densities of anthills were noted adjacent to the southern woodland at SO163030, and beside the access track to Hillside Cottages at SO164038. Areas of mature, broad-leaved woodland are visible on the eastern side of the valley at SO168039. GIS data suggests that these may be remnants of ancient woodland. These should be considered for inclusion at future SINC review.	
<b>Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)</b>	
(LBAP species shown in <b>bold</b> , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i> )	
<u>Woodland canopy and shrub species:</u> <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> ,	

*Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Hedera helix*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

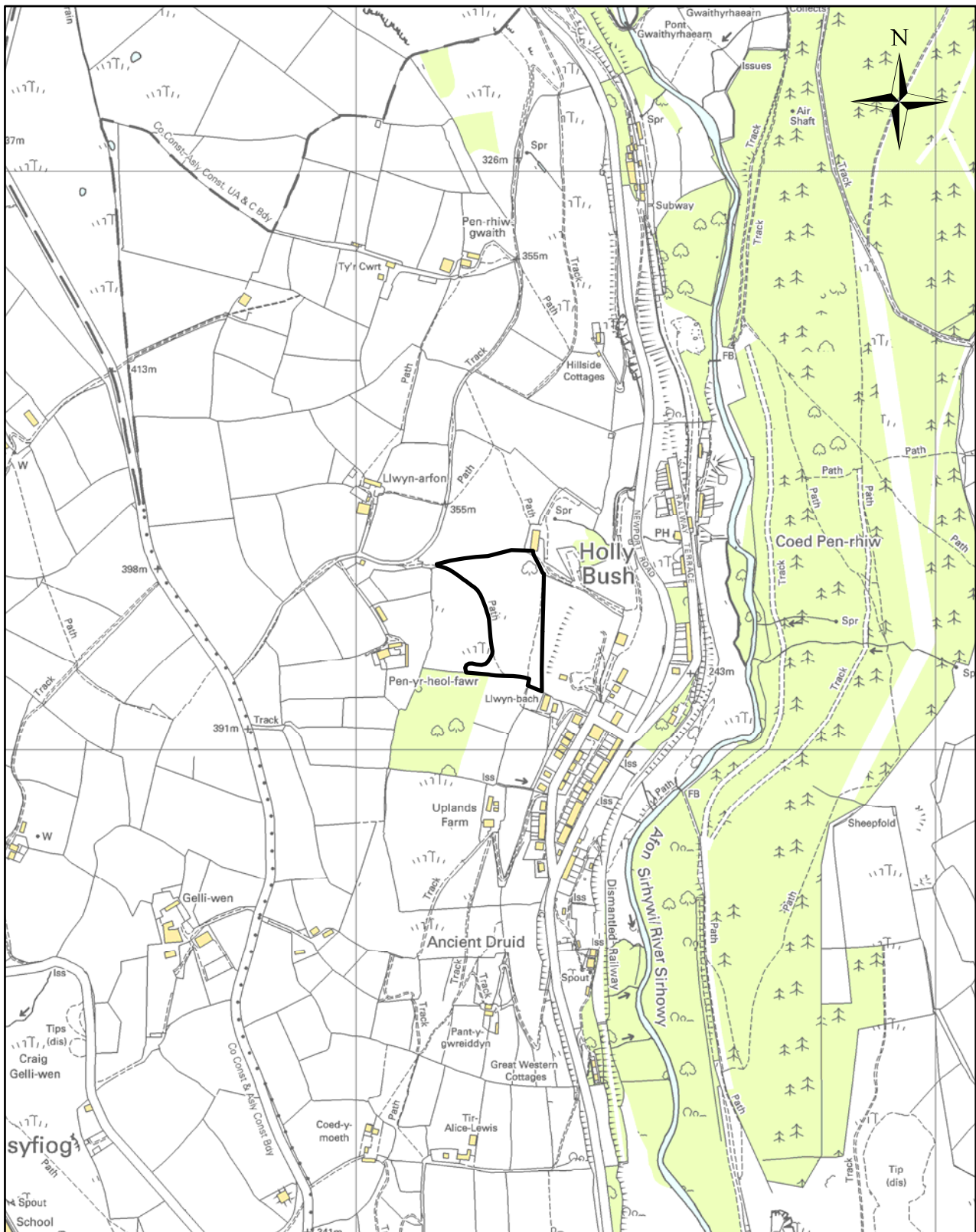
Acid grassland and heath species (in northern area, and at wood margins): *Potentilla erecta*, *Jasione montana*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Song Thrush**, *Pied Flycatcher*, *Nuthatch*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: Unspecified **bat** record from nearby village. *Quercus robur* and hybrids.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.28 (SINC 030)  
Llwyn-Bach Woodland, South of Hollybush 2 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 Arolwng 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.