

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.35</u>	SINC name: Pen-y-waun, south of Markham
Grid reference: SO168008	Area (hectares): 6
Survey date: 17th August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.35)	
Summary description	
<p>An area of former coal workings now supporting horse-grazed pasture. There is a mix of acid grassland, damp semi-improved neutral grassland, Bracken and scattered Hawthorn scrub. Species occurring in the acid grassland area include Bilberry, Sheep's fescue, Wavy hair-grass and Tormentil. The damp semi-improved neutral grassland includes Great burnet, Betony, Purple moor-grass and locally abundant rushes.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland / heath with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Temporary ponds.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The drier grassland areas have potential to support waxcap fungi.</p> <p>The scrub and Bracken margins and tussocky grassland areas are likely to support reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Horses graze the whole area and a few parts appear to have been agriculturally improved. The area is subject to local disturbance and tipping from the adjoining houses. Local Bracken control would also be beneficial for biodiversity. Japanese knotweed is present along some parts of the northwestern boundary. The removal of refuse and tipped materials from depressions in the southern part of site (possibly former bell-pit workings) and re-lining them to form ponds would enhance the biodiversity of the site.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>A public footpath crosses the site, but there are signs of informal access across the whole area.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The aerial photograph suggests that there is other habitat nearby that is also of potential value for nature conservation. In particular, the damp grassland at SO165010 and acid grassland on coal spoil at SO162007. These areas should be considered at future review.</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*)

Grassland species (combined list as there is little clear distinction between the grassland types):

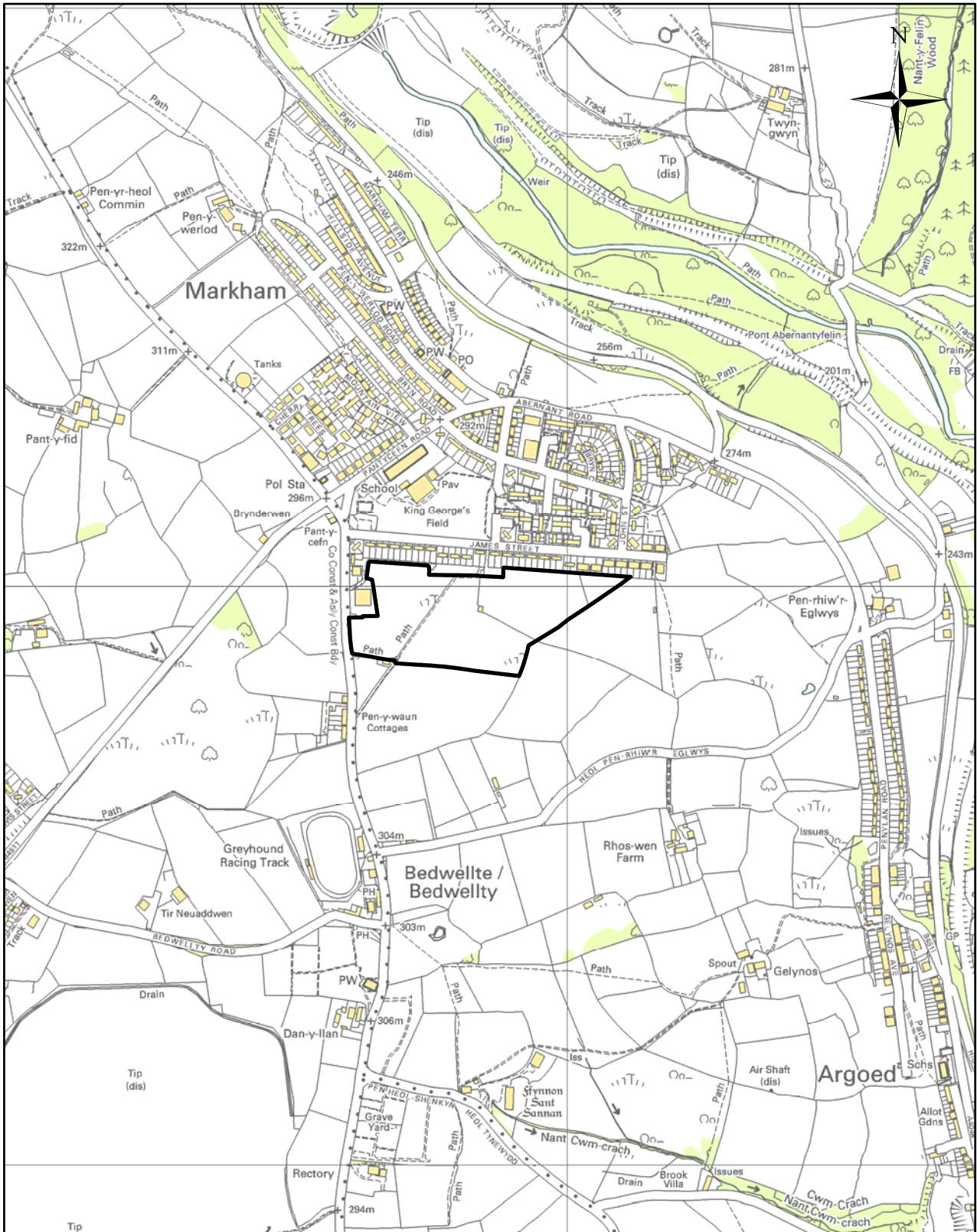
*Potentilla erecta, Trifolium pratense, Cirsium palustre, Ranunculus acris, Rumex acetosella, Cirsium arvense, Lotus corniculatus, Hypochaeris radicata, Leontodon autumnalis, Centaurea nigra, Cardamine pratensis, Succisa pratensis, Stachys officinalis, Plantago lanceolata, **Rhinanthus minor**, Fallopia japonica, Hieracium sp., Veronica officinalis, Galium saxatile, Chamerion angustifolium, Sanguisorba officinalis, Leontodon hispidus, Calluna vulgaris, Vaccinium myrtillus, Agrostis capillaris, Lolium perenne, Cynosurus cristatus, Festuca rubra, Festuca ovina, Deschampsia flexuosa, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Holcus lanatus, Holcus mollis, Danthonia decumbens, Molinia caerulea, Carex panicea, Luzula campestris, Juncus effusus, Juncus bufonius, Juncus acutiflorus, Juncus conglomeratus, Pteridium aquilinum, Dryopteris filix-mas, Rhytidadelphus squarrosus, Dicranum scoparium, Hypnum lacunosum, Polytrichum piliferum, Polytrichum formosum, Campylopus introflexus, Ptilidium ciliare, Cladonia sp.*

Fauna observations: *Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Jackdaw, Gatekeeper Butterfly.*

Additional records from desk study: **Skylark**, *Conopodium majus, Hyacinthoides non-scripta, Lotus pedunculatus, Carex nigra, Luzula multiflora.*

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.35 (SINC 035)
Pen-y-Waun, South of Markham 6 Ha

1:10,000



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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.