

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.38</u>	SINC name: Bedwellty Churchyard, Bedwellty
Grid reference: SO166003	Area (hectares): 2
Survey date: 17th August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.36)	
Summary description	
A churchyard supporting semi-improved neutral grassland. The flora includes a good variety of wildflowers including Great burnet, Betony, Harebell, Devil's-bit scabious and Field scabious. Wood bitter-vetch has also been recorded.	
Qualifying features	
Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Presence of Wood bitter-vetch.	
Secondary features	
Bracken.	
Headstones.	
Several trees.	
Church building.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The church building and some of the graves have potential to provide roost sites for bats.	
The grassland has potential to support waxcap fungi.	
The tussocky areas have potential to support reptiles.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The area is managed by mowing (possibly by strimming in some places due to the density of grave stones). Some areas have become rather rank and tussocky, and have a dense thatch of dead grass. It would be beneficial to rake off the grass cuttings to help maintain the grassland diversity. Bracken and Japanese knotweed are present along some parts of the northern boundary. It would be beneficial if these were controlled. Care would need to be taken to apply herbicide in such a way that would not affect uncommon native species present (e.g. weed-wipe application).	
Access/ community use	
The site is open for use by the public and most access is by the surfaced footpaths.	
Additional information	
No <i>Vicia orobus</i> was noted during the site visit. However, it is possible that it still occurs on the site. The flora is sufficiently diverse to qualify as a SINC, even if the <i>Vicia</i> is no longer present.	

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: *Trifolium pratense*, *Vicia sepium*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Stachys officinalis*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Pilosella aurantiaca*, *Knautia arvensis*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Linaria vulgaris*, *Myrrhis odorata*, *Alchemilla mollis*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Lathyrus linifolius*, *Lathyrus cf sylvestris*, *Vicia cracca*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Lolium perenne*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Fauna observations: **Mole**, **Buzzard**.

Additional records from desk study: *Conopodium majus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Plantago media*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Saponaria officinalis*, *Spergula arvensis*, *Vicia orobus*, *Vicia sativa*, *Teucrium scorodonia*.