

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.40</u>	SINC name: Nant Cwm-crach, Bedwellty
Grid reference: SO171000	Area (hectares): 4
Survey date: 17th August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.37)	
Summary description	
<p>Two small fields supporting a mix of marshy grassland and damp semi-improved acid grassland, with patches of Gorse scrub and Bracken. The wettest areas are dominated by Soft rush and associated species include Marsh thistle, Floating sweet-grass and Lesser spearwort. The Nant Cwm-crach stream flows through the centre of the SINC along a narrow, tree-lined ditch. The tree species comprise mainly Sessile oak, Alder, Beech, Holly and Blackthorn. A mature hedgerow also borders the roadside along the southern boundary.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Habitat mosaic	
Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Scrub/ woodland/ hedges.	
Stream/ ditches.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Likely to support a good range of wildlife, including invertebrates, foraging bats, reptiles and breeding birds.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Cattle and sheep currently graze the fields. A reduction in sheep-grazing intensity would be beneficial for biodiversity, as it would allow a wider range of plant diversity.	
Access/ community use	
A public footpath runs along the eastern boundary, and a road adjoins the southern boundary.	
Additional information	
<p>The 12 indicator species required to qualify as a SINC under the marshy grassland habitat criterion include several desk study records that were not seen during the survey in 2007, but probably still occur at low frequency. The general diversity of the grassland areas appears relatively low, presumably because of the sheep grazing, and the sward is regarded as borderline with regard to the marshy grassland criteria. However, it still meets the SINC qualifying criteria for its habitat mosaic and it has the potential to increase its diversity with more favourable management, therefore it has been retained as a SINC in this review. An area of mature Sessile oak, Rowan and Holly borders the northeastern boundary. It is not included in the SINC as it has a very</p>	

impoverished ground flora, but it may be of semi-natural origins and has potential to support bats. The wooded valley of the Nant Cwm-crach stream extending eastwards from the SINC is also likely to be of nature conservation value. These areas should be evaluated as SINC 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*)

Tree and shrub species (combined list for whole site): *Quercus petraea*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Ulex gallii*, *Hedera helix*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*.

Ground flora species are generally sparse but include: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Holcus mollis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

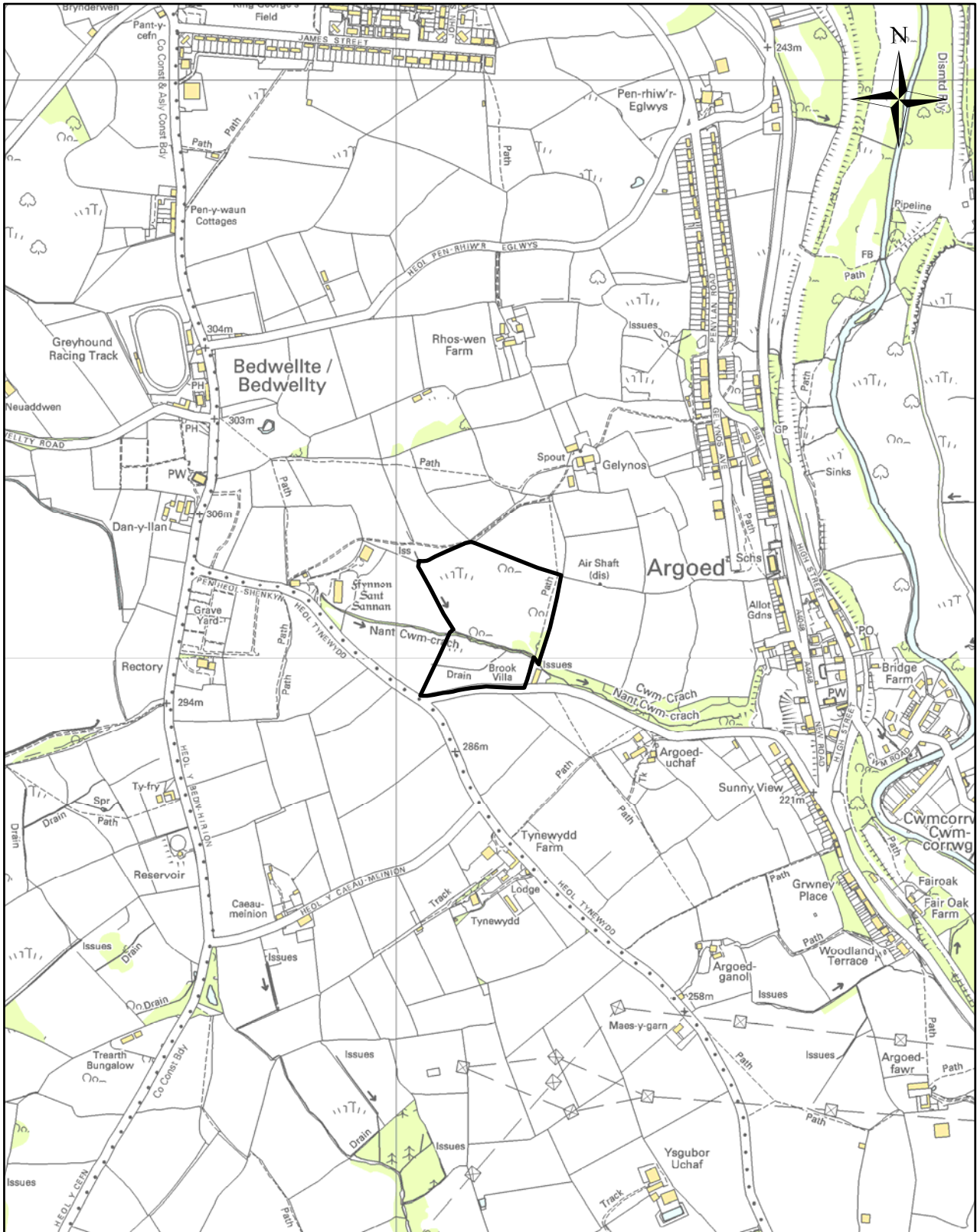
Grassland species (combined list for whole site): *Potentilla erecta*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Galium palustre*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex ovalis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Fauna observations: *Wren*, *Goldfinch*, *Magpie*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional information from desk study: **Pipistrelle Bat**, *Agrostis canina*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Carex nigra*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex viridula*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Rumex acetosella*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.40 (SINC 037)
Nant Cwm-Crach, Bedwellty 4 Ha

1:10,000



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