

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.22</u>	SINC name: Tir-y-ferch-gryno, Brithdir
Grid Reference SO152012	Area (hectares): 3
Survey date: 22nd August 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.38)	
Summary description	
Three small horse-grazed fields on a gently south and east-facing slope. The eastern field supports semi-improved acid grassland, grading into acid grassland and heath on the steeper ground. The field supports a very high density of anthills. The most northerly and southerly field support a mix of semi-improved acid grassland grading into semi-improved neutral grassland, with occasional anthills. Several waxcaps were noted in the southern field. Plant species within the SINC include Harebell, Heath speedwell, Autumn hawkbit and Common milkwort.	
Qualifying features	
Acid grassland / heath with at least 7 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Bracken	
Scrub	
Semi-improved neutral grassland.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The site is likely to be of value to reptiles.	
The area is likely to support good waxcap populations.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The site is currently subject to grazing by horses. The grazing intensity is variable within the site, but overall is probably good for maintaining the habitats in their present condition. Limited Bracken control may be beneficial if it encroaches further into the east of the site.	
Access/ community use	
There is no public access to the site. A road runs along the southeastern edge of the SINC but the site itself is not visible from the road.	
Additional information	
The adjacent slope to the northeast supports a mix of Bracken, scrub and acid grassland. It is not included in the SINC but is likely to support habitats and species of value for nature conservation. This should be considered at future SINC review.	
Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)	
(LBAP species shown in bold , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i>)	
<u>Species list</u> (combined list for whole site, as the grassland types grade into one another): <i>Potentilla erecta</i> , <i>Rumex acetosella</i> , <i>Galium saxatile</i> , <i>Pilosella officinarum</i> , <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> , <i>Centaurea</i>	

nigra, *Veronica officinalis*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Aira caryophyllea*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Cladonia spp*, *Peltigera sp.*

Calluna vulgaris, *Ulex europaeus* and *Vaccinium myrtillus* were noted at SO153012.

The waxcap *Hygrocybe intermedia* was noted at SO152011.

Trees and shrubs at the field margins include *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Malus domestica*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Larix sp.*

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, Meadow Brown Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: *Carex caryophyllea*, *Carex nigra*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola riviniana*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.22 (SINC 038)
Tir-y-Ferch-Gryno, Brithdir 3 Ha

1:10,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatad 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.