

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.47</u>	SINC name: Pen-y-fan-fach Grassland, Glandwr
Grid reference: SO204013	Area (hectares): 3
Survey date: 30th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.40)	
Summary description	
<p>Three fields of semi-improved acid grassland with occasional damp flushy areas. The northern field is heavily grazed by sheep and has well developed anthills and patches of dense Bracken. It has a very low diversity of herbs, but several species of waxcap fungi are present. The two southern fields are grazed by horses and support a moderately diverse flora, including Devil's-bit scabious, Tormentil and Ivy-leaved bellflower. Large Beech trees are present at several field boundaries.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-improved acid grassland containing at least 7 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Flush.</p> <p>Grassland with waxcap fungi.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to be used by foraging bats, and the trees may provide potential roost sites.</p> <p>The field margins could potentially support reptiles.</p> <p>The northern field could potentially meet the SINC criteria for grassland fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The grazing intensity in the northern field is very heavy and limiting the vegetation diversity (although may be good for grassland fungi). Bracken control may help to extend the amount of grazing available, resulting in a slight reduction in grazing pressure and enhance the biodiversity of the site. The two southern fields are lightly or sporadically grazed by horses, which probably provides optimal management for this type of habitat.</p>	
Access/ community use	
A public footpath passes the edge of the two northern fields.	
Additional information	
<p>The northern field appears to have been more diverse in the past (as indicated by the presence of <i>Sanguisorba major</i>), but currently falls short of the SINC qualifying criteria. It has been retained as a part of this SINC as it does not appear to have been ploughed or otherwise improved and may support a valuable population of grassland fungi. The adjacent plantation at Graig Fawr is</p>	

classified as former ancient woodland, but may still support areas of nature conservation value. Broadleaved areas that may meet SINC selection criteria are visible on the aerial photograph (e.g. at SO203020) and should be considered 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*)

Trees and shrubs at field and track margins: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Larix sp.*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Ground flora at shaded field and track margins: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species in northern field (SO205015): *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Sagina apetala*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Aira praecox*, *Festuca ovina*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*. Waxcap fungi included *Hygrocybe flavipes*, *H.coccinea* and *H.chlorophana*.

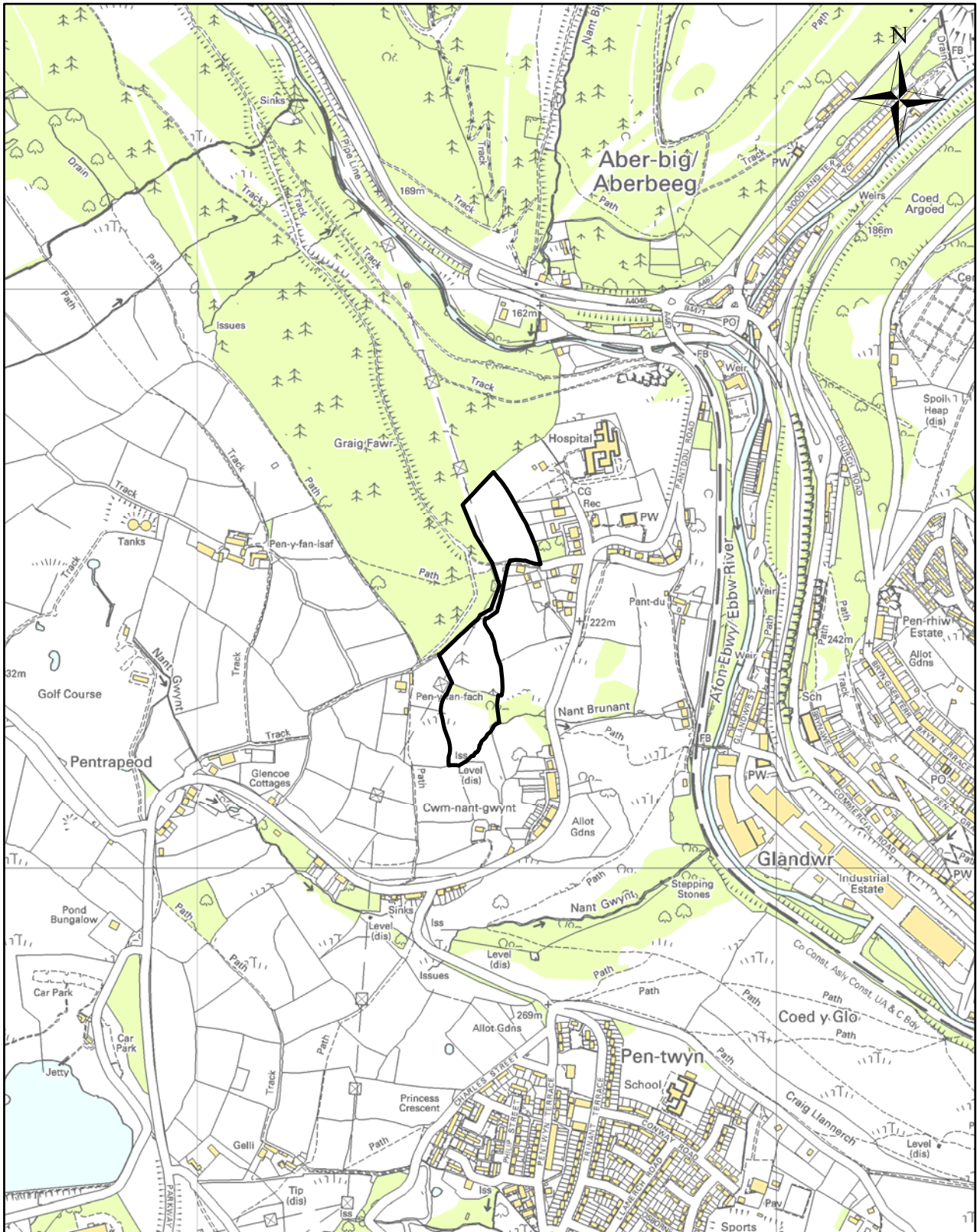
Grassland species in southern fields (SO204013): *Rumex acetosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Viola palustris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Veronica serpyllifolia*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex echinata*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, **Rabbit**, **Bullfinch**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Robin**, **Chaffinch**, **Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Otter** records from river approx 300m north of SINC.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.47 (SINC 040)
Pen-y-Fan-Fach Grasslands, Glandwr 3 Ha

1:10,000



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Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.