

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.48</u>	SINC name: Nant Gwynt Woodland, Glandwr
Grid reference: SO207009	Area (hectares): 14
Survey date: 30th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.41)	
Summary description	
<p>The principal habitat within this SINC is the Coed-y-Glo woodland. This is a broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Sessile oak, Birch and Rowan, and a ground flora including Bracken, Wavy hair-grass, Bluebell and Wood sorrel. The Nant Gwynt stream flows through the centre of the wood in a steep rocky channel. The woodland ground flora diversity is generally higher near to the stream. To the north and south of the woodland the north-east-facing hillside supports a mix of Bracken, Bilberry and Heather heath and acid grassland. These frequently grade into one other with indistinct boundaries and are interspersed with scattered Birch, Oak and Hawthorn scrub. The southwestern boundary is continuous with SINC NH 3.50 Coed Trinant.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland containing at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Flush.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to provide foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The heath and acid grassland areas are likely to support good numbers of reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>There is no evidence of any recent woodland management. Japanese knotweed is present in the woodland beside the stream. Knotweed control is recommended to ensure that this species does not spread into other parts of the site. The majority of the site receives only very light and occasional grazing by sheep, as a result the open habitats such as acid grassland heath are becoming encroached upon by Bracken (although it was noted that some of the bracken habitat had been burned earlier in the year). An increase in grazing, preferably by horses or cattle, in conjunction with Bracken control, would be beneficial for biodiversity. Horses lightly graze the northern field, but Bracken is encroaching into this habitat as well. Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity in this area.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Several public footpaths cross the area, although most are overgrown by dense Bracken and show little sign of recent use.</p>	

Additional information

The fridd slope and former allotments adjoining the western boundary are likely to support similar biodiversity to that within the SINC, but have generally been excluded where species-poor Bracken predominates, or where Japanese knotweed or tall ruderal vegetation is present. The horse-grazed fields adjoining the northern boundary may also have some nature conservation value. These areas 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 *italics*)

Woodland and scrub tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Ulex europaeus*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Potentilla erecta*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

Additional species near to the stream included Chrysosplenium oppositifolium, Stellaria holostea, Viola riviniana, Fallopia japonica, Athyrium filix-femina, Dryopteris affinis, Diplophyllum albicans, Pellia sp., Kindbergia praelonga.

Acid grassland / heath species (all areas combined): *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Aira praecox*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Juncus effusus, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Galium palustre and Oreopteris limbosperma occur locally at a small flush at approximately SO207007.

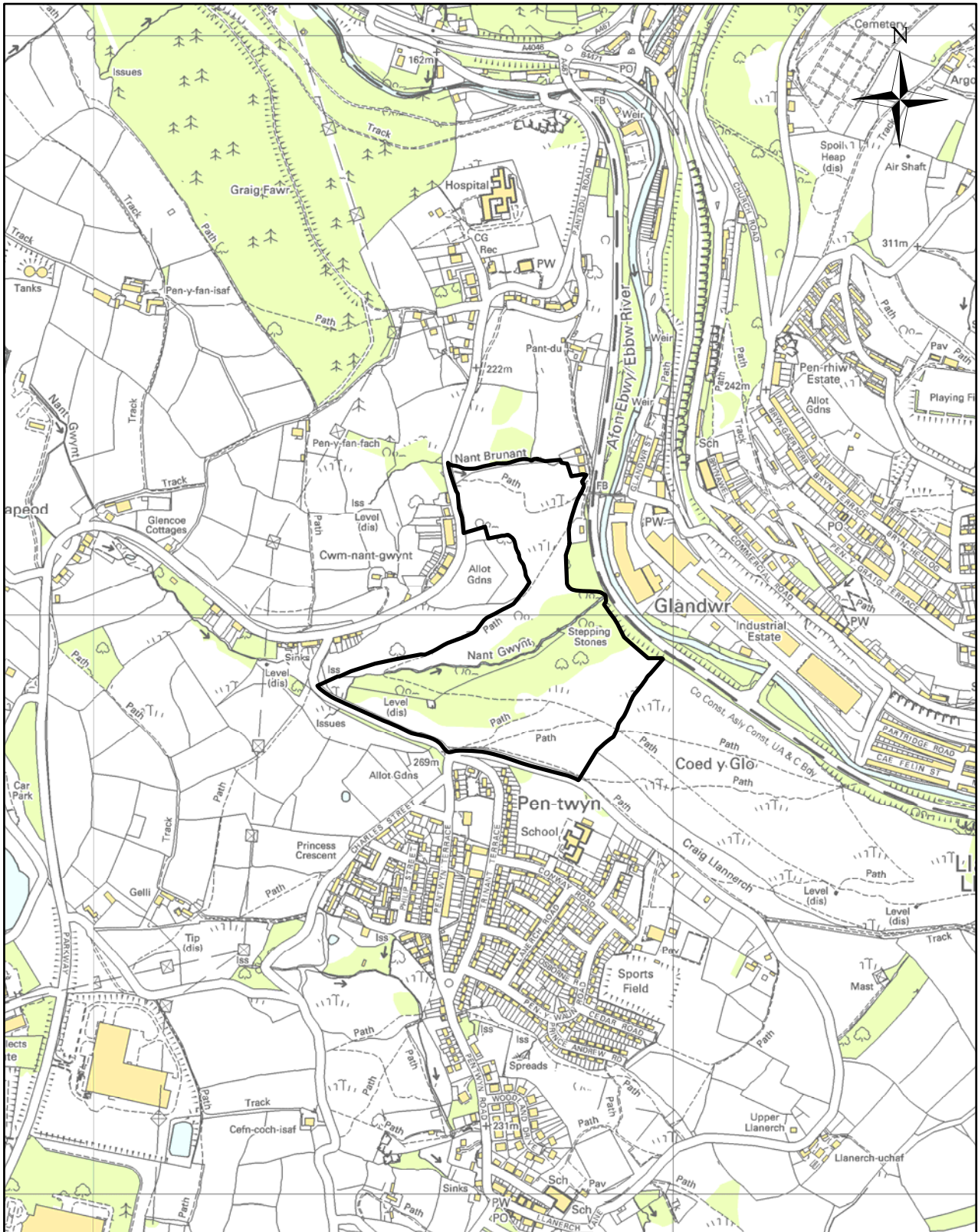
The waxcap Hygrocybe helobia was present in the horse-grazed field at approximately SO207012.

Fauna observations: *Blue Tit, Goldfinch, Wren, Willow Warbler, Gatekeeper Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, Meadow brown Butterfly.*

Additional records from desk study: Unspecified **bat** record from house in Trinant. Dingy Skipper Butterfly, *Potentilla anglica*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.48 (SINC 041)
Nant Gwynt Woodland, Glandwr 14 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.

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