

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.50</u>	SINC name: Coed Trinant, east of Pentwyn
Grid reference: SO218002	Area (hectares): 30
Survey date: 30th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.42)	
Summary description	
<p>This SINC comprises a northeast-facing hillside, including a mix of Bracken, acid grassland, heath and broad-leaved woodland habitats. The northern part is mainly Bracken, with Heather and Bilberry heath and acid grassland mainly associated with former earth-workings. Mature Oak and Beech trees occur towards the east, especially near the lower parts of the slope. There are also several patches of woodland, with a fairly open canopy of Sessile oak, Beech and Birch, and a ground flora including Bracken, Wavy hair-grass, Creeping soft-grass and Wood sorrel. The northwestern boundary is continuous with SINC NH 3.48.</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>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland areas are likely to provide foraging and roosting habitat for bats. There may be potential for hibernation sites if cavities exist in any of the old workings.</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>The majority of the site receives only very light and occasional grazing by sheep, as a result the open habitats such as acid grassland and heath are becoming encroached upon by Bracken. An increase in grazing, preferably by horses or cattle, in conjunction with Bracken control, would be beneficial for biodiversity. There is no evidence of any recent woodland management, although an adjacent land reclamation scheme has routed drainage runs through part of the southern woodland block. Horses and possibly sheep graze the southern part of the woodland.</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	
<p>The hillside to the south is grazed by horses and contains mature trees. It may have some value for nature conservation but the grass sward did not appear very diverse and should be reconsidered at future review. The review should also consider extending the boundary eastwards to include the mature trees near Trinant Hall. The River Ebbw occurs to the east and has been</p>	

designated as a separate SINC (NH 3.12).

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: *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Larix sp.*

Ground flora species from closed canopy wooded areas: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Potentilla erecta*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Isoetes myosuroides*.

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

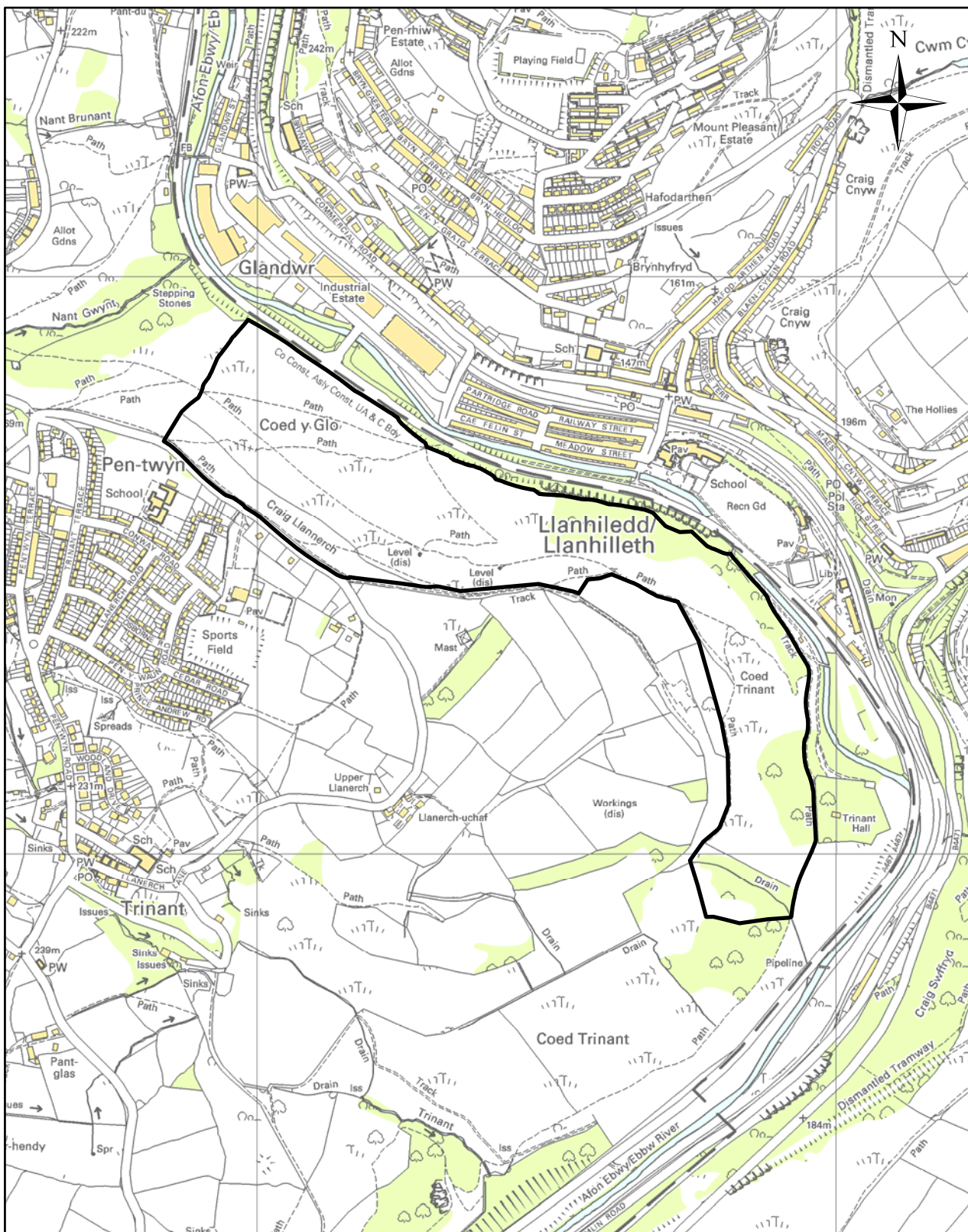
A nearby pond at ST217999 supports *Typha latifolia*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Scrophularia auriculata*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Carex flacca*, *Juncus inflexus*.

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Raven*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Meadow brown Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Small Copper Butterfly*, *Small Skipper Butterfly*, *Burnet Moths*.

Additional records from desk study: *Arum maculatum*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Viola palustris*, *Salix cinerea*, *Mercurialis perennis*. **Otter** and **fish** records from nearby river Ebbw. **Bat** records from nearby urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.50 (SINC 042)
Coed Trinant, East of Pentwyn 30 Ha

1:10,000



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