

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.51</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Pentwyn Fields, Pentwyn</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO208001</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 4</b>
<b>Survey date: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.43)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A belt of relatively young, very dense woodland and scrub, with small areas of older woodland; the canopy species include Sycamore, Hazel, Oak, Ash and Beech. The ground flora includes abundant Bramble, with Nettle, Hogweed, Enchanter's nightshade and Bluebell. Several small pockets of acid and marshy grassland are present within the woodland, and there is a field of semi-improved neutral grassland on the northeastern side. The grassland areas are generally limited in extent and diversity, and are mainly dominated by coarse grasses, but remnants of more diverse vegetation persist in a few areas.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>A mosaic of broad-leaved woodland with several semi-natural indicators, and patches of acid and marshy grassland.</p> <p>Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The site is likely to be used by foraging bats, and the trees may provide potential roost sites.</p> <p>The small grassland areas could potentially support good numbers of common reptiles.</p> <p>The mix of habitats is likely to support a diverse range of birds and invertebrates.</p> <p>The woodland has potential habitat for Dormice, although none are known from this part of the county borough.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The woodland area is generally unmanaged, although some footpath maintenance work has been carried out in recent years. The small pockets of older woodland and grassland remnants support the greatest value for nature conservation and targeted scrub clearance from these areas would be very beneficial for biodiversity. The northern field is ungrazed and subject to disturbance by motorcycling and tipping. It appears to have declined in value since it was last grazed (possibly several years ago) as tall grasses and Bracken have increased in dominance over low-growing species. Restoring grazing to this field, at least on an intermittent basis, would be beneficial for biodiversity. The public heavily use the site and associated problems include fly tipping and motorcycling.</p>	

## Access/ community use

A public footpath passes approximately east to west through the SINC and a public road adjoins the southeastern side. There is a well-maintained north to south footpath and several informal paths run through the woodland area.

## Additional information

The site is borderline with respect to meeting the SINC qualifying criteria, but qualifies as a mosaic site. The site would benefit from management to enhance its biodiversity. Aerial photography indicates that several nearby areas may meet SINC criteria. These include woodland, Bracken and marshy grassland communities at SO204002 and SO209998. These 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 trees and shrub species: *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Quercus petraea*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*, *Spiraea* sp., *Ulex gallii*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Salix aurita*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Circaea lutetiana*, *Urtica dioica*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Viola riviniana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Umbilicalis rupestris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Poa trivialis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Fissidens bryoides*.

Semi-improved neutral grassland species in northern field (SO210001): *Lotus corniculatus*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Vicia sativa*, *Vicia cracca*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Ononis repens*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Festuca rubra*, *Lolium perenne*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex hirta*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Semi-improved acid / neutral grassland species (several pockets within woodland): *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Centaureum erythraea*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Festuca rubra*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

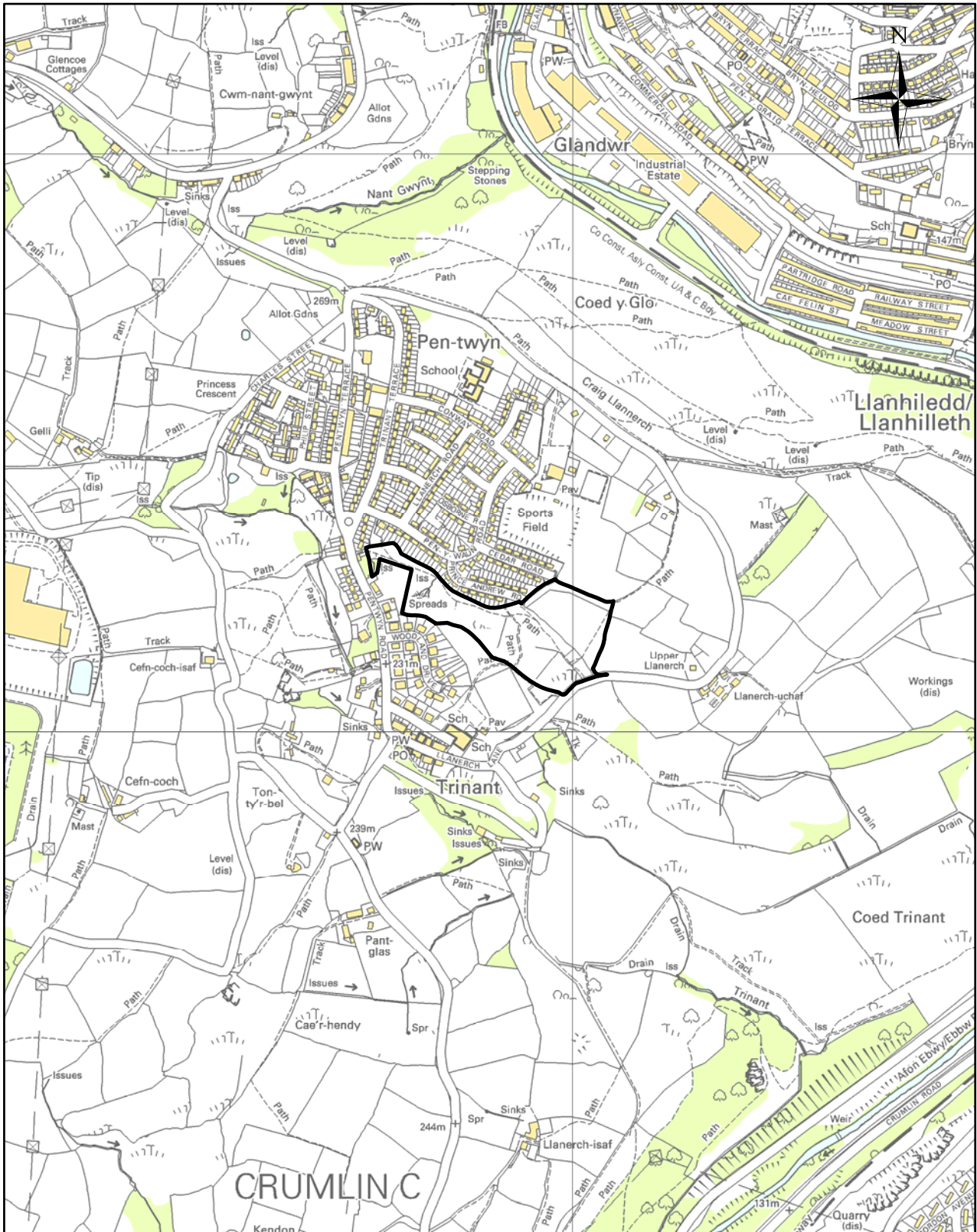
Marshy grassland species (small pockets in woodland): *Galium palustre*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Hypericum maculatum*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Scrophularia auriculata*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Caltha palustris*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex viridula*, *Juncus inflexus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Fauna observations: **Slow Worm, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, House Sparrow, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Robin, Chaffinch, Gatekeeper Butterfly, Ringlet Butterfly, Meadow Brown Butterfly.**

Additional records from desk study: **Common Frog, Rhinanthus minor**, *Bromus racemosus*, *Crepis paludosa*, *Euphrasia* sp., *Carex sylvatica*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*. **Bat** records from nearby urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.51 (SINC 043)  
Pentwyn Fields, Pentwyn 4 Ha

1:10,000



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