

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.56</u>	SINC name: Cwm Afon, West of Nelson
Grid reference: ST099953	Area (hectares):
Survey date: 11th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.46)	
Summary description	
<p>A field of tussocky semi-improved acid grassland and marshy grassland/ flush vegetation. The dominant species include Purple moor-grass and Sharp-flowered rush, with a good diversity of marshy grassland indicator species. Other species include Bog pimpernel, Marsh violet, Ivy-leaved bell-flower, Common cotton-grass and several species of sedge. The Nant Mafon stream forms the southwestern boundary. This flows in a narrow, meandering channel lightly shaded by a mix of mature Alders trees and scrub. The other field boundaries include mature Oak and Beech trees.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Species-rich marshy grassland/ flush with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Stream.	
Mature broad-leaved trees.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to provide good foraging habitat for bats. There is also potential for bats to roost in some of the trees.</p> <p>The site has potential to support a high diversity of invertebrates, potentially including uncommon species such as the Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.</p> <p>The tussocky grassland is likely to be used by reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Cattle lightly graze the site and the current grazing intensity appears to be optimal for a good diversity of plants and animals.	
Access/ community use	
There is no formal public access to the area.	
Additional information	
<p>The narrow strip of grassland land to the southwest of the stream does not meet SINC qualifying criteria, but still has some biodiversity value. For some species this strip may help to link this SINC and the marshy grassland at SINC NH 3.55 Cwm Afon Railway Line. The Nant Mafon upstream and downstream from the SINC may form a linear habitat and possible commuting route that could be used by species such as bats and Otters. These areas should be considered at future review.</p>	

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: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix caprea*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*.

Marshy grassland / flush species: *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Viola palustris*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Viola palustris*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Galium palustre*, *Galium saxatile*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Ajuga reptans*, ***Dactylorhiza fuchsii***, ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa***, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Lathyrus linifolius*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Hypericum maculatum*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis canina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Briza media*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex flacca*, *Carex pulicaris*, *Carex nigra*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Sphagnum subnitens*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species (forming a gradual transition into the wetland area): *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Poa pratensis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

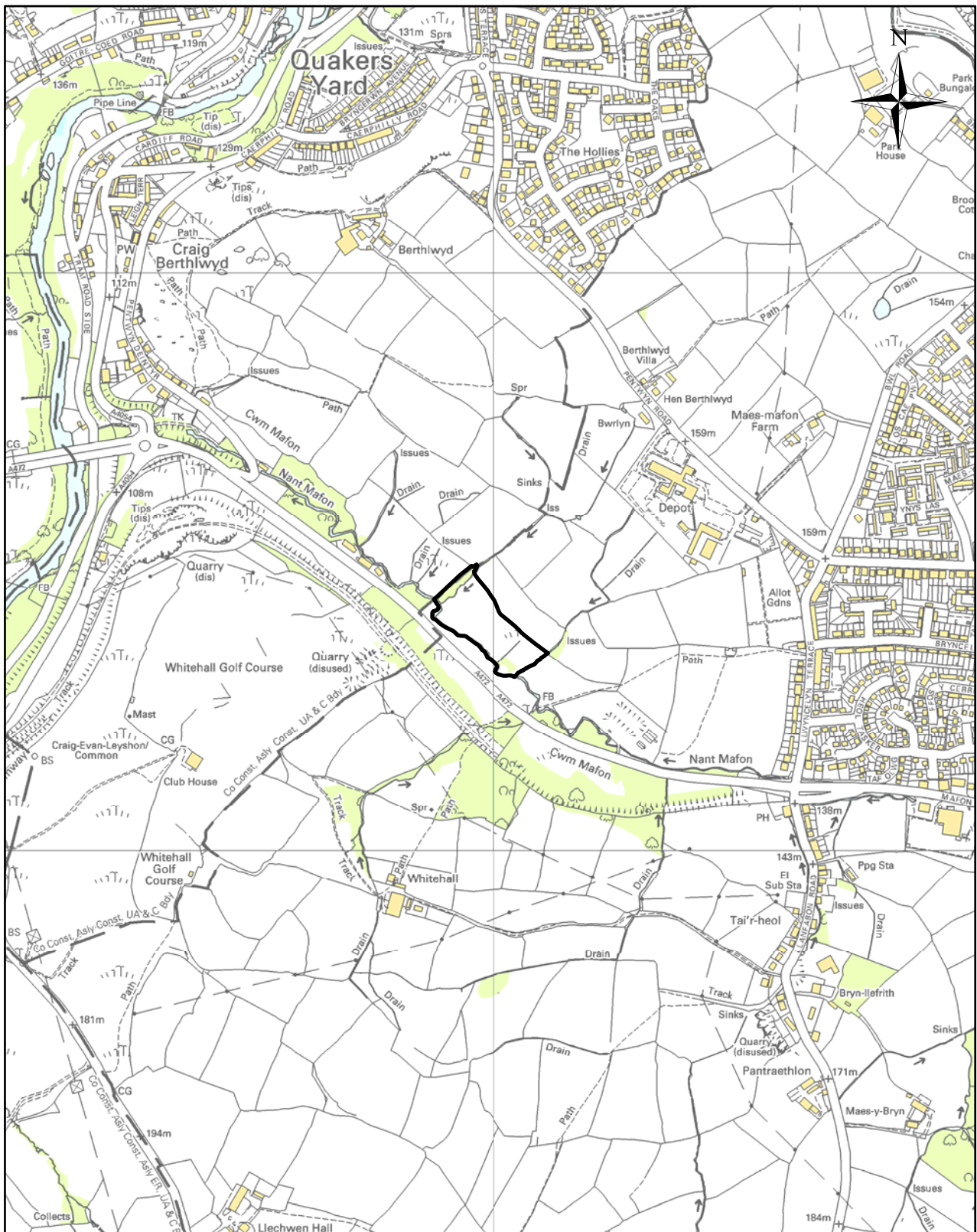
Species associated with the Nant Mafon stream: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola palustris*, *Viola riviniana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Carex remota*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Pellia* sp.

Fauna observations: *Robin*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, *Small Skipper Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Ringlet Butterfly*, *Burnet Moth*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: *Caltha palustris*. **Kestrel**, **Green Woodpecker** and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly within 1km square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Cwm Afon, West of Nelson 2 Ha

1:10,000



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