

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.65</u>	SINC name: Gelligaer Court Meadows, North of Penpedairheol
Grid reference: ST141979	Area (hectares): 5
Survey date: 22nd May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.49)	
Summary description	
<p>A series of horse-grazed fields supporting damp semi-improved neutral grassland and marshy grassland. The dominant species are grasses, and the plant diversity is generally low. However, there are some patches with greater diversity, with species including Meadow thistle, Devil's-bit scabious, Tormentil and Yellow rattle. Mature hedges border the fields with Hazel, Hawthorn and standard Sessile oak trees. A small field at the east of the site supports an area of marshy grassland/ flush vegetation, including Marsh pennywort, Purple moor-grass, sedges and Common cotton-grass. Ditches divide the eastern fields, and these also support a moderate diversity of marshy grassland species.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Hedges.	
Ditches.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The more diverse parts have potential to support Marsh fritillary and/ or Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies.	
The hedges have potential to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.	
The fields have potential to support grassland fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Horses graze all the fields and a slight reduction in grazing pressure would enhance the biodiversity of the site.	
Access/ community use	
A public footpath follows the southern boundary, but there is no formal public access onto the site itself.	
Additional information	
Much of the site has relatively low diversity and the species of greater nature conservation tend to be clustered into a few small areas. The most diverse area lies to the east of the eastern drainage ditch (at ST142979). Appropriate management would enhance the biodiversity of the site.	

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 at site boundaries: *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix cinerea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix caprea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rosa canina*.

Hedge ground flora species: *Hedge ground flora is mainly species poor, but includes Melampyrum pratense*, *Viola riviniana*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Stellaria holostea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Neutral grassland species (all areas combined): *Ranunculus acris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Potentilla erecta*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Trifolium pratense*, *Rumex crispus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lathyrus linifolius*, *Myosotis discolor*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Lolium perenne*, *Festuca rubra*, *Poa trivialis*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Carex ovalis*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*.

Marshy grassland species (ST142979): *Succisa pratensis*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Veronica scutellata*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lathyrus linifolius*, *Salix aurita*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

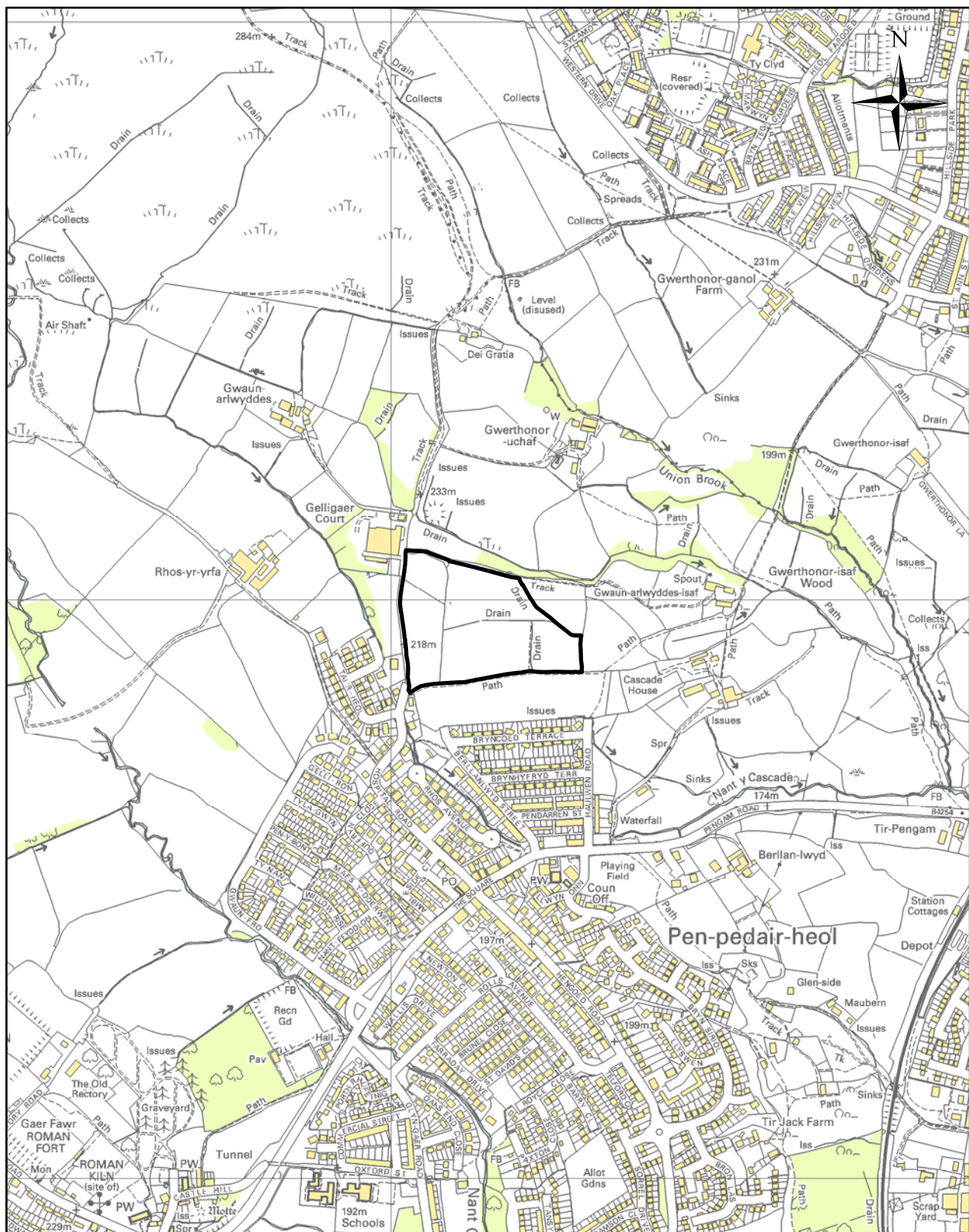
Fauna observations: *None*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: *Acer campestre*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Hypericum hirsutum*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Potentilla sterilis*.

House Sparrow (within 100m), **Song Thrush** (within 200m), Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary (within 1km grid square).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Gelligaer Court Meadows, North of Penpedairheol 5 Ha

1:10,000



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