

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.66</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Tir Jacks Slopes, East of Penpedairheol</b>
<b>Grid reference: SO147969</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 5</b>
<b>Survey date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.50)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
The majority of this area is dominated by dense Alder, Hawthorn, Bramble and Willow scrub, with a relatively species-poor ground flora. Remnants of more diverse neutral/acid and marshy grassland habitats remain in a few places, with species including Purple moor-grass, Devil's-bit scabious, Southern marsh-orchid and Tormentil.	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.	
Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Scrub.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
The site is likely to be used by foraging bats.	
The grassland remnants could potentially support reptiles.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
Most of the site does not appear to have been grazed for several years and only the northern part appears to be grazed by horses. Natural succession of scrub has resulted in a loss of grassland habitat, restricting it to a few small areas. Scrub clearance and restoration of light grazing (preferably by cattle or horses) would enhance the biodiversity of the site. Japanese knotweed occurs nearby, to the north of the SINC boundary.	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
A public footpath passes along the western side of the site, but scrub makes it difficult to follow and it does not appear to be well used.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
This site is very difficult to survey due to the dense scrub. The biodiversity value of the site is declining due to lack of grazing. Positive management would enhance the biodiversity of the site and therefore it has been retained as a SINC.	
<b>Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)</b>	
(LBAP species shown in <b>bold</b> , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i> )	
<u>Trees and shrubs:</u> <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Salix caprea</i> , <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> , <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Viburnum opulus</i> .	
<u>Ground flora in closed canopy areas:</u> <i>Circaea lutetiana</i> , <i>Geum urbanum</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <b><i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i></b> , <i>Potentilla erecta</i> , <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> , <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> , <i>Viola</i>	

*riviniana*, *Viola palustris*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Poa trivialis*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

Neutral grassland species (mainly at western edge): *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Alchemilla millefolium*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Trifolium pratensis*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Alchemilla filicaulis*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Rhinanthus minor*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*. Several anthills also present.

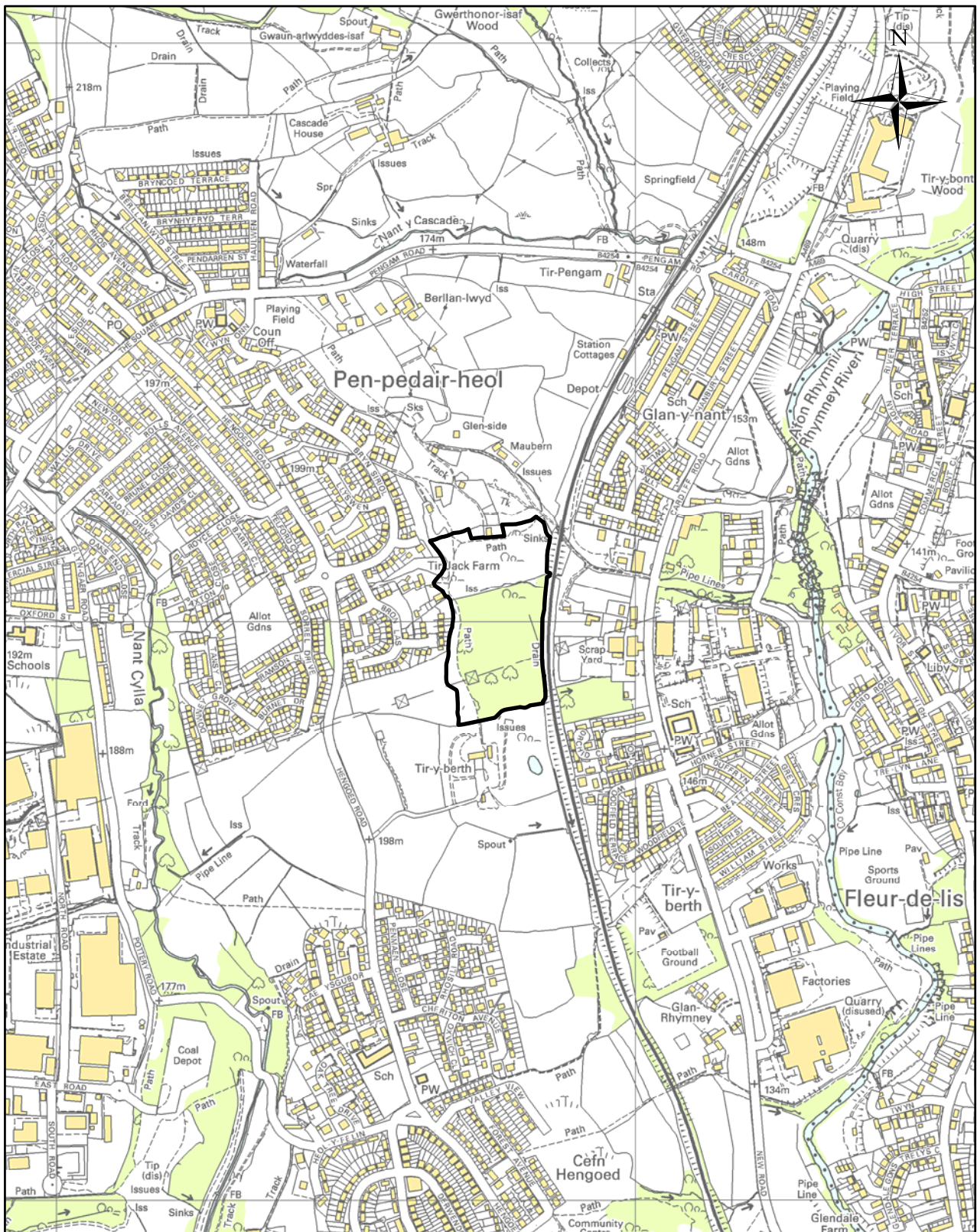
Marshy grassland species (mainly in north-west of SINC): *Cirsium palustre*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium palustre*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Ranunculus flammula*, ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa***, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola palustris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Carex pseudocyperus*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, ***Song Thrush***, *Robin*, *Chaffinch*, *Chiffchaff*, *Willow Warbler*, *Coal Tit*, *Blackcap*, *Dunnock*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: ***Bullfinch*** and ***House Sparrow*** (both within 200m).

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Tir Jack Slopes, East 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.