

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.53</u>	SINC name: Waun Rydd, Gelligaer
Grid reference: ST132965	Area (hectares): 10
Survey date: 11th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.54)	
Summary description	
<p>An area of cattle-grazed marshy and semi-improved acid grassland on deep peaty ground, with wet areas and scattered willow and Birch scrub. The eastern side includes a high proportion of rushes and coarse grasses, while the sward in the wettest areas is dominated by Purple moor-grass, with occasional Heather and Cotton-grass. The most diverse vegetation is in a small fenced area of wet heath and scrub at the western end of the SINC, which also includes Devil's-bit scabious, Cross-leaved heath and Deer-grass.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Degraded marshy grassland (/bog), which still retains at least 12 marshy grassland indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The margins of the site are likely to be used by reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area is over-grazed by cattle, at levels that appear too heavy to maintain the habitat. The area has declined in value since the 1998 survey and 2000 aerial photograph, most probably through over-grazing. A reduction in the grazing density through appropriate management of the site would enhance its biodiversity value. Garden and domestic refuse has been thrown over the fence from the adjacent gardens, although there does appear to have been an attempt to remove some of this. Part of the area behind the rear of the houses appears to have been subject to disturbance, possibly associated with underground services running through the site. The small western pocket of wet heath and scrub appears to be un-grazed.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no public access to the site, although there are signs of informal access (particularly from the adjacent houses).</p>	
Additional information	
<p>Several of the adjoining fields appear to support a similar wet, peaty soil, and could potentially be restored to SINC quality habitat given sufficient time and appropriate low intensity grazing. These should be considered at future SINC 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 / scrub species: *Salix cinerea*, *Salix caprea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix aurita*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*.

Marshy/ acid grassland species: *Cirsium palustre*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Cardamine hirsutum*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Carex panicea*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*. *Erica tetralix* occurs in the ungrazed western section of the SINC. *Angelica sylvestris* and *Ranunculus flammula* occur in the western drainage ditch.

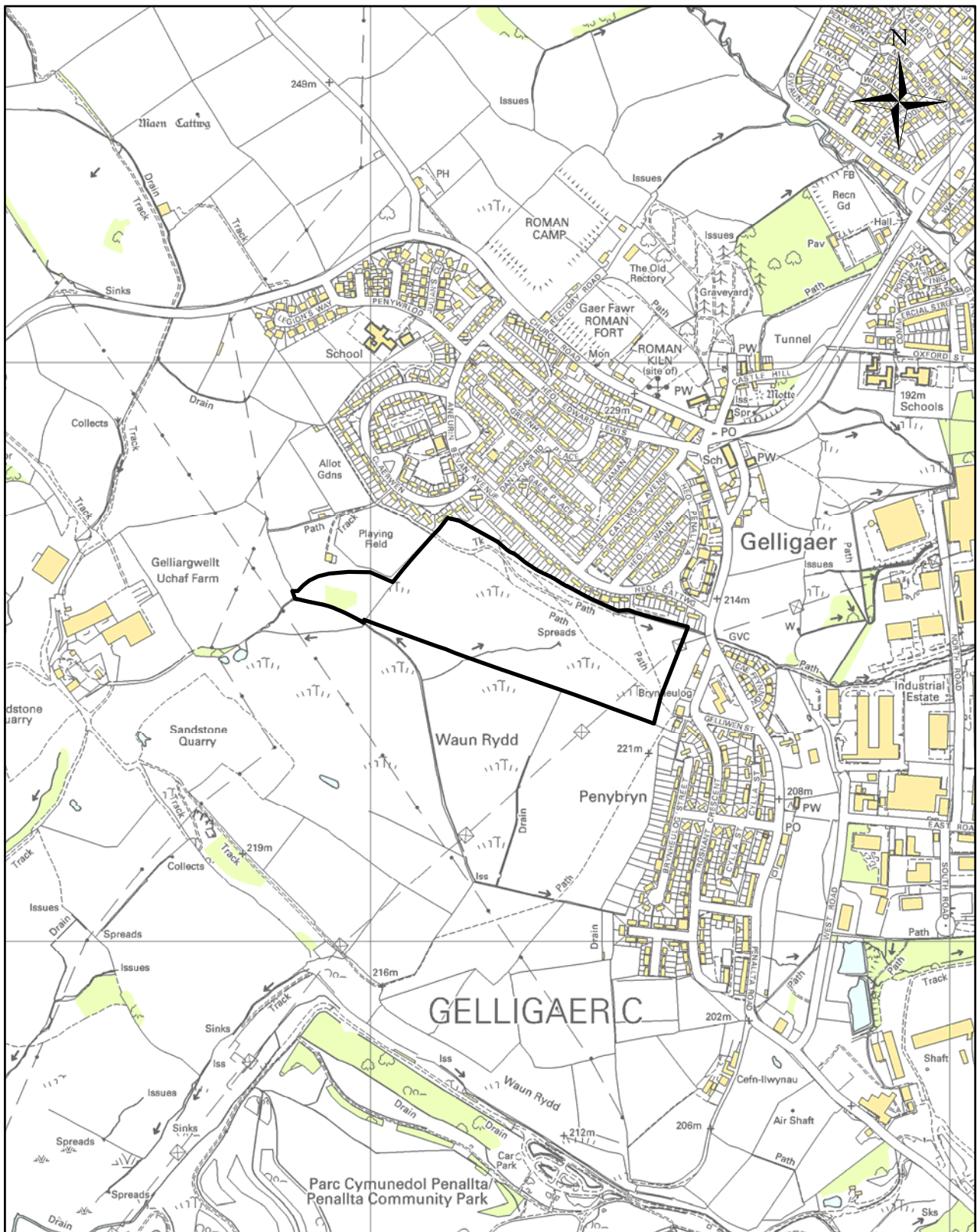
The habitats become drier and less diverse towards the north and eastern margins. The dominant species in these areas include *Juncus effusus*, *Lolium perenne*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rumex obtusifolius* and *Urtica dioica*.

Fauna observations: **Skylark**, *Meadow Pipit*, *Blue Tit*, **Common Toad**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, **Emperor Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly** (2002 record), **Curlew** (2004 breeding), **House Sparrow**, **Nightjar**, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Sphagnum* mosses.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Waun Rydd, Gelligaer 10 Ha

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