

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.57</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Wern Woodland, Nelson</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST114957</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 12</b>
<b>Survey date: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.55)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>An area of damp woodland, mainly lying within a public park managed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, namely "<i>Wern Woodland Park</i>". The canopy is mainly formed by Willow and Alder trees in the wet areas, with a few drier areas dominated by Oak and Hawthorn. There are some areas of shaded standing water with swamp vegetation, and others with marshy ground. The most diverse wetland vegetation is at the south of the site, adjacent to a boardwalk, where the tree canopy is more open. The western part of the area is grazed, and includes an area of damp semi-improved grassland. The SINC also contains a strip of semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub adjacent to a railway and cycle-path.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural wet woodland.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Semi-improved neutral grassland.	
Scrub.	
Standing water.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates.	
The woodland margins and grassland areas are likely to support reptiles.	
The site is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Most of the woodland is ungrazed and apparently subject to minimal management input. A recent woodland management plan has been prepared and will be implemented by Caerphilly County Borough Council. Horses graze part of the western area. The eastern part has been subject to recent management, involving scrub clearance, installation of a boardwalk and local blocking up of ditches. The opening up of the canopy has allowed a moderate diversity of wetland plants to flower and created conditions likely to favour a range of wildlife. This type of small-scale clearance is also likely to be beneficial if implemented in other parts of the wet woodland. Several areas have been subject to minor vandalism, including tree-damage, fires and litter. However, these activities do not appear to have affected the site's value for nature conservation. There is a small stand of Japanese knotweed beside the cycle-track in the northern part.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
The majority of the area lies within <i>Wern Woodland Park</i> . There are public footpaths at the eastern end of the SINC, including the footpath crossing the boardwalk. As it is very wet the majority of the	

area does not appear to be accessed by members of the public. Most signs of informal access are along the southern margin.

### Additional information

The SINC lies adjacent to Nelson Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with a railway line in between. Several other adjacent fields also support damp, horse-grazed grassland that may have value for nature conservation. Parc Penallta, to the east of the SSSI, supports a diverse range of new and developing habitats including ponds and reedbed likely to meet SINC criteria. These areas should be considered at future 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 tree and shrub species (NB This covers a gradual transition between wet and dry areas): *Salix cinerea*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix caprea*, *Salix aurita*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pendula*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Malus sp.*, *Frangula alnus*, *Salix viminalis*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cytisus scoparius*.

Woodland ground flora (includes shaded wetland areas): *Circaea lutetiana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Viola palustris*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Humulus lupulus*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Urtica dioica*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Caltha palustris*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Succisa pratensis*, ***Dactylorhiza fuchsii***, ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa (and hybrids)***, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Persicaria bistorta*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Phragmites australis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex remota*, *Carex paniculata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum/ inundatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Semi-improved grassland species (including trackside grassland and grazed fields):

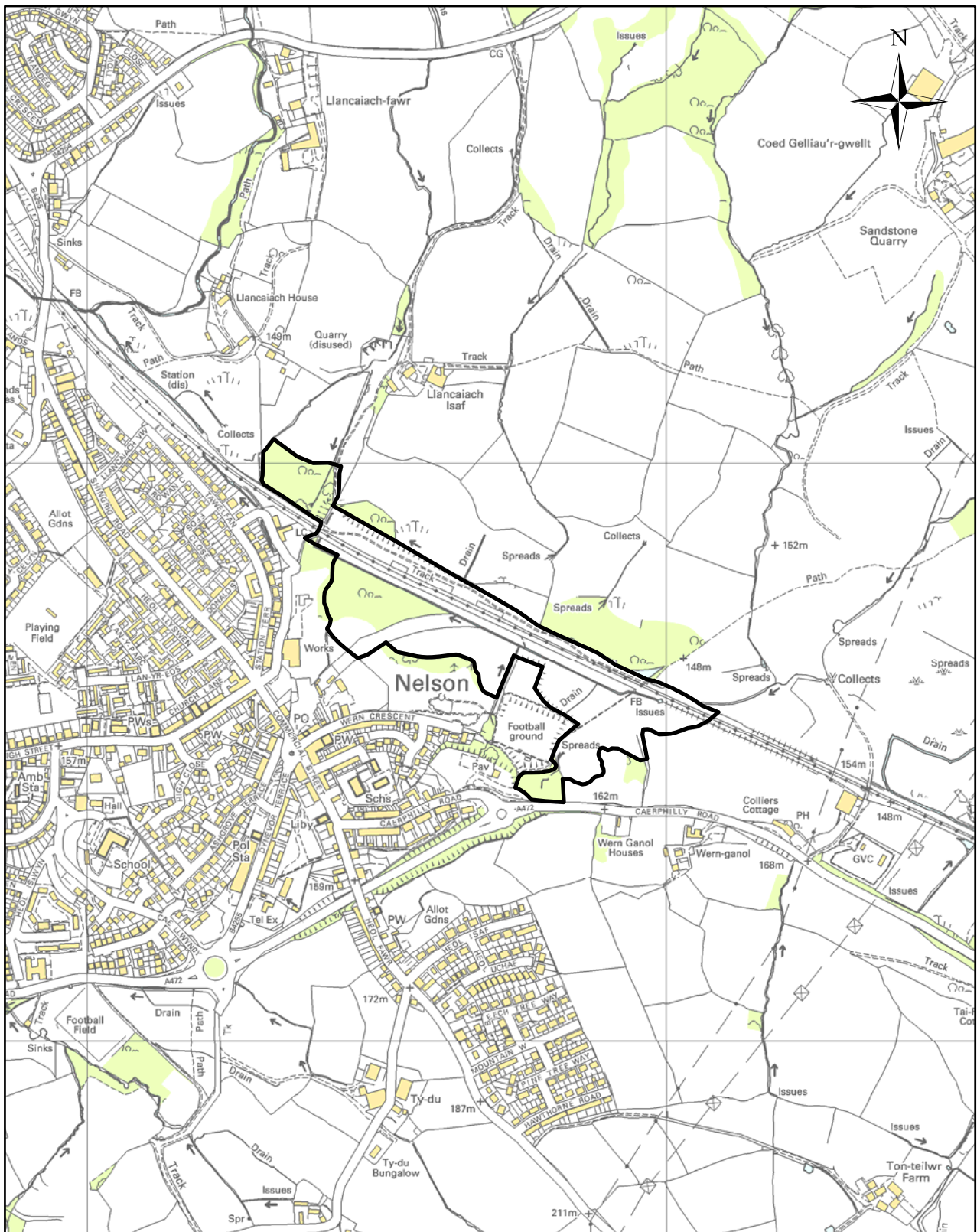
*Stellaria graminea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Trifolium repens*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Ononis repens*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Torilis japonica*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Linaria repens*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Fauna observations: ***Bullfinch***, ***Green Woodpecker***, *Wren*, *Blue Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Jay*, *Mallard*, *Blackcap*, *Nuthatch*, ***Palmate Newt***, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, possible *Small Skipper Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study: ***Song Thrush***, ***Green Woodpecker***, ***Slow Worm***, ***Common Frog***, ***Dingy Skipper Butterfly***. There are also many records from the adjacent Nelson Bog SSSI, including ***Otter***, ***Water Vole***, ***Great Crested Newt*** and ***bats***.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
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Wern Woodland, Nelson 12 Ha

1:10,000



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