

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.58</u>	SINC name: Brooklands Marsh, North of Nelson
Grid reference: ST108962	Area (hectares): 1
Survey date: 11th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.56)	
Summary description	
<p>The north of the site supports damp scrub woodland beside the Nant Caeach stream. Alder and willows mainly dominate the woodland with a shaded swamp community and Brambles as ground flora. To the west there is a low-lying hollow dominated by tall herb vegetation, particularly Greater willowherb and Bramble. The eastern side supports rough grassland on a former tipped area.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural wet woodland (in an early stage of development).</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with more than 8 indicator species.</p> <p>Tall herb vegetation.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The stream and its adjacent trees are likely to be used by foraging and possibly roosting bats.</p> <p>The area is very undisturbed and could potentially be used as a resting site for Otters.</p> <p>The mix of habitat types is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates.</p> <p>The grassland area is likely to support reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The habitats generally appear unmanaged. Garden refuse is tipped onto the site from the adjacent road. There is evidence of bonfires on the upper (eastern) part. The water quality in the marsh appears poor, with dense mats of iron bacteria present at the time of the survey.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to the site, although a footpath runs past the eastern side. There are signs of people using the upper part of the area informally, but the marshy ground and dense scrub shows no evidence of recent access.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The site is borderline with respect to the SINC qualifying criteria. It appears to have lost most of its wetland diversity as a result of tipping and neglect. The site would benefit from appropriate management to enhance its biodiversity. The site has been retained as a SINC for its wet woodland and stream corridor. The Nant Caeach stream continues upstream and downstream of the SINC (forming the county boundary), it is a feature of nature conservation value in its own right</p>	

and is likely to be a movement corridor for some species such as bats and Otter. It is fringed by Alders upstream of the SINC and acid grassland and heath immediately downstream. Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has recently designated the stream corridor as SINC across the county boundary as part of their LDP process. The designation of the stream to the east and northeast should be considered at future SINC review, which would link with nearby SINC NH 3.57 and NH 3.60.

Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Canopy and scrub species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Salix cinerea*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Quercus robur*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Ribes nigrum*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus idaeus*.

Wet woodland ground flora / wetland species (a gradual transition / mix of habitats): *Urtica dioica*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Galium aparine*, *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Veronica montana*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Geum urbanum*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Calystegia sepium*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Pellia* sp.. *Fontinalis antipyretica* (in stream).

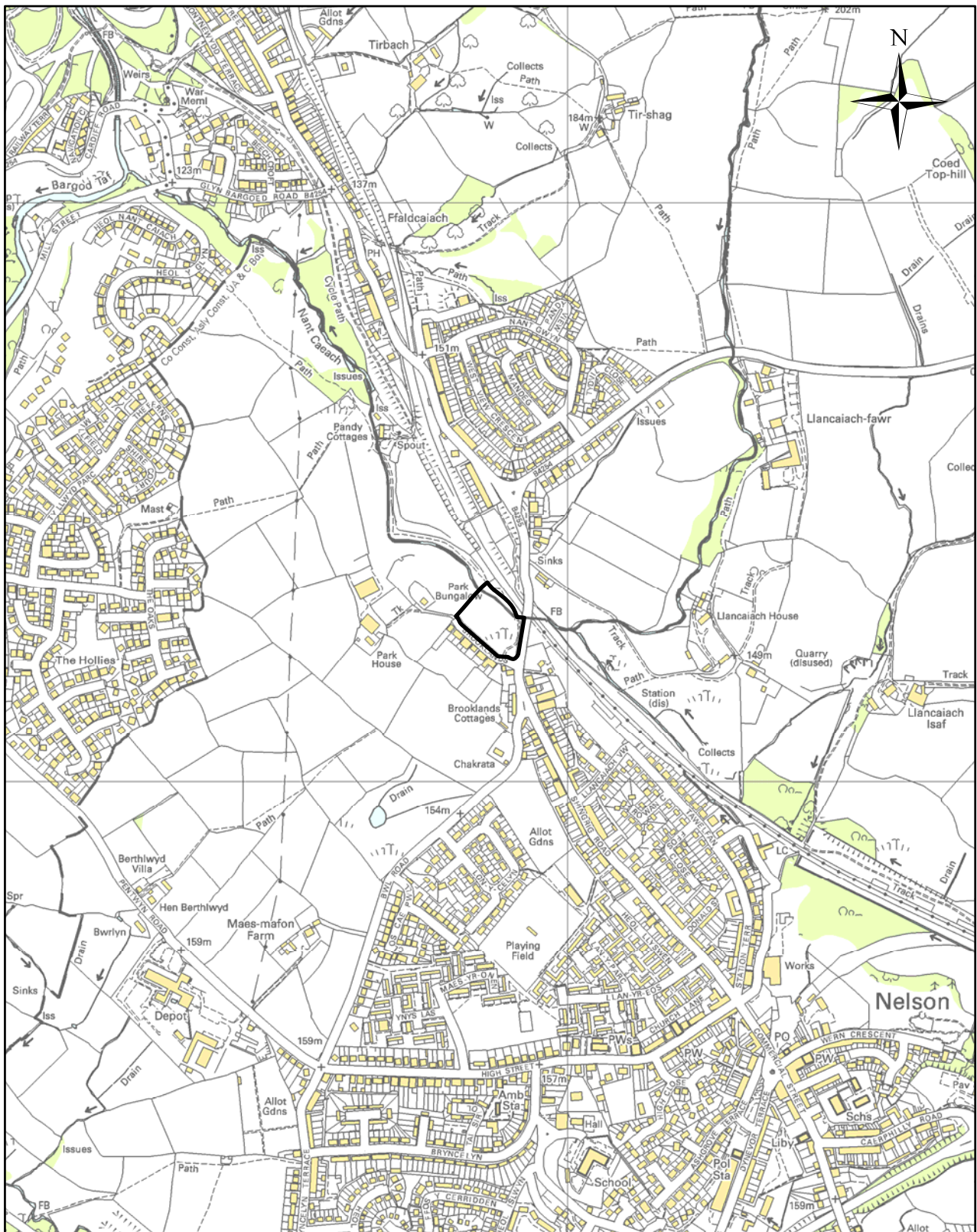
Dry grassland / scrub species: *Rubus fruticosus*, *Rosa canina*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Hypericum maculata*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Erophila verna*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Vicia sativa*, *Vicia cracca*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex disticha*, *Carex spicata*.

Fauna observations: **Song Thrush**, *Greenfinch*, *Treecreeper* (family group), *Goldfinch*, *Blackbird*, *Jackdaw*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa***, *Valeriana dioica*, *Carex paniculata*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Melica uniflora*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Ranunculus flammula*. **Bat** record from nearby properties.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.58 (SINC 056)
Brooklands Marsh, North of Nelson 1 Ha

1:10,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron.
Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.