

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.60</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Llancaiach-fawr Meadows, Llancaiach</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST112963</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 4</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: C11.57)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The Nant Caeach stream runs through a steep-sided wooded valley that forms the western boundary of the SINC. The woodland canopy comprises mainly Oak and Beech, with an understorey of Holly, Hawthorn and Bramble. The remainder of the SINC includes a mix of scrub and horse-grazed semi-improved neutral and acid grassland fields, formed partly over colliery spoil.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicators.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Stream.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates.</p> <p>The scrub margins have potential to support reptiles.</p> <p>The site likely to be of value to foraging and roosting bats. There is also potential for roosts within the buildings.</p> <p>The grassland has potential to support good numbers of waxcap fungi.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Horses graze the fields and scrub areas. The wooded valley generally appears unmanaged, although the footpath is kept clear for public access. Some of the scrub areas have become very dense and appear to be encroaching over some of the acid and damp grassland habitat. Limited scrub clearance might help to maintain a range of scrub edge and grassland conditions.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>There is no formal public access to most of the area, but a public footpath runs along the top edge of the valley.</p>	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The buildings at Llancaiach-fawr have potential to provide roost sites for bats. The semi-improved grassland fields to the east do not meet SINC criteria for their plant communities, but have the</p>	

potential to support waxcap fungi. These should be surveyed and 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*)

Hedge, scrub and woodland tree and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix caprea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa canina*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Malus* sp..

Hedge, scrub and woodland ground flora: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Conopodium majus*, *Veronica montana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Persicaria bistorta*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Urtica dioica*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Holcus mollis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Mnium hornum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

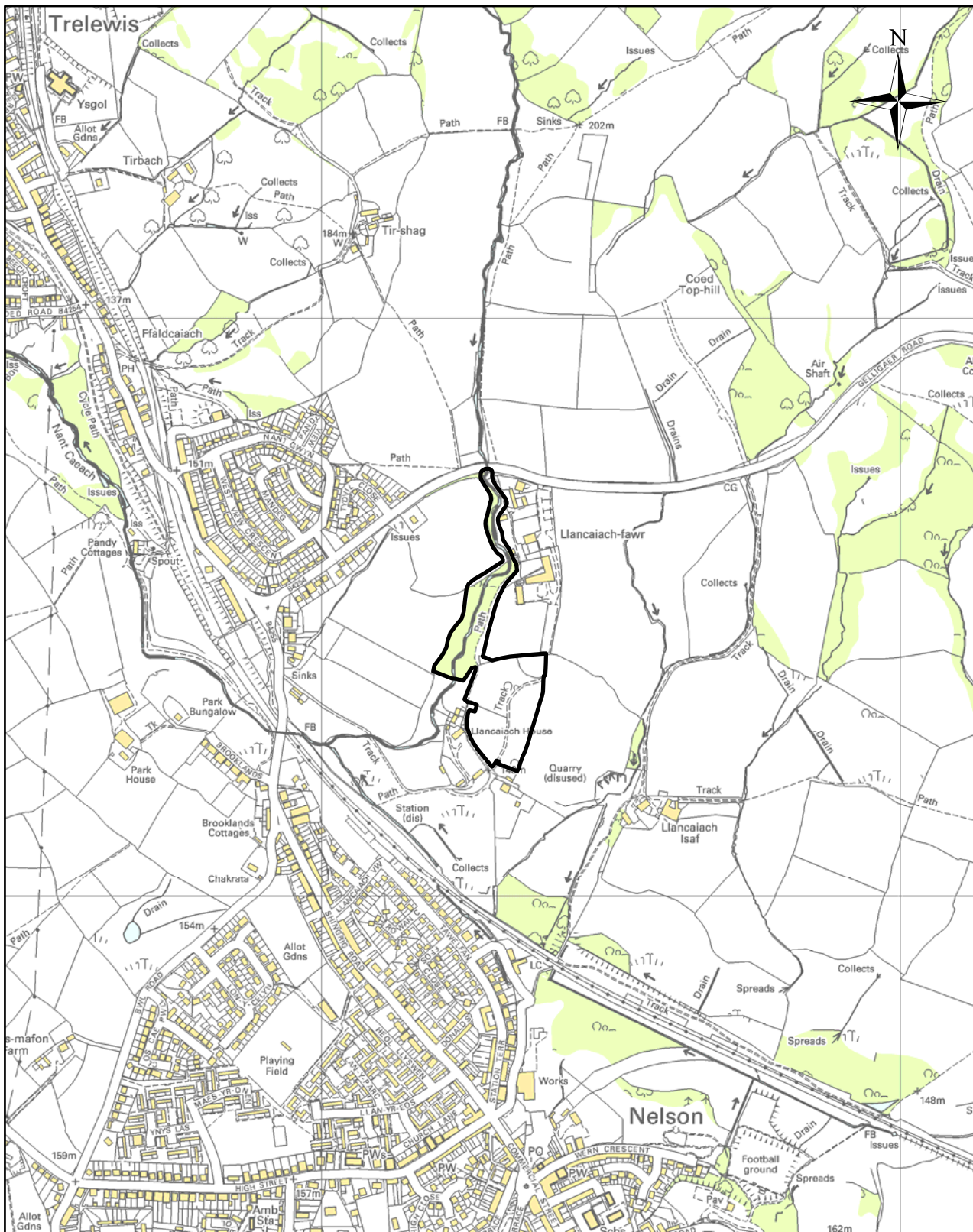
Semi-improved grassland and scrub edge species (includes patchy flora, with areas of neutral, acid and damp grassland): *Trifolium pratense*, *Trifolium repens*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Alchemilla* cf *xanthochlora*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa***, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex flacca*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytiadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Calliargonella cuspidata*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*. Grassland fungi including *Hygrocybe glutinipes* and *Entoloma* sp. were noted, and more fungi would be expected later in the year.

Fauna observations: Grey Squirrel, **Green Woodpecker**, Dunnock, Jay, Blue Tit, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Robin, Blackbird, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Red Admiral Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Bullfinch**, **Song Thrush**, Frog, **Dactylorhiza x aschersoniana**, *Ononis repens*.

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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Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.