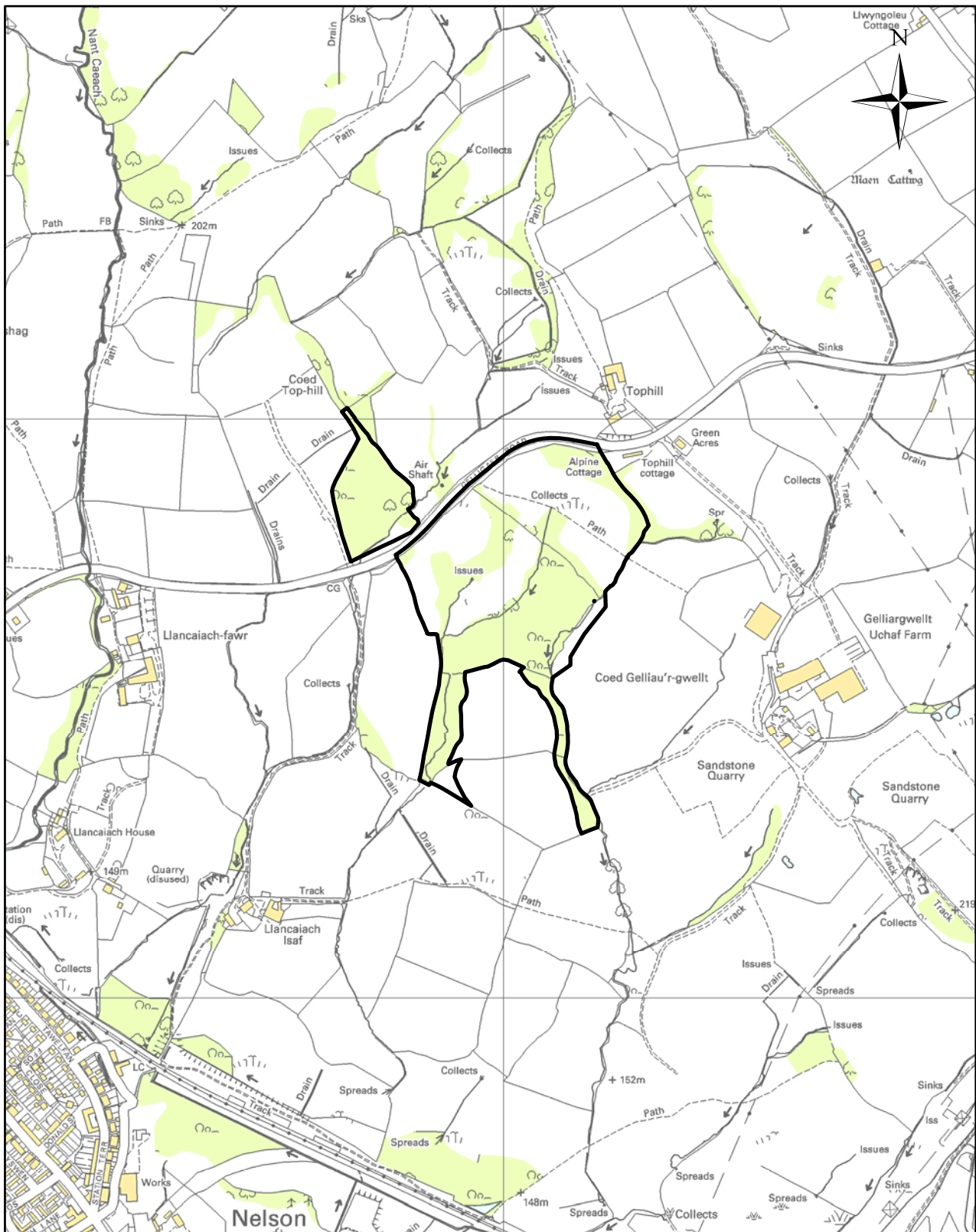


| Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council | |
|--|---|
| <u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.61</u> | SINC name: Coed Gelliau'r-gwellt, east of Llancaiach |
| Grid reference: ST120966 | Area (hectares): 16 |
| Survey date: 10th July 2007 | Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.) |
| (UDP policy reference: C11.58) | |
| Summary description | |
| <p>The site supports semi-natural, ancient Oak woodland, with a canopy of Oak, Alder and Downy birch. The area to the north of Gelligaer Road is ungrazed and includes a tangled understorey of Hazel and Holly, and a moderate diversity of semi-natural indicators in its ground flora. The majority of the woodland to the south of Gelligaer Road is grazed with less under storey and a higher proportion of grasses in its ground flora, and several large clearings that support semi-improved grassland. In the northeastern part, there is an area of Purple moor-grass and Birch scrub, with patches of diverse marshy grassland vegetation including Devil's-bit scabious, Meadow thistle and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Marsh fritillary and Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies have been recorded from this area.</p> | |
| Qualifying features | |
| <p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Marsh Fritillary Butterfly.</p> | |
| Secondary features | |
| <p>Semi-improved neutral/ acid grassland.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> | |
| Potential value/ unconfirmed features | |
| <p>The site is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The marshy grassland habitat is likely to be used by reptiles.</p> <p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, possibly including uncommon species such as fritillary butterflies or Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth.</p> | |
| Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement) | |
| <p>Cattle graze the southern woodland area and this appears to be limiting the ground flora diversity and regeneration of young trees. It would therefore be beneficial for the ground vegetation and habitat structure if the grazing intensity within the woodland were reduced. The marshy grassland area has not been grazed for several years and is subject to occasional burning. A reduction in the number of low-growing plants (see desk study data) suggests that the area has declined in nature conservation value and the re-introduction of light grazing by horses or cattle would be beneficial to enhance the site, particularly for the flora and Marsh fritillary butterfly.</p> | |

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.61 (SINC 058)
Coed Gelliau'r-Gwellt, East of Llancaiach 16 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.