

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.62</u>	SINC name: Nant Caeach, North of Llancaiach
Grid reference: ST113978	Area (hectares): 7
Survey date: 11th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.59)	
Summary description	
<p>The Nant Caeach stream flows in a gently sloping, wooded valley, along a natural, stony, meandering channel. It is bordered by ancient, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with a mainly grassy ground flora, and is grazed by cattle. The dominant tree species include Sessile oak and Beech, with Rowan and Downy birch, and occasional Holly, Hazel and Hawthorn. The ground flora includes a number of semi-natural woodland indicator species and patches of Bracken. The northern part of the SINC is a field of damp, semi-improved marshy grassland and scrub, which includes Tussock sedge and several mature trees.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-natural ancient woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Stream.	
Semi-improved/ marshy grassland.	
Scrub.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Likely to provide a good commuting route and foraging / roosting opportunities for bats.	
The site is likely to support a good range of invertebrates, potentially including uncommon species.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The majority of the woodland habitat is subject to grazing by sheep and cattle. This has limited the development of an under storey and regeneration of young trees. A reduction in the grazing intensity would be beneficial for the habitat structure and ground flora diversity. Young Birch and Hawthorn trees have recently been removed by machine in some areas. The reason for the removal is unclear, but it is unlikely to be beneficial for biodiversity. The northern field was grazed by sheep at the time of the survey, and has also recently been planted with young Ash and Birch trees. Additional shading in this area and selective grazing by sheep is likely to result in a decline in nature conservation value in this field. Appropriate management would enhance this area.</p>	
Access/ community use	
There are no public rights of way through the site, although a footpath passes its southern edge.	
Additional information	
<p>The Nant Caeach continues upstream and downstream of the SINC (forming the county boundary), it is a feature of nature conservation value in its own right and could potentially serve as a movement corridor for some species such as bats and Otter (and link with SINC NH 3.17 Cefn Gelligaer to the north and NH 3.60 Llancaiach-Fawr Meadows to the south). Aerial photography</p>	

and Phase 1 mapping indicates several fields of marshy grassland and woodland at approximately ST119974. These areas should be considered at future SINC 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 canopy and scrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Salix cinerea*, *Salix aurita*, *Malus sp.*, *Betula pendula*.

Ground flora species (including stream bank): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Urtica dioica*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Veronica montana*, *Conopodium majus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polypodium sp.*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Isoetes myosuroides*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Polytrichum formosum*. *Fontinalis antipyretica* and *Rhynchostegium riparioides* recorded in the stream.

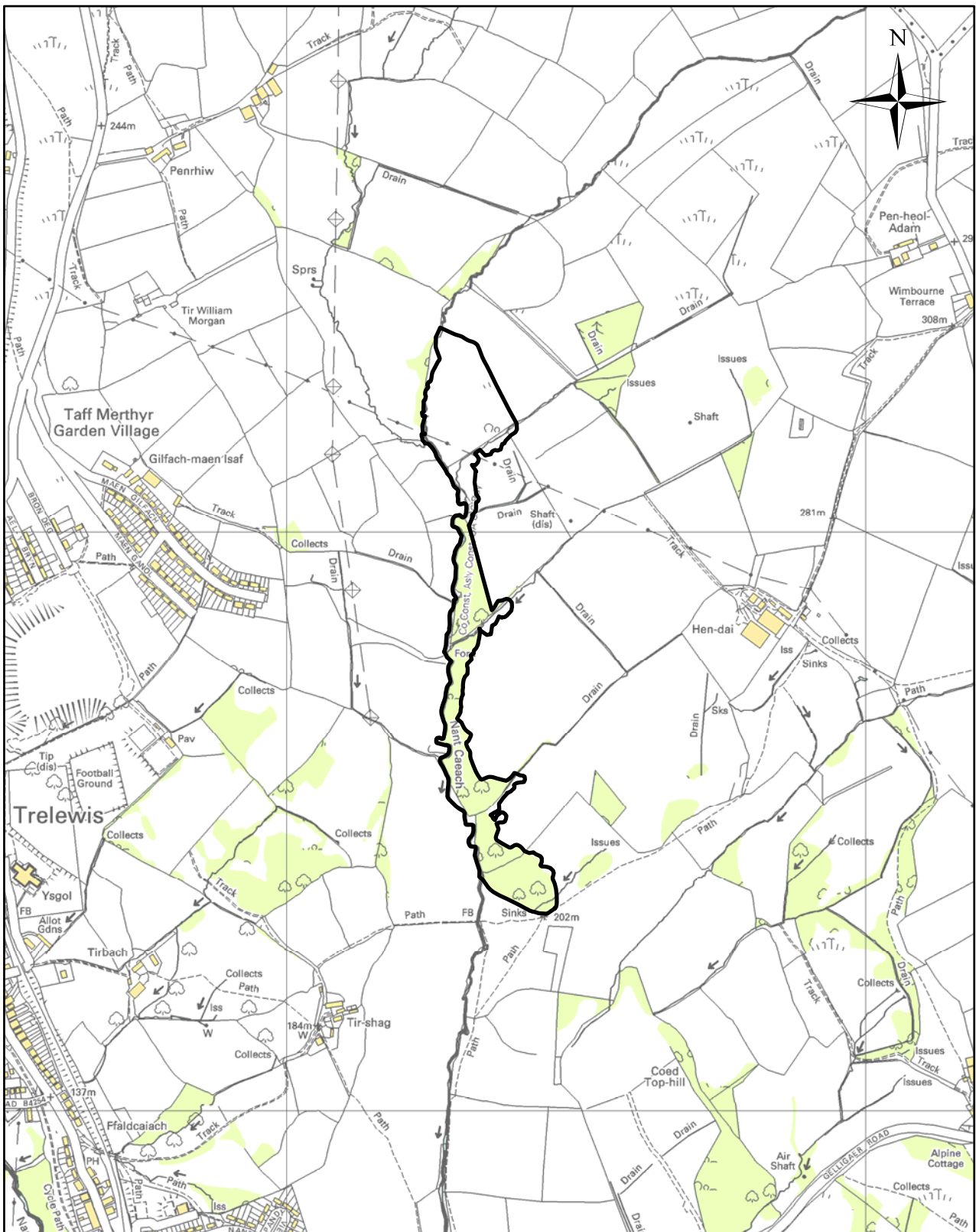
Grassland species in northern field: *Cirsium palustre*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola palustris*, *Urtica dioica*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Carex paniculata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, *Blue Tit*, *Chaffinch*, *Blackbird*, *Jay*, *Willow Warbler*, *Goldfinch*, *Wren*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, possible *Large White Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Curlew** (breeding within 1km square).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.62 (SINC 059)
Nant Caeach, North of Llancaiach 7 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.