

<p><b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b></p> <p><b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.41</u></b>    SINC name: Nant-gau and Darren Woodlands, north of Oakdale</p> <p><b>Grid references: SO180000 (2ha), SO181000 (1ha), ST182999 (1ha), ST184994 and ST188995 (2ha)</b></p> <p><b>Total Area (hectares): 6</b></p> <p><b>Survey date: 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2007</b></p> <p><b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)    (UDP policy reference: C11.60)</b></p>
<p><b>Summary description</b></p> <p>Four stands of broad-leaved woodland, each with semi-natural elements in their ground flora. The woodland at SO180000 comprises mature standard trees of Sessile oak, Ash, Rowan and Hawthorn. It is grazed by horses and has little shrub layer with a ground flora dominated by grasses and Bracken. It also includes an ungrazed area to the east of Cwm Road (SO181000), which has a more diverse ground flora including several semi-natural woodland indicators. The wood at ST182999 has a canopy of Oak, Holly and Rowan and is grazed by horses. The grass-dominated ground flora includes areas of Cow wheat and Wood sorrel, and marshy ground with rushes and Purple moor-grass. The woodland at ST184994 is continuous with SINC C11_63. It is relatively young woodland partially growing on coal-spoil, with a canopy dominated by Oak and Beech, and an ungrazed, tangled understorey of Bramble and Holly. A small field to the east side supports neutral grassland and scrub. The woodland at ST188995 has a canopy of Oak, Ash, Willow, Birch and Hazel, with a dense, tangled understorey of Bramble and Nettles. It is a very damp site and includes a small, largely shaded pond. The cutting slope of the adjacent road is also included in the SINC as it supports damp grassland and flush vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Qualifying features</b></p> <p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.</p>
<p><b>Secondary features</b></p> <p>Neutral grassland.</p> <p>Flush.</p> <p>Pond.</p> <p>Bracken.</p>
<p><b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b></p> <p>Each of the woodlands is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>These woods may feasibly support Dormice, particularly those connected to larger wooded areas.</p> <p>Woodlands likely to support Badgers.</p> <p>The grasslands at ST184994 and ST188994 are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The pond at ST187994 could potentially support amphibians.</p>
<p><b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b></p> <p>None of the woodlands appeared to have been subject to recent management, other than the two horse-grazed stands. The intensity of horse grazing appears to be limiting the ground flora and a slight reduction in grazing pressure could potentially improve their value for biodiversity.</p>

### Access/ community use

There is no formal public access to any of the woodlands. However, Cwm Road passes through the northern woodland and the two most southerly woods lie adjacent to roads and a footpath.

### Additional information

The nearby broad-leaved woodland beside the Nant-Gwrhay at ST184997 shows some characteristics of semi-natural woodland (when viewed from the road) and should be considered at future SINC review. The woodland adjoining the two northern woodland blocks does not appear to meet SINC selection criteria, but is likely to have some value as connecting habitat. The woodland at ST184994 only marginally qualifies as a SINC and should be considered for inclusion within NH 3.71 (since it is continuous with it) at future SINC review. The adjoining neutral grassland does not meet SINC criteria, but has been retained as secondary habitat.

### 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 tree and shrub species (all areas combined): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Rosa canina*, *Alnus glutinosa*.

Woodland ground flora species (all areas combined): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Urtica dioica*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Conopodium majus*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Mnium hornum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Polytrichum formosum*.

***Epipactis helleborine***, *Sanicula europaea* and *Alnus incana* were noted in the east side of the wood at SO181000.

*Melampyrum pratense*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Viola palustris*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus conglomeratus* were noted in the wood at ST182999.

*Luzula pilosa*, *Larix sp.*, *Rhododendron ponticum* and *Diplophyllum albicans* were noted in the wood at ST184994.

*Salix cinerea*, *Salix caprea*, *Salix aurita*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Viola palustris*, ***Epipactis helleborine*** and *Ajuga reptans* were noted in the wood at ST188995. *Lemna minor*, *Typha latifolia* and *Glyceria fluitans* were present in the pond.

Neutral grassland species at ST184994: *Verbascum thapsus*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Vicia tetrasperma*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Torilis japonica*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Vicia cracca*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Flush and neutral grassland species at ST188994: *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Typha latifolia*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Torilis japonica*, *Tussilago farfara*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus inflexus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Scorpidium revolvens*, *Cratoneuron filicinum*, *Cratoneuron commutatum*, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Polytrichum urnigerum*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Pellia sp.* *Peltigera sp.*, *Cladonia sp.*. A single fruiting body of waxcap *Hygrocybe conica* was also present.

Fauna observations (all areas combined): Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, **Spotted Flycatcher** (ST182999), **Green Woodpecker**, Nuthatch, Blackbird, Robin, Goldfinch, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Wren, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Gatekeeper Butterfly, Small White Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, Small Skipper Butterfly, Burnet Moth.

Additional records from desk study: SO181000: **Buzzard**, *Malus sylvestris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Veronica montana*, *Quercus robur*, *Ulmus glabra*.

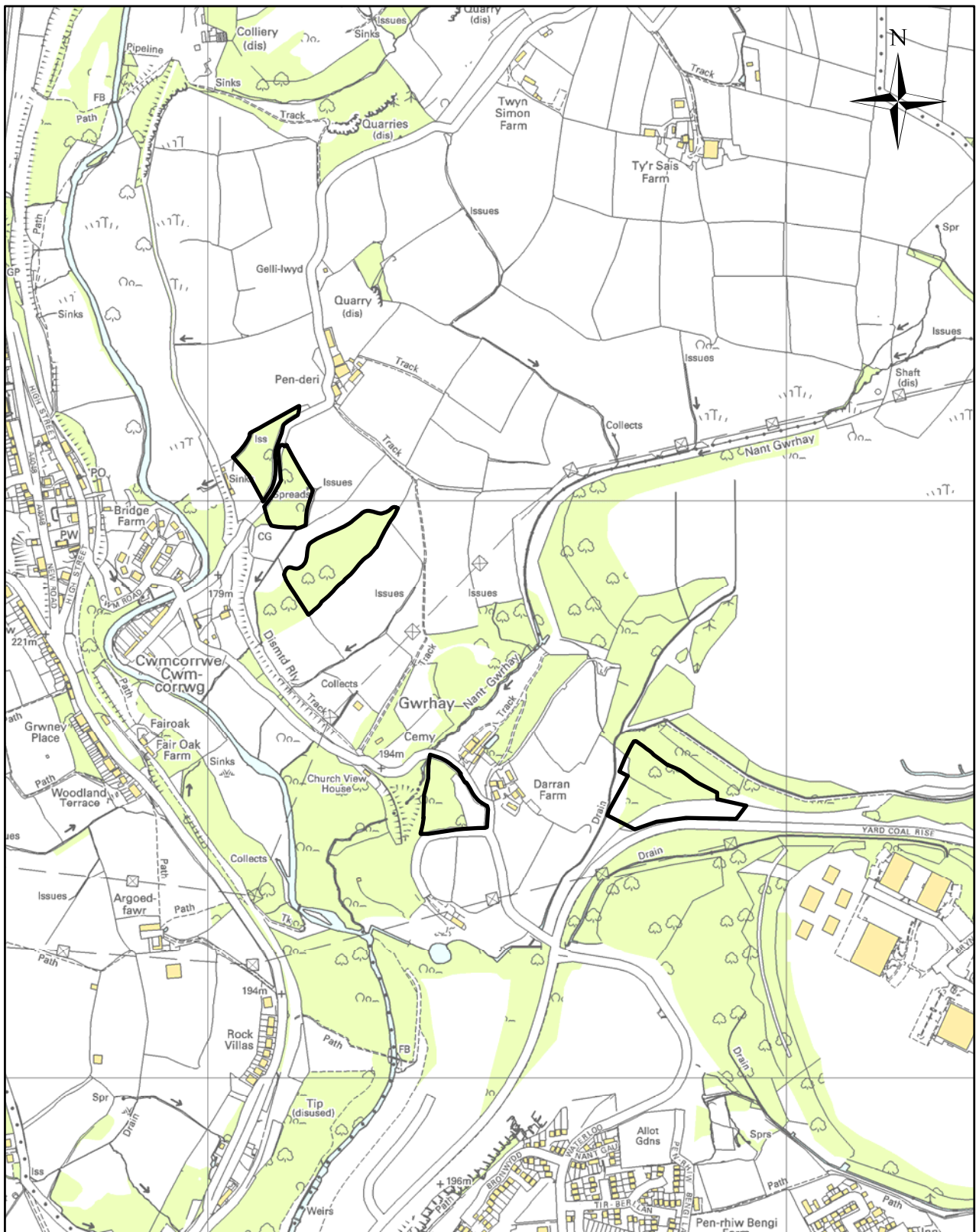
ST182999: *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*.

ST184994. Two small ponds present (1977).

ST188995: **Common Frog**, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Cardamine pratensis*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.41 (SINC 060)  
Nant-Gau and Darran Woodlands, North of Oakdale 6 Ha

1:10,000



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