

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.42</u>	SINC name: Caeau Cwm-corrwg, North of Oakdale
Grid reference: ST180996	Area (hectares): 2
Survey date: 24th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.62)	
Summary description	
A strip of horse-grazed pasture extending from a narrow floodplain up a southwest facing valley side. The sward is mainly short with a diverse range of neutral grassland plants. Grassland fungi occur on the drier parts. Scattered scrub occurs throughout the area. The lower area includes a shallow meander channel with wetland vegetation.	
Qualifying features	
Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Scrub.	
Stream.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The stream corridor is likely to be used by Otters.	
The area is likely to be of value to foraging bats.	
Additional species of grassland fungi are likely to be present.	
The scrub margins are likely to provide a habitat for reptiles.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Horses graze the fields, which appears to be at an optimal level for a good range of wildlife. Limited scrub clearance may be of value for biodiversity where dense Bramble is present on the drier ground. Grazing is heaviest in the northern field, which has relatively low plant diversity, which may still be good for grassland fungi. Japanese knotweed occurs beside the stream but is kept in check by the livestock. New Zealand Pigmyweed (<i>Crassula helmsii</i>) is abundant in the old meander channel.	
Access/ community use	
There are no public footpaths through the site.	
Additional information	
This site lies immediately adjacent to the River Sirhowy SINC NH 3.11 along its southwestern boundary and SINC NH 3.71 Blackwood Riverside Woodlands along its southeastern boundary. The grassland to the west of the stream may also be of value for biodiversity and should be considered for inclusion 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*)

Hedge and scrub woody species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus robur*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hedera helix*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa canina*.

Grassland species (all areas combined): *Centaurea nigra*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Centaureum erythraea*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Trifolium repens*, *Alchemilla xanthochlora*, *Hypericum humifusum*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Viola riviniana*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Bellis perennis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Odontites vernus*, *Crassula helmsii*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Gnaphalium uliginosum*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Festuca rubra*, *Briza media*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex flacca*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

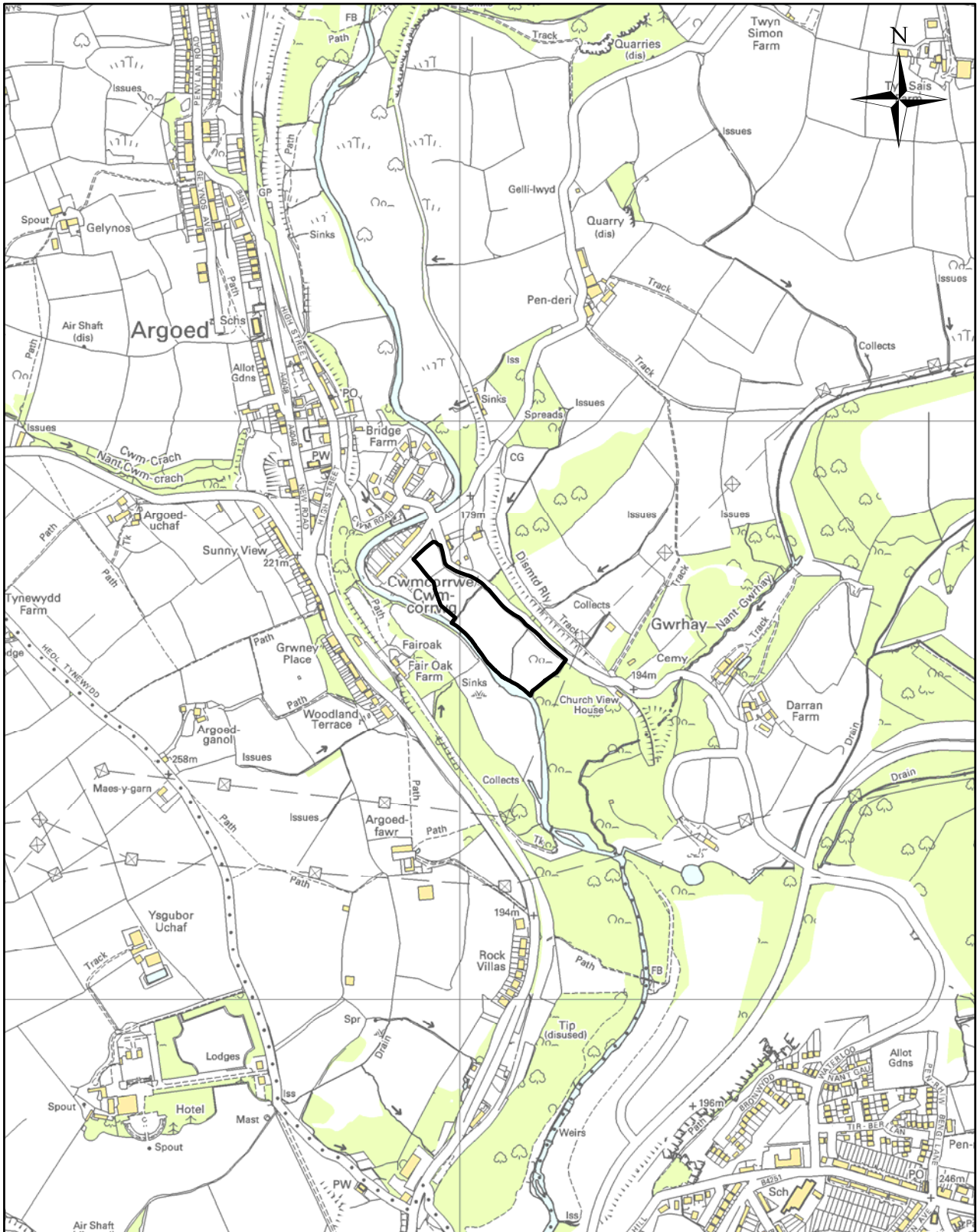
Grassland fungi on the drier slopes included *Hygrocybe coccinea*, *H.intermedia*, *H.conica*, *H.glutinipes* and *Entoloma* sp.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, **Song Thrush**, **Bullfinch**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Otter** (on river less than 50m from boundary), *Carex caryophyllea*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*.

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Caeu Cwm-Corrwg, North of Oakdale 2 Ha

1:10,000



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