

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.87</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Penmaen Woodlands, Penmaen</b>
<b>Grid ref: ST182983 and ST184977</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 7</b>
<b>Survey date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.64)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>Two linear woodlands on west-facing slopes. Both have a similar character, dominated by a canopy of Sessile oak, Ash and Beech with a tangled shrub layer of Holly, Hazel and Bramble. The ground flora in both woodlands is relatively sparse, but includes a number of semi-natural woodland indicator species, including abundant Bluebells. The northern woodland at ST182983 includes some areas of damp woodland with Alder. The southern woodland is drier and includes an area of neutral grassland and scrub at its northern end.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Scrub.	
Semi-improved neutral grassland.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Both woodlands are likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Both woodlands have potential to support Dormice.	
The remnant of grassland in the southern woodland has potential to support common reptiles.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Horses graze small areas within both woodlands, but the northern woodland appears largely unmanaged. The northern woodland would benefit from limited management to open up parts of the canopy, for example by localised coppicing or creation of glades, to encourage ground flora regeneration. A small stand of Japanese knotweed is present at the edge of the road in the northern woodland. There appears to have been some recent woodland management in part of the southern woodland and the young trees in the grassland within the southern woodland may have been planted. There is evidence of minor vandalism, fires and litter within the southern woodland, but these do not appear to affect its value for nature conservation. There are also some tipping of refuse and small garden extensions affecting the boundary of the southern woodland.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
Two public footpaths and a road provide access through the northern woodland. There is no formal public access to the southern woodland, but several informal paths appear to be in regular use.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The northern part of the SINC lies adjacent to the new Sirhowy Enterprise Way, which could potentially be extended in future to include the riverside woodland to the north of Rhiw Syr Dafydd Hill (ST181985). The habitats adjacent to the southern part of the SINC were examined briefly as</p>	

part of the review. Although the adjacent land is mainly species poor grassland there are a few areas with nature conservation value that should be considered as SINC's at future review. These include the adjacent wet grassland at ST181976 (which includes neutral and marshy grassland with Sharp-flowered rush, Meadow thistle, Tormentil, Lady's mantle and Devil's-bit scabious) and the small woodland at ST181973 (which has a canopy of Oak and Beech, with Bluebell and Wood sorrel in the ground flora).

### **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 (similar in both areas): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Sorbus aucuparia*. The northern woodland also includes *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus* and *Viburnum opulus*. Several large *Pinus sylvestris* are present in the southern woodland.

Ground flora species at ST182983: *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lapsana communis*, *Tamus communis*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Poa trivialis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Polypodium sp.*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Calypogeia fissa*, *Calypogeia arguta*.

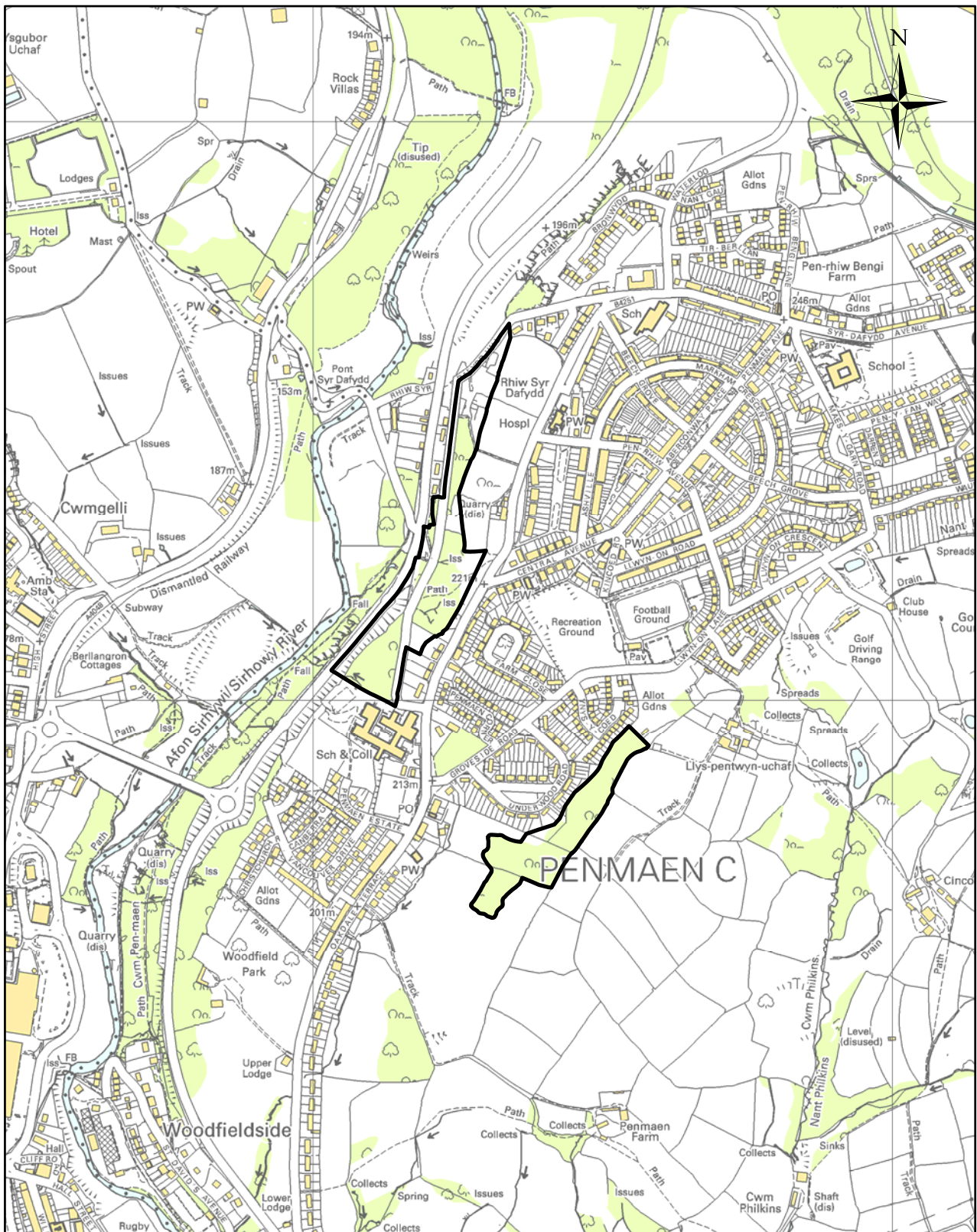
Ground flora species at ST184977: *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Holcus mollis*, *Poa trivialis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pellia sp.*. The open grassy area supports *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Pteridium aquilinum* and *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, *Grey Squirrel*, ***Buzzard***, ***Green Woodpecker***, *Blue Tit*, *Chaffinch*, *Coal Tit*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Dunnock*, *Robin*, *Nuthatch*, *Jay*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Heath Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Otter** records from Sirhowy River (96m from SINC boundary), **Bat** records from nearby urban areas. Hedgehog (northern woodland). *Malus sylvestris* (northern woodland).

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.87 (SINC 064)  
Penmaen Woodlands, Penmaen 7 Ha

1:10,000



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