

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.97</u>	SINC name: Nant Philkins Fields, Oakdale
Grid reference: ST192981	Area (hectares): 4
Survey date: 16th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.66)	
Summary description	
The site supports species-rich marshy grassland, mainly dominated by Purple moor-grass with locally abundant Devil's-bit scabious and Meadow thistle, and patches of wet heath vegetation. Hedge banks, mainly supporting Beech and Oak, border the fields. Scattered Birch and Willow scrub occurs locally, particularly in association with the remains of former field ditches.	
Qualifying features	
Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Hedges and scrub.	
Ditches.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, possibly including uncommon species such as Marsh fritillary, Small pearl-bordered fritillary or Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth.	
The site is likely to provide good foraging habitat for bats and there is potential for bats to roost in some of the trees.	
The marshy grassland habitat is likely to be used by reptiles.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Horses lightly graze the fields, which is an ideal form of management for this type of habitat.	
Access/ community use	
A well-used public footpath crosses the area.	
Additional information	
The adjacent fields to the east of the SINC boundary support semi-improved neutral grassland. They do not appear to meet SINC selection criteria, but probably have some nature conservation value, particularly in the damper, patches of rush and in the boundary habitats. These fields 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 <i>italics</i>)	
Hedge and scrub woody species: <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> , <i>Corylus</i>	

avellana, *Salix cinerea*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hedera helix*, *Salix caprea*, *Salix aurita*, *Malus sp.*, *Ulex gallii*.

Hedge and scrub ground flora species: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Aira praecox*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Cladonia sp.*. The fungus *Cantharellus cibarius* was fruiting below Beech trees on some of the hedge banks.

Marshy grassland species (includes a few areas of drier acid grassland and areas of wet heath): *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Salix repens*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Viola palustris*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Ranunculus flammula*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Galium palustre*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Galium saxatile*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis canina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Briza media*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex ovalis*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

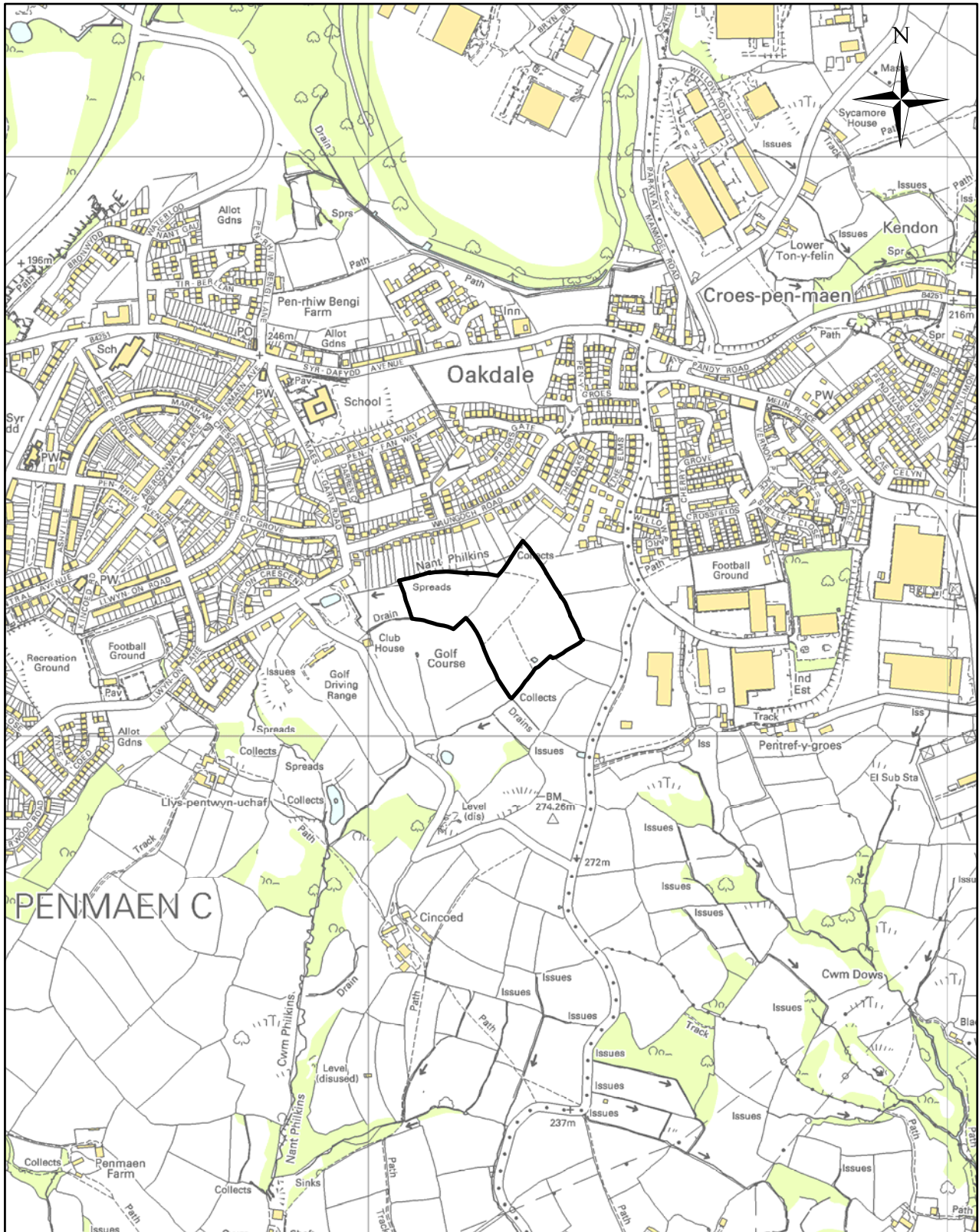
Damp ground beside the northern ditch also included *Oenanthe crocata*, *Typha latifolia*, *Impatiens glandulifera* and *Caltha palustris*.

Fauna observations: **Green Woodpecker**, **Buzzard**, **Chaffinch**, **Meadow Brown Butterfly**, **Emperor Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Bat** records from nearby areas, **Common Frog**, ***Dactylorhiza fuchsii***, ***Dactylorhiza praetermissa***, *Carex nigra*, *Carex riparia*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Mentha aquatica* and *Serratula tinctoria*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.97 (SINC 066)
Nant Philkins Fields, Oakdale 4 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

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.