

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.89</u>	SINC name: Coed Cwm Philkins, East of Penmaen
Grid reference: ST188977	Area (hectares): 6
Survey date: 16th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.69)	
Summary description	
<p>The Nant Philkins stream runs through the centre of this site, flowing in a natural stony channel through a wooded valley. Some of the woodland appears relatively young, with a high proportion of Hawthorn, Downy birch and Alder, but there are also mature Oak trees and semi-natural indicator species in the ground flora. Several fields of damp, neutral grassland occur adjacent to the woodland and these support moderately diverse flora, with species including Common knapweed and Devil's-bit scabious. A recently constructed fish pond in the northeast of the site provides a habitat for several species of dragonfly.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural broadleaved woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Stream.</p> <p>Pond.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice.</p> <p>Otters may use the stream corridors.</p> <p>The site is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The majority of the site east of the stream is grazed by cattle, which have access to the woodland as well as the fields. Horses graze the fields to the west of the stream. The rushes in the northernmost field had been cut immediately before the survey. The grassland around the pond appears to be managed by mowing.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>A public footpath crosses through the area.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>Several of the fields and blocks of woodland adjoining the SINC support habitats likely to have value for nature conservation. These include the horse-grazed pastures to the southwest and damp woodlands to the northeast. These should be considered for inclusion at future SINC review.</p>	

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 woodland tree and shrub species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Betula pubescens*, *Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Hedera helix*, *Salix cinerea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Salix caprea*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Rosa arvensis*.

Hedge and woodland ground flora species: *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Dicranum scoparium*.

Grassland species (includes neutral grassland and marshy grassland components as they grade into one another): *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Galium palustre*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Viola palustris*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Lolium perenne*, *Agrostis canina*, *Poa trivialis*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex panicea*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Pond vegetation: *Typha latifolia*, *Potamogeton natans*.

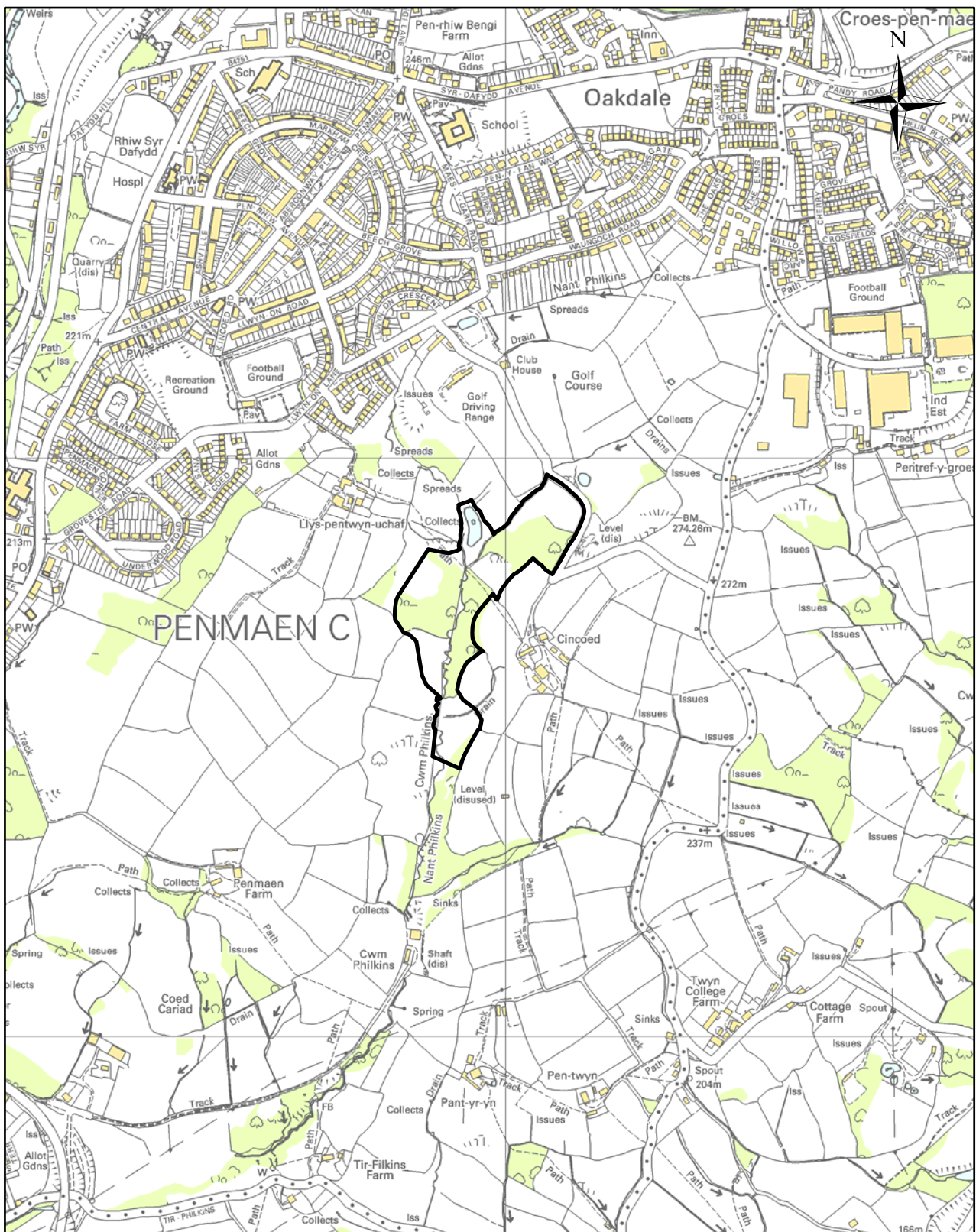
Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Rabbit*, **Buzzard**, **Bullfinch**, *Nuthatch*, *Goldfinch*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Jay*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, **Common Frog** (tadpoles), *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly**, **Azure Damselfly**, **Common Damselfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Pipistrelle bat** and **Brown Long-eared bat** (280m north of SINC), *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Polygala vulgaris*.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary within 1km grid square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Coed Cwm Philkins, East of Penmaen 6 Ha

1:10,000



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