

| <b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>   |   |
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| <b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.90</u></b>   | <b>SINC name: Cyncoed Fields, East of Penmaen</b>             |
| <b>Grid reference: ST192974</b>   | <b>Area (hectares): 7</b>                                     |
| <b>Survey date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>   | <b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b> |
| <b>(UDP policy reference: C11.70)</b>   |   |
| <b>Summary description</b>  |   |
| <p>The site includes three small fields at the eastern side and one at the west, and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, which follows two steep-sides valleys. The eastern fields support a diverse, flower-rich, damp grassland sward with a high proportion of Devil's-bit scabious, Meadow thistle and Common knapweed. The western field has a shorter sward, with patchy scrub and includes several species of waxcap fungi. Banks supporting mature Beech and Oak trees generally form the field boundaries; Cow-wheat is locally abundant on some of these banks. The woodland areas have a canopy of Alder, Oak, Beech and Ash with a good range of semi-natural indicator species in the ground flora. A few areas of younger woodland area present with a higher proportion of Birch and Hawthorn.</p> |   |
| <b>Qualifying features</b>  |   |
| <p>Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 14 indicator species.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species (<i>N.B. these grassland habitats merge with one another in the eastern fields</i>).</p> <p>Semi-natural broadleaved woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p>  |   |
| <b>Secondary features</b>   |   |
| <p>Streams.</p> <p>Grassland supporting waxcap fungi.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>   |   |
| <b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>  |   |
| <p>The grassland areas are 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.</p> <p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice and Otters may use the stream corridors. The site is also likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The presence of 3 waxcap fungi species in the western field in July suggests that this is a good site for grassland fungi. The site is likely to support additional grassland fungi species, and may reach SINC qualifying criteria for waxcaps.</p>  |   |

### Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

The eastern fields were ungrazed at the time of the survey. The management regime is not known, but some form of light or intermittent grazing by cattle or horses would be beneficial for this type of habitat. The western field has a shorter sward, grazed by cattle, and possibly horses, resulting in good conditions for fungi, and allowing species such as Devil's-bit scabious to persist. The livestock currently have access to the woodland areas.

### Access/ community use

Two public footpaths cross the area.

### Additional information

Aerial photographs suggest that several of the fields adjoining the western part of the SINC and the Nant Philkins stream downstream support habitat that may be of value for nature conservation, which may warrant further investigation 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 woodland tree and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix cinerea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hedera helix*, *Salix caprea*, *Malus sp.*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Hedge and woodland ground flora species: *Digitalis purpurea*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides* (*in stream*).

Grassland species in eastern fields (includes neutral and marshy grassland, as they grade into one another): *Cirsium dissectum*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Galium palustre*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola palustris*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Valeriana officinalis*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Galium saxatile*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Lathyrus pratense*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Galium saxatile*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis canina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex viridula*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

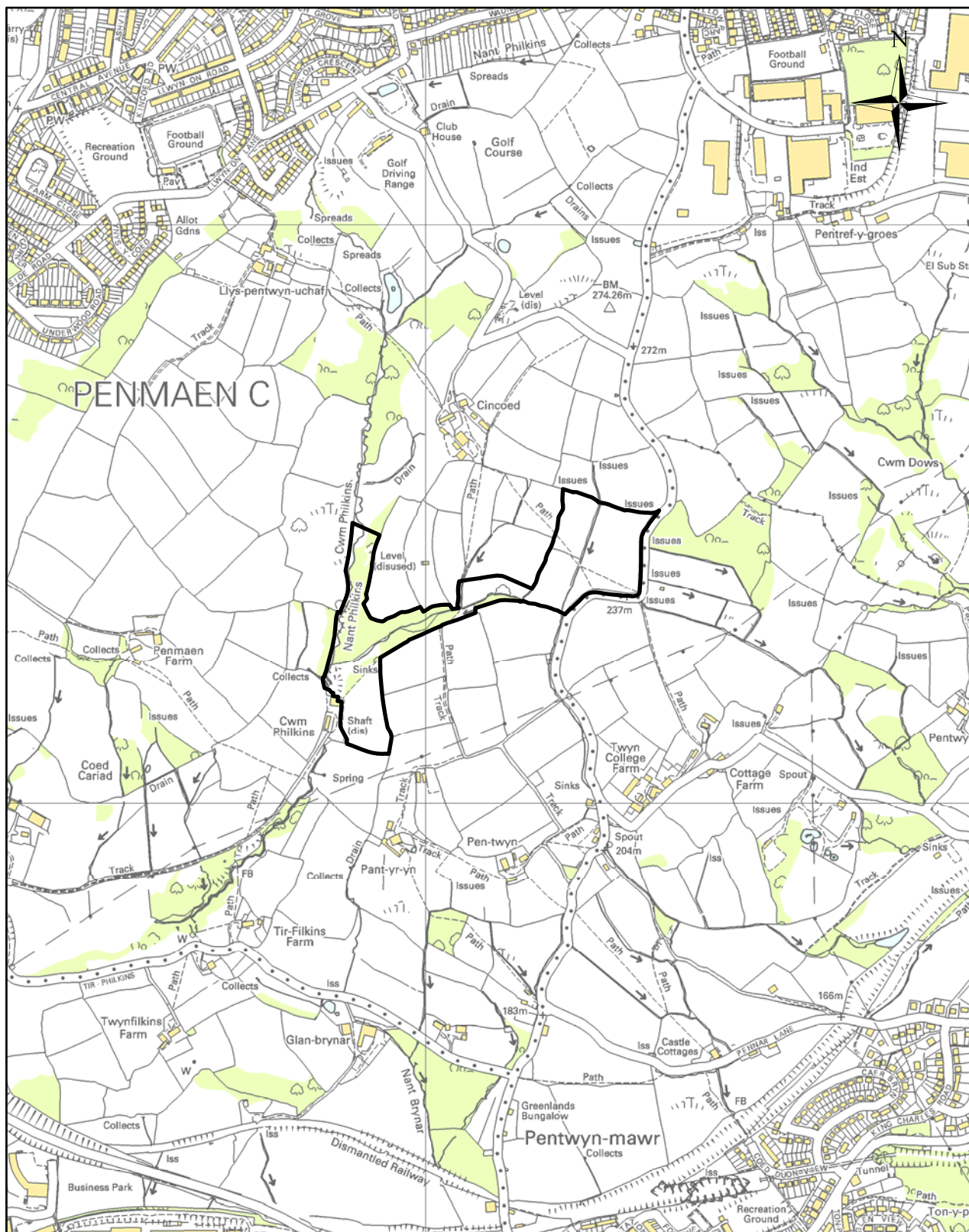
Grassland species in western field: *Succisa pratensis*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*. The waxcap species *Hygrocybe intermedia*, *H. conica* and *H. quieta* were noted in this field.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Rabbit*, **Green Woodpecker**, **Buzzard**, *Nuthatch*, *Chaffinch*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Skipper Butterfly*, *Small Copper Butterfly*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Burnet Moths*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly** (within 1km), *Carex otrubae*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Luzula campestris*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Stachys officinalis*, *Carex caryophyllea*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Silaum silaus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.90 (SINC 070)  
Cyncoed Fields, East of Penmaen 7 Ha

1:10,000



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