

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.91</u>	SINC name: Pentwyn-isaf Woodlands, Pentwyn-isaf
Grid reference: 197968	Area (hectares): 11
Survey date: 24th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.71)	
Summary description	
<p>A series of small woodlands with two fields of marshy grassland in the northern part. The main canopy species are Oak, Downy birch and Beech with local Alder and Sycamore, and an understorey of Hazel, Holly and Bramble. The woodlands generally have a semi-natural character, but a few areas of relatively recent origin are also included. A shaded, stagnant pond is present in the most southerly part. The fields in the north support damp neutral grassland, locally grading into marshy grassland. Species in these fields include Meadow thistle, Marsh pennywort, Lesser skullcap, Devil's-bit scabious and Heath spotted-orchid.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Neutral grassland.</p> <p>Pond.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The area is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The woodlands have potential to support Dormice.</p> <p>The grassland habitat has potential to support reptiles.</p> <p>The pond could potentially be a breeding site for amphibians.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>There is no evidence of any recent woodland management; most of the area appears unmanaged. Cattle graze within the northern woodland areas, and part of the most easterly woodland appears to be semi-managed as a garden extension. There is evidence of minor vandalism, fires and litter within the easterly woodland and an off-road cycle track has been constructed. However, these do not appear to have affected the area's value for nature conservation. Japanese knotweed occurs in several areas and is particularly abundant adjacent to the sports pitch in the centre of the SINC. The grassland areas in the north appear to be grazed by horses and/or cattle. However, the large western field was ungrazed at the time of the survey.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Public footpaths run across parts of the north and south of the SINC, but there is no formal public access to the majority of the area. Several informal paths are present in the eastern woodland areas.</p>	

Additional information

The most northerly fields and hedges are borderline with respect to the SINC selection criteria, but have been included as secondary habitat because they provide a link to SINC NH 3.88, which connects the two sites. The narrow horse-grazed fields to the west of the SINC at ST194968 support a moderate diversity of neutral grassland species and may support grassland fungi. There is a closely linked network of mature hedgerows to the west of the SINC, which is also likely to have value for wildlife. These 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 *italics*)

Woodland canopy and scrub species (all woodland areas combined): *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Quercus robur*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Frangula alnus*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Ulex gallii*.

Ground flora species (all woodland areas combined): *Digitalis purpurea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Geum urbanum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Veronica montana*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Poa trivialis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex remota*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Atrichum undulatum*.

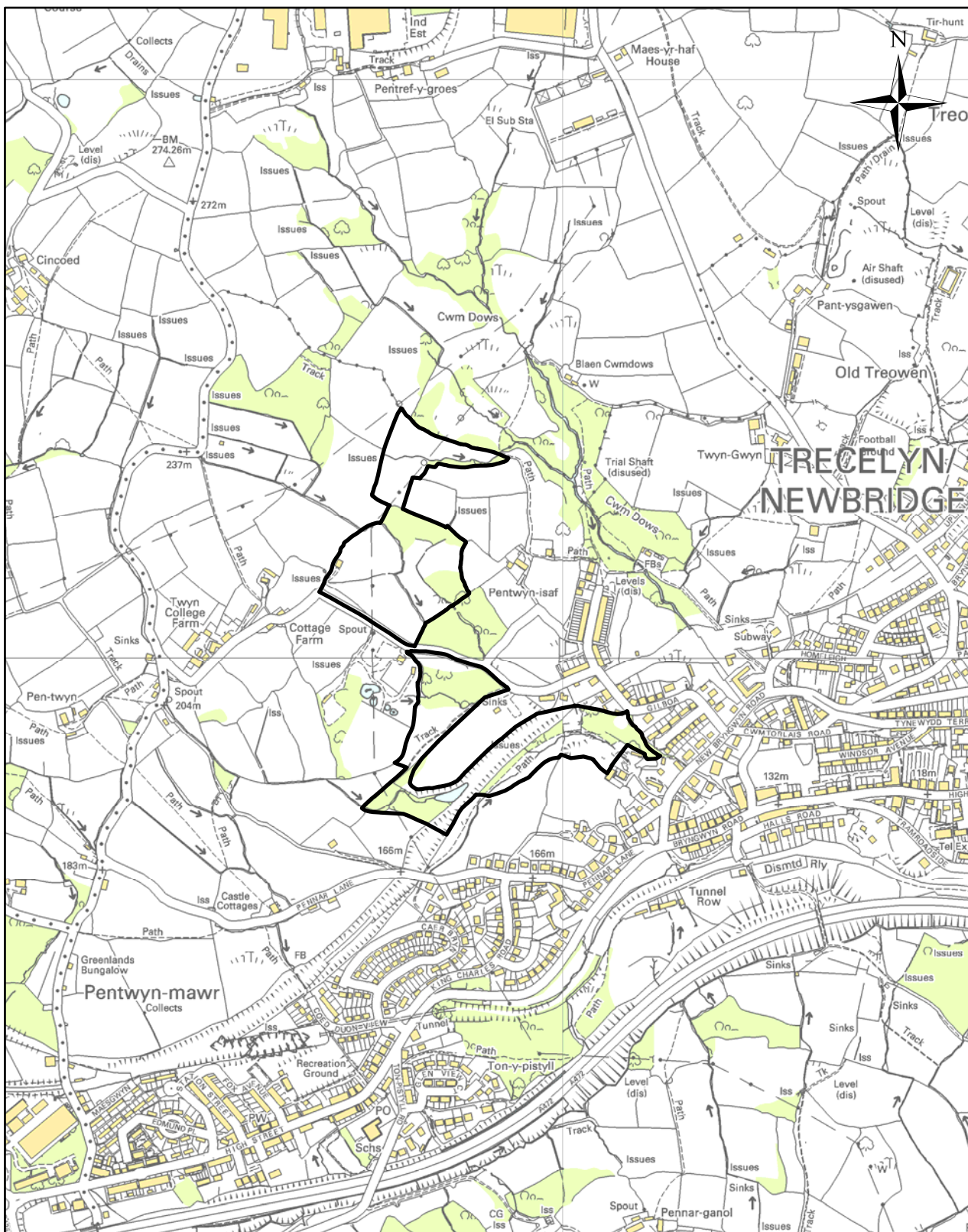
Neutral /marshy grassland flora: (these habitats merge gradually into one another and have therefore been combined): *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Galium palustre*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Viola palustris*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Scutellaria minor*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Rumex acetosa*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Montia fontana*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lolium perenne*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex viridula*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus conglomeratus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Sphagnum cf denticulatum*.

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, ***Buzzard***, ***Bullfinch***, ***Green Woodpecker***, *Blue Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Dunnock*, *Blackbird*, *Jay*, *Wren*, *Swallow*, *Goldfinch*, ***Common Frog***, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, *Ringlet Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: *Salix fragilis*, *Betula pendula*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*. **Noctule bat** and **Natterer's bat** (foraging near Pennar Lane, approx 300m west of SINC). Other **bat** records from nearby urban areas. **Polecat** recorded within 1km grid square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.91 (SINC 071)
Pentwyn-Isaf Woodlands, Pentwynmawr 11 Ha

1:10,000



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