## Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council

<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.93</u> SINC name: Greenlands Meadow, Pentwynmawr

Grid reference: ST192964 Area (hectares): 1

Survey date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)

(UDP policy reference: C11.73)

## **Summary description**

The site is a small horse-grazed field, with a short, moderately diverse neutral grassland sward. Species include Common knapweed, Devil's-bit scabious and Common centaury. Bracken is present beside the hedge margins. The field also supports a high density of waxcap fungi.

# **Qualifying features**

Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.

# Secondary features

Grassland supporting waxcap fungi.

Hedges.

#### Potential value/ unconfirmed features

The presence of a large number of waxcaps 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 selection criteria for waxcaps.

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

Horses graze the field. The grazing seems relatively heavy, but this may be optimal for the grassland fungi. A very slight reduction in grazing pressure may allow a wider diversity of plants to flower, without adversely affecting the fungi.

#### Access/ community use

Public footpaths pass through the site and along its northern edge.

#### Additional information

The field to the south of the SINC boundary supports a mixture of neutral grassland, damp ground and scrub. It is grazed by the same horses as the SINC (there is open access between the fields) and is therefore likely to support many of the same species. However, it appears to be more disturbed, is heavily poached by horses and contains Japanese knotweed. This field should be reinvestigated 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*)

<u>Hedge tree and shrub species:</u> Quercus robur, Corylus avellana, Acer pseudoplatanus, Lonicera periclymenum, Rubus fruticosus, Crataegus monogyna, Ilex aquifolium, Hedera helix.

<u>Hedge ground flora species:</u> **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, Viola riviniana, Stellaria holostea, Hypericum pulchrum, Geranium robertianum, Pteridium aquilinum, Dryopteris dilatata, Dryopteris filix-mas.

<u>Grassland species</u>: Succisa pratensis, Lotus corniculatus, Achillea millefolium, Prunella vulgaris, Ranunculus acris, Trifolium pratense, Holcus lanatus, Agrostis capillaris, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Luzula campestris.

Grassland species in western field: Centaurea nigra, Succisa pratensis, Trifolium pratense, Plantago lanceolata, Senecio jacobaea, Centaurium erythraea, Lotus corniculatus, Ranunculus acris, Leontodon hispidus, Leontodon autumnalis, Hypochaeris radicata, Holcus lanatus, Agrostis capillaris, Cynosurus cristatus, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Festuca rubra, Pteridium aquilinum, Luzula campestris, Calliergonella cuspidata.

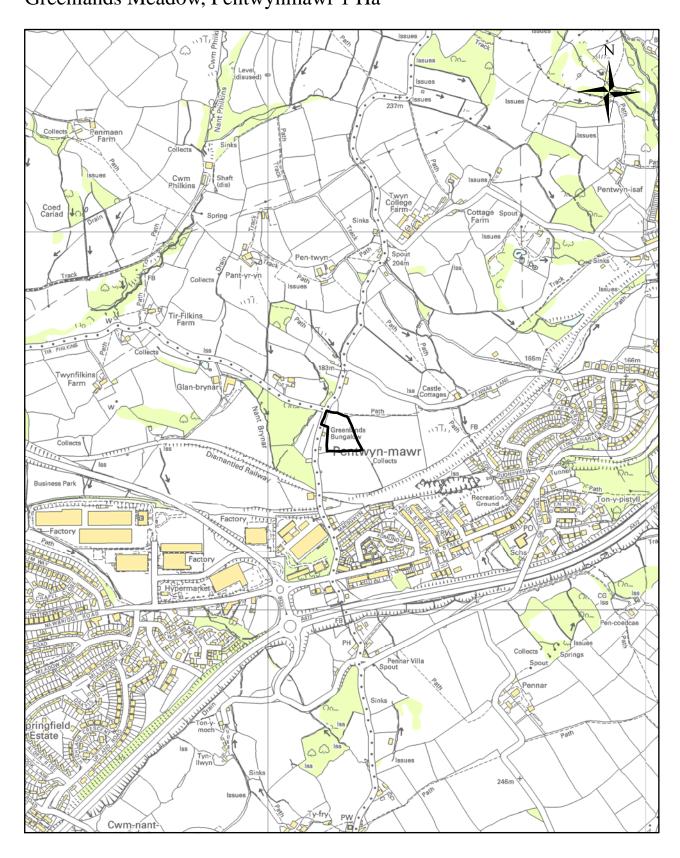
The fungi Hygrocybe intermedia, H.conica, H.chlorophana, H.chlorophana var aurantiaca, H.flavipes and H.quieta, and several Entoloma species, were noted in the field.

<u>Fauna observations:</u> Rabbit, **House Sparrow**, Greenfinch, Sparrowhawk, Meadow Brown Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: Records of **Noctule Bat** and **Natterer's Bat** foraging approx 250m from SINC.

# Caerphilly County Borough Council Site of Importance for Nature Conservation LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.93 (SINC 073) Greenlands Meadow, Pentwynmawr 1 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.