

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.94</u>	SINC name: Ton-y-pistyll Fields, Pentwynmawr
Grid reference: ST198959	Area (hectares): 6
Survey date: 18th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.75)	
Summary description	
<p>Several fields of neutral grassland, tall herb vegetation and developing scrub. The fields do not appear to have been grazed for several years. Coarse grasses dominate the majority of the fields, including Yorkshire fog, False oat-grass and Cock's-foot, with a relatively low frequency of herb species. Areas of greater diversity are restricted to a few pockets and these include Devil's-bit scabious, Yellow rattle, Common knapweed and Meadow vetchling. The fields in the western part appear slightly damper than the others. A network of mature hedgerows, mostly fringed by Bracken and Bramble, divides the fields. Associated small areas of woodland have a canopy of large Beech and Oak trees, a dense understorey of Holly and Bramble, and a relatively poor ground flora.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Broad-leaved woodland (with relatively few semi-natural indicators).	
Marshy grassland (remnant with fewer than 12 indicator species).	
Hedges.	
Bracken.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The area is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The tussocky grassland is likely to provide habitat for reptiles.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The fields have not been grazed for several years and its nature conservation value appears to have declined since previous surveys (note much longer species list from desk study records overleaf). The reintroduction of grazing (preferably light grazing by horses or cattle) and some scrub control would enhance the site for biodiversity. The density of the woodland canopy and understorey is likely to be limiting the ground flora, and thinning the Holly may help to diversify the habitat structure and improve the species-richness.</p>	
Access/ community use	
A public footpath crosses the lower edge of the northern woodland area and there is an informal path through the southern area, although it does not appear to be heavily used.	

Additional information

Some species will undoubtedly still use the site in an unmanaged state, but appropriate management would enhance the site for biodiversity.

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 and hedge tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Salix caprea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Salix cinerea*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Rosa canina*, *Hedera helix*.

Woodland and hedge ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Urtica dioica*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Geranium robertianum*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Holcus mollis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*.

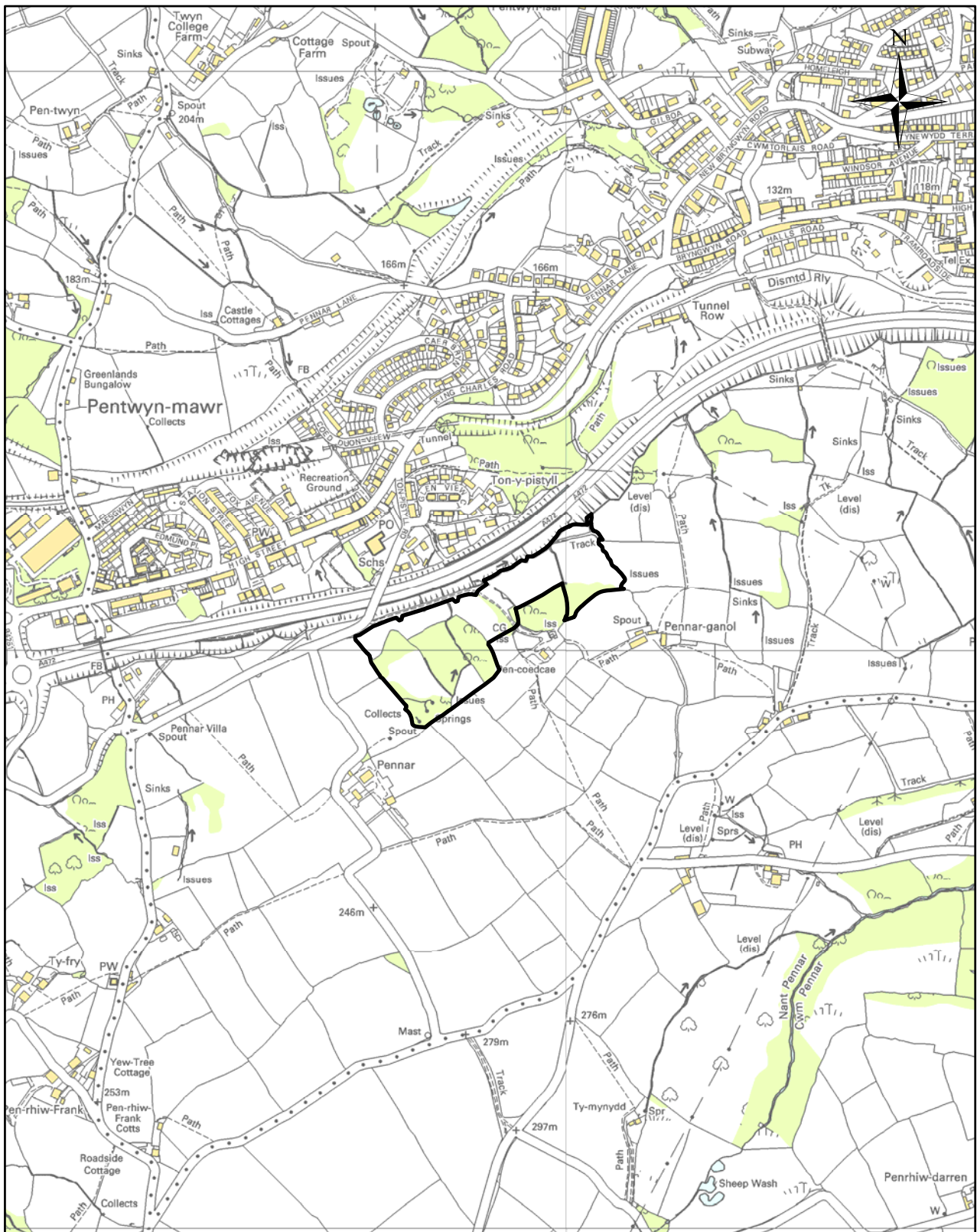
Grassland species (combined list for whole site, as damp and dry areas and tall herbs and grassland areas all merge with each other): *Potentilla erecta*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Rhinanthus minor*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Calystegia sepium*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Centaurium erythraea*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Stachys palustris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex hirta*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Fauna observations: Fox, **Buzzard**, **Bullfinch**, Wren, Chaffinch, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Red Admiral Butterfly, Large Skipper Butterfly, Cinnabar Moth, Burnet Moth, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**.

Additional records from desk study: *Cirsium dissectum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Carex caryophyllea*, *Galium palustre*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Carex nigra*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *mentha aquatica*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Viola palustris*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*. Unspecified **orchid** species. **Bat** records from urban areas at Pentwyn-mawr.

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Ton-y-Pistyll Fields, Pentwynmawr 6 Ha

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