

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.76</u>	SINC name: Nant yr Odyn, east of Pontllanfraith
Grid reference: ST189951	Area (hectares): 2
Survey date: 19th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.78)	
Summary description	
<p>A narrow, wooded valley dominated by Oak, Beech and Hazel. The woodland is classified as semi-natural ancient woodland and includes several indicator species in the ground flora, including Bluebell, Cow wheat, Wood anemone and Hairy wood-rush. The eastern part has a younger canopy and includes steep-sided disused quarries. The Nant yr Odyn stream runs in a steep, rocky channel through the valley. Abundant ferns, mosses and liverworts fringe its channel. A small, recently created pond containing Bulrush and pondweeds is present beside the southern woodland margin at ST188951.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-natural ancient woodland with an assemblage of indicators.	
Secondary features	
Stream. Pond with wetland vegetation.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats. The disused quarry includes cavities/ caves that may provide hibernation sites.</p> <p>The pond is a likely breeding site for amphibians, potentially including Great Crested Newt.</p> <p>The woodland could potentially support Dormice.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>There are no signs of any recent woodland management. However, the disused quarry in the east of the site has been partly infilled by tree stumps. A wet depression beside the woodland at ST190949 appears to have once been a pond. Reconstructing it to replace the pond would be beneficial for wildlife.</p>	
Access/ community use	
A public footpath crosses eastern boundary, but there is no formal public access to the majority of the woodland.	
Additional information	
<p>The extent of the ancient woodland area to the south of the SINC has reduced very significantly since the publication of the ancient woodland inventory (1989). Only a few standard Oak trees remain to the south of the SINC boundary and the ground flora there has been reseeded as pasture. However, the remaining old trees may still have value for bats and birds. Aerial photography indicates another wooded valley follows a parallel course to the Nant-yr Odyn at ST188947. It is feasible that this may have a similar value for nature conservation and it is therefore recommended that it be considered 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*)

Woodland tree and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Hedera helix*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Prunus avium*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Veronica montana*, ***Epipactis helleborine***, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Conopodium majus*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex remota*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Hycomium armoricum*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Calypogeia arguta*, *Calypogeia cf muelleriana*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Pellia sp.*, *Metzgeria furcata*. The fungus *Hydnum repandum* was fruiting in the woodland at the time of the survey.

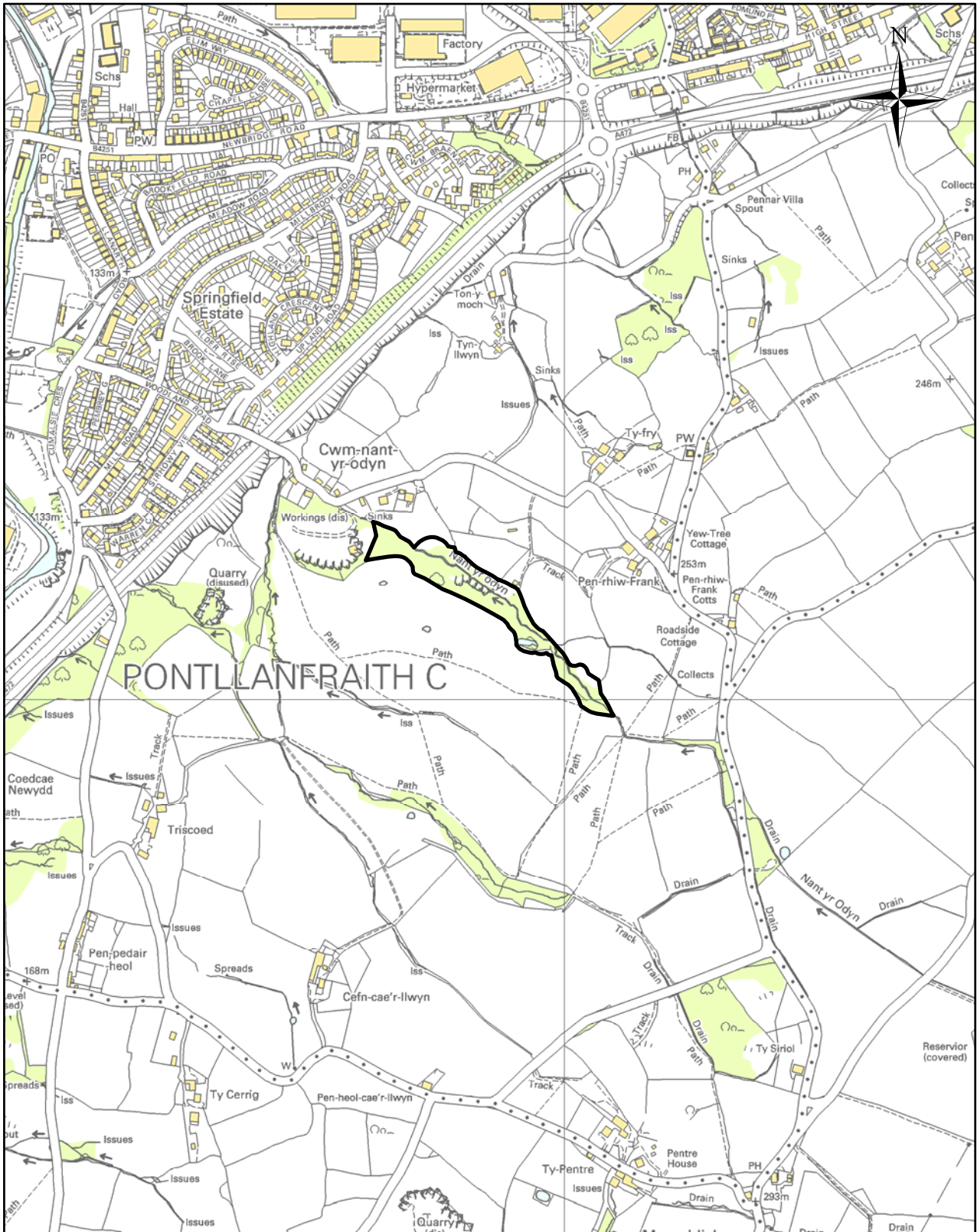
Pond species at ST188951: *Typha latifolia*, *Zannichellia palustris*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Lemna minor*, *Galium palustre*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Juncus effusus*.

Fauna observations: ***Badger***, ***Buzzard***, ***Bullfinch***, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Nuthatch*, *Robin*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: *Viburnum lantana*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Viola odorata*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Rhododendron ponticum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Nant yr Odyn, East of Pontllanfraith 2 Ha

1:10,000



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