

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.72</u>	SINC name: Penmaen Carr, East of Blackwood
Grid reference: ST181970	Area (hectares): 2
Survey date: 19th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.79)	
Summary description	
<p>The SINC includes two small stands of wet woodland dominated by a canopy of Alder and Ash, with a dense understorey of Holly, Bird cherry and Bramble. The ground flora is generally species-poor but includes Yellow pimpernel, Remote sedge, Lady fern and mosses. The lower lying, less shaded southern edge of the woodland includes a shallow ditch with a diverse wetland flora including Marsh marigold, Meadowsweet, Valerian and Bulrush. The woodland areas have been confirmed as important foraging and commuting routes for bats.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.</p> <p>Ditch with a moderate diversity of wetland plants.</p> <p>Important commuting route for bats.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved neutral grassland adjacent to woodland areas.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice and roosting bats.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The woodlands are unmanaged, although part of the southern edge has recently been disturbed by road construction (Sirhowy Enterprise Way). Selective thinning of the dense understorey would probably be beneficial for biodiversity. The most botanically diverse part of the SINC is the wet ditch at the southern side. This is likely to require periodic clearance in order to maintain its current range of wetland vegetation. Opportunities for enhancement could include additional tree planting between the two woodland blocks to reinforce the habitat connectivity for bats. Dormice are known to occur in the wider area and would also benefit if there were a continuous tree canopy linking the two woodlands over the existing access point at ST180970 (presumably the field access would need to be maintained).</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to these woodlands although a footpath passes the western boundary and a road passes the southern side.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The adjacent hay-fields are not sufficiently diverse to meet SINC selection criteria, but probably still have some value for nature conservation and could be considered at future SINC review. Aerial photography indicates that the nearby field at ST183967 may support damp or species-rich grassland. It is recommended that this be checked as part of a 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 canopy and scrub species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus robur*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix cinerea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Prunus padus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Malus sp.*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rosa canina*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Circaea lutetiana*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Urtica dioica*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Atrichum undulatum*.

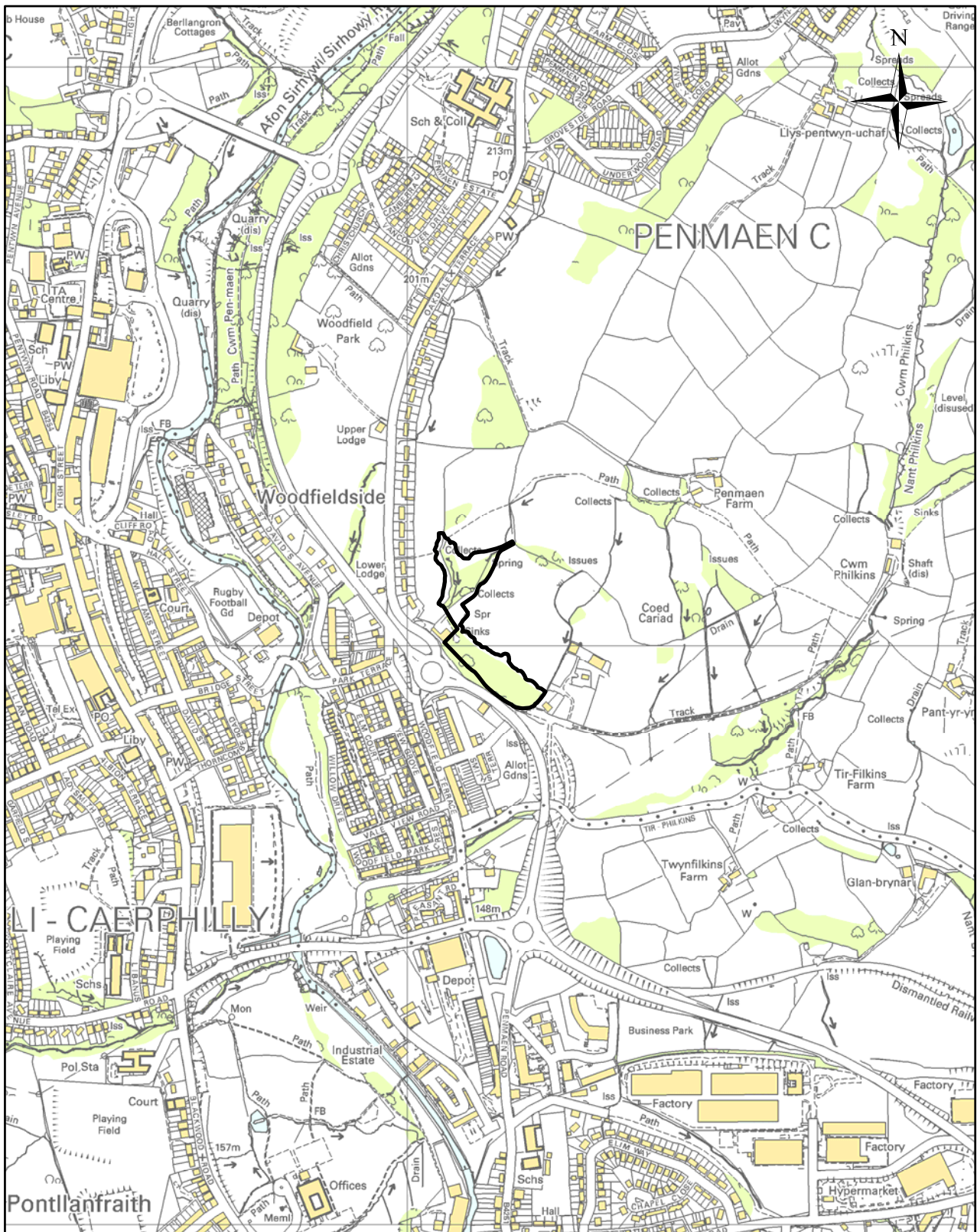
Wetland vegetation in southern ditch (ST181969): *Oenanthe crocata*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Caltha palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Typha latifolia*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus acutiflorus*.

Fauna observations: *Wren*, *Robin*, *Chaffinch*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Brown Long-eared Bat**, *Willow Tit*, *Brimstone Butterfly*, **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, **Dactylorhiza fuchsii**, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Viola riviniana*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*. **Bat** record from house at Woodfieldside (approx 100m west of SINC boundary).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.72 (SINC 079)
Penmaen Carr, East of Blackwood 2 Ha

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