

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.79</u>	SINC name: Trelyn Woodland and Meadow, Pontllanfraith
Grid reference: ST163962	Area (hectares): 6
Survey date: 21st May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.83)	
Summary description	
<p>Broadleaved woodland, with a canopy of Sessile oak and Beech, with a tangled scrubby understorey of Bramble, Holly, Rowan, Hazel and Hawthorn. The ground flora includes a number of semi-natural woodland indicator species. Occasional more open areas are dominated by Bracken and Bluebell, with locally abundant Cow-wheat. The wood is bordered along its southern side by a narrow lane (Bryn Road) with steep-earth banks supporting ferns and mosses and large mature trees. The northern part supports neutral grassland with a moderately diverse flora and scattered scrub.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with more than 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Presence of Dingy Skipper Butterfly (in northern grassland area).</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The mix of relatively undisturbed grassland and scrub habitats in the north of the site may be valuable for invertebrates.</p> <p>Patches of Devil's-bit scabious in the northern field have potential to support Marsh fritillary butterflies, at least in some years, given the presence of this species in the adjacent SSSI.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The woodland habitats generally appear unmanaged. There is evidence of fires, vandalism and motorcycling in the woodland, although this does not appear to be at levels that limit its value for nature conservation. No signs of recent grazing or mowing were seen in the grassland areas. The smaller northern field has clearly not been mown or grazed for several years and may lose much of its diversity unless managed. Some local scrub clearance may be needed before grazing can be restored to the small field.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Several public rights of way exist and there is evidence of informal access through much of the site.</p>	

Additional information

The tangled nature of the understorey meant that the woodland survey could not be very thorough. The small northern field only marginally meets the SINC criteria for its flora, but comprises scrub and mature trees forming a link with the adjacent SSSI, and it has therefore be retained as SINC. A small wooded ditch extends westwards from the woodland and may be a flight path for bats. The adjacent derelict scrap yard at ST164962 was not checked in detail, but desk study data indicates that 19 species of butterflies have been recorded there and that it supports a colony of Dingy skipper butterflies. This should therefore 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: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Rosa* sp., *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ulex gallii*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Pellia* sp. The fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* was noted on a stump beside Bryn Road.

Grassland species: *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Holcus mollis*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Juncus inflexus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex panicea*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Ranunculus repens*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Lathyrus linifolius*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

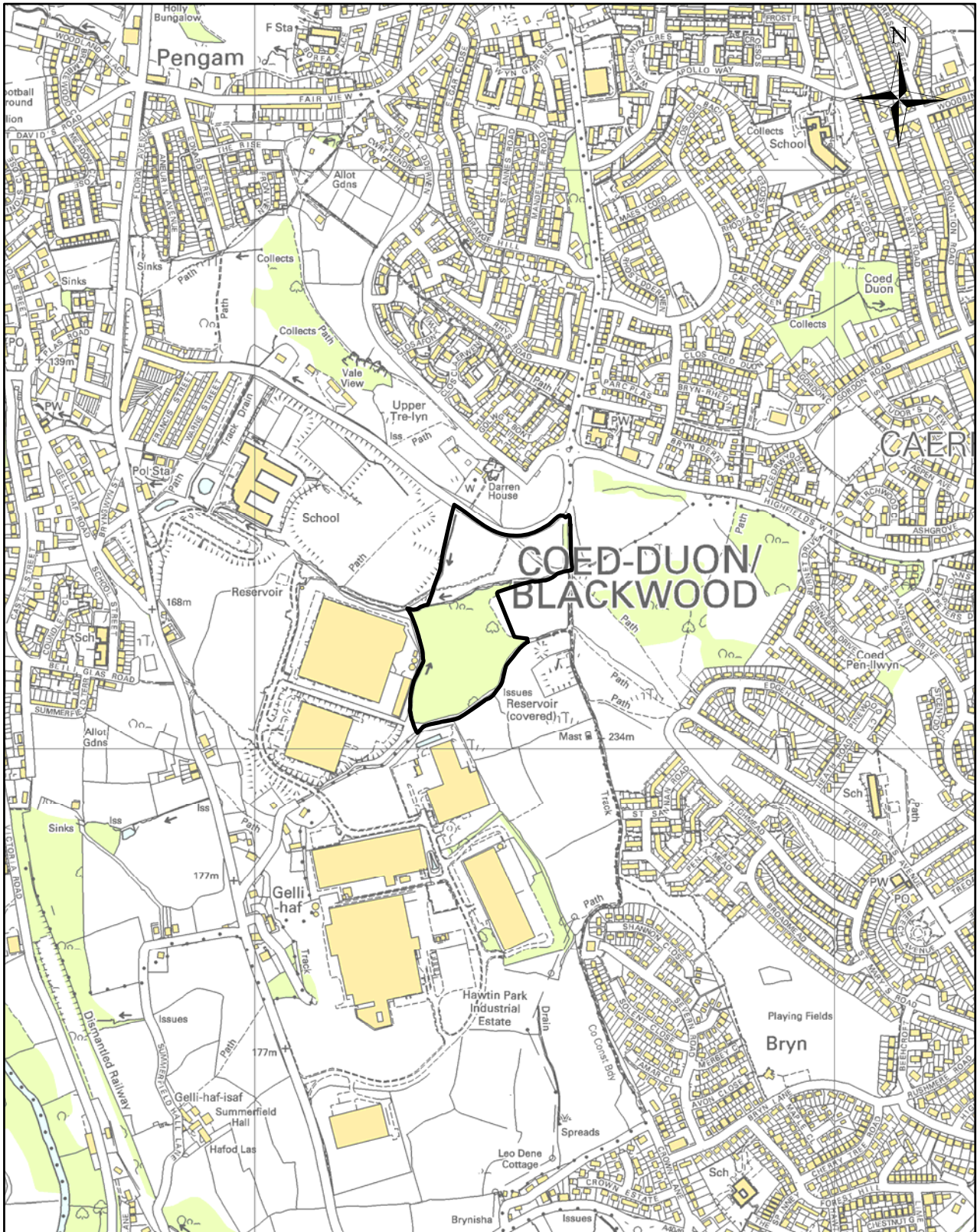
Fauna observations: *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Blackcap*, *Chiffchaff*, *Great Tit*, *Chaffinch*, *Blackbird*, *Duncock*, *Tree Creeper*, *Whitethroat*, *Dingy Skipper Butterfly*, *Brimstone Butterfly*, *Large (?) White Butterfly*, *Common Blue Butterfly*, *Mother Shipton Moth*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Bullfinch**, *Serratula tinctoria*. **Marsh Fritillary** within 200m of site boundary, several species of waxcap fungi within 200m.

Butterfly species from the adjacent scrap yard at ST164962 include: **Marsh Fritillary**, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dingy Skipper, Small Heath, Green Hairstreak, Brimstone, Common Blue, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Peacock, Small Copper, Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Speckled Wood. The micro-moth *Anania funebris* has been recorded several times. Over 100 species of macro-moth have been recorded, including: Silver Hook (Nationally notable), Lead-coloured Pug (Nationally notable), Beautiful Brocade (Nationally notable), Mother Shipton, Neglected Rustic, Grass Rivulet, Burnet Companion, Small Purple-barred, Striped Wainscot.

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Trelyn Woodland and Meadow, Pontllanfraith 6 Ha

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