

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.78</u>	SINC name: Crown Roundabout Marsh, Pontllanfraith
Grid reference: ST165950	Area (hectares): 3
Survey date: 4th July 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.84)	
Summary description	
<p>The eastern part of this SINC comprises an area of wetland, dominated by Bulrush and Grey willow scrub. Associated vegetation includes Hemlock water-dropwort, Water mint, Soft rush, Meadowsweet and Gypsywort. A small stream flows from north to south through the area. The north and western parts of the SINC support damp, semi-improved neutral grassland sward, with Devil's-bit scabious, Square-stalked St. John's-wort, Greater bird's-foot trefoil and Meadow thistle. Further west the sward is drier and supports semi-improved grassland with abundant Yellow rattle, Common knapweed and Red bartsia. A single mature standard Oak tree is present in the southern part of the western field.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Marshy grassland / swamp with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved neutral grassland.	
Scrub/ hedges.	
Stream.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The site is likely to support a good diversity of invertebrates.	
The area is likely to provide good foraging habitat for bats.	
The area is likely to support breeding birds, including Reed bunting.	
The wetland could potentially provide habitat for Otter, at least occasionally.	
The drier, horse-grazed pasture probably supports waxcap fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Horses graze the area. The grazing pressure is relatively light, so that there is a good range of vegetation heights present, with the horses generally preferring to graze the drier, western side of the SINC. The swamp area appears to be left largely unmanaged and would probably benefit from local scrub management to maintain a good range of wetland habitat diversity. Japanese knotweed is present in part of the northern boundary hedge.	
Access/ community use	
There is no formal public access to the area, but some parts can be viewed from nearby roads.	
Additional information	
The drier, western part of the field would not meet SINC qualifying criteria in its own right, but has	

been included as far as the hedgerow, as this is the nearest convenient mapping boundary. Several adjoining areas of semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub do not appear to meet SINC criteria, but are still likely to be of local value for nature conservation. These adjacent areas should be considered for inclusion 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*)

Hedge and scrub tree and shrub species: *Salix cinerea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus robur*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Cornus sanguineus*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Marshy grassland/ swamp species: *Oenanthe crocata*, *Typha latifolia*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Epilobium sp.*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Caltha palustris*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex ovalis*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

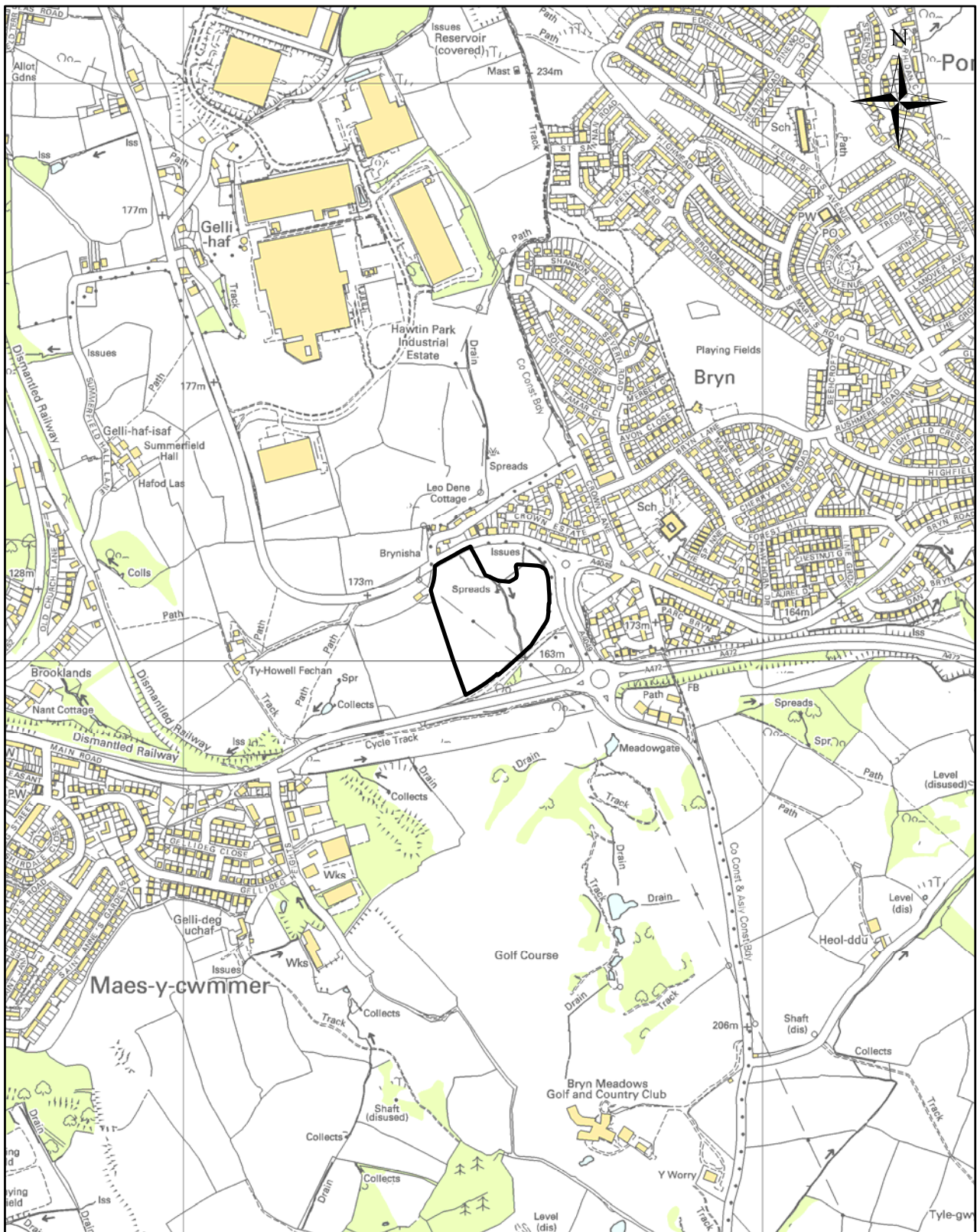
Semi-improved neutral grassland species: **Rhinanthus minor**, *Potentilla reptans*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Trifolium repens*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Odontites vernus*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lolium perenne*, *Holcus lanatus*.

Fauna observations: Fox, **Song Thrush**, Goldfinch, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon, Meadow Brown Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Buzzard**, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Carex hostiana*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex paniculata*, *Carex nigra*, **Dactylorhiza praetermissa**, *Juncus articulatus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Tragopogon pratensis*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Crown Roundabout Marsh, Pontllanfraith 3 Ha

1:10,000



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