

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.44</u>	SINC name: Britannia Wood, south of Aberbargoed
Grid reference: ST158982	Area (hectares): 4
Survey date: 21st May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.88)	
Summary description	
A small woodland with a canopy of Beech, Sessile oak, Ash and Alder, and a dense understorey including Bramble, Hazel, Holly, Goat willow and Guelder rose. The ground flora includes several semi-natural woodland indicators, including Bluebell, Primrose, Enchanter's nightshade and Common dog violet. There are areas of damp ground within the wood and a steep-sided stream channel passes through the site, which was dry at the time of the survey.	
Qualifying features	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.	
Secondary features	
None.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Potentially suitable habitat for Dormouse.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
Some parts of the wood appear to have been subject to recent management; forming log-piles, constructing paths and new access points. Most of the woodland area appears to be left undisturbed. Litter is evident in several parts of the wood, and it would be beneficial to clear this. Japanese knotweed occurs locally and a number of garden escape plants are also present, which may out-compete native species if left uncontrolled.	
Access/ community use	
A recently constructed path crosses the wood and there appear to be several informal footpaths through the area. A sign at one of the access points indicates that the site is part of the recently formed Parc Coetir Bargod, which is a Country Park maintained by the local authority.	
Additional information	
Adjacent woodlands may also have significant nature conservation value. In particular, the woodland at ST155977 may support remnants of ancient woodland and should 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 <i>italics</i>)	
<u>Woodland tree and shrub species:</u> <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Rosa canina</i> , <i>Hedera helix</i> , <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> , <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , <i>Salix caprea</i> , <i>Betula pendula</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> , <i>Rubus idaeus</i> ,	

Ribes uva-crispa, *Cornus sanguinea* (recently planted), *Leycesteria formosa*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Urtica dioica*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Petasites fragrans*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Aegopodium podagraria*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Holcus mollis*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex remota*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

Fauna observations: *Mole*, *Grey Squirrel*, *Chiffchaff*, *Blackcap*, *Robin*, *Blackbird*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Chaffinch*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study: *Geranium robertianum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Conopodium majus*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Scrophularia scorodonia*, *Viburnum lantana*.