Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council

<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.45</u> SINC name: Ty'n-y-pwll Wood and Tip, south of Aberbargoed

Grid reference: ST161984 Area (hectares): 5

Survey date: 25th May 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)

(UDP policy reference: C11.89)

Summary description

An area of woodland comprising mature broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Beech, Sessile oak and Downy Birch, and an understorey dominated by Bluebell, Bracken and Creeping soft-grass. Areas of younger Oak, Beech and Hazel are also present, with Bracken as the main ground flora. There are several clearings, mainly dominated by Bracken and Rosebay willowherb.

Qualifying features

Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.

Secondary features

Bracken.

Scrub.

Potential value/ unconfirmed features

Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.

Likely to support reptiles.

Potentially suitable habitat for Dormouse.

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

There are no recent signs of active woodland management. Fires appear to be the main means by which the clearings are maintained. Bracken dominance is likely to limit the ground flora and contribute to the fire risk within the site. Some form of Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity, preferably if followed by grazing to enhance the site. With suitable management this site could potentially form an enhanced buffer to the nearby SSSI. There is evidence of tipping beside the road and several garden plants have become established. There appear to have been frequent attempts to set fire to the older trees.

Access/ community use

Two public footpaths cross the site, and the public uses the whole area informally.

Additional information

The woodland supports some semi-natural indicator species and may have a buffering effect on the nearby SSSI, although it would benefit from being actively managed to enhance biodiversity. The woodland at ST160985 supports several large mature Oaks, but has a relatively poor ground flora. Other woodlands nearby are also likely to have value for nature conservation, even if not qualifying for SINC status. These areas should be considered at future 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*)

<u>Tree and shrub species:</u> Fagus sylvatica, Quercus petraea, Betula pubescens, Salix caprea, Crataegus monogyna, Corylus avellana, Lonicera periclymenum, Rubus fruticosus.

Ground flora species (including clearings): **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, Chamerion angustifolium, Conopodium majus, Anemone nemorosa, Ranunculus ficaria, Geum urbanum, Serratula tinctoria, Scrophularia nodosa, Lathyrus linifolius, Centaurea nigra, Solidago virgaurea, Potentilla erecta, Persicaria bistorta, Polygonatum x hybridum, Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia, Holcus mollis, Agrostis capillaris, Deschampsia flexuosa, Carex pilulifera, Pteridium aquilinum, Dryopteris dilatata, Athyrium filix-femina, Mnium hornum.

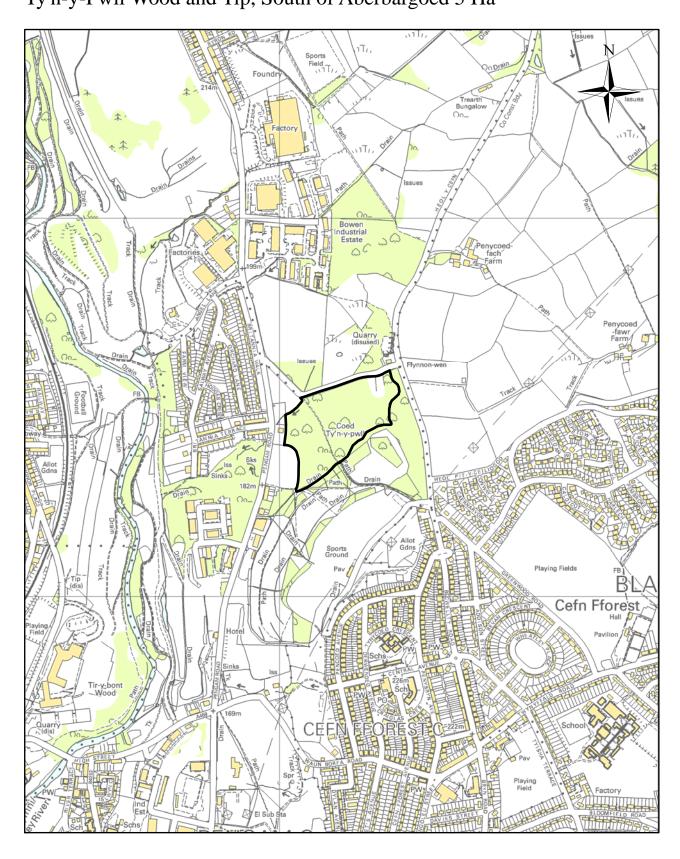
Fauna observations: Green Woodpecker, Willow Warbler, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Wren.

Land reclamation scheme immediately south of the site at ST161983 supported **Common Lizard**, Common Blue Butterfly and Burnet Companion Moth.

<u>Additional species noted from desk study</u>: Betula pendula, Quercus robur, Poa nemoralis, Succisa pratensis, Molinia caerulea, Cornus sanguinea, Festuca rubra. **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly** recorded from the adjacent SSSI. Dingy Skipper Butterfly recorded from 1km grid square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council Site of Importance for Nature Conservation LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.45 (SINC 089) Ty'n-y-Pwll Wood and Tip, South of Aberbargoed 5 Ha

1:10,000



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