

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.68</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Blackwood Golf Club Woodland</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST172981</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 3</b>
<b>Survey date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.90)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A small broadleaved woodland with a canopy of mature Beech trees and several semi-natural woodland indicator species in the ground flora. The ground flora is generally sparse. There is an understorey of regenerating Beech saplings, Holly and local patches of Bracken. The wood occupies a small valley with gently sloping sides. A small stream runs through the eastern side of the wood and is dammed in several places to form a series of ponds. The stream continues through more open ground to the east of the wood. The western side of the wood adjoins a slope supporting semi-improved acid grassland.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Stream and ponds with wetland vegetation.	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to support populations of amphibians.	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The central part of the woodland area appears largely unmanaged, although the edges are managed as part of the golf course landscaping and path maintenance. Recent tree planting work has been carried out beside some of the margins. The ponds appear to be maintained as part of the golf course landscaping works. The semi-improved acid grassland is maintained by occasional mowing. Overall, the golf course management appears to be keeping the habitats in good condition. The only problems noted were use of some parts of the wood margin for tipping of branches / prunings from maintenance works elsewhere, litter and evidence of small fires (presumably started by trespassers onto the golf course).</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
The site lies within Blackwood Gold Club and is not accessible to the general public.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The SINC boundary is drawn to the edge of the mature trees and does not include the recently planted trees to the north and south. The western boundary extends to the mown fairway, to include the semi-improved acid grassland. The stream, mature trees and ponds are included to the east</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*)

Tree and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Hedera helix*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Conopodium majus*, *Holcus mollis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species (ST171981): *Rumex acetosella*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Festuca ovina*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex pilulifera*

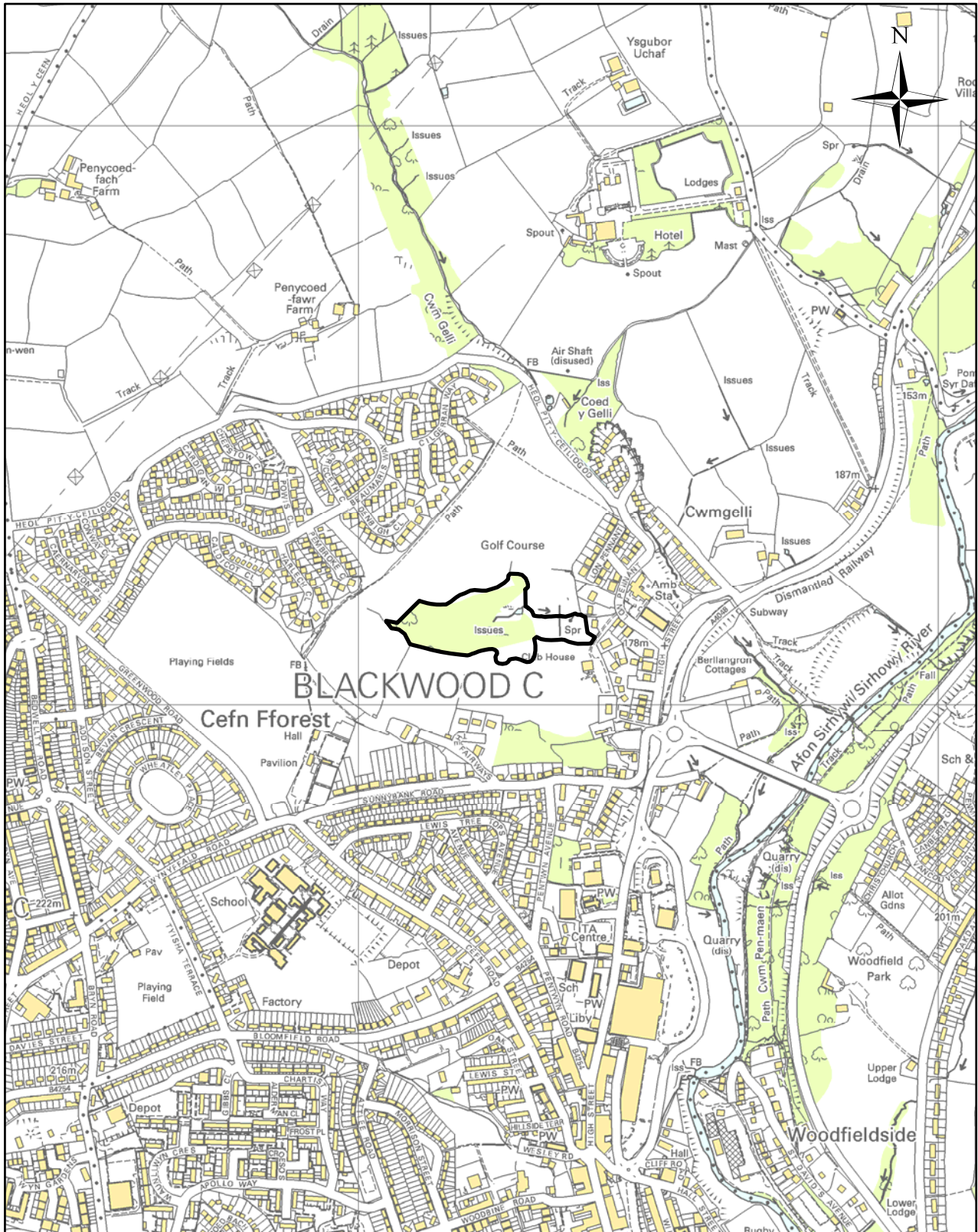
Wetland plants associated with ponds and stream (ST172981): *Callitriche* sp., *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Apium nodiflorum*, *Elodea* sp., *Caltha palustris*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*.

Fauna observations: *Blackbird*, *Jay*, *Blue Tit*, *Robin*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*. *Small fish were noted in the ponds but not identified.*

Additional species noted from desk study: *Mentha aquatica*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.68 (SINC 090)  
Blackwood Golf Club Woodland, Cefn Fforest 3 Ha

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Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.