

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.69</u>	SINC name: Coed y Gelli, north of Cefn Fforest
Grid reference: ST174985	Area (hectares): 1
Survey date: 21st May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.91)	
Summary description	
<p>Small broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Oak and Beech and several semi-natural woodland indicator species in the ground flora. The northern part of the wood is grazed by sheep and has no shrub layer and a ground flora dominated by grasses and Bluebells. The southern part is on the sloping bank of a small stream with a canopy that includes Ash and Alder, and a densely tangled under storey of Hazel, Hawthorn and Bramble, with Bluebell, Hairy woodrush, Lesser celandine and good numbers of ferns and bryophytes. The southeastern boundary of the SINC is formed by the steep, largely un-vegetated rock-face of a disused quarry.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Stream.	
Rock exposure.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Likely to provide good foraging, flight lines and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Potential habitat for Dormouse.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep graze the northern part of the woodland. A reduction in grazing would be beneficial for biodiversity (at least intermittently during the spring and summer). The southern part of the woodland appears largely unmanaged, although some maintenance is likely to be necessary periodically to maintain the stream and adjacent road. At the time of the survey the small stream beside the road was very turbid and contained fragments of <i>Elodea nuttallii</i> where sludge from ornamental ponds had been tipped beside the stream banks to the west of the SINC.</p>	
Access/ community use	
There is no formal public access, but a road passes the southern boundary and a footpath passes part of the northwestern edge.	
Additional information	
The habitats along the stream and beside the road to the west of the SINC are also likely to be of value for nature conservation, particularly as they are likely to be used by any animals following the Cwm Gelli valley. These 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 <i>italics</i>)	
<u>Tree and shrub species:</u> <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> ,	

Hedera helix.

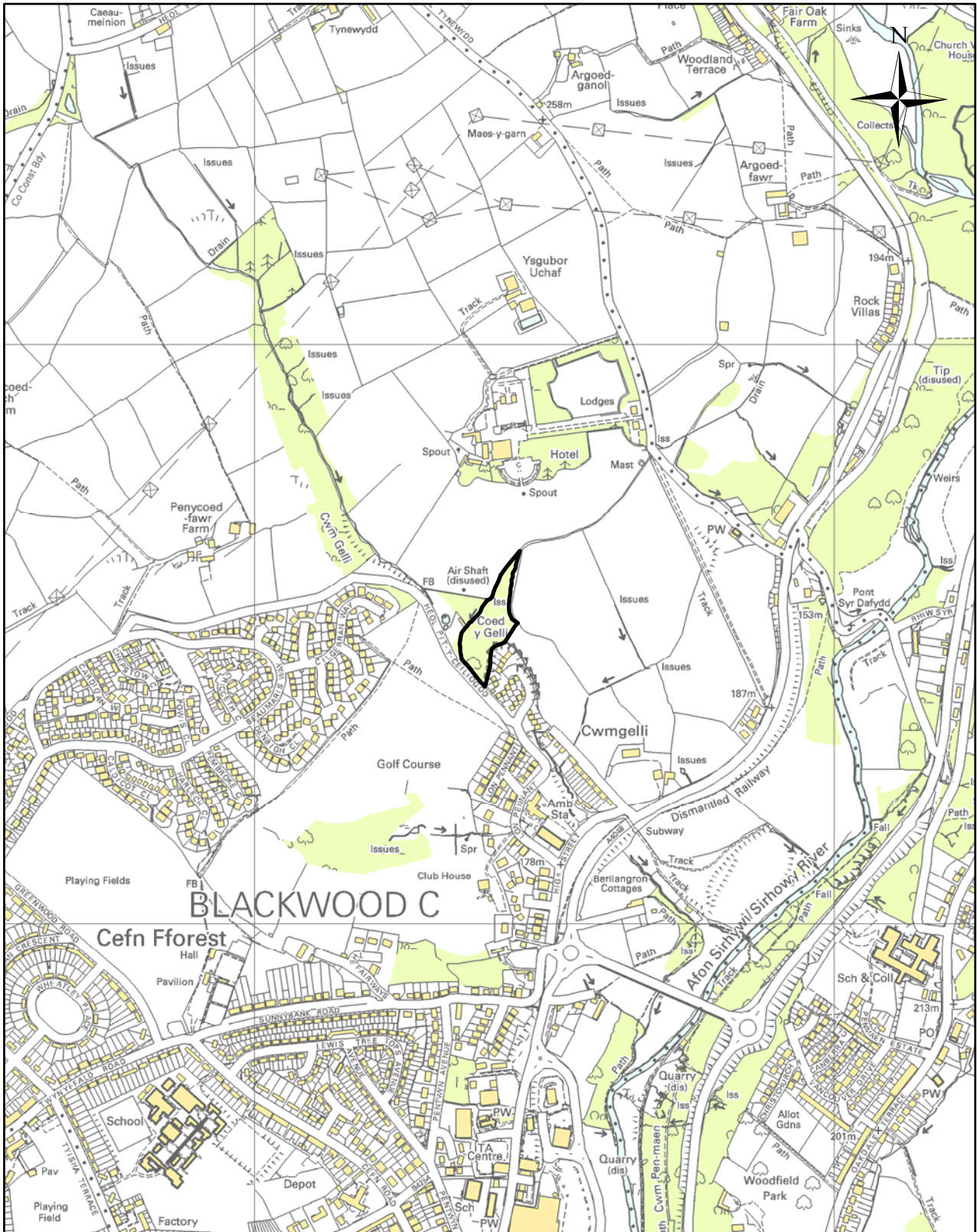
Woodland ground flora species: **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Holcus mollis*, *Carex pendula*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Eurhynchium striatum*.

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, **Song Thrush**, *Great Tit*, *Robin*, *Nuthatch*, *Wren*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Bullfinch**, **Common Frog**, *Conopodium majus*, *Quercus robur*, *Salix caprea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Frangula alnus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Veronica montana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Coed y Gelli, North of Cefn Fforest 1 Ha

1:10,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.

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