

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.70</u>	SINC name: Cwm Gelli Wood & Meadow, north of Cefn Fforest
Grid reference: ST170988	Area (hectares): 11
Survey date: 21st May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.92)	
Summary description	
<p>The central part of this SINC is a small stream, flowing southeast through a narrow, wooded valley. The main tree canopy species are Oak and Beech, although the scrubby margins also support Blackthorn, Holly and Sycamore. A number of semi-natural woodland indicator species are present in the ground flora, including Bluebell, Wood sedge and Greater stitchwort. The northerly part of the woodland is a Larch plantation, which has retained some semi-natural plants in its ground flora, and includes a disused adit. Two fields are present in the northern part of the SINC. These support damp semi-improved neutral grassland, with locally abundant Devil's-bit scabious. Other species include Purple moor-grass, Tufted hair-grass, Ragged robin and Star sedge. A field at ST170986 supports drier semi-improved neutral grassland, with a flora including Common Bird's-foot trefoil, Common knapweed and Pignut.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Stream.</p> <p>Disused adit.</p> <p>Hedges.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging, flight lines and roosting opportunities for bats. In particular, the disused adit may offer potential bat hibernation sites.</p> <p>The northern fields have potential to support Marsh fritillary butterfly, which occurs in the nearby Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI (to the west of the SINC).</p> <p>Potential habitat for Dormouse.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The woodland shows no signs of recent management, although much of it is subject to access by cattle. The cattle appear to be beneficial in preventing the shrub-layer from becoming too dominant. Horses graze the grassland in the north of the SINC. The field at ST170986 appears to be mainly grazed by cattle. The southern strip of woodland adjoins Blackwood golf course, but is generally left with minimal management. Some of the management problems are associated with access by the public, including fires, shooting, tree-swings and litter. There are generally of minor significance to the nature conservation value of the SINC.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to most of the site, but a road and footpath pass through the</p>	

southern part.

Additional information

The southern boundary beside the golf course is the edge of the area of trees and Bracken, and does not include the grassland on the golf course.

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 (combined list for whole site): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Larix sp.*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Prunus avium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Woodland ground flora species (combined list for whole site): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola riviniana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Galium saxatile*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Conopodium majus*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Poa trivialis*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Isoetes myosuroides*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Calypogeia arguta*, *Pellia sp.*.

Damp semi-improved neutral grassland at ST169992: *Succisa pratensis*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex ovalis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*.

Semi-improved neutral grassland at ST170986: *Conopodium majus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Lolium perenne*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Bromus hordeaceus*, *Poa pratensis*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

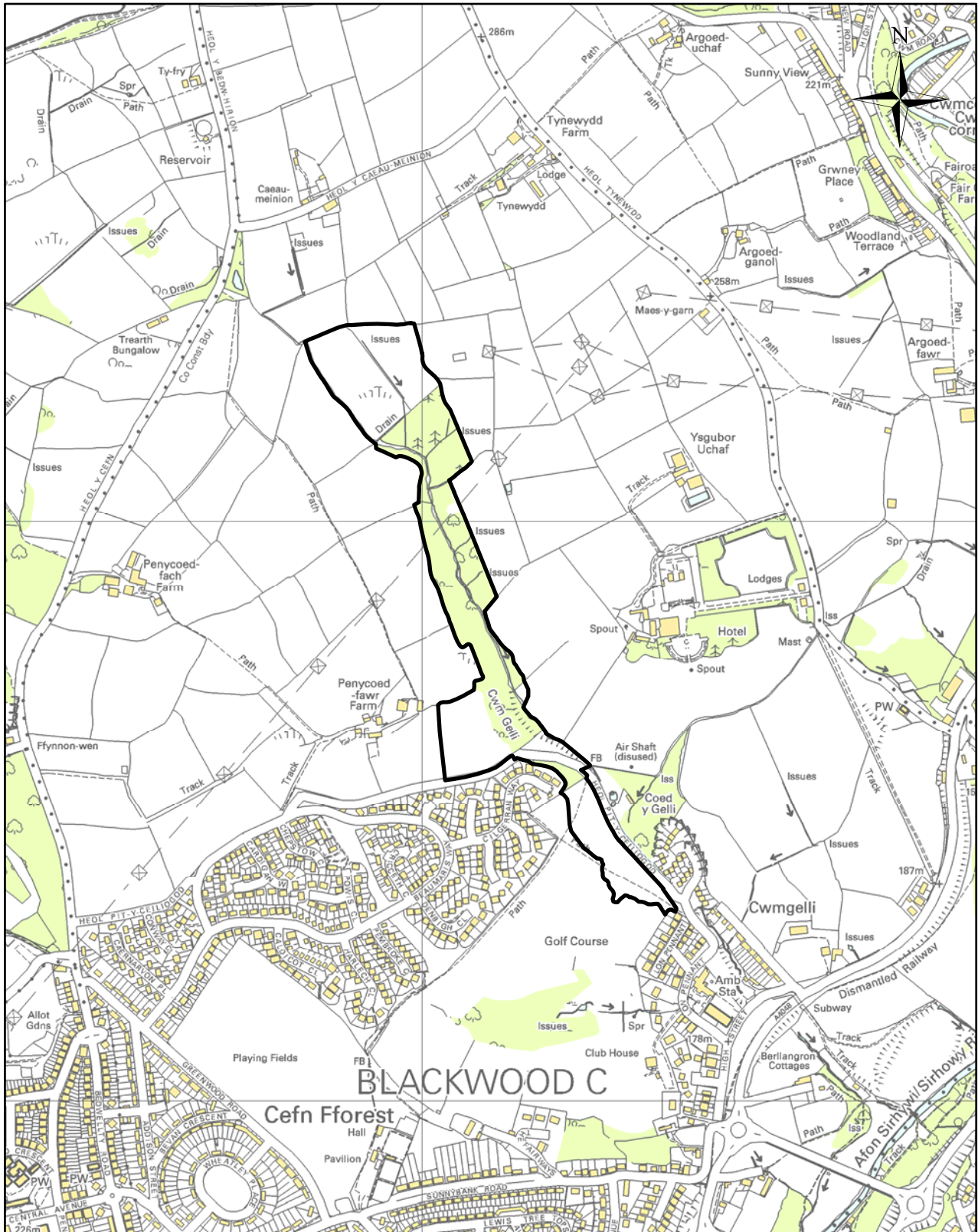
Fauna observations: *Fox*, *Grey Squirrel*, ***Song Thrush***, ***Buzzard***, *Great Tit*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Robin*, *Nuthatch*, *Wren*, *Goldfinch*, *Blackcap*, *Blue Tit*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Greenfinch*, *Sparrowhawk*, *Chaffinch*, *Chiffchaff*.

Additional species noted from desk study: ***Dactylorhiza fuchsii***, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Vicia cracca*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Veronica montana*.

Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly have been recorded in the same 1km grid square.

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Cwm Gelli Wood and Meadow, North of Cefn Fforest 11 Ha

1:10,000



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