

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.101</u>	SINC name: Crumlin Old Farm Meadows, Crumlin
Grid reference: ST203991	Area (hectares): 8
Survey date: 17th May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.93)	
Summary description	
<p>A series of fields, mainly supporting damp semi-improved acid grassland and marshy grassland. The southern fields (ST202989) support a close-cropped sward with anthills and damp flushes, including Devil's-bit scabious, Lousewort, Meadow thistle and sedges. The central fields support a taller sward, with Purple moor-grass dominating the small field at ST202990 and rushes dominating the field at ST203991. The northern fields (ST202992) are drier, with semi-improved acid grassland and scattered Oak trees and Bracken. The central wooded area is dominated by Oak and Beech with little understorey, but the ground flora includes Pignut, Bluebell, Cow-wheat and Greater stitchwort. The field boundaries also generally comprise mature tree lines of Oak and Beech.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.	
Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.	
Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Scrub.	
Small streams/ ditches.	
Bracken.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, and with suitable management could potentially include Marsh fritillary butterfly, which is known to occur within 1km of the site.	
The field margins and areas of longer grassland have potential to support reptiles.	
The wooded areas are likely to provide foraging and roosting habitats for bats.	
The drier areas of short grassland are likely to support grassland fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Horses heavily graze the majority of the site. A reduction in grazing pressure would enhance biodiversity. However, the field dominated by Purple moor-grass (ST202990) would benefit from a slight increase in grazing. Part of the site (ST203989) has recently been grazed by pigs, resulting in the loss of most of the vegetation, but it appears to be recovering. The north of the site is becoming encroached upon by Bracken and scrub, and some form of control would be beneficial to protect the grassland habitat.</p>	

Access/ community use

Access is limited to two public footpaths across the SINC.

Additional information

The site still meets SINC selection criteria, but would benefit from appropriate management to enhance its biodiversity. The fields of Bracken and scrub adjoining the northern boundary have not been included in the SINC, but are likely to have value for nature conservation, which could be increased with suitable management. Future studies should investigate these fields and damp grassland at ST205994, as this may be a potential link with the Marsh fritillary butterfly to nearby SINC NH3.100. These should also 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 *italics*)

Tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Quercus robur*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Hedera helix*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Salix cinerea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Ulex europaeus*.

Woodland and hedge ground flora (combined list): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Geum urbanum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Conopodium majus*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Holcus mollis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*.

Semi-improved neutral / marshy grassland species (combined list as transition is not distinct):

Potentilla erecta, *Galium palustre*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Myosotis sp.*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Mentha sp.*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *polygala sp.*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Viola palustris*, *Montia fontana*, ***Dactylorhiza cf maculata***, *Anagallis tenella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex echinata*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus bufonius*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species in north of site: *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Potentilla erecta*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Nardus stricta*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

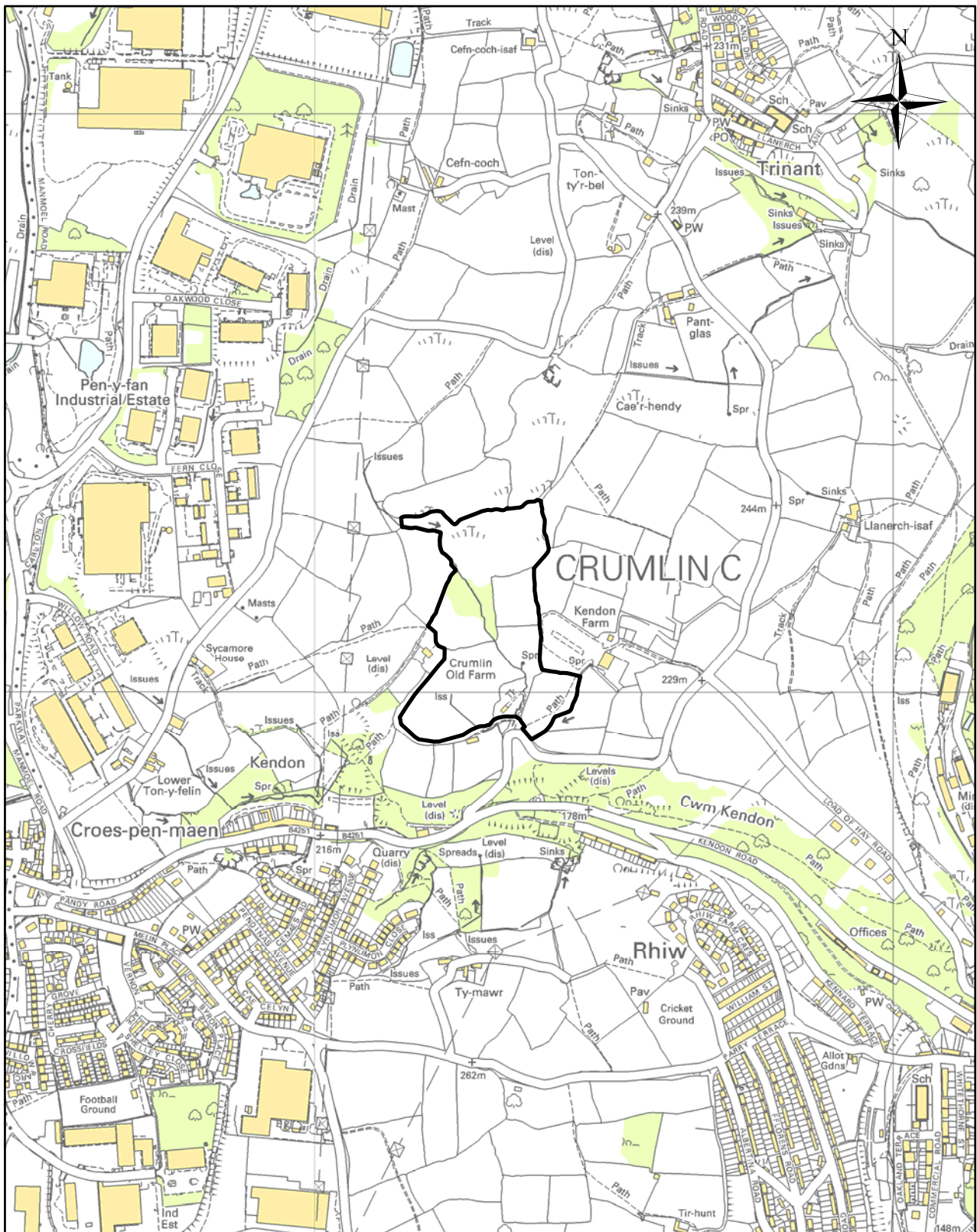
Fauna observations: *Willow Warbler*, *Jackdaw*, *Robin*, *Blackbird*, *Chaffinch*, *Orange-tip Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Green Woodpecker**, **Common Frog**, **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly** (1988 record from ST202991), *Briza media*, *Erica tetralix*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Carex laevigata*, *Erica cinerea*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Poa pratensis*, *Poa trivialis*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Ulex gallii*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Hypericum elodes*, *Genista anglica*.

Glow Worm has been recorded within the same 1km grid square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.101 (SINC 093)
Crumlin Old Farm Meadows, Crumlin 8 Ha

1:10,000



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