Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council

<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.102</u> SINC name: Cwm Kendon Woodland, Cwm Kendon

Grid reference: ST208996 Area (hectares): 9

Survey date: 17th May 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)

(UDP policy reference: C11.95)

Summary description

A steeply southwest facing valley-side dominated by semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The canopy species are mainly Beech and Pedunculate oak, with a small area of Alder and Willow on damper soil towards the northwestern boundary. The ground flora is generally sparse, being dominated by the dense canopy and abundant young Beech saplings, but semi-natural woodland indicator species include Bluebell, Greater stitchwort, Cow-wheat and Wood sorrel. An open area along the upper edge of the slope supports dense Bracken with abundant Bluebells. The shaded banks beside some old paths through the woodland support abundant bryophytes.

Qualifying features

Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.

Secondary features

Scrub.

Bracken.

Rock exposures.

Potential value/ unconfirmed features

Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

There are no signs of recent woodland management. There are minor problems with tipping and litter beside the roads adjoining the site. Japanese knotweed is present beside the road at the eastern and western ends of the SINC.

Access/ community use

A public footpath passes the eastern side of the SINC and a road runs beside its southern boundary. There are numerous informal paths through the remainder of the area.

Additional information

The woodland on the southern side of Kendon Road (ST209984) also appears to be a long-established mature woodland, potentially supporting a similar flora and fauna to the SINC. The woodland beyond the northwestern boundary is currently not included in the SINC. It is of relatively recent origin and includes Japanese knotweed, but it still likely to support a range of woodland flora and function as a link to other woodland areas nearby. These woodlands should 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*)

<u>Woodland canopy and shrub species:</u> Fagus sylvatica, Quercus petraea, Betula pubescens, Ilex aquifolium, Sorbus aucuparia, Rubus fruticosus, Lonicera periclymenum, Hedera helix, Crataegus

monogyna, Corylus avellana, Betula pendula, Salix caprea, Acer pseudoplatanus, Ulmus glabra, Rosa canina.

Ground flora species: Hyacinthoides non-scripta, Geum urbanum, Oxalis acetosella, Melampyrum pratense, Conopodium majus, Lysimachia nemorum, Stellaria holostea, Teucrium scorodonia, Chamerion angustifolium, Veronica montana, Ranunculus ficaria, Fallopia japonica, Cardamine hirsuta, Holcus mollis, Deschampsia cespitosa, Deschampsia flexuosa, Melica uniflora, Carex remota, Luzula pilosa, Bromopsis ramosa, Pteridium aquilinum, Dryopteris dilatata, Dryopteris filix-mas, Blechnum spicant, Athyrium filix-femina, Mnium hornum, Polytrichum formosum, Atrichum undulatum, Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans, Pogonatum aloides, Dicranella heteromalla, Lepidozia reptans, Calypogeia arguta, Diplophyllum albicans.

The wetter woodland at the west end of the SINC also includes: Circaea lutetiana, Prunus spinosa, Epipactis helleborine, Oenanthe crocata, Carex remota, Phyllitis scolopendrium.

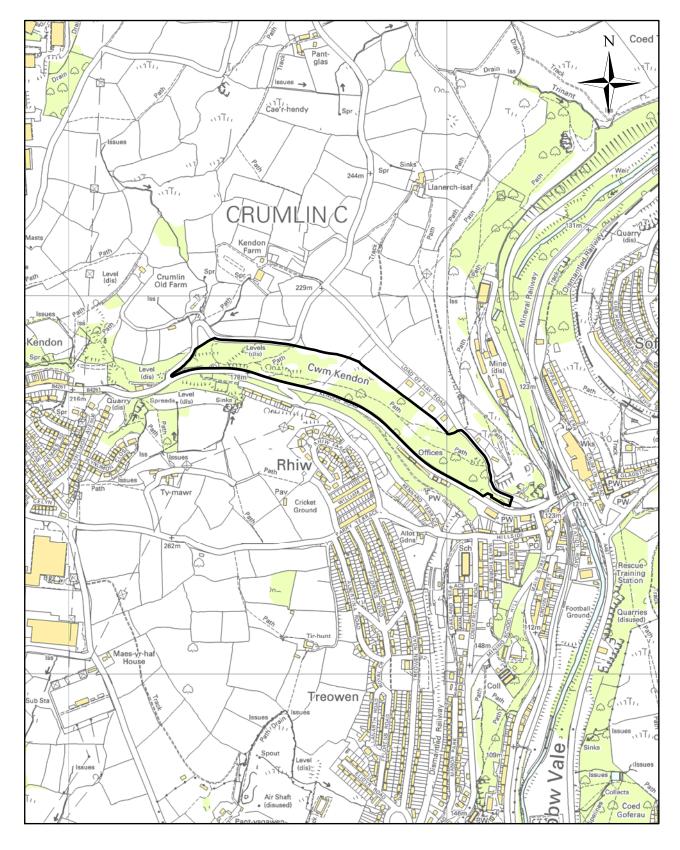
The open Bracken-dominated area at the upper part of the slope includes: Pteridium aquilinum, **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, Stellaria holostea, Galium saxatile, Teucrium scorodonia, Conopodium majus and Carex pilulifera.

<u>Fauna observations:</u> **Song Thrush**, Wren, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Long-tailed Tit, Tree Creeper, Chiffchaff.

Additional records from desk study: Anemone nemorosa, Poa nemoralis, Sphagnum sp., Viola riviniana

Caerphilly County Borough Council Site of Importance for Nature Conservation LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.102 (SINC 095) Cwm Kendon, Crumlin 9 Ha

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