

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.104</u>	SINC name: Coed Goferau, Crumlin
Grid reference: ST214977	Area (hectares): 21
Survey date: 4th May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.97)	
Summary description	
<p>A block of mainly broadleaved woodland, dominated by Beech and locally Pedunculate oak, with small stands of Spruce and Larch. The ground flora is generally sparse under the Beech canopy, but several semi-natural indicator species are present, and young Beech saplings are locally very abundant. Part of the north of the site is classified as semi-natural ancient woodland. Bracken and Silver birch scrub occupy a central area where fire has damaged a young conifer plantation. The remains of former workings are evident nearby and are associated with derelict built structures and damp scrub vegetation. The western side of the site includes several rock exposures, which are partially colonised by heath and scrub.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Replanted woodland retaining a range of woodland indicators.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Mature trees.</p> <p>Rock exposures.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>There are no signs of recent management in the Beech woodland. Evidence of fires was noted in several parts of the site. Fly tipping and litter are problems along the southern and eastern boundaries. Shooting also takes place on site. Japanese knotweed is present beside the road at the southern end. The site would benefit from the introduction of appropriate management.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is a public footpath through the northern part of the site, and numerous informal paths through the remainder of the area.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The woodland beyond the northern boundary of the SINC is classified as replanted ancient woodland. The Bluebell-dominated ground flora has persisted and there is also good regeneration of Beech below the Larch canopy. The extension of the SINC boundary to include this area should be considered at future SINC review.</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*)

Woodland canopy and shrub species: *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*, *Larix sp.*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Castanea sativa*, *Tilia sp.*, *Alnus glutinosa*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

Plants associated with the rock-faces include Calluna vulgaris, Vaccinium myrtillus, Acer pseudoplatanus, Betula pendula, Sorbus aucuparia, Hedera helix, Teucrium scorodonia, Digitalis purpurea, Silene dioica, Chamerion angustifolium, Deschampsia flexuosa, Luzula campestris, Dryopteris dilatata, Dryopteris filix-mas, Blechnum spicant, Polytrichum juniperinum.

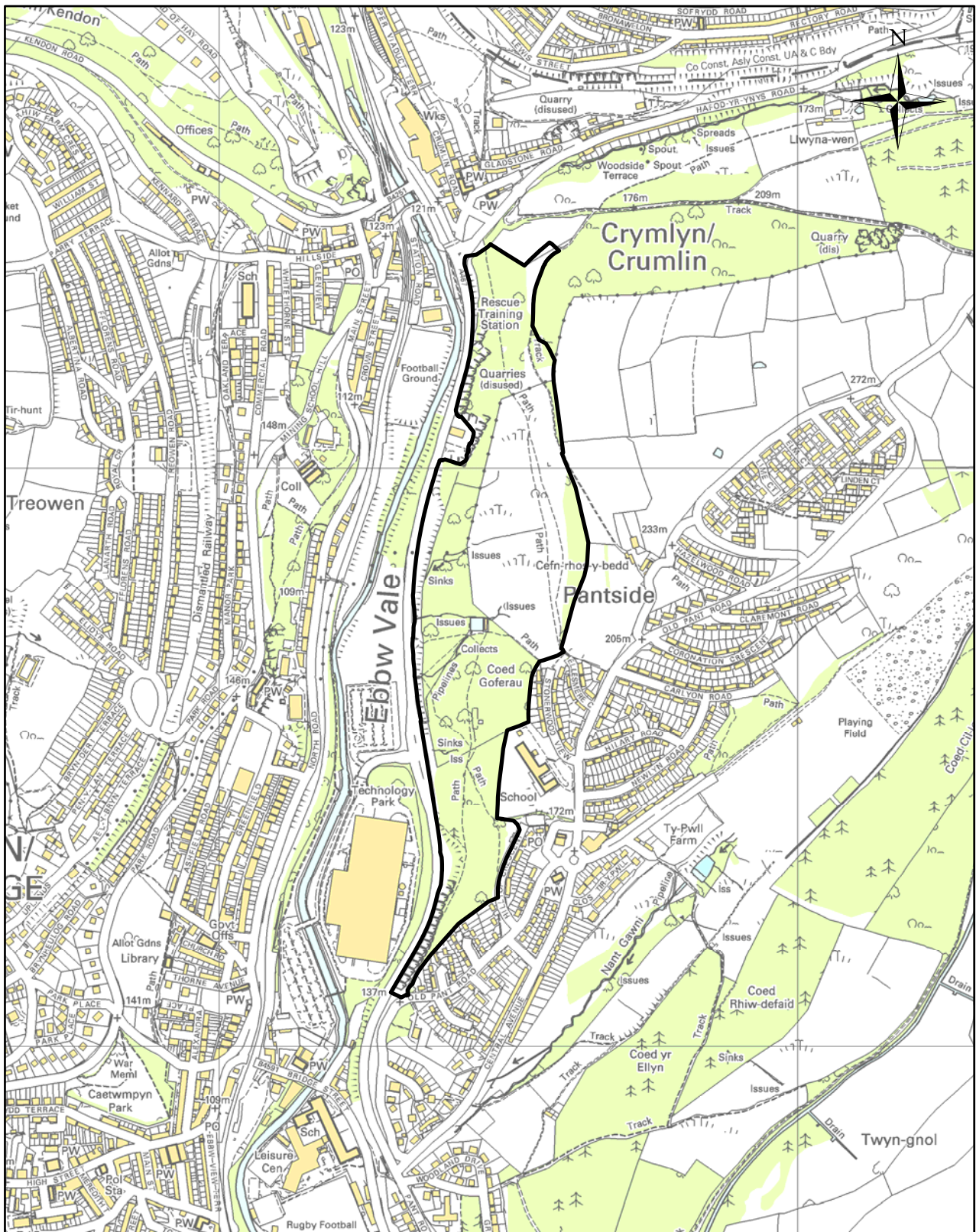
Plants associated with the derelict workings near the centre of the site include Salix caprea, Rubus fruticosus, Carex remota, Oenanthe crocata, Apium nodiflorum, Solanum dulcamara, Ranunculus repens, Galeopsis tetrahit, Stellaria alsine, Tussilago farfara, Atrichum undulatum, Nardia scalaris, Scapania sp., Racomitrium canescens, Pellia sp., Cladonia sp..

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, *Willow Warbler*, *Blue Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Blackcap*, *Dunnock*, *Chaffinch*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Peacock Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Bat** records from nearby urban areas, **Green Woodpecker**, *Ulmus glabra*, *Populus tremula*, *Taxus baccata*, *Mercurialis perennis*.

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Coed Goferau, Crumlin 21 Ha

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