

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.107</u>	SINC name: Ty Mawr Woodland and Grasslands, Rhiw
Grid reference: ST201986	Area (hectares): 8
Survey date: 17th May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.98)	
Summary description	
<p>A small remnant of semi-natural woodland, with a canopy of Beech and Sessile oak, and an understorey including regenerating Beech saplings, Holly and Dog rose. The relatively sparse ground flora includes several semi-natural woodland indicators. Several unimproved horse-grazed fields occur to the east of the woodland. Devil's-bit scabious is one of the dominant species in the fields, giving this habitat high potential to support Marsh fritillary butterfly. The field boundaries include several scrubby hedges of Hawthorn, Holly and Hazel. Occasional flushes support patches of wetland vegetation.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Unimproved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Flushes.</p> <p>Network of mature hedges.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to support Marsh fritillary butterfly.</p> <p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>Further botanical survey later in the year would be expected to record many more plant species.</p> <p>Some of the drier grassland areas are likely to support good populations of grassland fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The woodland area appears to be unmanaged. It has been subject to recent disturbance due to new house building but the disturbed area is likely to develop as scrub-woodland over time. Tipping of garden refuse was noted at the rear of several of the gardens of the new houses and some garden plots appear to have been extended into the site. A small number of trees, which have died as a result of recent building work, still provide a valuable habitat as standing dead wood. Horses currently graze the grassland areas. It generally appears to be at an optimal level for Marsh fritillary butterfly, but may be over-grazed in some areas. The small northern fields are becoming heavily encroached upon by scrub and some scrub clearance here would be beneficial to enhance the potential for Marsh fritillaries. Opening up wider gaps in the hedges to encourage horses to graze these areas and to provide flight corridors for any Marsh fritillary butterflies that may be present would also enhance the site for biodiversity.</p>	

Access/ community use

A public footpath crosses the western part of the site. Members of the public informally access the fields.

Additional information

The survey was probably undertaken too early in the season to record adult Marsh fritillary butterflies and too late to observe their caterpillars. Given the high potential of this site for this protected species, further surveys are recommended. It is feasible that other fields nearby may have a similar soil-type and vegetation and the adjacent fields 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*)

Woodland canopy and hedge shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Rosa canina*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix caprea*, *Betula pendula*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Malus sp.*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ulex gallii*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Geum urbanum*, *Conopodium majus*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Carex remota*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Polytrichum formosum*.

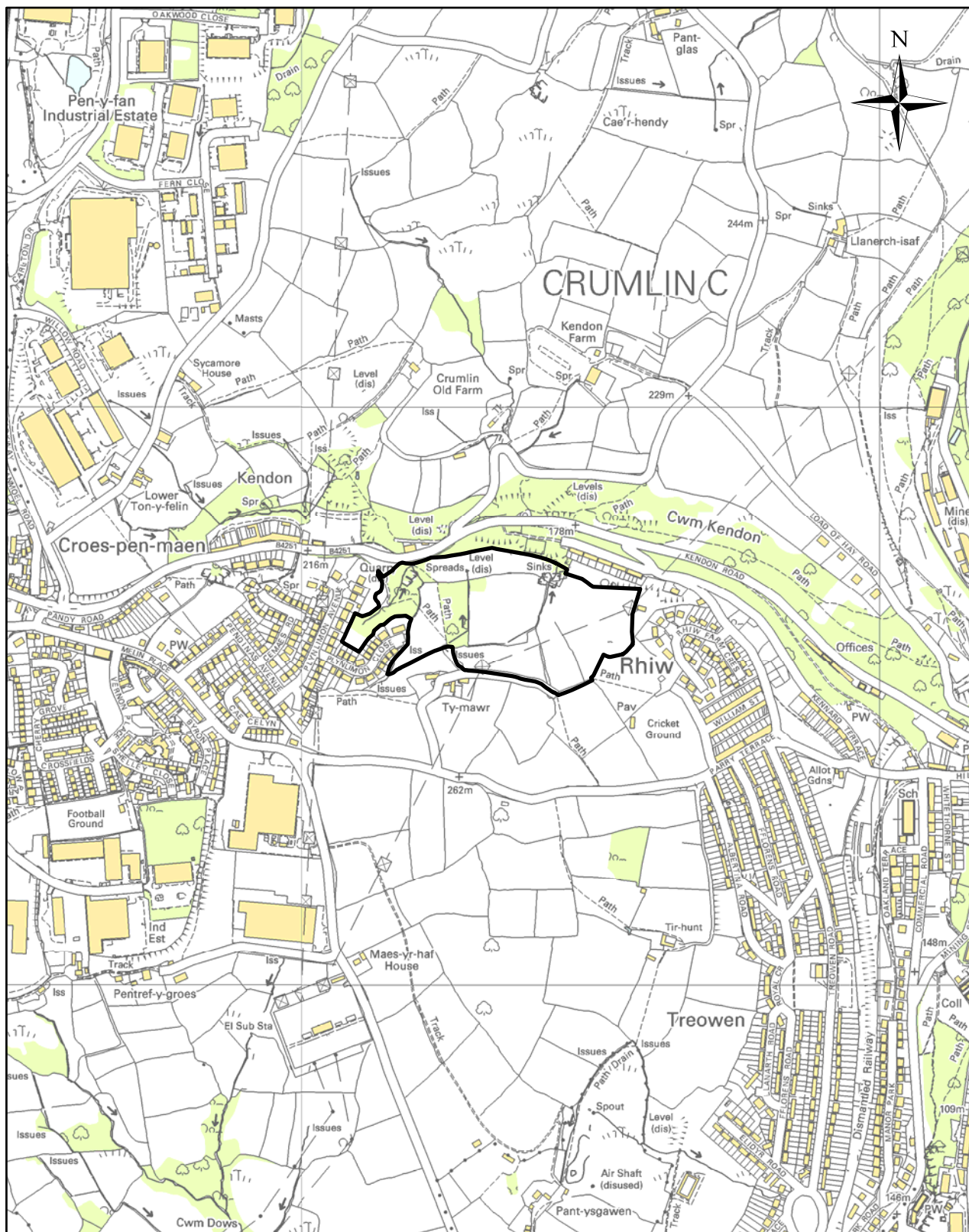
Unimproved neutral grassland: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca rubra*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Polygala cf vulgaris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*. ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta*** and *Anemone nemorosa* occur locally in the northern fields). The damper areas/ flushes include *Ranunculus flammula*, *Montia fontana*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*.

Fauna observations: **Song Thrush**, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: Glow Worm recorded within 1km grid square.

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Ty-Mawr Wood, Rhiw 8 Ha

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