

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.108</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Pant-ysgadwen Fields, Treowen</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST206976</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 7</b>
<b>Survey date: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.99)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The site includes a mix of habitats, including marshy grassland, semi-improved neutral grassland, scrub and ponds. The central area supports marshy grassland dominated by Purple moor-grass, locally grading into Bracken and acid grassland, and becoming colonised by dense willow scrub and Bramble. It includes an area of flush, with a high proportion of Sedges and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. A small pond is also present. The south of the area supports scrub woodland on former spoil-heaps. Oak, Hazel and Goat willow dominate the canopy. The northeastern field supports a short, horse-grazed field with a moderately diverse semi-improved neutral grassland community and several species of grassland fungi. The sheep-grazed fields in the north of the area support longer, less diverse semi-improved neutral grassland with areas of Bracken. In the northwest, two ponds provide open water habitat with dense fringing wetland vegetation. They are bordered by acid grassland and scrub woodland.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Marshy grassland/ flush with at least 14 indicator species.</p> <p>Ponds with semi-natural wetland vegetation.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Scrub/ woodland.</p> <p>Semi-improved neutral grassland.</p> <p>Bracken.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, potentially including good populations of dragonflies and butterflies.</p> <p>Most areas within the site are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The site is likely to provide good foraging habitat for bats.</p> <p>The ponds are likely to support populations of amphibians, possibly including Great Crested Newt.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The grassland, woodland and scrub habitats in the south and east of the SINC are managed as a nature reserve as part of the Welsh Owl and Wildlife Sanctuary. Further proposals for the area include partial clearance of scrub and re-instatement of light grazing by cattle. A horse grazes the northeastern field and this appears to provide optimal management for the semi-improved neutral grassland plants and grassland fungi. It may be possible to enhance this field by slightly reducing the grazing intensity. The sheep-grazed fields may be enhanced through a change to less selective</p>	

grazing by cattle or horses. The pond habitats in the northwest appear to be in good condition for a wide range of wildlife, but may need some clearance of Bulrush within the next few years. Large stands of Japanese knotweed are present near the access track in the south and it would be advantageous to remove these to prevent spread to other areas, within and adjacent to the site.

### Access/ community use

There is no formal public access to most of the site, but the south and eastern side are well used by members of the public through the WOWLS activities/nature trail. The Ebbw Valley Walk passes the northern side of the site.

### Additional information

The sheep-grazed fields in the north of the site have relatively low diversity and borderline with respect to the SINC selection criteria. They are retained within the SINC as linking habitat and because they may increase their value with time and appropriate management. The linear belt of the scrub extends southwest beyond the SINC boundary to the football club car park. This scrub is also likely to support reptiles and breeding birds. Salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*, Betony *Stachys officinalis*, Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* were noted adjacent to the car park.

### 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 and scrub tree and shrub species (all areas): *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix caprea*, *Salix cinerea*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Quercus robur*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix aurita*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Pellia* sp.

Marshy grassland/ flush species: *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Viola palustris*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Bromus hordeaceus*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex binervis*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum cf inundatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Scorpidium revolvens*, *Philonotis fontana*, *Atrichum undulatum*.

The small pond near the flush also included *Iris pseudacorus*, *Lemna minor*, *Zannichellia palustris*, *Potamogeton* sp., *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Callitriche* sp. and *Glyceria fluitans*.

The marshy grassland sward locally grades into acid grassland, coarser neutral grassland and scrub, with additional species including *Calluna vulgaris*, *Hieracium* sp, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Rumex acetosella*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Festuca rubra*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex hirta*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Racomitrium* sp., *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hypnum lacunosum*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Short, semi-improved grassland (at ST206977): *Lotus corniculatus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Festuca rubra*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*. Grassland fungi including *Hygrocybe intermedia*,

*H.chlorophana*, *Entoloma chalybaeum* var. *lazulinum* and *Entoloma* sp. were also present.

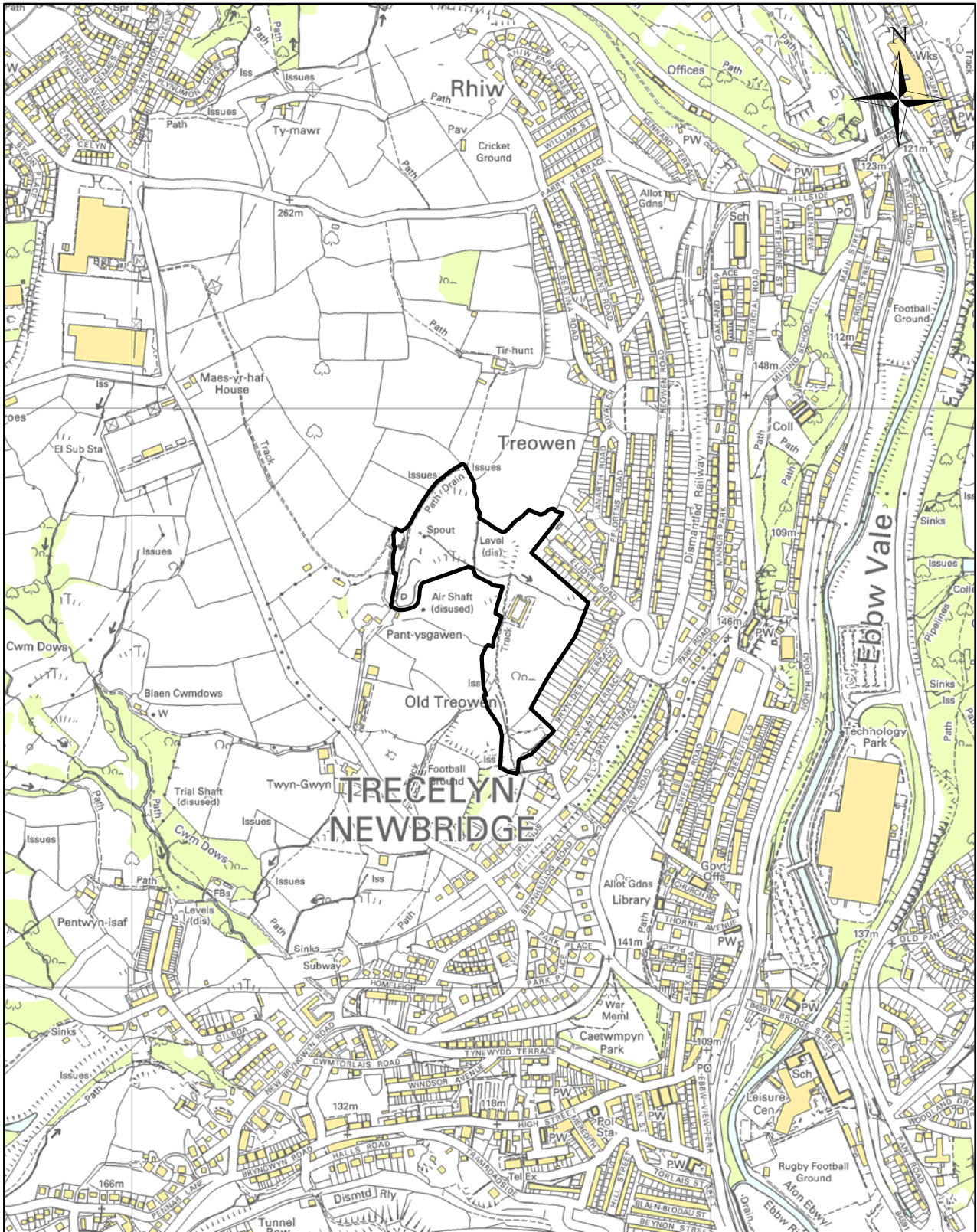
Ponds and surrounding habitat (at ST204977): *Typha latifolia*, *Galium palustre*, *Lythrum portula*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Sparganium erectum*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Juncus effusus*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, **Buzzard**, **Bullfinch**, **Green Woodpecker**, **House Sparrow**, *Goldfinch*, *Blackbird*, *Greenfinch*, *Chaffinch*, *Wren*, *Moorhen*, *Coot*, **Common Frog**, **Common Toad**, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Comma Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, **Blue-tailed Damselfly**, **Azure Damselfly**, **Common Blue Damselfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Slow Worm**, **Common Lizard**, **Palmate Newt**, *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Pimpinella saxifrage* and *Juncus squarrosus*.

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Pant-Ysgawen Fields, Treowen 7 Ha

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