Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council

LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.109 SINC name: Pennar-gannol, South of Newbridge

Grid reference: ST203963 Area (hectares): 1

Survey date: 4th May 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)

(UDP policy reference: C11.100)

Summary description

A small stand of broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Oak, Beech, Hazel and Hawthorn, and a tangled scrubby understorey of Bramble. There are several small cattle-grazed fields supporting a mix of semi-improved neutral grassland and marshy grassland. The fields are divided by overgrown hedgerows of Hawthorn and Blackthorn, which have locally developed into wide belts of scrub.

Qualifying features

Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.

Marshy grassland with more than 12 indicator species.

Secondary features

Scrub.

Potential value/ unconfirmed features

Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

Cattle graze the area, but the woodland habitats generally appear unmanaged. The marshy grassland habitat appears to be becoming encroached upon by scrub and therefore reducing in extent. Some local scrub clearance may therefore be beneficial to enhance biodiversity.

Access/ community use

A public footpath leads to the western side of the area, but it did not appear to be well used. People were noted shooting near to the wood at the time of the survey.

Additional information

The survey was undertaken relatively early in the year for marshy grassland plants. Additional species are likely to be present that are more easily recorded later in the year. The site is was part of a much larger wetland area that was mostly removed during construction of the A472. The SINC may be becoming drier as the road runs in cutting to the north.

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 scrub species:</u> Quercus robur, Fagus sylvatica, Corylus avellana, Rubus fruticosus, Crataegus monogyna, Betula pubescens, Salix caprea, Ilex aquifolium, Lonicera periclymenum, Hedera helix, Rosa sp., Fraxinus excelsior, Sorbus aucuparia.

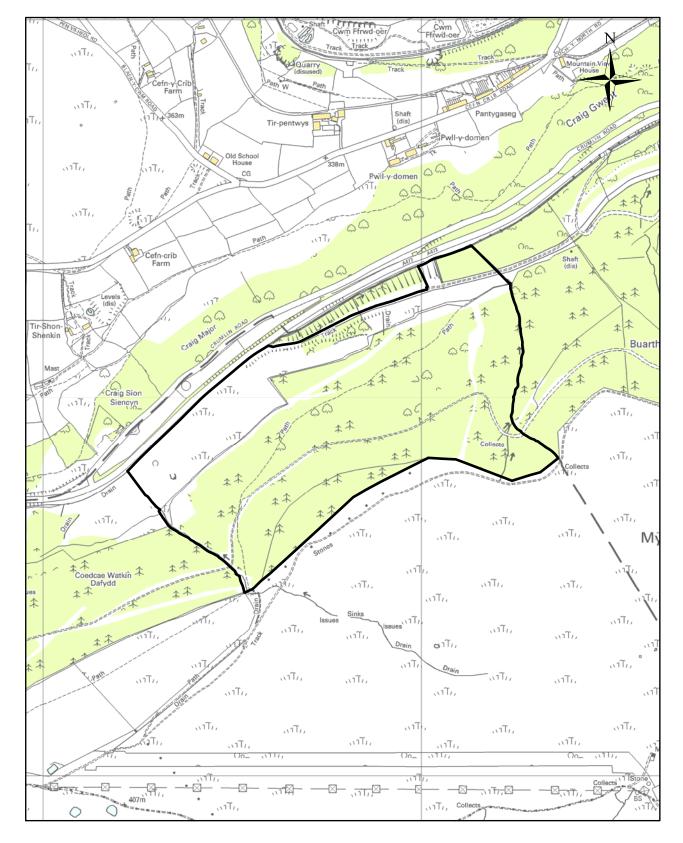
<u>Ground flora species:</u> Ranunculus ficaria, Circaea lutetiana, **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, Anemone nemorosa, Oxalis acetosella, Stellaria holostea, Viola riviniana, Moerhingia trinervia, Tamus communis, Geum urbanum, Cardamine hirsuta, Poa trivialis, Deschampsia cespitosa, Carex remota, Athyrium filix-femina, Pteridium aquilinum, Mnium hornum, Kindbergia praelonga, Thuidium tamariscinum.

<u>Grassland / marshy grassland species</u>: Agrostis capillaris, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Molinia caerulea, Glyceria fluitans, Juncus effusus, Juncus acutiflorus, Juncus bulbosus, Carex nigra, Carex echinata, Carex panicea, Cirsium palustre, Centaurea nigra, Ranunculus flammula, Ranunculus repens, Succisa pratensis, Lotus pedunculatus, Potentilla erecta, Persicaria hydropiper, Stellaria alsine, Wahlenbergia hederacea, Viola palustris, Cardamine pratensis, Rumex acetosa, Galium palustre, Ajuga reptans, Anagallis tenella, Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, Calliergonella cuspidata, Sphagnum fallax, Sphagnum cf denticulatum.

Fauna observations: Grey Squirrel, Mole, **Bullfinch**, Chiffchaff, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Jay, Speckled Wood Butterfly.

<u>Additional species noted from desk study and consultation</u>: Epipactis helleborine, Carex paniculata, Carex rostrata, Pedicularis sylvatica, Viburnum opulus, Galium saxatile, Achillea ptarmica, Scutellaria minor.

Caerphilly County Borough Council Site of Importance for Nature Conservation LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.106 (SINC 110) Coedcae Watkin Dafydd, East of Crumlin 48 Ha



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