

| <b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>  |  |
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| <b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.126</u></b>   | <b>SINC name: Tyle-coch Wood, north of Abercarn</b>          |
| <b>Grid reference: ST212959</b>  | <b>Area (hectares): 20</b>                                   |
| <b>Survey date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007</b>  | <b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b> |
| <b>(UDP policy reference: C11.104)</b>   |  |
| <b>Summary description</b>   |  |
| <p>An area of mixed woodland occupying former cleared ancient woodland on an east-facing slope. The canopy comprises mainly mature Beech with occasional Oak, Holly, Hazel, Downy birch and Wych elm. Bluebells form extensive carpets over the ground. There are also pockets of Larch and Scots pine. Sycamore is locally dominant near to the south and eastern boundaries. A disused railway line runs through the woodland with a scrubby fringe of Willow and Buddleja. A quarry in the south of the site has steep, vertical faces, but is mainly shaded and with limited vegetation.</p> |  |
| <b>Qualifying features</b>   |  |
| Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.   |  |
| <b>Secondary features</b>  |  |
| Rock exposures.  |  |
| Scrub.   |  |
| <b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>   |  |
| Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.   |  |
| The habitat appears potentially suitable for Dormice, although this species is not known to occur in this part of the county.  |  |
| <b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>  |  |
| The no signs of recent woodland management. Fly tipping at the side of the road is a problem along the eastern boundary. Japanese knotweed is present at several points beside the road.   |  |
| <b>Access/ community use</b>   |  |
| There are formal footpaths through several parts of the site, including the Ebbw Valley Walk.  |  |
| <b>Additional information</b>  |  |
| The southern boundary grades into scrub near the houses and is only included because of its continuity of broadleaved cover. Consideration should also be given to assessing the woodland / plantation to the west of the SINC at future review. This is mainly planted with conifers, but is former ancient woodland and the fringe adjoining the road includes a number of old woodland indicator species.   |  |
| <b>Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)</b>  |  |
| (LBAP species shown in <b>bold</b> , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i> )  |  |
| <u>Woodland canopy and shrub species:</u> <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Betula</i>  |  |

*pubescens*, *Larix sp.*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix caprea*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Castanea sativa*, *Acer campestre*, *Hedera helix*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Conopodium majus*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Isoetes myosuroides*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

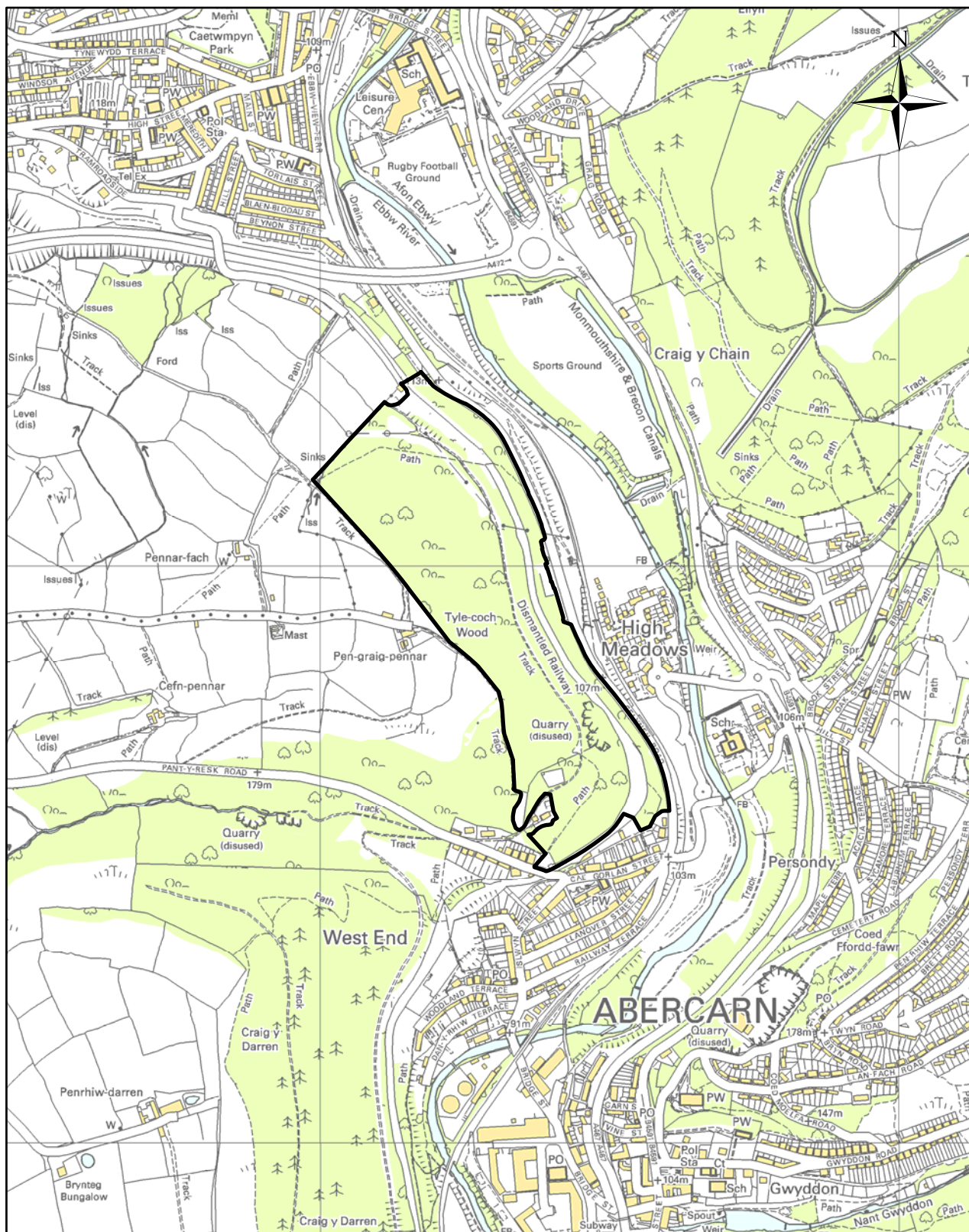
Species associated with rock exposures beside the disused railway: *Calluna vulgaris*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Isoetes myosuroides*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Diplophyllum albicans*.

Fauna observations: *Mole*, *Grey Squirrel*, *Tawny Owl*, *Nuthatch*, *Coal Tit*, *Chiffchaff*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Blackcap*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Chaffinch*, *Willow Warbler*, *Blue Tit*.

Additional records from desk study: *Luzula pilosa*, *Sphagnum sp.*, **Bat** records from nearby urban areas, *Polecat* (within 1km).

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.126 (SINC 104)  
Tyle-Coch Wood, North of Abercarn 20 Ha

1:10,000



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