

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.127</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Coed Ffordd-fawr, Abercarn</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST218953</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 4</b>
<b>Survey date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.105)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A strip of semi-natural Beech woodland on a north-west-facing slope, largely surrounded by roads and housing. The canopy comprises mainly mature Beech with occasional Oak, Sycamore, Ash, Holly and Hazel. The ground flora has a relatively low diversity with young Beech trees forming a dense understorey in several parts of the wood. Bluebell is locally abundant. There is a steep-sided former quarry to the western part of the site. The quarry base, which is occupied by industrial units, is excluded from the SINC, but its sides and ledges support a mix of heath and scrub species.</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.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>There are no signs of recent active woodland management. Fly tipping is a problem, particularly along the southern and eastern boundaries. Signs of vandalism, fires and litter are present through much of the wood. Several species of garden plants have become established at the site perimeter as a result of fly tipping of garden waste. The woodland would benefit from appropriate management to enhance biodiversity.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
There are no public rights of way through the site, but there are numerous informal footpaths.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The quarry faces were only surveyed using binoculars and are likely to support more species than listed here. Several smaller strips of woodland also occur nearby, to the north and west. They support a similar mix of canopy and ground flora species, but are not included in the SINC due to their relatively small size and isolation by urban areas. However, they are likely to make a significant contribution to the biodiversity of this urban area and their status should be reconsidered 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*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Hedera helix*, *Salix caprea*, *Taxus baccata* (*Ulex europaeus*, *Ligustrum cf ovaliforme*, *Lonicera nitida* – established along some edges).

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Geum urbanum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

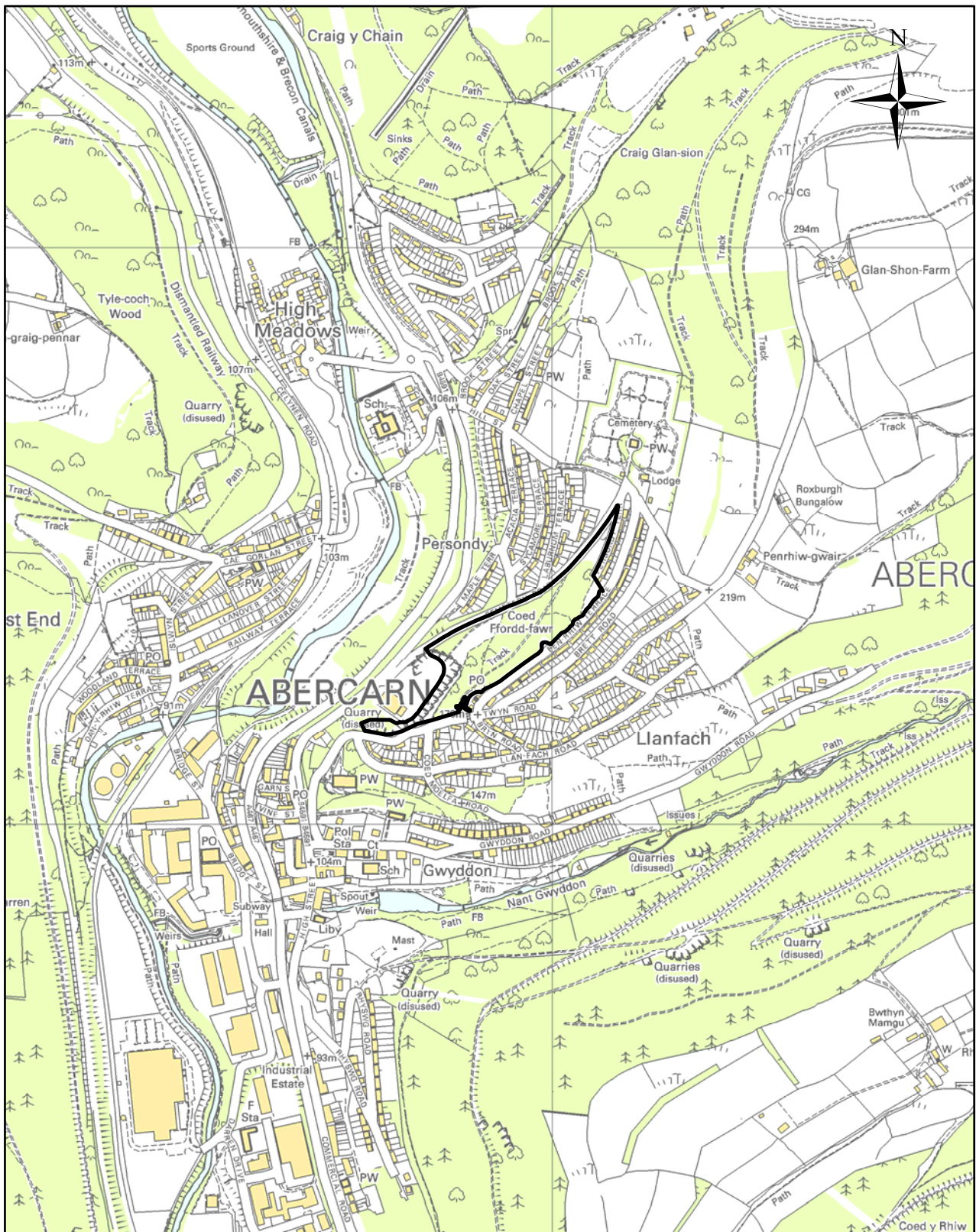
Species associated with disused quarry: *Calluna vulgaris*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Betula pendula*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Fragaria vesca*. Several mossy seepages also present, but species not identified.

Fauna observations: Grey Squirrel, **Song Thrush**, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackbird, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Wren.

Additional records from desk study: **Bat** records from nearby urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.127 (SINC 105)  
Coed Ffordd-Fawr, Abercarn 4 Ha

1:10,000



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