

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.111</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Coed Gawni, east of Newbridge</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST216971</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 7</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: C11.107)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A steep-sided, wooded valley with the Nant Gawni stream flowing through it in a rocky channel. The valley floor is mostly dominated by Alder woodland, although Brambles, Bracken and tall herbs dominate a few more open areas towards the southern end, particularly in association with an old drainage channel. On the sloping valley sides the canopy comprises mainly Beech, Oak and Ash with a tangled under storey of Holly, Hazel and Bramble locally. The ground flora is patchy, but includes a moderately diverse assemblage of semi-natural woodland indicator species, with Bluebells being particularly abundant on the south-facing slope. The northeastern end of the site includes an area of scrub woodland and Bracken with an abundant Bluebell ground flora. It also includes an area of wetland surrounded by wet woodland with a canopy of Ash and Alder, and several semi-natural woodland indicator species in the ground flora.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Stream.	
Pond with wetland vegetation.	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Likely to be used by Otters.	
Potential habitat for Dormouse.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The area is ungrazed and there was no evidence of any recent woodland management. The re-introduction of appropriate management would enhance the site for biodiversity. Fly tipping was noted at the rear of several gardens along the western boundary. There were also signs of minor littering and vandalism. Japanese knotweed is present in several patches beside the stream at the southwestern end and near the footpath at the northeastern end of the site. It is recommended that this be controlled since it could potentially spread along the stream.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
A public footpath crosses the northeastern part of the site. There are also several informal paths.	

### Additional information

The northeastern part of the SINC forms a link with the replanted ancient woodland at Coed Rhiw-Defaid, and therefore also to the larger woodland area at Craig y Chain to the south, which links with SINC NH 3.128. The adjacent horse-grazed field of semi-improved grassland, parallel with the southeastern side of the SINC, has a moderate diversity of grassland plants and appears potentially suitable for waxcap fungi. It also includes Bracken with Violets that may be suitable for fritillary butterflies. Consideration should therefore be given to including this within the SINC at future review if further survey data becomes available.

### 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: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Quercus petraea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Betula pendula*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix caprea*, *Hedera helix*.

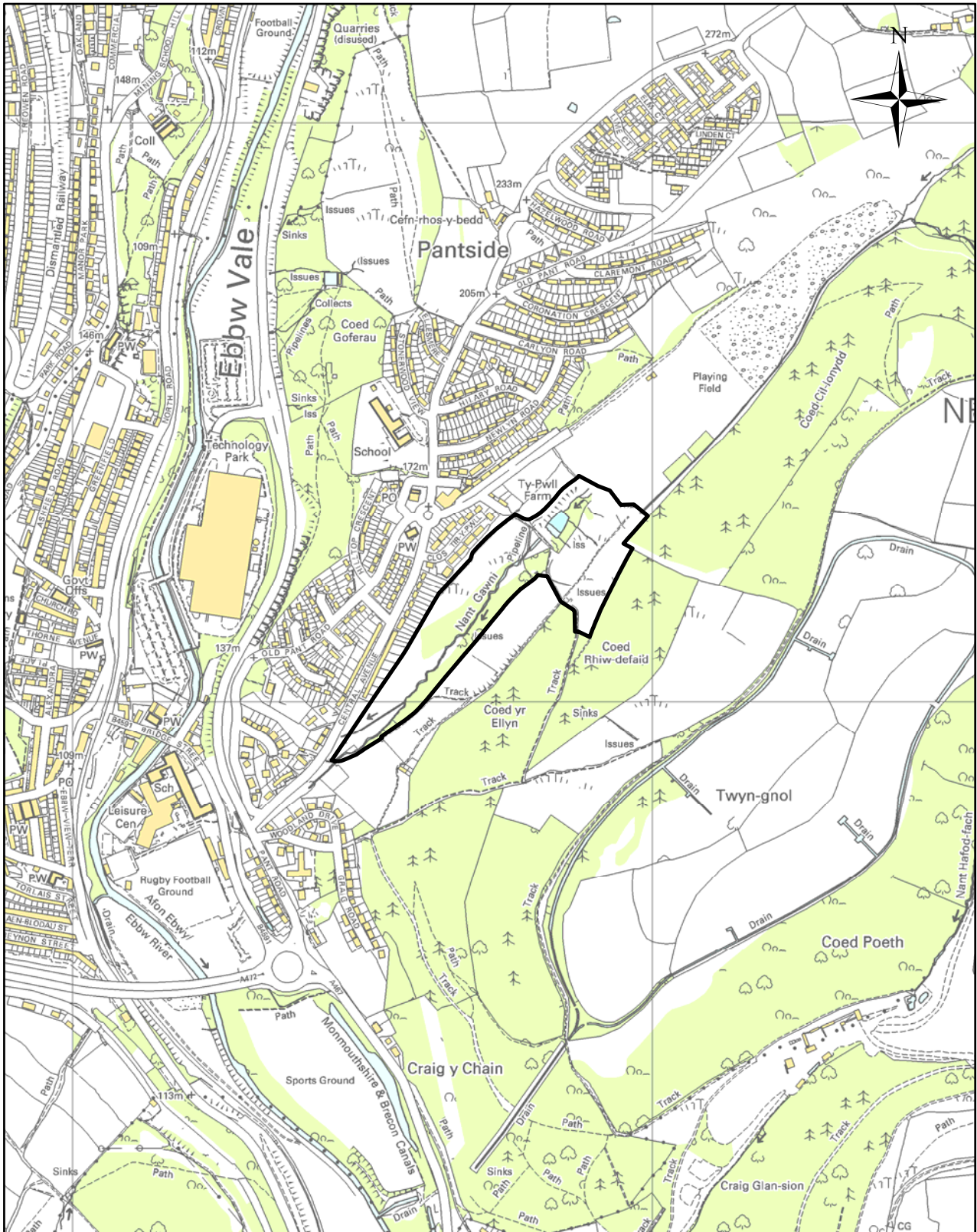
Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Viola riviniana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Geum urbanum*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Conopodium majus*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affine*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*. Species particularly associated with the stream and wet valley floor areas include: *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Urtica dioica*, *Caltha palustris*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Scrophularia auriculata*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Brachythecium rivulare*. The pond / wetland in the northeast of the site also supported *Iris pseudacorus*, *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Rhizomnium punctatum* and *Aneura pinguis*.

Fauna observations: **Song Thrush**, **Buzzard**, *Mistle Thrush*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Chaffinch*, *Blue Tit*, *Chiffchaff*.

Additional records from desk study: **Bat** records from Newbridge railway station, *Nuthatch*, *Atropa belladonna*, *Stellaria nemorum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.111 (SINC 107)  
Coed Gawni, East of Newbridge 7 Ha

1:10,000



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