

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.112</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Coed Cil-lonydd, east of Newbridge</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST229981</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 14</b>
<b>Survey date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.109)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>This SINC follows the course of two branches of the wooded Nant Gawni stream and includes two adjoining woodland blocks of former ancient woodland on the steep valley sides. The stream corridor is shaded by Alders along most of its length, while the adjoining woodland SINC areas support a mix of semi-natural woodland with Sessile oak, Beech, Hazel and Holly, with some conifers (mainly Scots Pine and Larch). Bramble and Holly are locally abundant, forming a dense understorey in some areas, while other areas are more open with a ground flora of Bracken and Bilberry. Red Wood Ant nests occur locally in the western part of the SINC.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Bracken.	
Stream.	
Scrub.	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Coniferous plantation.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
The woodland areas are likely to provide foraging and roosting habitat for bats.	
The woodland margins and acid grassland areas are likely to support reptiles.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>There were no signs of recent woodland management. Some parts are becoming very dense, with abundant regeneration of Bramble and Holly, and may benefit from occasional grazing, at least during the winter. Some parts are becoming heavily shaded by conifers and would benefit from thinning or removal of the conifers. The former colliery workings at the eastern boundary appeared to be subject to engineering / reprofiling works at the time of the survey. The introduction of appropriate management and some winter grazing would enhance biodiversity.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
Public footpaths run beside some of the site boundaries and there are also some informal paths within the site.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The general woodland area includes some conifer plantation and in some cases the nature conservation value of these areas is borderline with respect to the SINC criteria because the ground flora is relatively sparse. Some conifer areas have been retained within this SINC as they</p>	

provide habitat continuity between other woodland blocks and the ground flora is likely to improve with favourable management. Coniferous areas are also utilised by Red wood ants.

**Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)**

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pendula*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Salix caprea*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Thuja plicata*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Conopodium majus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Valeriana dioica*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*.

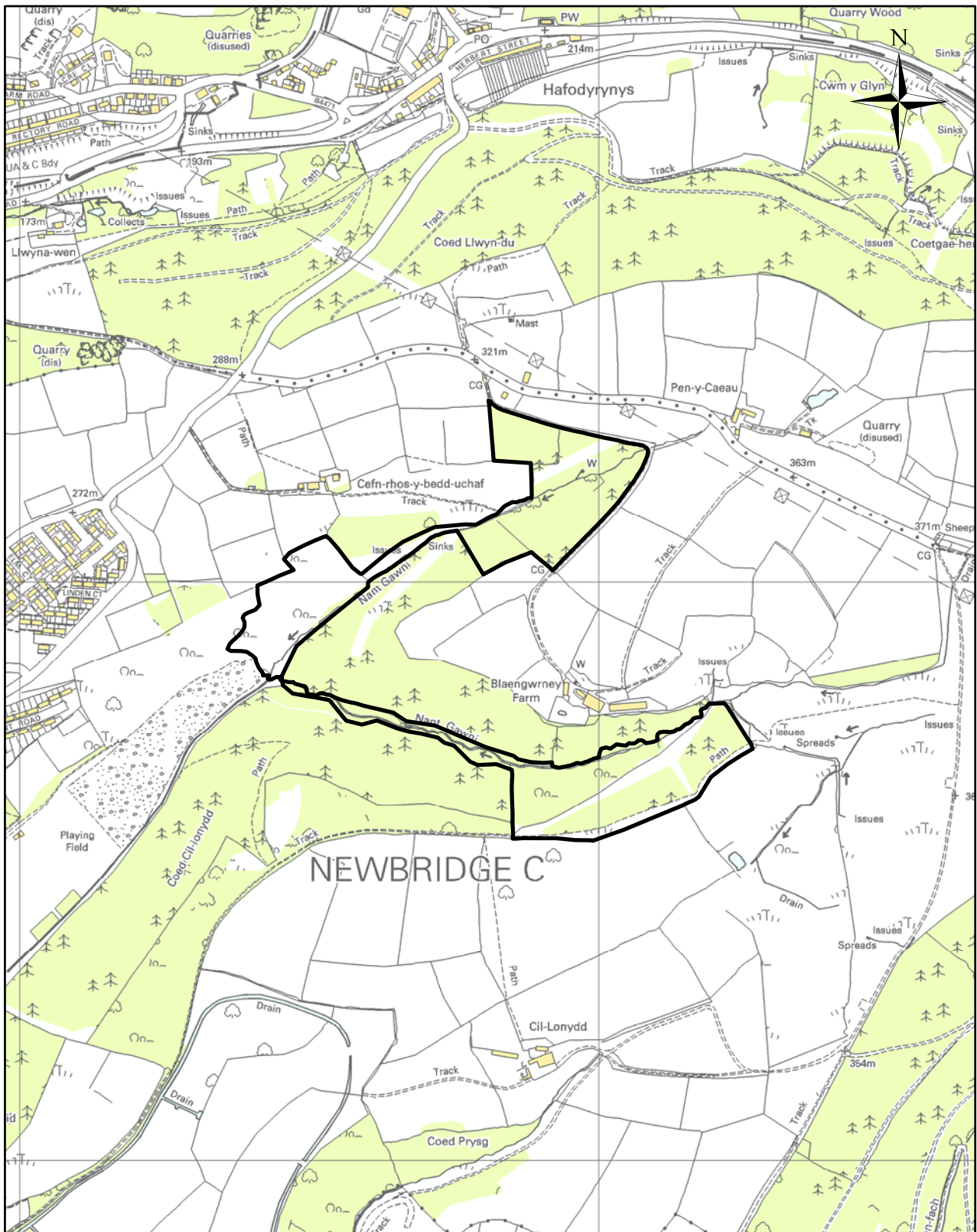
Semi-improved acid grassland species (ST224979): *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Aira caryophyllea*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex caryophyllea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, ***Song Thrush***, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Raven*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Chaffinch*, ***Red Wood Ant***, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Large White Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: ***Badger***, ***Buzzard***, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Festuca ovina*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*.

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Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.112 (SINC 109)  
Coed Cil-Lonydd, East of Newbridge 14 Ha

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