

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.106</u>	SINC name: Coedcae Watkin Dafydd, east of Crumlin
Grid reference: ST248989	Area (hectares): 48
Survey date: 17th April 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.110)	
Summary description	
<p>A northwest-facing slope supporting a mix of conifer plantation and patches of broadleaved woodland. The majority of the canopy comprises Larch and Pine with old Beech trees dominating the broadleaved areas. The ground flora is generally sparse with Wavy hair-grass, Bilberry and Wood sorrel. However, some of the steeper slopes, particularly near paths, support patches of acid grassland and flush species. The most northerly margin supports a Bracken, heath and acid grassland with scattered Birch scrub. Young Birch-dominated scrub woodland is also developing in the west of the site, where conifer plantation has been felled.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Replanted woodland retaining a range of semi-natural woodland indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland and heath supporting at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Conifer plantation.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The more open heath and scrub areas and woodland margins have potential to support reptiles.</p> <p>The flushes on slopes have potential to support locally significant bryophyte species.</p> <p>The area is likely to support a good range of breeding woodland birds.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The majority of the area is managed as forestry. There has been recent felling in the western side of the site and at present the felled area appears to be being left to regenerate naturally, which is likely to be very beneficial for biodiversity. In general, the removal of dense conifers would enhance biodiversity of the site. The remnants of semi-natural woodland should be retained and a natural vegetation cover should be allowed to develop in the areas currently supporting conifers. The northern parts of the slopes supporting heath vegetation appear to be lightly grazed by sheep, but Bracken and scrub control would be beneficial here.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>The area is crossed by a public footpath and forestry track.</p>	

Additional information

The site includes areas of coniferous plantation, which do not meet SINC criteria in their own right, but have been included because they form part of the whole wooded area. The habitat structure and ground flora of these areas is likely to improve if the plantations are thinned or felled and replanted with broadleaved trees. The SINC boundary may need to be revised following any future woodland management. The woodland adjoining the western boundary may support a similar quality habitat as that present within the SINC. These should be considered at future review.

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 canopy and shrub species (combined list): *Larix sp.*, *Pinus sp.*, *Pinus contorta*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix caprea*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*.

Ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Galium saxatile*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Epilobium brunnescens*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dicranum majus*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*.

Species restricted to the track-sides included *Fragaria vesca*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Erophila verna*, *Alchemilla sp.*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

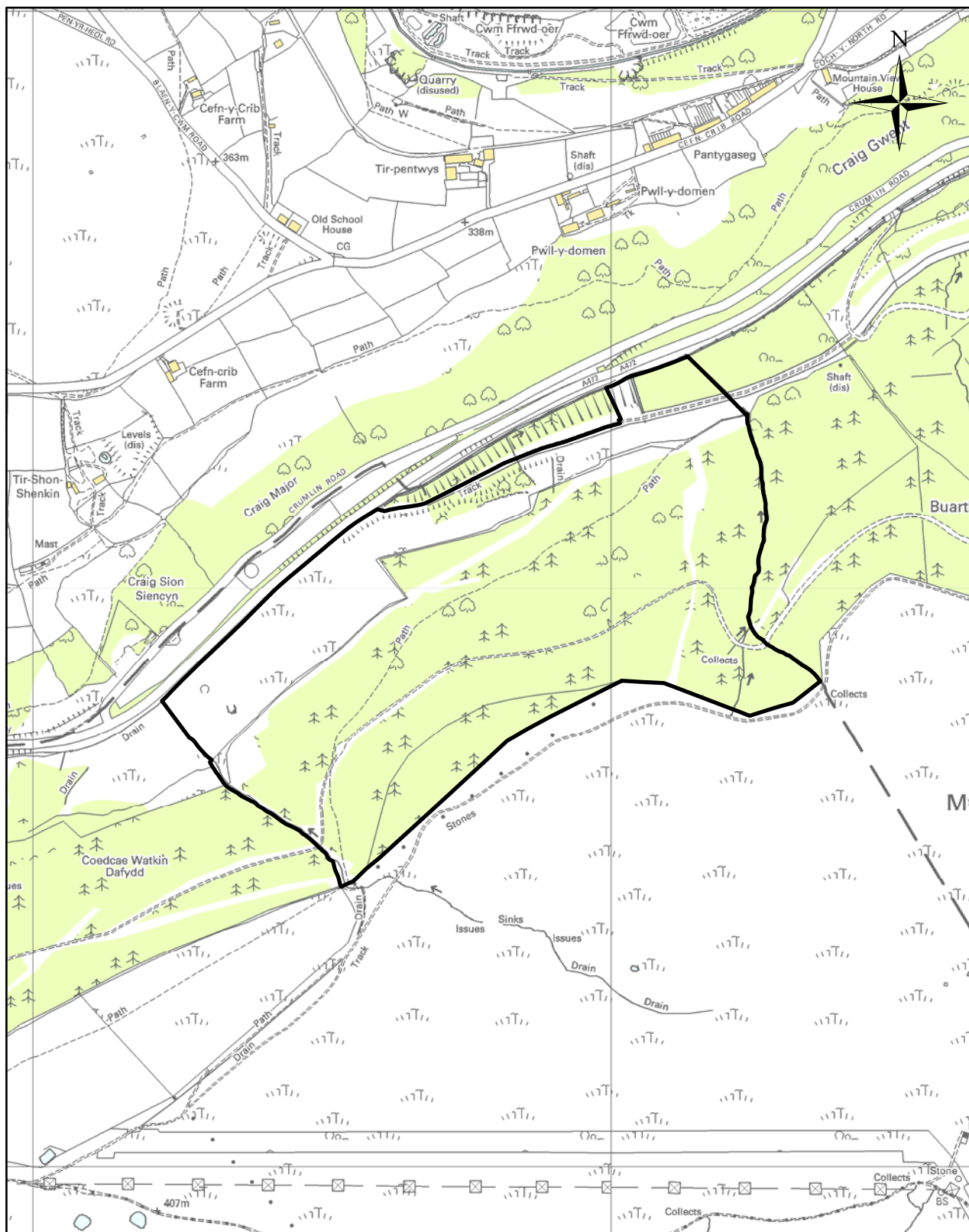
Heath/ acid grassland species in south and west of SINC: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Fauna observations: Fox, **Buzzard**, Willow Warbler, Coal Tit, Blackbird, Robin, Chaffinch, Raven, Peacock Butterfly. A **Curlew** was heard calling from the adjacent upland plateau at Mynydd Llwyd.

Additional records from desk study: Several bryophyte records, including *Saccogyna viticulosa*, *Chiloscyphus polyanthus*, *Heterocladium heteropterum*, *Jungermannia pumila*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Hyocomium armoricum*, *Riccardia chamaedryfolia*, *Fissidens pusillus*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Coedcae Watkin Dafydd, East of Crumlin 48 Ha

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