

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.113</u>	SINC name: Mynydd Maen, east of Newbridge
Grid Reference ST243968	Area (hectares):
Survey date: 17 th & 18 th April 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.111)	
Summary description	
<p>This SINC comprises a large upland common with extensive areas of acid grassland, heath and Bracken. The most frequent species include Bilberry, Mat-grass, Wavy hair-grass, Purple moor-grass, Heath bedstraw and Tormentil. Crowberry is locally abundant. There are several areas of flushes supporting Purple moor-grass and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses, with several locally significant bryophyte species, in particular, land at ST247973 supports <i>Dichodontium palustris</i> and <i>Andrea rupestris</i>, and Craig-y-Glyn ST247950 supports <i>Nardia compressa</i>.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Extensive area of open countryside where semi-natural upland features predominate.</p> <p>Acid grassland / heath with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of locally significant bryophyte species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Rock outcrops / dry stone walls.</p> <p>Marshy grassland.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p> <p>Ponds.</p> <p>Streams.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The area has potential to support breeding waders such as Curlew and Lapwing.</p> <p>The tussocky grassland, heath and woodland and Bracken margins are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The ponds are likely to support populations of dragonflies and amphibians.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland may support waxcap fungi populations.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep currently graze the open upland area. Bracken encroachment is a problem over much of the area and there is potential for fires. Grazing the upland area with cattle and horses during the summer is likely to reduce this problem, and generally to enhance the area for biodiversity. There were signs of tipping beside some of the roads.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>The majority of the SINC is common land classified as open access land. It is crossed several roads and footpaths.</p>	

Additional information

This was originally part of a large SINC (C11.111) that was extended during this review and so it has been divided into two to split the wooded valley (now NH 3.124) and the open common land of this SINC.

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

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

Heath and acid grassland species: *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Ulex gallii*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex binervis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Cladonia* sp..

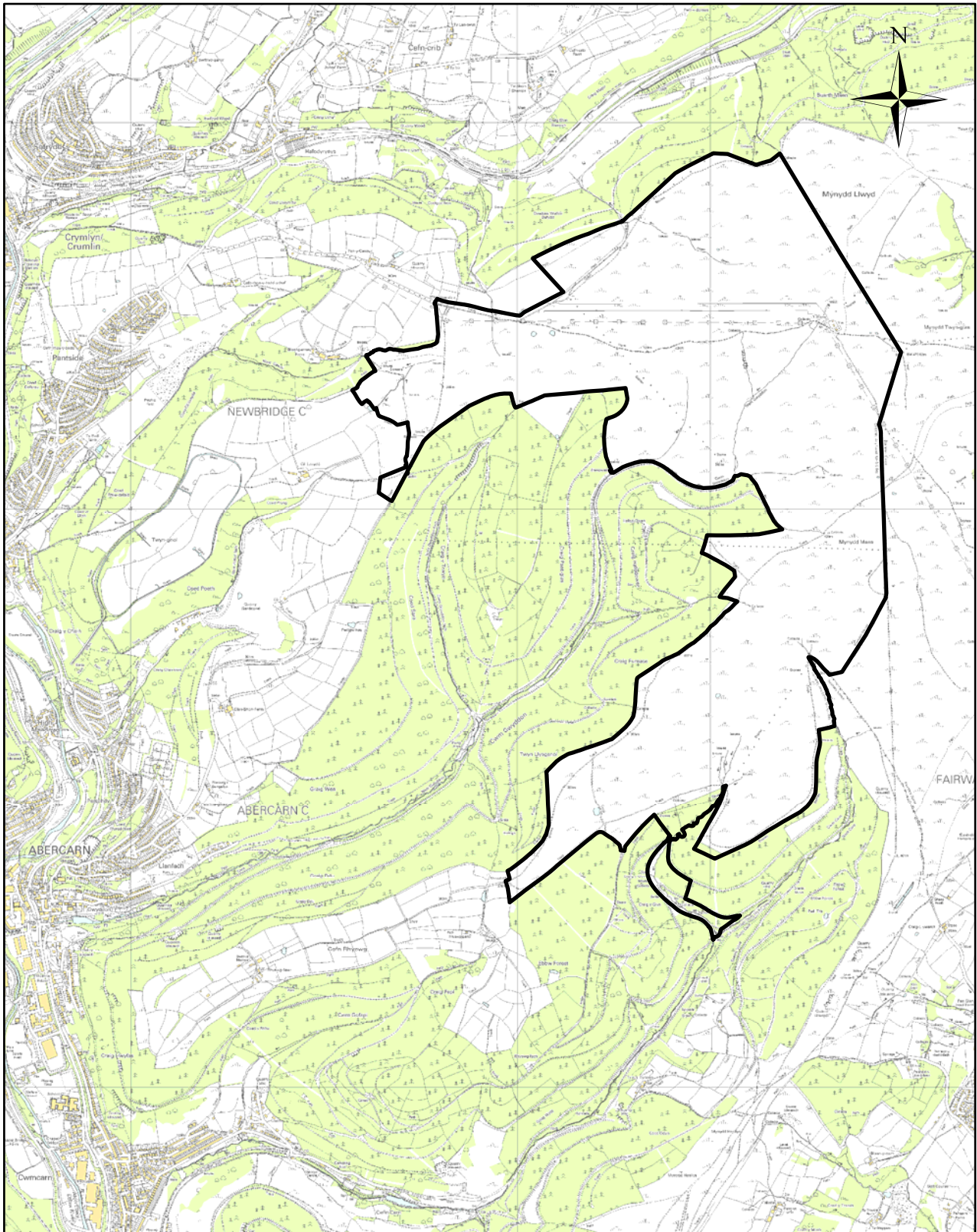
Pond species (ST240979): *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Callitriche* sp., *Lythrum portula*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Drepanocladus aduncus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Fauna observations (from the whole area of the former SINC C11.111): *Grey Squirrel*, **Buzzard**, **Curlew**, **Skylark**, **Song Thrush**, *Raven*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Chaffinch*, *Wheatear*, *Blue Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Blackbird*, *Chiffchaff*, *Robin*, *Wren*, *Goldcrest*, *Sparrowhawk*, *Willow Warbler*, *Pied Wagtail*, *Jay*, **Common Frog** (*tadpoles*), *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, **Red Wood Ant**.

Additional records from desk study (from the whole area of the former SINC C11.111): **Dormouse** (unconfirmed 1993 record), **Nightjar**, *Cuckoo*, **Great Crested Newt**, **Palmate Newt**, **Bullhead**, **Brown Trout**, *Andraea rothii*, *Andraea rupestris*, *Dichodontium palustris*, *Nardia compressa*, *Diphyscium foliosum*, *Lophozia sudetica*, *Racomitrium aquaticum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.113 (SINC 111a)
Mynydd Maen, East of Newbridge 468 Ha

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