

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.124</u>	SINC name: Gwyddon Valley Woodlands, Abercarn
Grid Reference ST243968	Area (hectares): 452
Survey date: 17th & 18th April 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.111)	
Summary description	
The SINC comprises a large area of forestry plantation, on the site of former ancient woodland. It retains a few remnants of its former status, including large Beech trees, and areas of Larch plantation with semi-natural indicator species the ground flora. The most diverse woodland habitat generally occurs beside the streams. Red Wood Ants are locally common in the southwest of the woodland area.	
Qualifying features	
Conifer plantations with an assemblage of semi-natural ground flora indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Rock outcrops/ dry stone walls.	
Streams.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The woodland habitat is likely to be used by roosting and foraging bats.	
A few of the woodland areas appear potentially suitable for Dormice.	
Semi-improved acid grassland in the northwest may support waxcap populations.	
The ponds are likely to support populations of dragonflies and amphibians.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The woodland is managed for forestry. In general, its nature conservation value would be improved if there were an increase in the proportion of native broadleaved species within the woodland. There were signs of tipping beside some of the roads.	
Access/ community use	
The majority of the SINC is common land classified as open access land. It is crossed several roads and footpaths. Much of the woodland and a few areas at the edges of the SINC are not open to public access.	
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 open common land (now NH 3.113) from the wooded valley of this SINC. The southwestern boundary is rather arbitrary, as the value of the adjacent woodlands (ground flora, wood ants and old Beech trees) may continue beyond this designated area. The adjacent woodlands should therefore be considered at future SINC review.	
Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)	
(LBAP species shown in bold , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i>)	
<u>Woodland tree and shrub species: <i>Picea sitchensis</i>, <i>Larix sp.</i>, <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Betula pubescens</i>,</u>	

Fraxinus excelsior, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus laurocerasus*, *Thuja plicata*, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana*.

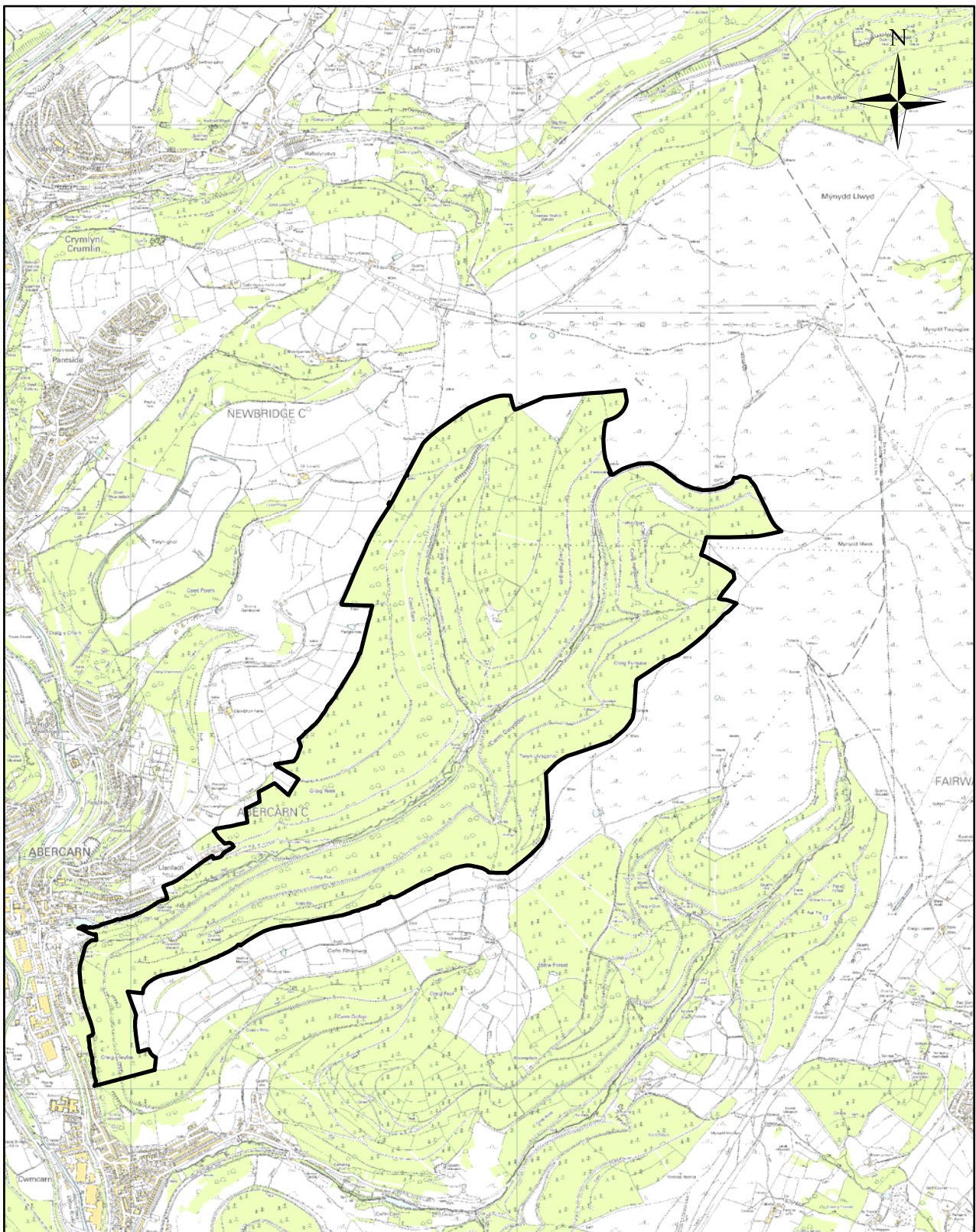
Woodland ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Geum urbanum*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dicranum majus*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Fontinalis antipyretica*.

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*.

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Gwydon Valley Woodlands, Abercarn 452 Ha

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