

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.161</u>	SINC name: Nant Cae'r moel Swamp & Woodland, Senghenydd
Grid reference: ST107904	Area (hectares): 13
Survey date: 11th September 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.114)	
Summary description	
<p>The Nant Cae'r moel stream flows through the centre of this SINC. At its western end, it is little more than a flush arising at the edge of Cefn Eglwysilan. The stream passes an area of marshy grassland on its northern side, which is dominated by Purple moor-grass and Greater tussock-sedge. It then flows through a heavily shaded, disused quarry with water seepage from the cliffs supporting complete coverage by bryophytes and ferns. Further downstream, the stream banks are steeper and mainly lined by Alder, Oak and Beech trees as it passes a larger disused quarry and its associated tips. These support acid grassland with patches of heath. The fields down slope from the quarry support a short sward of damp acid grassland and diverse flush vegetation. Further downstream the banks are more gently sloping and support marshy grassland and flush vegetation, with Purple Moor-grass, Greater Tussock-sedge and scattered Alder and Willow trees. To the north of the stream, the eastern side of the SINC comprises several disused coal spoil tips. These support a range of developing heath and acid grassland communities.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Wet woodland.	
Acid grassland and heath with at least 7 indicator species.	
Marshy grassland / flush vegetation with at least 12 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Rock outcrops and scree.	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
Grassland with high densities of anthills.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The former tips and marshy grassland areas are likely to support good populations of reptiles.	
The woodland and quarry areas are likely to provide roosting and foraging opportunities for bats.	
The area is likely to support additional plant species with nature conservation value. In particular, the flushes and former quarry have potential to support uncommon bryophytes and lichens.	
The drier areas of grazed acid grassland are likely to support waxcap fungi.	

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

With the exception of the disused coal tips and lower parts of the stream, sheep and cattle graze the area. The area has high nature conservation value of the flush habitats and the current grazing regime should be continued. Further surveys, particularly of bryophytes and other plants of short stature, may provide additional information on the nature conservation value of this site. The coal tips appear currently unmanaged, although some parts adjoining the designated area appear to have been recently disturbed. Tipping / littering is evident beside the road in some places, and there are signs of fires in the eastern-most area of acid grassland/ heath.

Access/ community use

A road runs along the eastern edge of the old coal tips, but there is no public access to the rest of the SINC.

Additional information

The southeastern part of the old coal tip is currently not included in the SINC as it still supports a high proportion of bare ground and sparse vegetation. However, it is developing acid grassland and heath and may meet SINC selection criteria by the time of a future SINC review. Aerial photography indicates a smaller wooded valley extending to the northwest (at ST107916). It is feasible that this could include some similar habitats to those occurring in the SINC. These areas 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 and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix cinerea*, *Salix aurita*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Viola palustris*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Urtica dioica*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex paniculata*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

The shaded former quarry at ST105914 included damp rock faces with a cover of abundant Chrysosplenium oppositifolium and bryophytes. These included Rhynchostegium riparioides, Hycomium armoricum, Thamnobryum alopecurum, Plagiomnium undulatum, Fissidens adianthoides, Isothecium myosuroides, Diplophyllum albicans and Pellia sp..

Heath and acid grassland species on old coal tips (ST110915): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Filago minima*, *Viola riviniana*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Linum catharticum*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex hirta*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Ptilidium ciliare*.

Heath and acid grassland species at disused quarry and adjoining tips (ST107913): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Polygala serpyllifolia*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Short damp acid grassland, marshy grassland and flush species (combined list because the habitats merge with each other): *Ranunculus flammula*, *Viola palustris*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Scutellaria minor*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Stachys palustris*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Nardus stricta*, *Aira praecox*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex paniculata*, *Carex viridula*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum inundatum*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Dichodontium palustre*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Scapania undulata*.

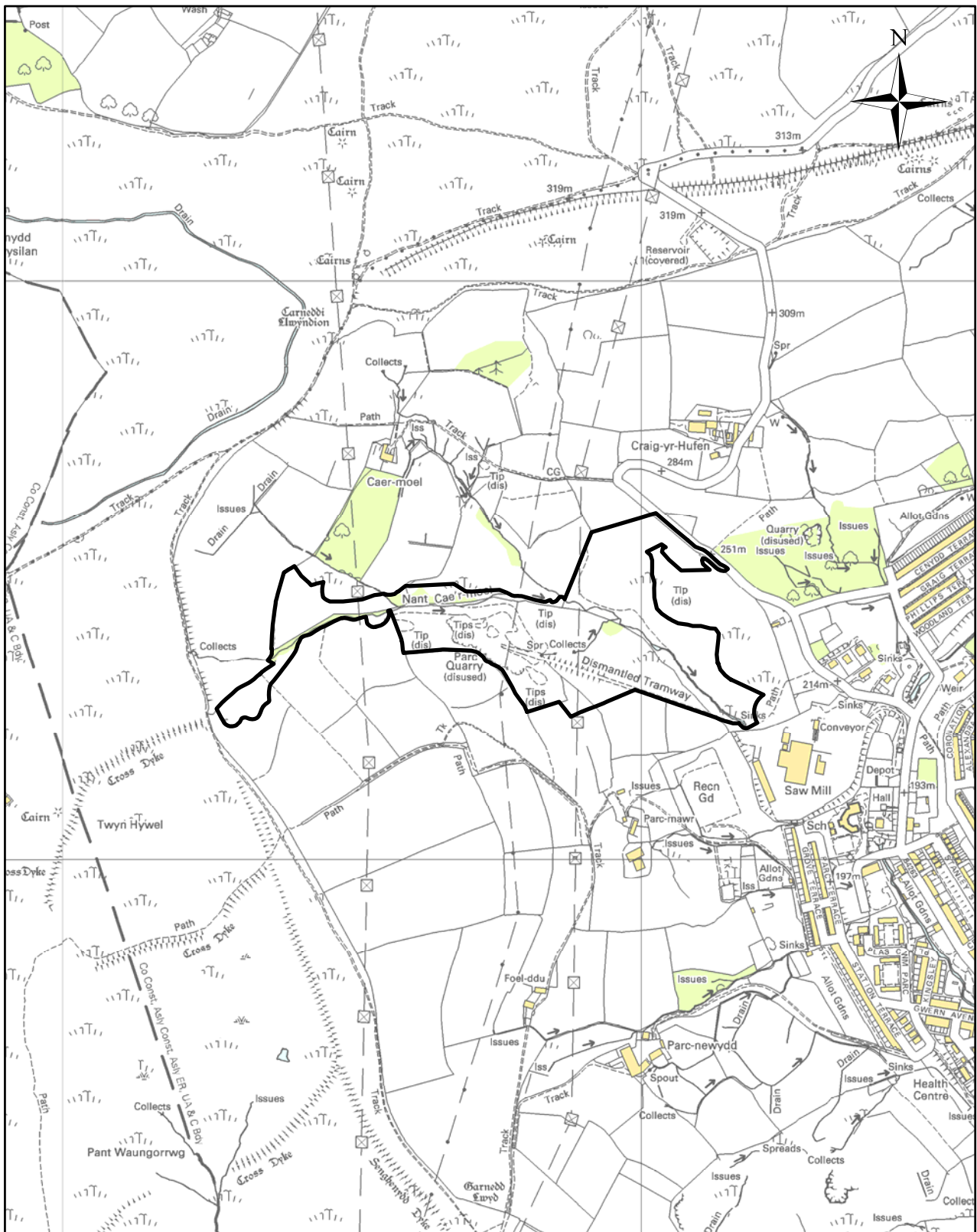
Fauna observations: **Peregrine, Buzzard, Green Woodpecker, Grey Wagtail**, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Robin, Blackbird, **Common Frog, Trout**, Small Heath Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: **Dactylorhiza fuchsii**, *Achillea ptarmica*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Carex laevigata*, *Carex ovalis*, *Ceterach officinarum*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Montia fontana*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Persicaria mitis*, *Persicaria maculosa*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Valeriana officinalis*.

Grayling butterfly recorded within same 1km square.

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Nant Cae'r-Moel Swamp and Woodland, Senghenydd 13 Ha

1:10,000



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