

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.82</u>	SINC name: Tir-twyn Woodlands, Ystrad Mynach
Grid Reference ST135943	Area (hectares): 10
Survey date: 28th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.119)	
Summary description	
<p>The northern part of this SINC comprises woodland, which appears to have developed over old coal workings. It includes several banks and ditches and a stagnant ochreous pool, but the canopy and ground flora include a good number of semi-natural indicator species. The canopy species include Sessile oak, Hazel, Ash and Holly, and the ground flora supports Bluebell, Wood speedwell, Wood anemone and Pignut. The southwestern area includes a mix of broadleaved woodland, scrub and acid grassland on a northeast-facing slope. The canopy species include Sessile oak, Downy birch and Hazel, with some Alder and Willow scrub in the lower-lying part, which adjoins a small ditch. The ground flora species includes abundant Bluebells. Bracken and Bramble are locally dominant in the ground flora. Climbing corydalis occurs patchily within the Bracken. Semi-improved acid grassland is present along the south and western side of the area and two small ponds are present at the western edge of the woodland.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural ground flora indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Ponds.	
Rock outcrops/ dry stone walls	
Ditches.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The woodland habitat is likely to be used by roosting and foraging bats.	
The woodland and Bracken margins are likely to support reptiles.	
The woodland is likely to support good numbers of breeding birds.	
The woodland areas appear potentially suitable for Dormice.	
Semi-improved acid grassland in the south of the area is likely to support waxcap fungi.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The majority of the woodland area appears unmanaged. Horses lightly graze the southwestern area, though they tend to remain in the grassland areas and do not encroach into the woodland. The grazing in the south and western area has created a mosaic of grassland and Bracken communities likely to be of value to a good range of wildlife. The western woodland supports very dense Bracken and Bramble and a limited increase in grazing or disturbance may be beneficial for the ground flora diversity and woodland structure and enhance the biodiversity of the site.</p>	

Access/ community use

No part of the SINC is open to formal public access. However, there are several informal paths through the northern woodland, which appear to be popular for dog walking.

Additional information

The mix of grassland, Bracken and scrub to the west of the SINC boundary is likely to be valuable for a range of common flora and fauna. Aerial photography also indicates that woodland and Bracken habitat to the southeast might be of similar value to that within the SINC. These areas should be considered at future SINC review. The central hedge/ditch is not diverse, but is included as it is likely to provide a useful habitat connection for species such as bats and birds.

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

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

Woodland tree and shrub species (combined list): *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix cinerea*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Betula pendula*, *Malus sp.*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Rosa arvensis*.

Woodland ground flora species (combined list): *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Geum urbanum*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Corydalis claviculata*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Conopodium majus*, *Veronica montana*, *Galium palustre*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Carex remota*, *Carex pseudocyperus*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Thamnobryum undulatum*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*.

Semi-improved acid grassland / Bracken at western boundary (ST133939): *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Trifolium repens*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Poa annua*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Pond species (ST131941 and ST132940): *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Myosotis sp.*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Juncus bufonius*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Eleocharis palustris*.

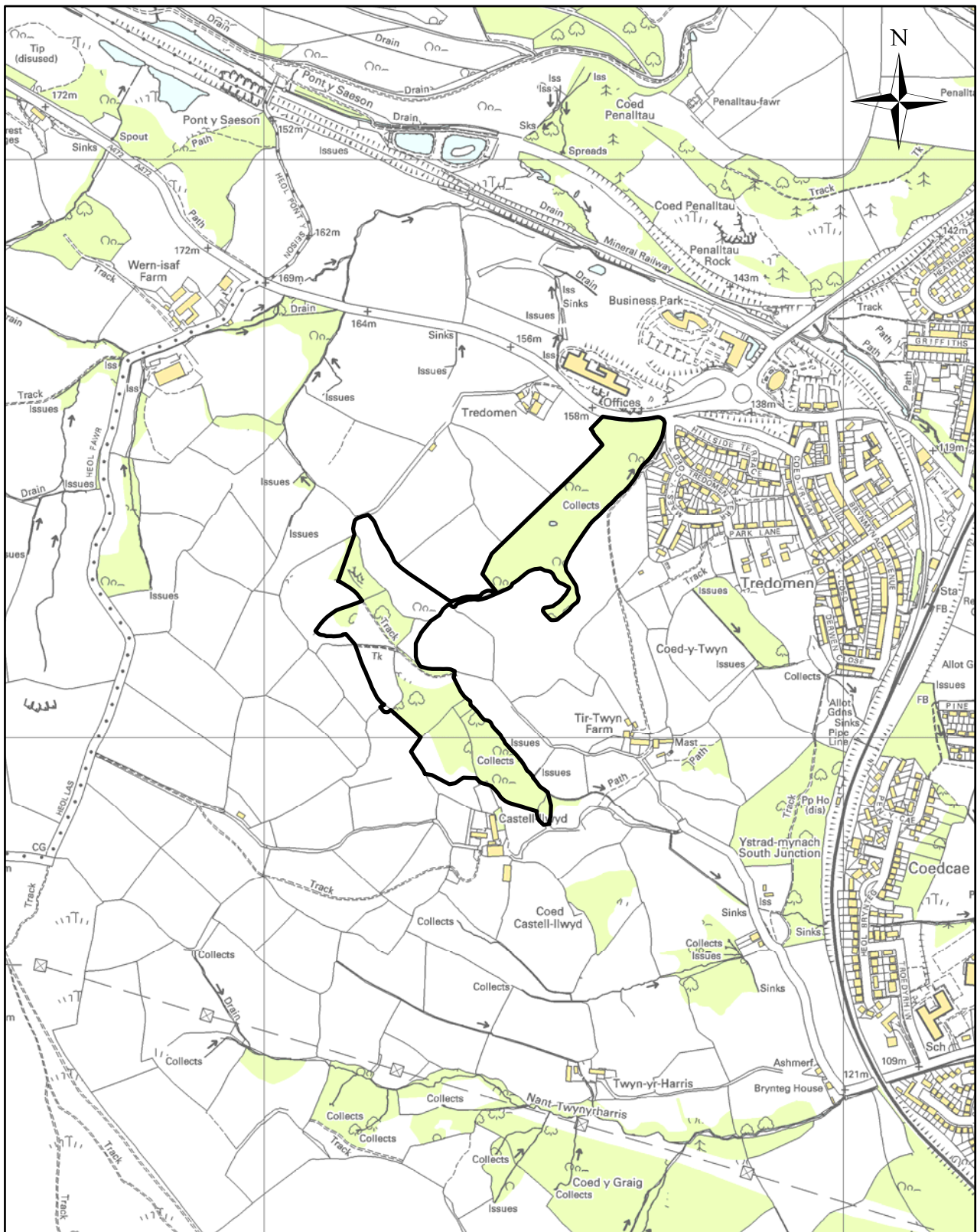
Fauna observations: Fox, **Buzzard**, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Chiffchaff, Dunnock, Wood Pigeon and Small Skipper Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: None from within site.

Green Woodpecker known within 200m and likely to occur within site.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Tir-Twyn Woodlands, Ystrad Mynach 10 Ha

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