

<p><b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b></p> <p><b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.117</u> SINC name: Llanbradach Fawr Woodlands, north of Llanbradach</b></p> <p><b>Grid reference: ST141927 Area (hectares): 74</b></p> <p><b>Survey date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b></p> <p><b>(UDP policy reference: C11.121)</b></p>
<p><b>Summary description</b></p> <p>This SINC supports a diverse mix of woodland habitats, including semi-natural ancient woodland, wet woodland and a few areas of conifer plantation. Sessile and Pedunculate oak, with Beech, Rowan, Hazel, Downy Birch, Holly, Ash and Alder as frequent associates, dominate the older woodland areas. The ground flora is typically dominated by Bracken and Bramble, but semi-natural indicator species include Bluebell, Wood sedge, violet and Wood sorrel. The wetter woodlands and streamsides support a high proportion of Alder, with abundant bryophytes including the locally uncommon species <i>Trichocolea tomentella</i>, <i>Hookeria lucens</i> and <i>Heterocladium heteropterum</i>. Open areas within the wooded slopes tend to support Bracken with scattered trees, and abundant Bluebells. There are several areas of grassland within the SINC, including areas of marshy grassland, acid grassland and some semi-improved acid grassland. The most diverse grassland habitat is near the Nant Twyn-yr-harris stream in the northern part and includes flushes characterised by Greater tussock-sedge and abundant <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Purple moor-grass and rushes dominate other areas of marshy grassland.</p>
<p><b>Qualifying features</b></p> <p>Broad-leaved woodland with semi-natural indicators, including some ancient woodland.</p> <p>Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Bryophyte species of county significance (<i>Trichocolea tomentella</i>).</p>
<p><b>Secondary features</b></p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Coniferous plantation.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p> <p>Streams.</p> <p>Pond.</p>
<p><b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b></p> <p>The woodland has high potential to support Dormice.</p> <p>The woodland is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The site is likely to support other plants of nature conservation significance, particularly bryophytes.</p> <p>Some of the semi-improved grasslands have potential to support waxcap fungi.</p> <p>The woodland margins and areas of tussocky grassland are likely to support reptiles.</p>

The pond has potential to support amphibians.

**Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)**

Sheep, horses and cattle generally graze the fields. The woodland is generally ungrazed, although sheep and horses (and locally cattle) graze some of the northern wooded areas. One woodland area (ST137931) had recently been felled, removing Spruce and retaining native broadleaved trees. This approach is likely to be beneficial for wildlife and could be extended to other areas within the SINC that have been planted with conifers. Tipping and litter are a problem in some areas, particularly beside Mill Lane (ST143928). Removal of the refuse would be beneficial.

**Access/ community use**

The southern tip of the SINC is classified as open-access land. Public rights of way run through parts of the SINC, but most of it has no formal public access.

**Additional information**

The southern boundary has been drawn at a convenient mapping boundary. However, it could potentially be extended to include more of the adjacent woodland. Even though the adjacent woodland includes areas of conifer plantation, it still retains native broadleaved trees and a moderately diverse ground flora. Several of the fields adjoining the northern boundary are likely to support waxcap fungi and the boundary may need to be revised in future if fungi survey data becomes available. These areas should be considered for inclusion 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 *italics*)

Woodland canopy and shrub species (combined list for all areas): *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Picea sp.*, *Larix sp.*, *Betula pendula*, *Salix cinerea*, *Salix aurita*, *Ulex gallii*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Acer campestre*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Salix caprea*.

Woodland ground flora species: *Oxalis acetosella*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Veronica montana*, *Potentilla anglica*, *Galeobdolon lutea*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Galium odoratum*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Melica uniflora*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Heterocladium heteropterum*, *Lejeunea lamacerina*.

*Species which tended to be limited to wetter parts of the woodlands included:* *Mentha aquatica*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Viola palustris*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Urtica dioica*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Festuca gigantea*, *Carex paniculata*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex remota*, *Carex viridula*, *Juncus effusus*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Rhynchosyris riparioides*, *Hyocomium armoricum*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Trichocolea tomentella*, *Pellia sp.*

*The bracket fungus Laetiporus sulphureus was noted in several parts of the broad-leaved woodland.*

Marshy grassland species (combined list for several similar areas): *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Viola palustris*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*,

*Myosotis* sp., *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Galium palustre*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Holcus mollis*, *Carex binervis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex echinata*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Isolepis setacea*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum inundatum*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Semi-improved acid grassland species (combined list for several similar fields, some grade into marshy grassland habitats): *Pilosella officinarum*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

*Hygrocybe pratensis* was noted in the field at ST136930.

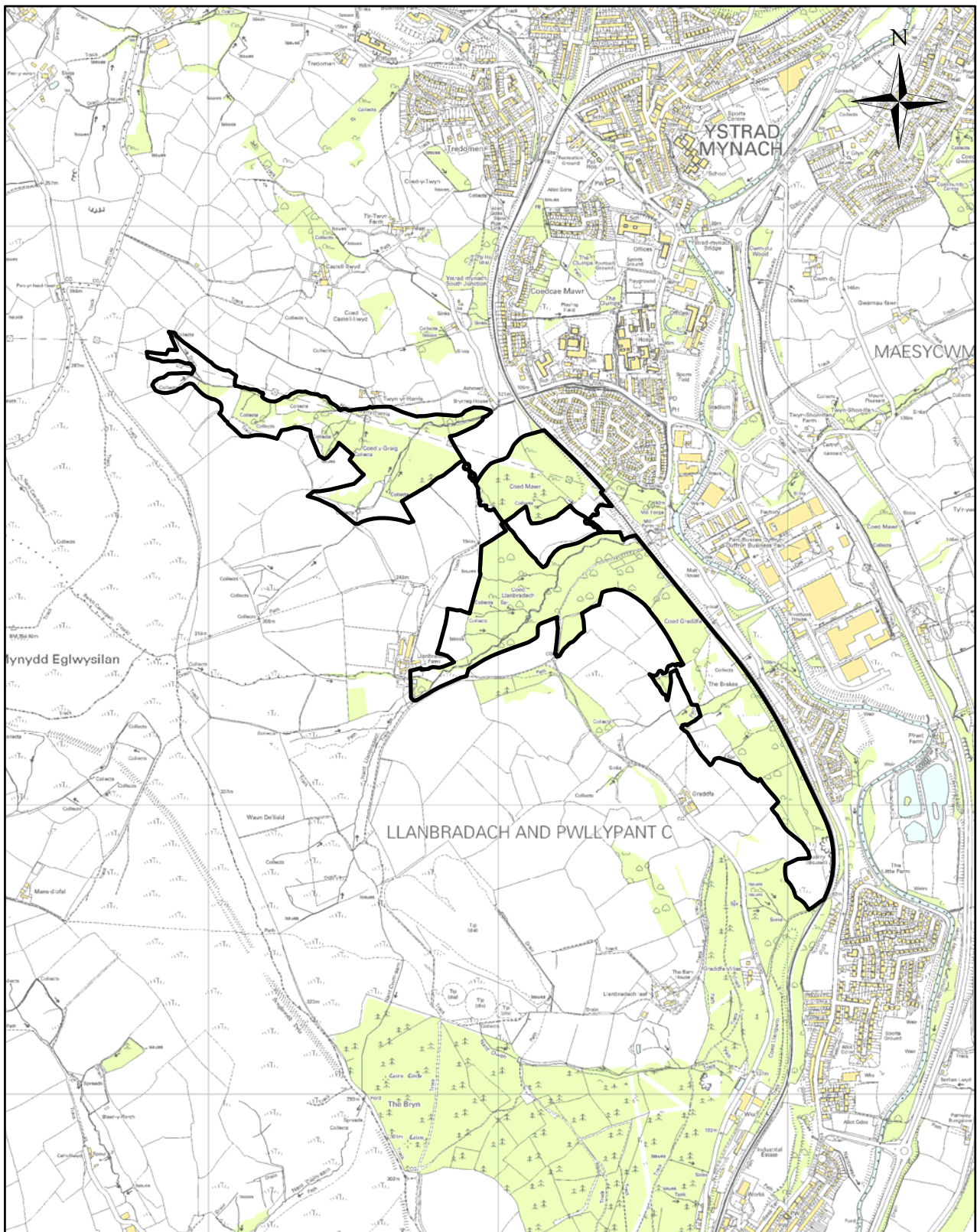
Fauna observations: **Badger**, Mole, Grey Squirrel, **Buzzard**, **Bullfinch**, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Coal Tit, Dunnock, Stonechat, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Robin, Wren, Chiffchaff, Speckled Wood Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: Raven. Moths including **Little Thorn**, **Devon Carpet**, **Satin Lutestring**. *Frangula alnus*, *Conopodium majus*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Dicranum majus*, *Leucobryum* sp.

**Otter** records from river Rhymney (within 300m of boundary). **Bat** records from nearby areas. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly within same 1km grid square.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.117 (SINC 121)  
Llanbradach Fawr Woodlands, North of Llanbradach 74 Ha

1:20,000



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Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.