

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<a href="#"><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.145</u></a>	SINC name: Nant-y-draenog, East of Wyllye.
Grid Reference ST187927	Area (hectares): 41
Survey date: 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.131)	
<p><b>Summary description</b></p> <p>This SINC follows the course of the Nant-y-Draenog stream and includes much of the adjacent valley-side. A high proportion of the valley woodland is classified as semi-natural ancient woodland with a canopy of Sessile oak and Beech. The upper slopes generally support Bracken, occasionally with scrub, hedges and hedgerows. Some of the Bracken areas appear to be developing towards Birch scrub woodland. Cornish moneywort (<i>Sibthorpia europaea</i>) occurs beside the stream. In the north of the SINC the Nant-y-Draenog reservoir is a small area of wetland vegetation bordered by semi-improved acid grassland, some of which includes flush vegetation and anthills.</p>	
<p><b>Qualifying features</b></p> <p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural ground flora indicator species, some of the woodland is classified as ancient woodland.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Cornish moneywort <i>Sibthorpia europaea</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Secondary features</b></p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Stream.</p> <p>Pond with wetland vegetation.</p> <p>Rock exposures/ dry stone walls.</p>	
<p><b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b></p> <p>The woodland habitat is likely to be used by roosting and foraging bats.</p> <p>The woodland areas appear potentially suitable for Dormice.</p> <p>The stream is likely to be used by Otters.</p> <p>The Bracken margins and grassland beside the reservoir are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The woodland is likely to support good numbers of breeding birds.</p> <p>Violets are locally abundant in woodland and Bracken and may support some fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland in the north of the area is likely to support waxcap fungi.</p>	
<p><b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b></p> <p>There were no signs of recent management in the mature woodlands. Some areas on the eastern side of the valley have been planted with young broadleaved trees and have good potential to develop into valuable woodland habitat. Some of the Bracken slopes also appeared unmanaged</p>	

and are becoming colonised by scattered scrub, although sheep grazed some parts. Sheep generally graze the grassland habitats. The dominance of Bracken is a problem and there were signs of it having been burned. Limited Bracken control would be beneficial for biodiversity on most of the upper slopes, preferably in conjunction with changing to grazing by cattle or horses in the long term. In some parts of the site, the exclusion of grazing might allow the quicker development of woodland. The reservoir appears to be disused. It was almost dry and grazed by sheep at the time of the survey. There is plenty of potential for managing the reservoir bed to produce a diverse wetland habitat if it is no longer required for water supply.

### Access/ community use

Several public footpaths cross the woodland areas in the central and north of the SINC. There is no formal access to the southern end, but several informal paths are present.

### Additional information

The southern boundary has been drawn at a convenient mapping boundary, but could potentially be extended further south to include more of the woodland and nearby disused workings, which are becoming colonised by scrub and acid grassland. The reservoir, adjacent grassland and scrub probably fall short of the SINC criteria in their own right, but the habitats help to provide a link along the valley, which are likely to be particularly important for species such as bats. Some Bracken areas do not meet the SINC selection areas in their own right and have been included to extend the SINC boundary to the nearest convenient mapping boundary.

### 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: *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Prunus avium*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Malus sp.*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Prunus spinosa*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Geum urbanum*, *Geranium robertianum*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Hypericum androsaemum*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Conopodium majus*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dicranum majus*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Pellia sp.*, *Plagiochila asplenioides*, *Diplophyllum albicans*.

Semi-improved acid grassland / Bracken species (combined list): *Potentilla erecta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Sagina apetala*, *Jasione montana*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Viola riviniana*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

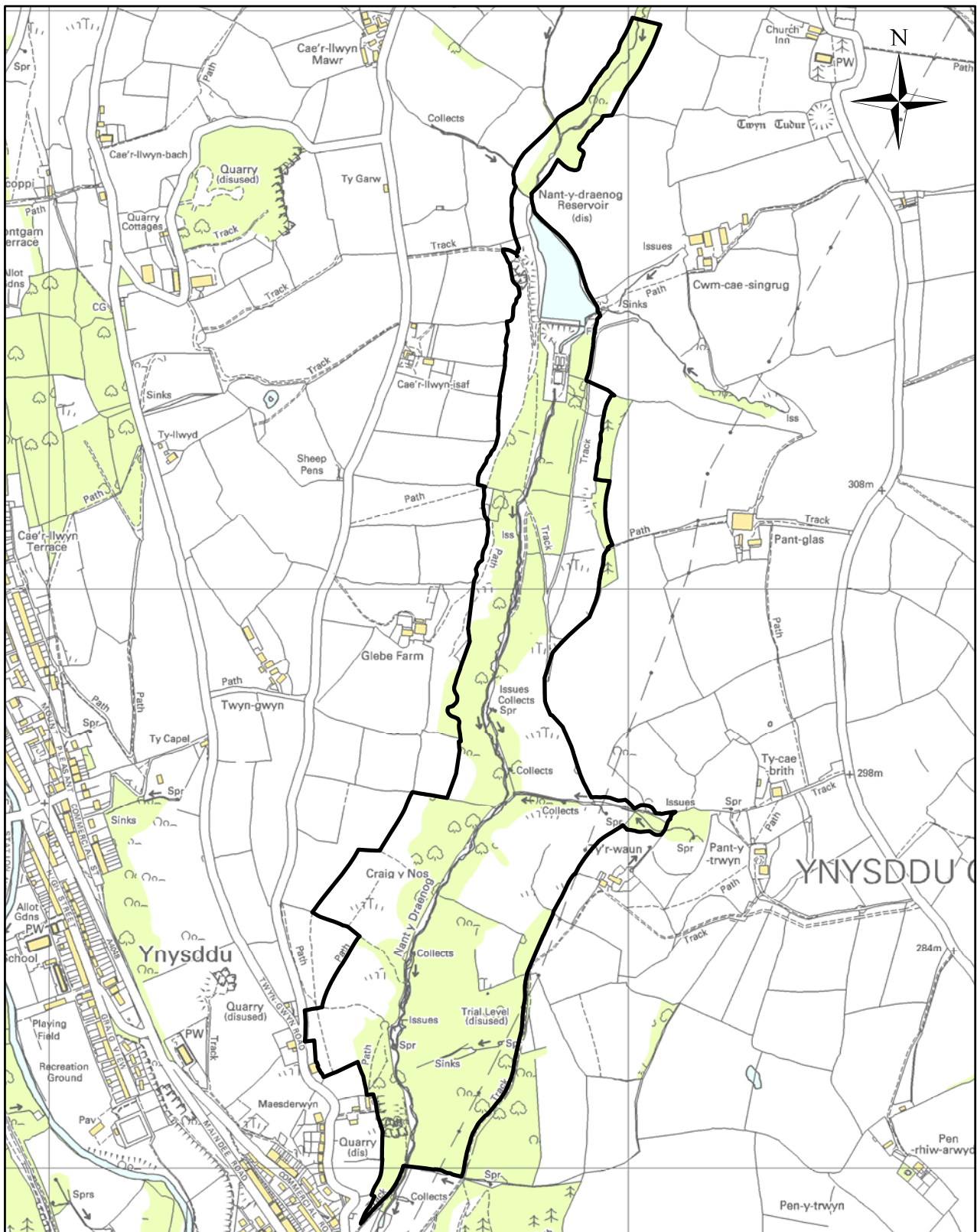
Species from disused reservoir (ST188935): *Rorippa palustris*, *Rumex crispus*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Stachys palustris*, *Gnaphalium uliginosum*, *Matricaria matricarioides*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Carex ovalis*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Juncus bufonius*, *Equisetum fluviatile*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Fox*, *Grey Squirrel*, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Bullfinch**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Tawny Owl*, *Chaffinch*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Blackbird*, *Heron*, *Wren*, *Chiffchaff*, *long-tailed Tit*, *Nuthatch*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Pied Wagtail*, *Goldfinch*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Common Frog**, ***Sibthorpia europaea*** known from 2 streamside locations. *Frangula alnus*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Leontodon autumnalis*, *Hypericum humifusum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
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Nant-y-Draenog, East of Wyllie 41 Ha

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