

| Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council | |
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| <u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.151</u> | SINC name: Nant Hafod Tudor, East of Cwmfelinfach |
| Grid reference: ST198920 | Area (hectares): 37 |
| Survey date: 29th June 2007 | Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.) |
| (UDP policy reference: C11.132) | |
| Summary description | |
| <p>The southern part of this steep-sided valley supports woodland dominated by mature Sessile oak and Beech with a ground flora including abundant Bracken and Bluebells, and a number of semi-natural indicator species. Mature Alder and Ash are also present in the woodland beside the stream. High brown fritillary butterfly has been recorded at the southern boundary of the site. The northern part of the SINC supports a mix of Bracken and acid grassland, with scattered trees of Oak, Beech and Rowan. A small stand of mature Beech and Oak beside the conifer plantation in the far northeast has a ground flora of Bracken and grasses. The Bracken habitat is variable in its ground flora and a few areas include acid grassland species, Violets and Climbing corydalis.</p> | |
| Qualifying features | |
| Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species. | |
| Acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species. | |
| Presence of High Brown Fritillary. | |
| Secondary features | |
| Stream. | |
| Bracken. | |
| Potential value/ unconfirmed features | |
| <p>The woodland areas are likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats. The buildings at Hafod Nant Tudor Cottage could also support roosting bats.</p> <p>The area is likely to support good numbers of reptiles, particularly at the woodland / scrub edges.</p> <p>The distribution of High Brown Fritillary within the site and the wider area is currently unclear but may be more widespread than indicated by the existing records.</p> <p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice, though this species is not known from this part of the county borough.</p> | |
| Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement) | |
| <p>Much of the woodland area is managed for recreation and biodiversity to enhance its value for visitors. There is a series of well-maintained paths, seating and features such as log-piles that appear to have been built as wildlife habitat. Japanese knotweed is present at the southern boundary of the SINC. The northern, Bracken-dominated area is lightly grazed by sheep, but appears otherwise unmanaged. Bracken encroachment appears to be a problem in this area, as it</p> | |

expands into more diverse habitats. It also raises the potential risk of fire. Part of the small northeast woodland block has been affected by tipping rubble and soil from the track. Specific management for High brown fritillary butterflies is likely to be beneficial for a range of wildlife, but would need to be informed by further survey work.

Access/ community use

A public footpath crosses the site and much of the area is open access land. A 'walkers welcome' sign is displayed at the entrance from Troed y Rhiw Road. The footpath through the northern part is difficult to access as it is largely blocked by dense Bracken and locally by fallen trees.

Additional information

The wider area could also potentially include habitat for High brown fritillary butterflies. Areas that could potentially support suitable habitat include the land at ST202913 and ST200913 and the adjacent woodland margins. These should be surveyed to inform possible 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 tree and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Quercus robur*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cytisus scoparius*. Wet woodland areas near the stream tended to merge gradually with the drier ones, and included *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens* and *Salix caprea*.

Woodland ground flora: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Veronica montana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Pogonatum aloides*.

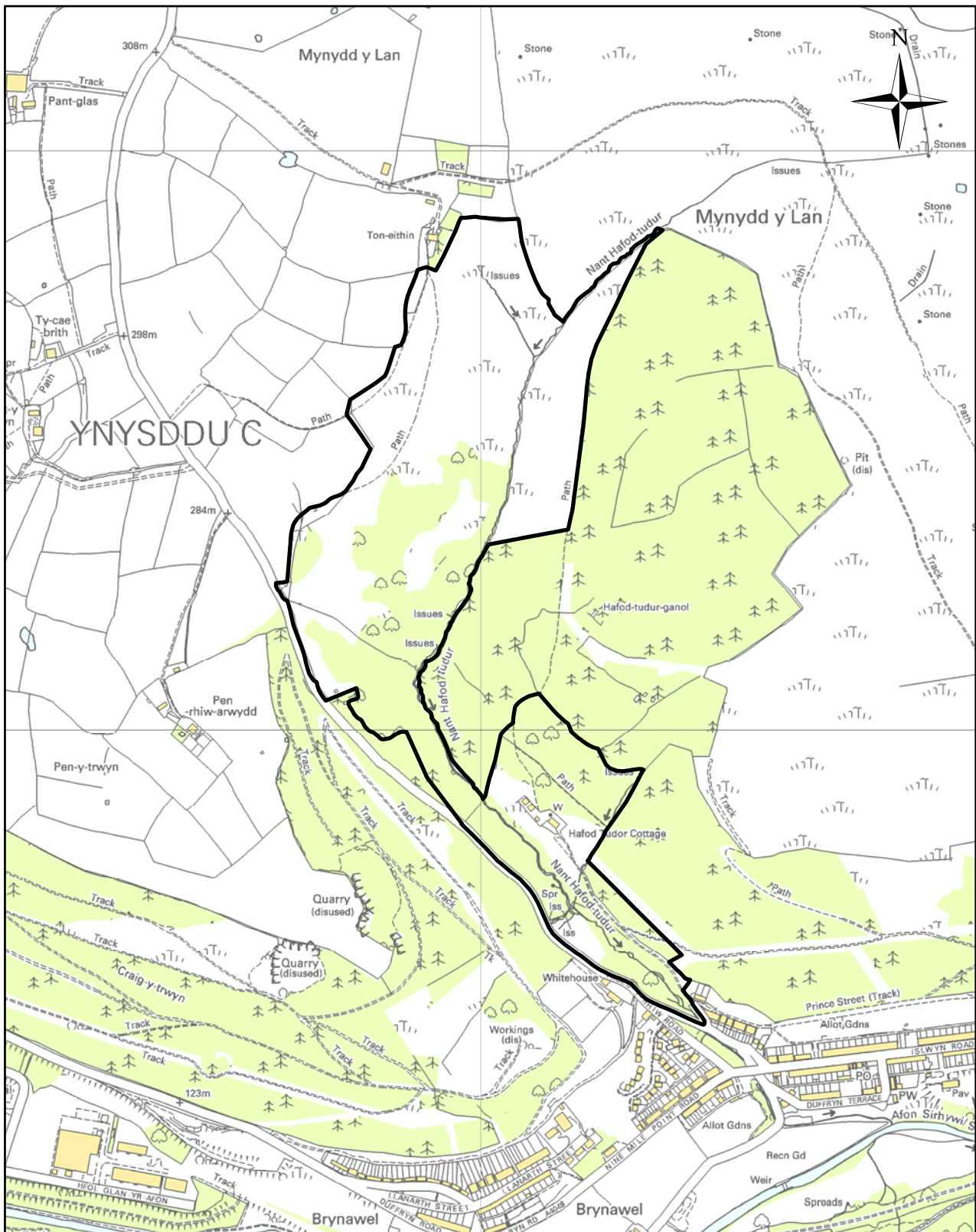
Bracken/ acid grassland species: *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard, Skylark, Song Thrush, Goshawk**, Tawny Owl, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Robin, Wren, **Grey Wagtail**, Stonechat, Goldcrest, Great Tit, Meadow Brown Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: **High Brown Fritillary Butterfly**, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary (within 1km).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.151 (SINC 132)
Nant Hafod Tudor, East of Cwmfelinfach 37 Ha

1:10,000



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