

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.115</u>	SINC name: Ty Bach Marsh, east of Wyllye
Grid reference: ST192943	Area (hectares): 7
Survey date: 26th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.133)	
Summary description	
<p>A series of fields, including marshy grassland, neutral grassland and scrub. The two western fields support Purple moor-grass and Sharp-flowered rush with a moderate number of marshy grassland indicator species. The two eastern fields support Willow scrub with patches of marshy grassland, including a high density of Devil's-bit scabious and Meadow thistle. The southeast of the SINC includes part of a neutral grassland hay field.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 14 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved neutral grassland.</p> <p>Hedges.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, potentially including Marsh Fritillary and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly.</p> <p>The area is likely to provide good foraging habitat for bats.</p> <p>The tussocky grassland and scrub margins are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The southeastern field may support additional grassland fungi species.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep heavily graze the two western fields. The sheep and the construction of a new access track have had a detrimental effect on the nature conservation value of the site. The two eastern fields are currently ungrazed and are becoming colonised by scrub. The biodiversity of the area would be enhanced with light or occasional grazing by cattle or horses (rather than sheep) and scrub clearance would be beneficial in the eastern area. A small stand of Japanese knotweed is present beside the road at the northern boundary.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>The public footpath crosses through the middle of the SINC.</p>	

Additional information

The northwestern and southeastern fields are borderline with respect to the SINC selection criteria, but remain included as secondary features.

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

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

Hedge and scrub woody species: *Salix cinerea*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix aurita*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Calluna vulgaris*.

*The hedge ground flora is generally poor, but includes Digitalis purpurea, **Hyacinthoides non-scripta** and Oxalis acetosella.*

Marshy grassland (all areas): *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Viola palustris*, *Galium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Myosotis scorpioides*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Centaurea nigra*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Agrostis canina*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex panicea*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris carthusiana*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum cf inundatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Semi-improved neutral grassland (south east field ST192942): *Trifolium pratense*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Galium saxatile*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Stellaria graminea*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Agrostis canina*, *Lolium perenne*, *Luzula campestris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

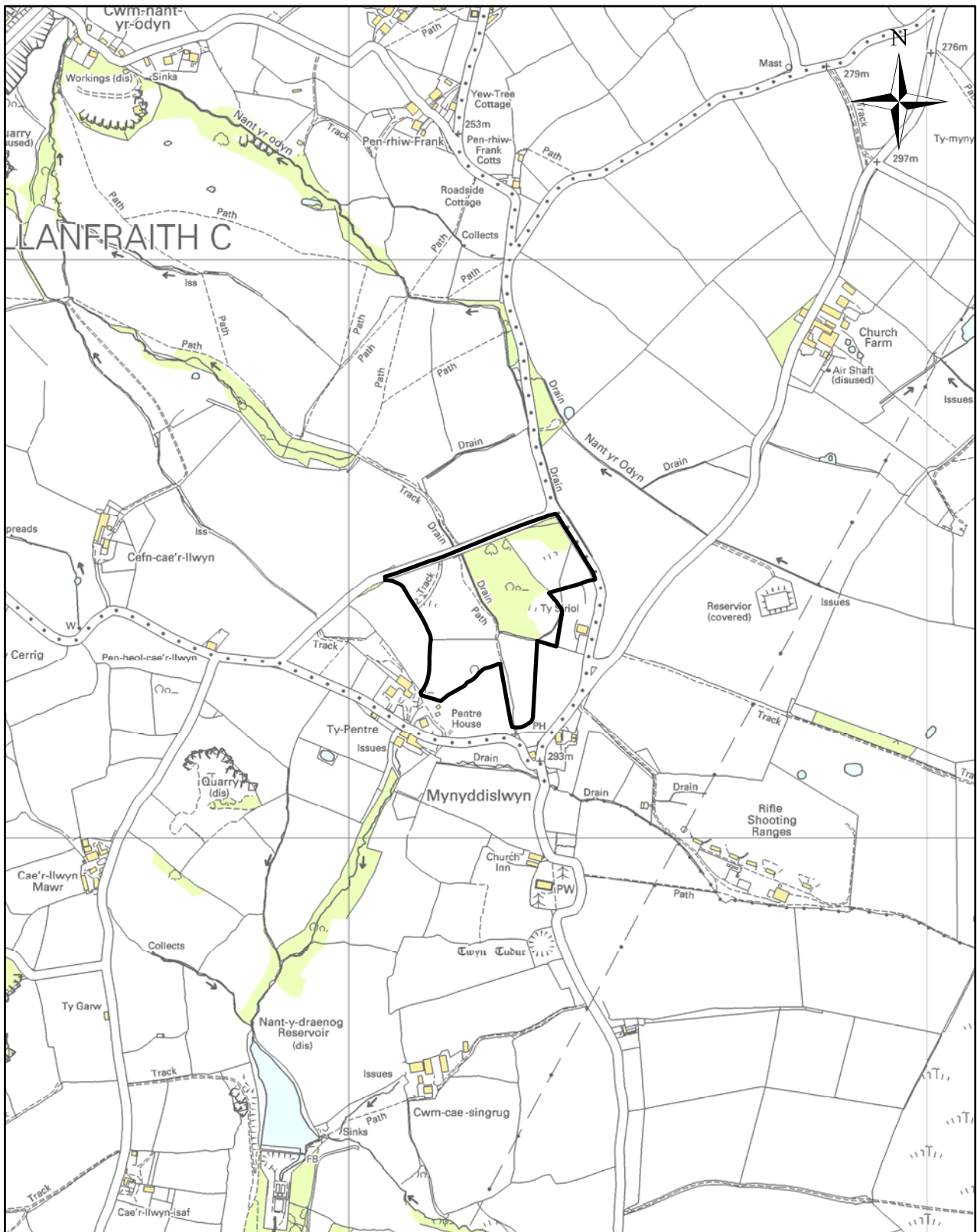
The waxcap Hygrocybe coccinea was also noted in this field.

Fauna observations: **Song Thrush**, *Raven*, *Chaffinch*, *Wren*, *Robin*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, *Scabious Jewel Beetle*.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Lapwing** (within 1km north east of SINC boundary during spring 2004), *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly* (within 1km).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.115 (SINC 133)
Ty Bach Marsh, East of Wyllie 7 Ha

1:10,000



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