

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.116</u>	SINC name: Heol-ddu Woodlands, Wyllie
Grid reference: ST174945	Area (hectares): 8
Survey date: 27th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.135)	
Summary description	
<p>An area of marshy fields and wet woodland either side of Heol Ddu Road. To the north of the road the fields are very heavily grazed. Diverse wetland vegetation is very short and restricted to the most open areas. It includes Marsh violet, Tormentil, Bog stitchwort, Purple moor-grass, Marsh ragwort and <i>Sphagnum</i> moss. The woodland comprises mainly mature trees of Oak, Beech, Alder and Hazel, but it supports very little ground vegetation. The area to the south of the road includes two fields of marshy grassland surrounded by woodland and scrub. The marshy grassland in the field at ST174946 includes Devil's-bit scabious, Meadow thistle, Purple moor-grass, Lousewort and Heath spotted-orchid. The field at ST173945 includes a higher proportion of rushes with Marsh pennywort, Star sedge, Ragged robin and Greater bird's-foot trefoil. The adjacent woodland area includes the remains of former earth-workings and supports a number of semi-natural indicator species, including Yellow archangel, Greater stitchwort, Bluebell and Wood speedwell.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Semi-improved neutral grassland.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to support an abundance of invertebrates and could potentially include species of conservation concern. The field at ST174946 could feasibly support Marsh fritillary or Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.</p> <p>The site is likely to have high value for foraging bats, and some of the larger trees may support roost sites.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Horses heavily graze the northern area and a reduction in grazing pressure would enhance the grassland and woodland habitats. The southern area did not appear to have been grazed for several months prior to the survey, but would benefit from light grazing, preferably by horses or cattle. This SINC would appear to be an ideal place to construct a pond that would benefit a range of wildlife.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal public access to the site, but there is evidence of occasional informal use.</p>	

Additional information

The site appears to have declined in value when compared to previous surveys. The northern part does not appear to meet the SINC selection criteria on its own, but has been retained, as appropriate management would enhance its biodiversity. Several nearby areas of broadleaved woodland also appear to be of value for nature conservation. In particular, the aerial photograph shows mature broadleaved trees bordering the disused railway to the southeast, which may be a valuable corridor for bats and other woodland wildlife. 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*)

Marshy grassland in north of SINC (ST173946): *Viola palustris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Alopecurus geniculatus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Sphagnum fallax*.

Marshy grassland species in south of SINC (ST174945) (combined list for both fields): *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola palustris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Myosotis discolor*, *Myosotis secunda*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Galium palustre*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Agrostis canina*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Poa trivialis*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Nardus stricta*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex viridula*, *Carex hostiana*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus conglomeratus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Sphagnum fallax*.

Woodland, hedge and scrub woody species (combined list): *Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Salix caprea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Hedera helix*, *Frangula Alnus*, *Salix aurita*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*.

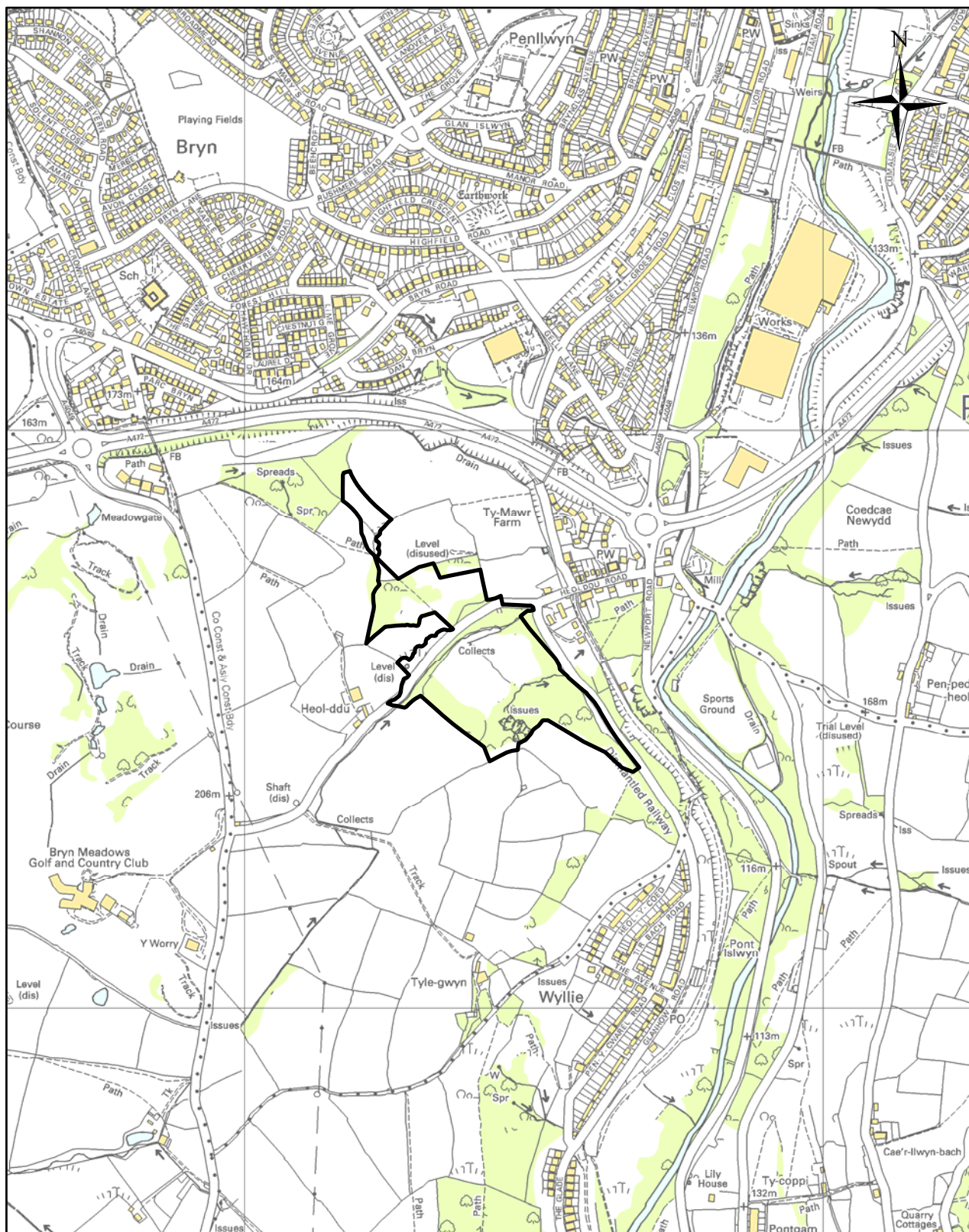
Woodland and hedge ground flora species: *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola riviniana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Veronica montana*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Pellia* sp.

Fauna observations: *Chiffchaff*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, ***Emperor Dragonfly***.

Additional records from desk study: ***Pipistrelle bat***, *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly*, *Dingy Skipper Butterfly*, *Brimstone Butterfly*, ***Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly***, *Festuca ovina*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Genista anglica*, *Ulex gallii*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Cirriphyllum piliferum*, *Dicranum tauricum*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum inundatum*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.116 (SINC 135)
Heol-Ddu Woodlands, Wyllie 8 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.