

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.114</u>	SINC name: Coedcae Newydd, Gelligroes, Pontllanfraith
Grid reference: ST179948	Area (hectares): 5
Survey date: 27th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.136)	
Summary description	
<p>The SINC includes several connected strips of broadleaved woodland. The northern strip follows the side of a valley and comprises mainly dry woodland with a canopy of Downy birch, Sessile oak, Rowan and Beech. The central strip is a mix of wet and dry woodland, following the course of several small, but deeply incised stream and ditch channels, with a canopy of Alder, Ash, Oak, Beech, Downy birch and Hazel. The southern part of the woodland comprises belts of trees either side of a narrow lane. The canopy trees are mainly Oak, Beech and Hazel. All wooded parts of the site support a number of semi-natural indicator species, including Greater stitchwort, Pignut, Cow-wheat and Bluebell. A steep-sided disused quarry at ST178947 supports a pond fringed by wetland vegetation. Species recorded here include Brooklime, Bogbean, Marsh ragwort and Ivy-leaved duckweed. Bryophytes are locally abundant on seepages over the quarry rock-faces.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Broadleaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicators.	
Secondary features	
Streams.	
Pond.	
Rock exposures.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The woodland and quarry have potential to provide foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The woodland habitat has potential to support Dormice.	
The pond is likely to support amphibians, potentially including Great crested newts.	
The pond and nearby riverside woodland may be used by Otters.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The site generally appears to be unmanaged, although some piles of chippings were present where roadside trees had been cut back to keep the road clear. Horses have access to some of the northern woodland strip. There is localised tipping beside the road, especially beside the pond/ disused quarry. Japanese knotweed is also present beside the disused quarry. It may be beneficial for biodiversity to remove some of the trees around the pond, so that there is less shading and infilling by leaf litter. The Japanese knotweed should also be controlled to prevent its spread.</p>	
Access/ community use	
The southern wooded strip is an old lane with public access. Roads and footpaths run beside most of the woodland edges. The pond and surrounding woodland is classified as common land.	

Additional information

The River Sirhowy to the northwest (ST178947) is SINC NH 3.11. The land to the south (ST180944) supports a mix of trees and bracken that is also likely to be of value for nature conservation and should be considered at future 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 (combined list): *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Quercus robur*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Salix caprea*, *Frangula alnus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Salix cinerea*, *Prunus padus*.

Woodland ground flora species (combined list): *Circaea lutetiana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Stellaria holostea*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Conopodium majus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Hypericum androsaemum*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Caltha palustris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Melica uniflora*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*.

The fungus Cantharellus cibarius was fruiting abundantly at ST178946 the time of the survey.

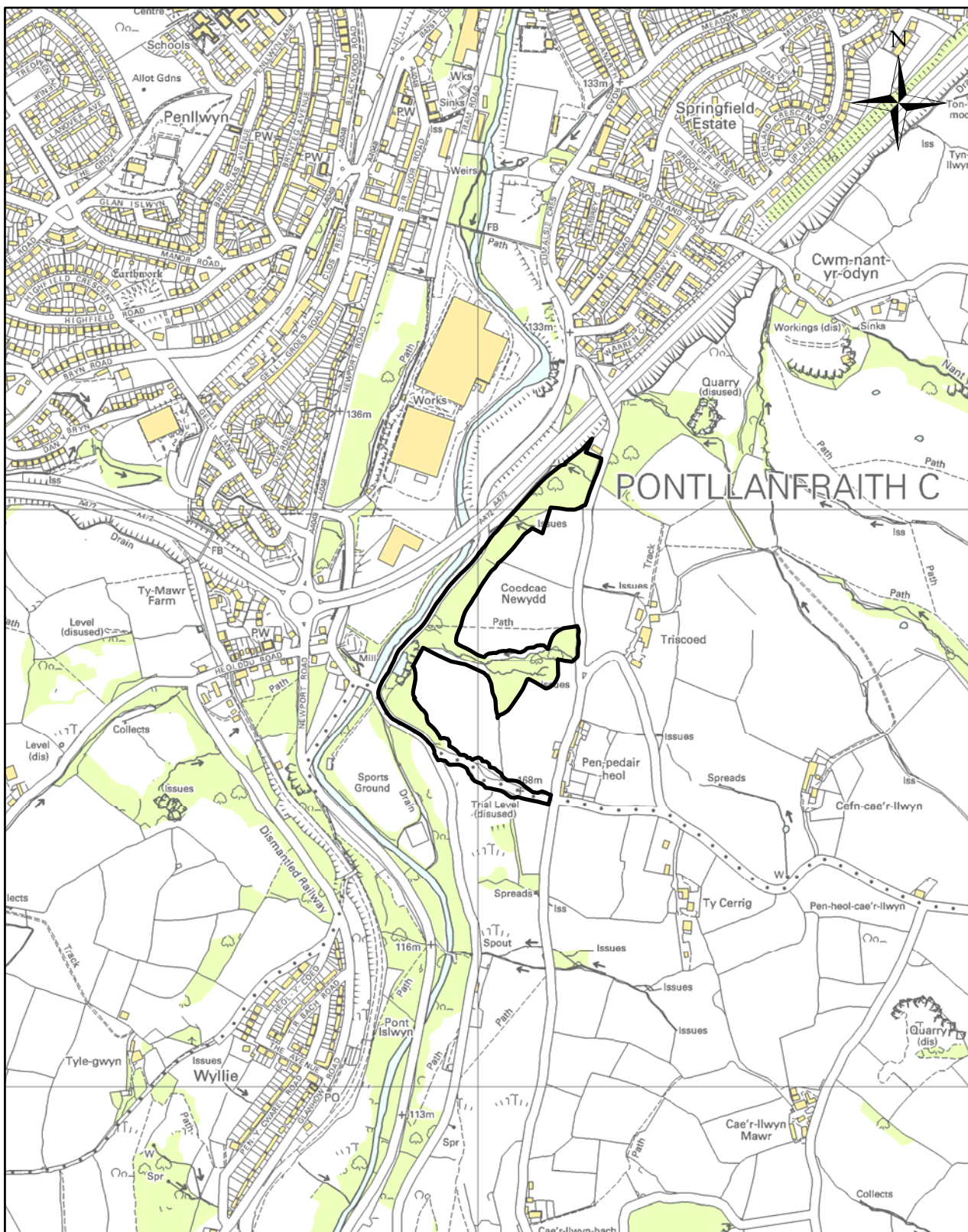
Species from pond and surroundings (ST178947): *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Heracleum sphondylium*, *Aegopodium podagraria*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Urtica dioica*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Myosotis cf scorpoides*, *Lemna minor*, *Lemna trisulca*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Isoetes myosuroides*, *Thamnobryum Alopecurum*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Plagiochila porelloides*, *Metzgeria furcata*.

Fauna observations: **Grey Wagtail**, *Wren*, *Chiffchaff*, *Blackbird*, *Nuthatch*, *Blackcap*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Skipper Butterfly*, **Azure Damselfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: *Salix aurita*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Equisetum palustre*, *Lagarosiphon major*, *Phegopteris connectilis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Tamus communis*, *Veronica montana*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Mentha aquatica*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
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Coedcae Newydd, Gelligroes 5 Ha

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