

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.133</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Mynydd-y-Lan Woodlands, Cwmcarn</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST212927</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 76</b>
<b>Survey date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.140)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A mixed area of woodland on sloping valley-sides, including stands of ancient broadleaved woodland and replanted ancient woodland. The oldest stands are of mature Beech woods with occasional areas of Sessile oak. The relatively sparse ground flora of these areas includes a number of plants indicative of semi-natural woodland. Younger stands of Alder, Downy birch and Sessile oak are also present with brambles forming a large component of the understorey. The site includes areas of conifer plantation and some of these have been planted on ancient woodland. Areas of felled conifer plantation are regenerating a ground flora including a high proportion of Bracken, Birch and Bluebells with broadleaved tree species including Sessile oak and Rowan. Evidence of former quarrying is present through much of the area. Some of these areas have become shaded by woodland. 'Cox's Quarry' in the south of the site supports a large area of rock exposure, boulders and developing heath and scrub.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Semi-natural Beech woodland.	
Replanted woodland retaining a range of woodland indicators.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Rock exposures.	
Streams.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Violets are locally abundant (e.g. along the disused railway) and have potential to support fritillary butterflies.	
The habitat appears potentially suitable for Dormice, although this species is not known to occur in this part of the county borough.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The Forestry Commission manages the area. Some of the conifer stands have been felled recently and the regenerating areas appear to be regenerating as a mix of broadleaved species. Several paths have become overgrown by scrub and re-opening them would improve access and habitat structure for plants at the tracksides. Scrub removal from some quarry faces may improve the flora diversity and opportunities for ledge-nesting birds. There had been several fires affecting scrub and heath in the vicinity of 'Cox's Quarry'. Scrub clearance may help to create fire-breaks and maintain</p>	

the area of acid grassland and heath. There is evidence of motorcycling in the upper parts of the woodland, although this does not appear to be causing a problem at present, it should be limited.

### **Access/ community use**

The area is all open access land and there are formal footpaths crossing several parts of the site.

### **Additional information**

The area includes a few areas of conifer plantation with relatively low species diversity, but which provide linking woodland cover between areas of high diversity. The site boundary could be extended further north and there may be a need to include more of the ancient woodland currently covered by conifers if there is a change in forestry management that encourages regeneration of native species. These areas should be considered 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 canopy and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Betula pendula*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix caprea*, *Hedera helix*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Larix sp.*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Taxus baccata*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Clematis vitalba*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

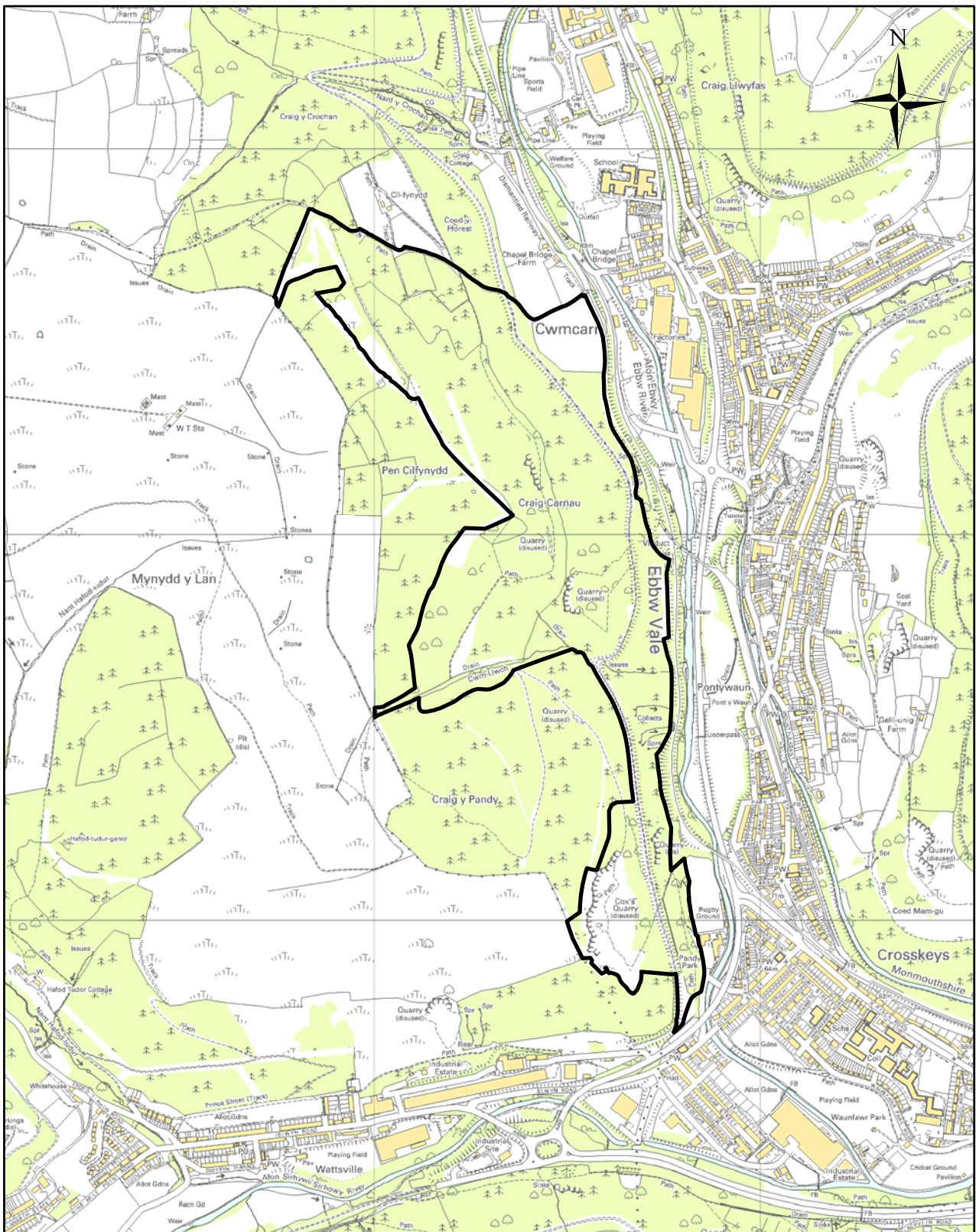
Acid grassland, heath and scrub associated with Cox's Quarry: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Ulex gallii*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, *Racomitrium sp.*.

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, *Wood Warbler*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Willow Warbler*, *Raven*, *Nuthatch*, *Coal Tit*, *Chiffchaff*, *Jay*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Blackcap*, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Bat** records from nearby urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
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Mynydd y Lan Woodlands, Cwmcarn 76 Ha

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