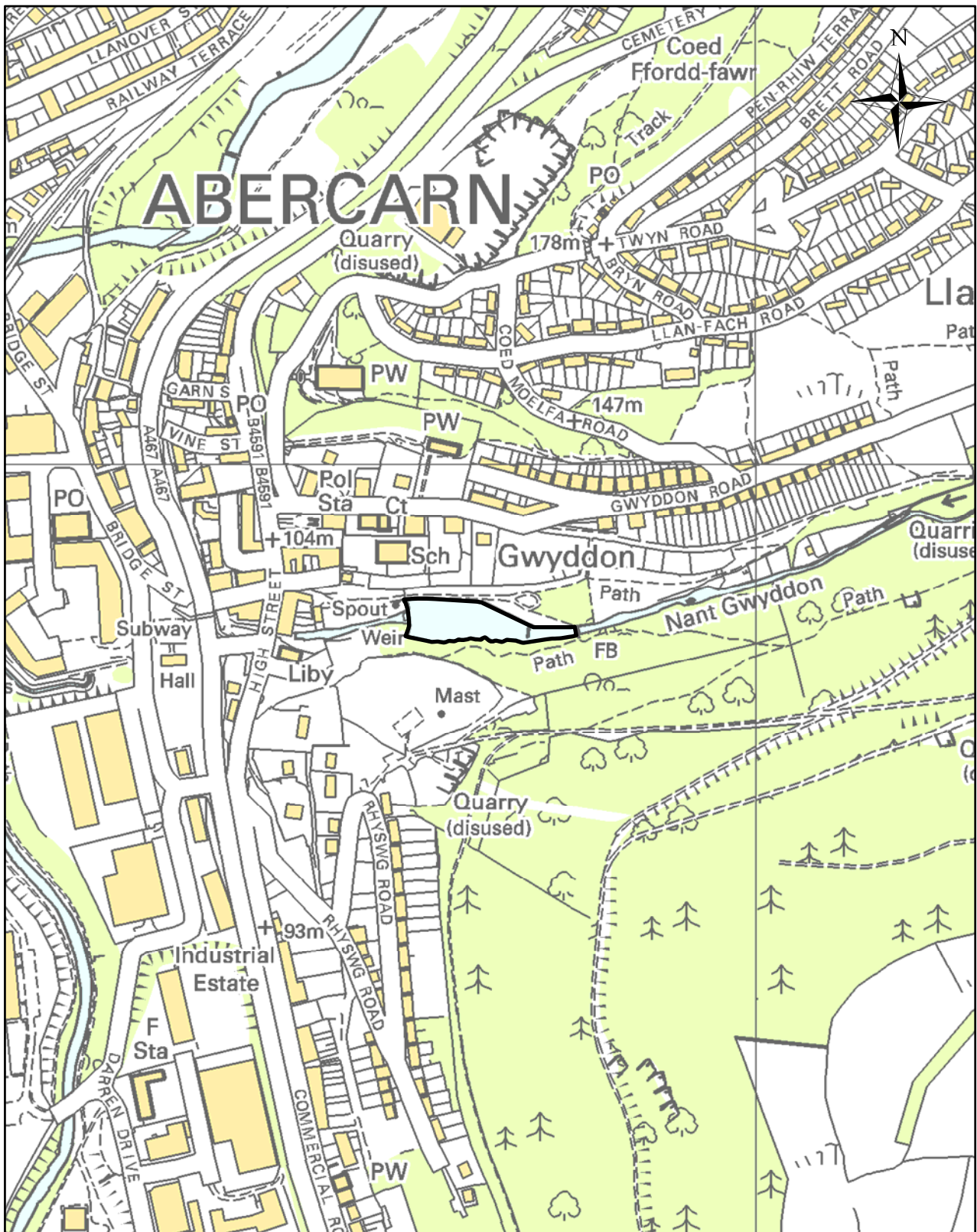


<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.129</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Distillery Pond, Abercarn</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST217948</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 0.4</b>
<b>Survey date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.141)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
A water body (pond) on the Nant Gwyddon stream held back by a dam at its western side. The pond margins support a range of wetland plant species. The northern bank adjoins an area of amenity grassland and is bordered by a brick wall. The southern bank adjoins woodland and has a more natural bank profile. Various former industrial structures are present on the upstream side (eastern side of the pond).	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Standing water with wetland vegetation at the margins.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
The pond is likely to be of value to dragonflies and other aquatic invertebrates	
The pond is likely to be a valuable feeding area for bats.	
The pond is likely to be used by otters for foraging and possibly as a commuting route along the stream into the wooded valley to the east.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
At the time of the survey the pond was drained down in order to remove silt (constantly accumulating due to its location on the Nant Gwyddon stream). There are problems with litter and vandalism around the pond margins, probably limiting the potential for breeding wetland birds.	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
The pond is a local amenity feature, adjoining mown grassland and a play area. There is public access around the whole of the pond margin.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
The woodland to the south of the Nant Gwyddon stream close to this site is a SINC NH 3.124. At the time of the survey the pond was drained down in order to remove silt. This would have meant that some wetland plants would not have been evident and the flora may change once the work is completed. The dredging work may present an opportunity to reinstate the pond with a range of water depths or possibly by constructing more natural margins while the water is drawn down.	
<b>Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)</b>	
(LBAP species shown in <b>bold</b> , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i> )	
<u>Species at pond margins:</u> <b><i>Callitriche sp.</i></b> , <i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> , <i>Juncus effusus</i> , <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> , <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> , <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> , <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Poa trivialis</i> , <i>Carex remota</i> , <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> , <i>Polypodium sp.</i> , <i>Conocephalum conicum</i> , <i>Pellia sp.</i> <i>Seedlings of Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior.</i>	

Woodland species adjacent to southern bank: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Mnium hornum*.

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard** (on northern pond wall), **Grey Wagtail**, Brimstone Butterfly, Orange-tip Butterfly, cf. Large White Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: **Otter** (within 300m), **Eel**, **Bullhead** and **Trout** (within 50m).



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