

| Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council | |
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| <u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.137</u> | SINC name: Coed Mam-Gu, Crosskeys |
| Grid reference: ST224921 | Area (hectares): 10 |
| Survey date: 18th April 2007 | Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.) |
| (UDP policy reference: C11.144) | |
| Summary description | |
| <p>A mix of broadleaved woodland, Bracken and scrub. The eastern part of the site is classified as cleared ancient woodland, although a good number of semi-natural woodland indicator species are still present. A former quarry lies in the centre of the site, which is largely shaded by woodland species. The SINC also includes two small fields of sheep-grazed semi-improved acid grassland with anthills.</p> | |
| Qualifying features | |
| <p>Heathland / acid grassland containing at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Replanted woodland retaining a range of woodland indicator species.</p> | |
| Secondary features | |
| <p>Rock exposures.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Grassland with anthills.</p> | |
| Potential value/ unconfirmed features | |
| <p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The short grassland with anthills is likely to support waxcap fungi.</p> | |
| Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement) | |
| <p>At the time of the survey much of the Bracken had recently been burned. This is likely to have serious implications for the local wildlife if the burning occurs very frequently. The burned area had been recently planted with young trees (most were apparently Sessile oak) but they had not survived the fire. Sheep and possibly horses graze the fields with anthills, which is likely to be optimal management for waxcap fungi. Motorcycling erosion and vandalism were noted in the vicinity of the quarry.</p> | |
| Access/ community use | |
| <p>Two public footpaths cross the site.</p> | |
| Additional information | |
| <p>The woodland to the north is replanted ancient woodland, which may need to be included if there is a change in forestry management that encourages the regeneration of native species. This should be considered at future SINC review.</p> | |

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 and scrub canopy and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus petraea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Betula pendula*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Corylus avellana*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Salix caprea*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Conopodium majus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Holcus mollis*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Luzula campestris*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

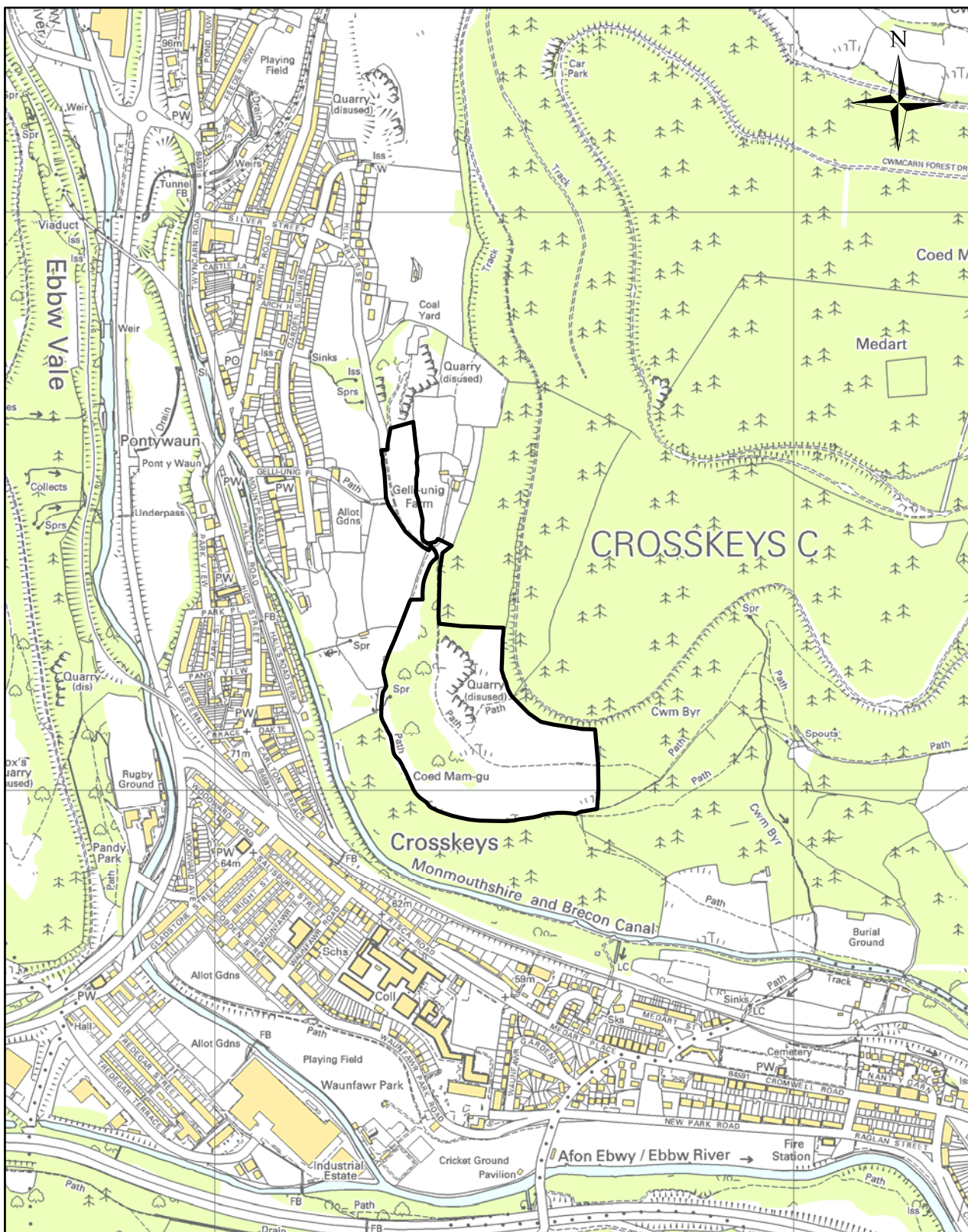
Semi-improved acid grassland species: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Carex caryophylla*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Fauna observations: **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Goldcrest*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Willow Warbler*, *Coal Tit*, *Jay*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, **Red Wood Ant**, *Grey Squirrel*, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, **Kestrel**

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

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Coed Mam-Gu, Crosskeys 10 Ha

1:10,000



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