

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.143</u>	SINC name: Darran Woodland, Fernlea, Risca
Grid reference: ST224921	Area (hectares): 3
Survey date: 19th April 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.146)	
Summary description	
Broadleaved woodland with areas of Bracken and scrub, and a small, sheep-grazed field of semi-improved acid grassland. The main woodland area and the hedge beside Darren Road include a good number of semi-natural woodland indicator species. The southern boundary adjoins the Crumlin Arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal SINC (NH 3.136).	
Qualifying features	
Semi-natural woodland with a range of woodland indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Semi-improved acid grassland.	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
Stream.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The small field may support waxcap fungi.	
The woodland appears potentially suitable for Dormice, although this species is not known from this part of the county borough.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The western side of the area is grazed by sheep, which has resulted in a low diversity, grass-dominated ground flora. Sheep also graze the small field of semi-improved acid grassland. The woodland generally appears to be unmanaged, although part of the area adjacent to Darren Road had been recently coppiced at the time of the survey.	
Access/ community use	
There is no public access to most of the site, but the western tip of the SINC lies within an area of open access land.	
Additional information	
The majority of the survey was carried out by binoculars from Darren Road due to the warning signs at the entrance to <i>Whysom's Wharf</i> . The woodland to the east side of Darren Road should be considered at future SINC review since it is replanted ancient woodland with several semi-	

natural indicator ground flora species visible from the road.

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: *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Betula pendula*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Quercus petraea*, *Acer campestre*, *Salix caprea*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Rosa canina*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Prunus avium*, *Clematis vitalba*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Arum maculatum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Conopodium majus*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Tamus communis*, *Alliaria petiolata*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Kindbergia praelonga*.

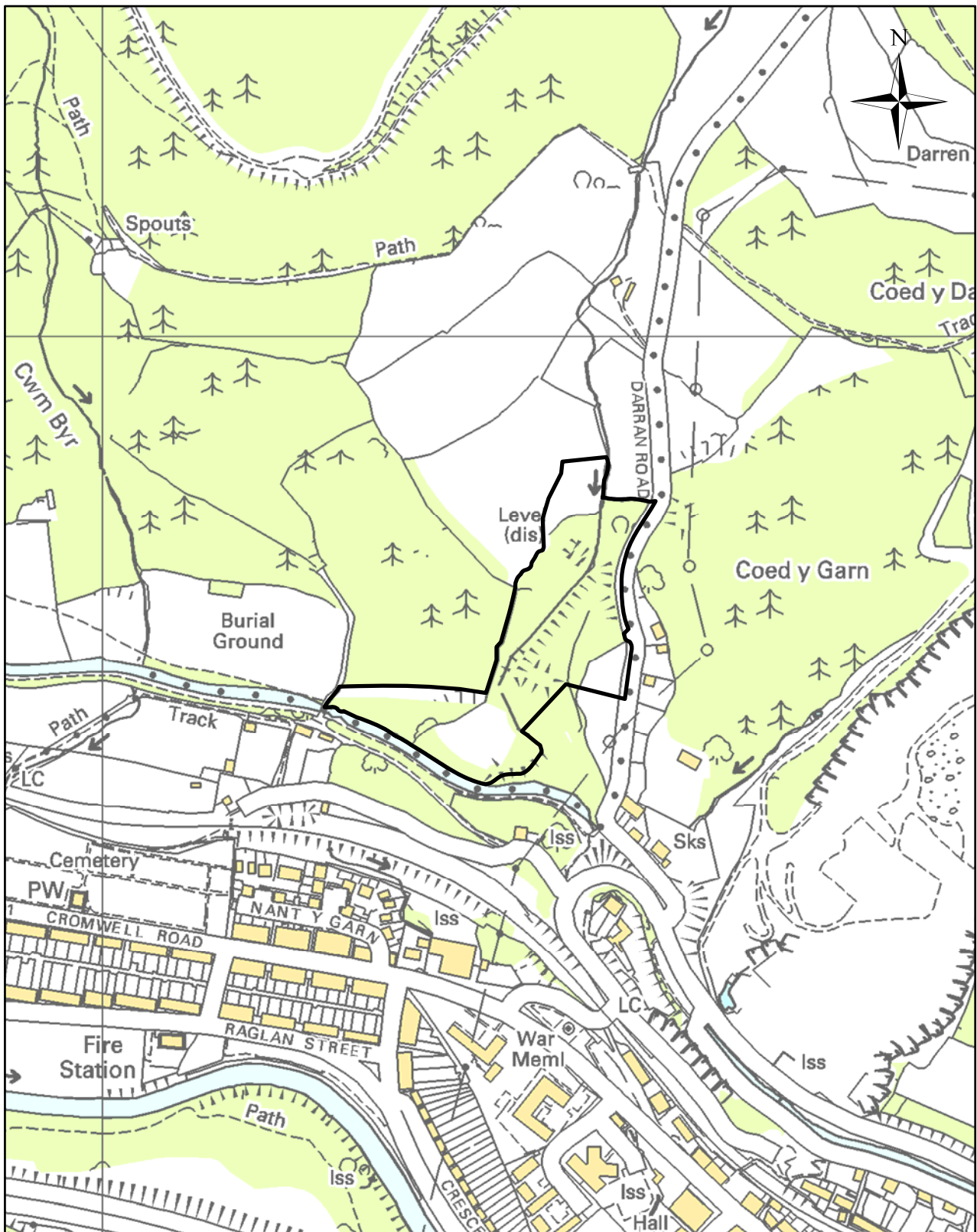
Semi-improved acid grassland species: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Veronica serpyllifolia*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Stellaria graminea*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: *Blackcap*, *Treecreeper*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Chaffinch*, *Dunnock*, *Grey Squirrel*, *Large White Butterfly*, *Orange-tip Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*. (*Mallard on adjacent canal*).

Additional records from desk study: *Frangula alnus*, *Ulmus glabra*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Darran woodland, Fernlea 3 Ha

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