

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.140</u>	SINC name: Ty-sign Meadows, Risca
Grid reference: ST252907	Area (hectares):
Survey date: 20th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.149)	
Summary description	
<p>Two blocks of small fields formerly managed by grazing, but apparently unmanaged for several years. The sward in most of the field comprises tall, semi-improved grassland. Hedges, generally formed by Hawthorn, enclose the fields and these have become fringed by Bracken and Bramble. Several large trees of Oak, Sycamore and Beech are also present. Some of the fields, particularly in the western block, include dense stands of Bracken and patchy scrub. Bracken and scrub are also present in the eastern block, together with local stands of tall ruderal vegetation.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to support an abundance of invertebrates, and could potentially include species important for nature conservation. A few areas support Violets, and could therefore potentially support Violet-feeding Fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>The area is likely to support good numbers of reptiles, particularly Slow worm.</p> <p>The site is likely to have high value for foraging bats, and some of the larger trees may support roost sites.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area appears to have been unmanaged for several years. Rabbit grazing maintains some small areas of short grass and a few paths are maintained by trampling. Bracken and scrub are present in all of the areas and could potentially expand over the whole site unless managed, leading to a decline in plant diversity. Signs of vandalism, mountain biking and fires were all evident during the survey. These activities do not appear to be affecting the nature conservation value of the site and in some instances are helping to keep areas clear of Bracken.</p>	
Access/ community use	
There are public footpaths crossing the site. A number of informal paths are also present.	
Additional information	
<p>Several <i>Hygrocybe intermedia</i> waxcaps were noted in the field of short-mown semi-improved grassland west of Snowdon Close (ST248907). It is likely further fungi survey of this field in the late summer and autumn would confirm the presence of other waxcap fungi, possibly meeting SINC</p>	

criteria. The abandoned fields to the west of the western block also support a mix of Bracken and scrub, but it appears to be much denser, with little ground flora. These areas should be considered for inclusion 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*)

Semi-improved neutral grassland species: *Lotus corniculatus*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Trifolium repens*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Potentilla erecta*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Galium saxatile*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Urtica dioica*, *Rumex obtusifolius*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Lolium perenne*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Poa pratensis*, *Carex flacca*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidadelphus squarrosus*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Hedge and scrub species: *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix caprea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Hedera helix*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Sambucus nigra*.

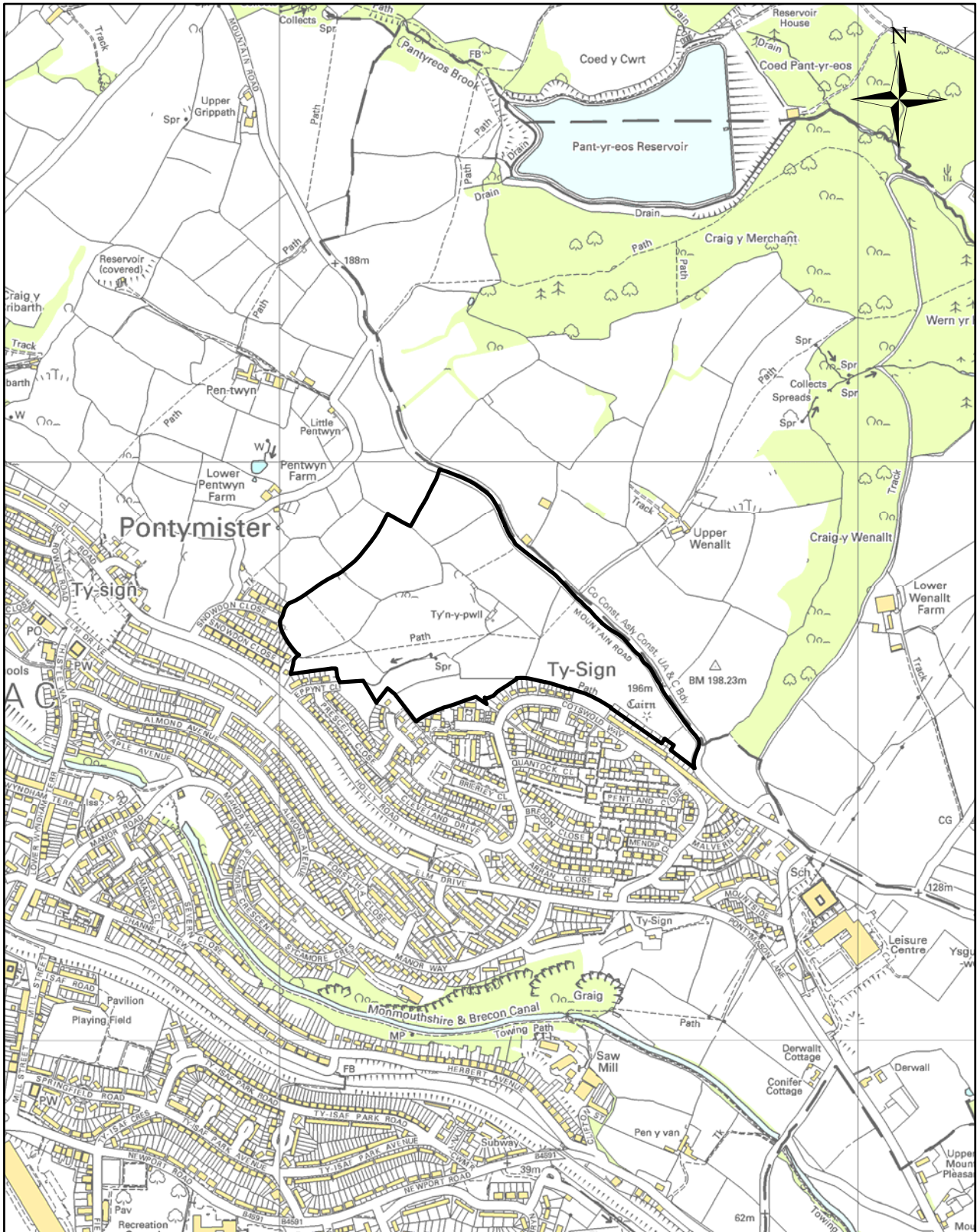
Hedge and scrub ground flora species: *Urtica dioica*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola riviniana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, *Fox*, *Mole*, ***Buzzard***, ***Song Thrush***, ***House Sparrow***, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Chiffchaff*, *Willow Warbler*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Wren*, *Chaffinch*, *Blackbird*, *Marbled White Butterfly (several)*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Burnet Moth*, *several large anthills*.

Additional records from desk study: ***Bullfinch***, *Forester Moth*, ***bat*** records from nearby urban areas.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.140 (SINC 149)
Ty-Sign Meadows, Risca 15 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatod 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.