

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.142</u>	SINC name: Coed y Mochyn, Risca
Grid reference: ST232901	Area (hectares): 21
Survey date: 19th and 20th April 2007 Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)	
(UDP policy reference: C11.151)	
Summary description	
<p>A mix of broadleaved woodland and scrub on steeply sloping valley sides. The main woodland canopy species are Beech and Ash. The northern woodland area is ancient semi-natural woodland with a good range of indicator species, while the southern woodland is a mix of mature Beech woodland and younger scrub woodland. The woodland habitats include a number of semi-natural woodland indicator species. Other habitats include areas of rough grassland and Bracken on a former ancient woodland site. The area includes many signs of former quarry working and the former quarries at the southern end of the site support calcareous grassland vegetation. The north of the site is managed as a nature reserve and includes woodland, scrub, a small shallow pond and several areas of calcareous grassland.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Calcareous grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Rock exposure.</p> <p>Acid grassland.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Stream.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland areas and quarry are likely feeding and roosting habitats for bats.</p> <p>The quarry faces are a potential habitat for ledge-nesting birds.</p> <p>The area has potential to support amphibians and reptiles.</p> <p>The habitats appear potentially suitable for Dormice (though this species is not known from this part of the county borough).</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The quarry areas are derelict. The open grassland areas are very lightly grazed by sheep and are becoming overgrown by Bracken, coarse grasses and scrub. Scrub has also encroached over much of the calcareous grassland and some form of scrub clearance, preferably supported by increased grazing, would help to slow this process. There are signs of vandalism and motorcycling,</p>	

especially in the southern area. Japanese knotweed is present on land where tipping is taking place adjacent to the northwestern boundary and could potentially spread into the SINC.

Access/ community use

Public footpaths cross some parts of the site. The northern part of the area includes the Dan-y-Graig Gwent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve, which includes a number of publicly accessible paths. Local volunteers carry out much of the reserve management.

Additional information

This site lies immediately adjacent to SINC NH 3.141 (Mynydd Machen). The SINC could be extended to include more of the scrub woodland to the north, particularly if enhanced by future management. This 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 / scrub canopy and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus robur*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Corylus avellana*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Acer campestre*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Euonymus europaeus*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Betula pubescens*, *Betula pendula*, *Quercus petraea*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Rosa canina*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Clematis vitalba*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Ulex gallii*, *Cotoneaster sp.*, *Buddleja davidii*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora species (locally merging with grassland species): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Allium ursinum*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Viola riviniana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Tamus communis*, *Glechoma hederacea*, *Urtica dioica*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Melica uniflora*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Polystichum aculeatum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Pellia sp.*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Plagiochila cf porelloides*. (*Scrophularia auriculata*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Cratoneuron commutatum*, in shaded calcareous seepage in Dan-y-Graig reserve.)

Calcareous grassland species: *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Carex flacca*, *Thymus polytrichus*, *Carlina vulgaris*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Linum catharticum*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Viola riviniana*, *Viola hirta*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Festuca ovina*, *Polygala cf vulgaris*, *Homalothecium lutescens*, *Rhynchospora squarrosus*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*.

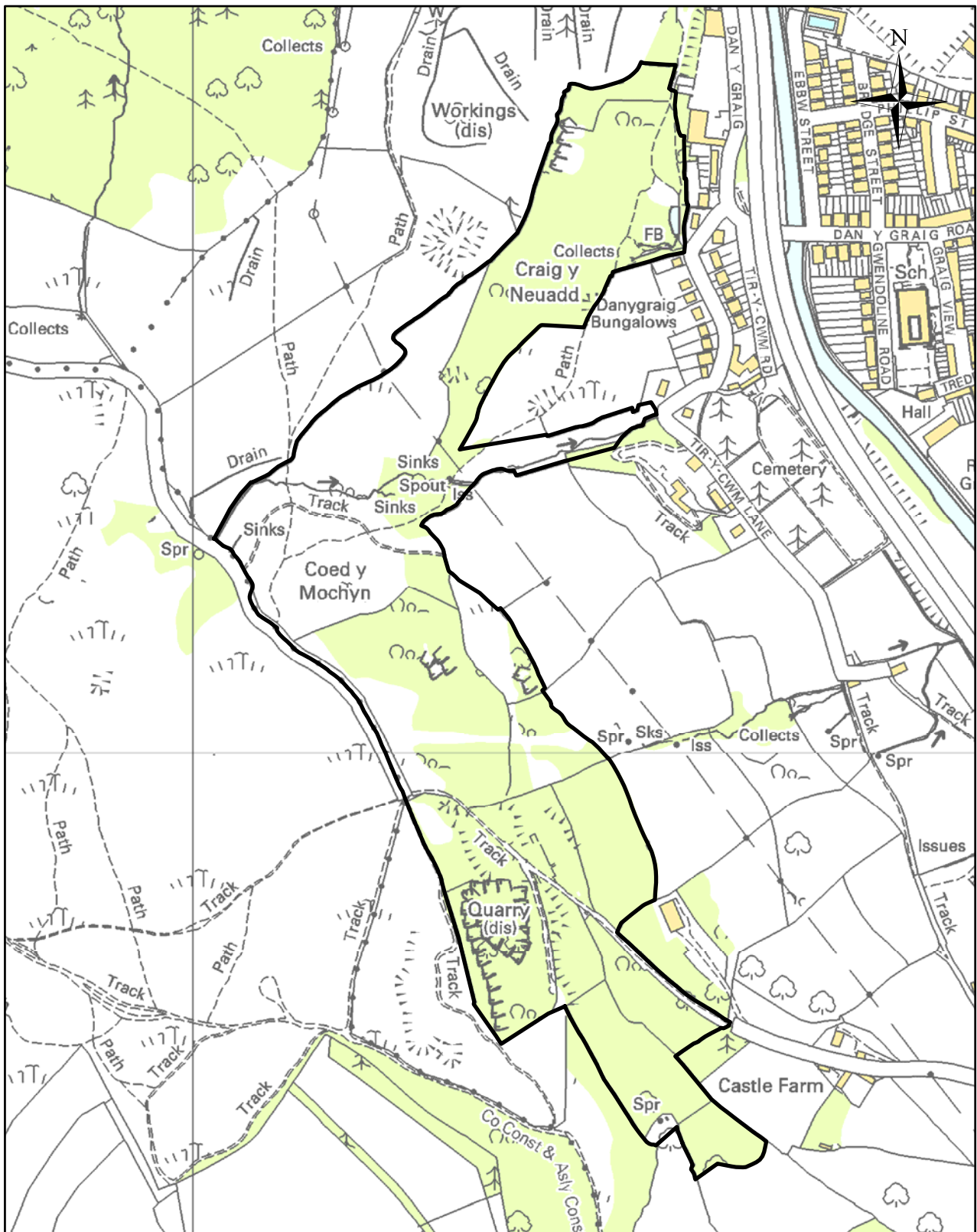
Semi-improved acid grassland / Bracken: *Luzula campestris*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca rubra*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Molinia caerulea* (very local), *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Conopodium majus*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Rumex acetosa*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola riviniana*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, Grey Squirrel, Fox, **Common Lizard**, **Bullfinch**, **Buzzard**, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Blackbird, Mallard, **Large Red Damselfly**, Peacock Butterfly, Holly Blue Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: Water Shrew, Common Blue Butterfly, Blackstonia perfoliata (all mentioned on Dan-y-Graig Nature Reserve notice board), Lipsothrix nervosa (Crane-fly, from Dan-y-Graig reserve area), Galeopsis angustifolia (from southern quarry), Briza media, Gentiana amarella, Clinopodium vulgare, Pimpinella saxifraga.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.142 (SINC 151)
Coed y Mochyn, Risca 21 Ha

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