

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.158</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Craigyfedw, Abertridwr</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST129892</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 37</b>
<b>Survey date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.153)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The largest part of this SINC is a southwest-facing valley side dominated by Bracken and Gorse scrub. Within this, there are patches of acid grassland and heath, and small stands of young Birch woodland and Bramble towards its lower slopes. The northern margin adjoins the Nant Cwmceffyl stream. Several disused quarries beside the stream support acid grassland and patchy heath. Marshy grassland with Purple moor-grass and elements of flush vegetation also occur beside the stream, most notably at ST127900, where it includes Greater tussock-sedge, Marsh violet, Wild angelica, Heath spotted-orchid, Valerian and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Marshy grassland / flush with at least 12 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Stream.</p> <p>Rock outcrops.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The stream corridor is likely to provide good foraging opportunities for bats. The quarries may provide potential roost sites.</p> <p>The site is very likely to support reptiles, particularly in the tussocky grassland areas in the north.</p> <p>The marshy grassland in the north has potential to support a good diversity of invertebrates including Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly (as Violets are locally abundant).</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>The majority of the area is classified as open access land and it crossed by several informal footpaths. Some of the most northerly parts of the SINC are not within the open access land, but are visible from roads and public footpaths.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The majority of the hillside is subject to grazing by sheep, although this is very light and the area generally appears unmanaged. There are recent signs of extensive fires over most of the SINC. Bracken and scrub control, and the establishment of light grazing by cattle or horses, would help to maintain and enhance the acid grassland and heath, and would reduce the fire risk. Motorcycling damage is evident in the north of the site. The marshy grassland in the north appears to be only lightly grazed, possibly by horses, although no livestock was present at the time of the survey.</p>	

Light grazing by horses or cattle would be the optimum management for biodiversity in this type of habitat.

### Additional information

The Bracken and scrub dominated areas currently have limited value for nature conservation, but have been retained within the SINC as they still have some value for notable species (e.g. Yellowhammer) and may recover their former value given appropriate management. The grassland habitats alongside the stream beside the Nant Cwmceffyl are included as linking habitat to SINC NH 3.120 in order to maintain habitat connectivity.

### Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Bracken/ acid grassland species (often patchy and merging with scrub): *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Pilosella officinarum*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Jasione montana*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Aira praecox*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Polytrichum piliferum*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Dicranum scoparium*.

Tree and shrub species (mostly present as scattered trees or patches): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Ulex gallii*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Larix sp.*, *Quercus petraea*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana*, *Salix cinerea*, *Ilex aquifolium*.

Marshy grassland / flush beside Nant Cwmceffyl (ST127900): *Cirsium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, ***Dactylorhiza maculata***, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium palustre*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Viola riviniana*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola palustris*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex paniculata*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Brachythecium rivulare*, *Rhynchosstegium riparioides*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum fallax*.

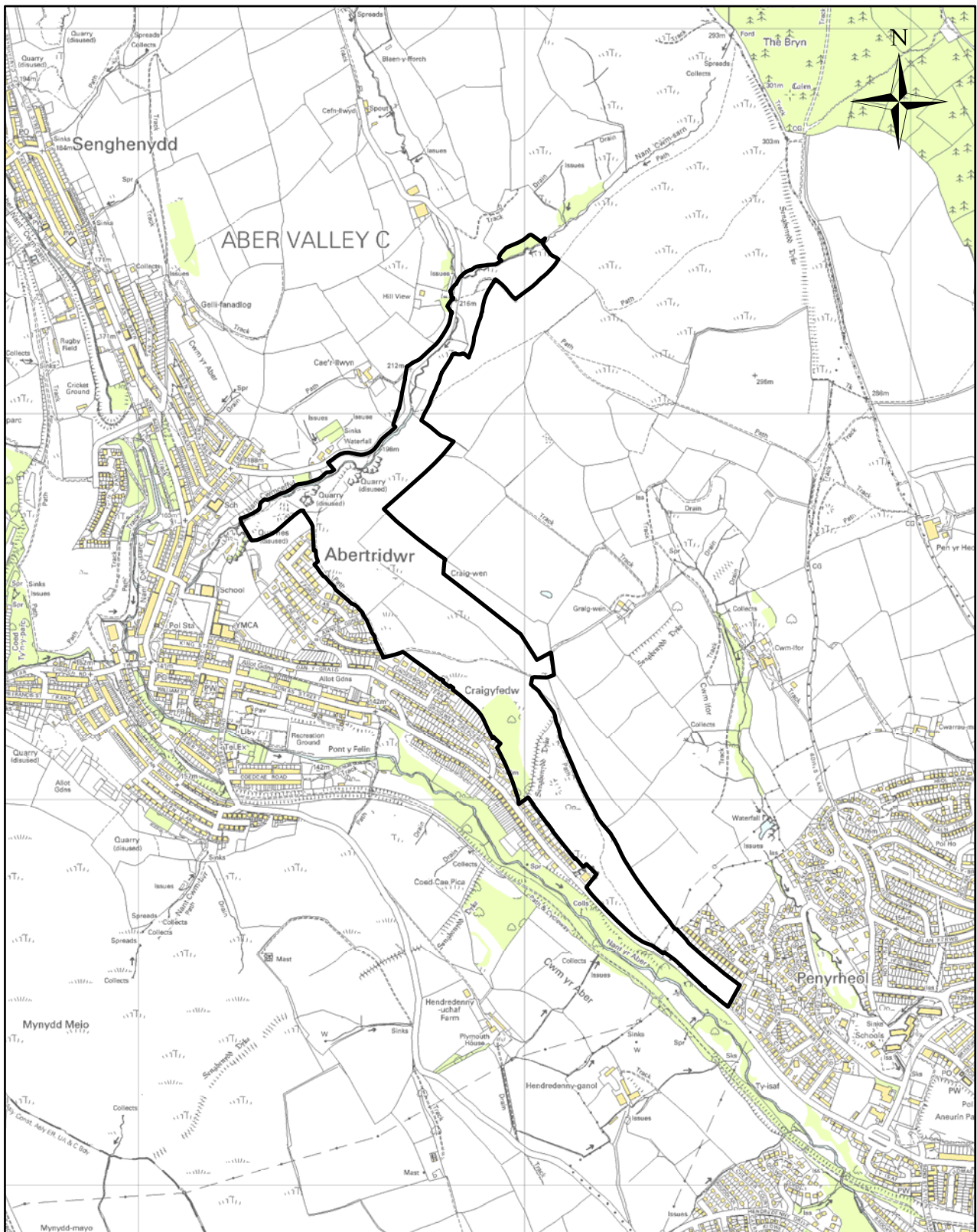
*Additional species associated with the disused quarries at ST126898 include Dryopteris filix-mas, Racomitrium aquaticum, Sphagnum fimbriatum, Sphagnum cf denticulatum, Sphagnum palustre, Sphagnum cf inundatum, Marsupella emarginata, Diplophyllum albicans, Pellia sp., Scapania undulata.*

Fauna observations: ***Bullfinch***, ***Yellowhammer***, *Meadow Pipit*, *Willow Warbler*, *Chiffchaff*, *Chaffinch*, *Robin*, *Grey Heron*, *Raven*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Wren*, *Painted Lady Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Buzzard**, *Polygala vulgaris*, *Hypericum humifusum*. Bat records from nearby urban areas.

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LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.158 (SINC 153)  
Craigyfedw, Abertridwr 37 Ha

1:15,000



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