

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.159</u>	SINC name: Cwm yr Aber, South of Abertridwr
Grid reference: ST132885, 133885 & 138878	Area (hectares): 17
Survey date: 7th & 8th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.154)	
Summary description	
<p>This SINC includes approximately 1.5km of woodland and grassland habitats adjacent to the Nant yr Aber stream (SINC NH 3.156). The woodland also includes Ash, Goat willow, Sycamore and Hazel, with semi-natural indicator species including Wood sorrel, Wood anemone, Wood avens, Yellow archangel and Bluebell. A few un-wooded areas are present on some of the valley floor and sides, and these support neutral grassland, Bracken and tall herb vegetation.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Semi-improved neutral grassland.</p> <p>Tall herb vegetation.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The SINC is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The river and adjoining woodland are likely to be used by Otters.</p> <p>The open areas are likely to support reptiles, especially the south-facing slopes.</p> <p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice.</p> <p>The small horse-grazed field at ST127890 has potential to support grassland fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area generally appears to have been abandoned. Most of the woodland area shows no sign of recent management. The only management evident during the survey was horse grazing in the northwestern fields. These fields appeared to be over-grazed and a slight reduction in grazing pressure would enhance biodiversity (this could be achieved by allowing the animals to graze some of the abandoned pasture elsewhere within the SINC). Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam occur in several parts of the SINC, especially beside the stream and in open areas beside the road to the northeast, where tipping is also a problem.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>A footpath crosses the north of the SINC and a road borders its southern and eastern boundaries. There is no formal public access into most of the site, but there are several informal footpaths, the most well used being the disused railway along the southwestern boundary.</p>	

Additional information

The stream has been removed from this SINC and is now a SINC in its own right (NH3.156). The adjacent fields to the west (ST127889) have some value for nature conservation, particularly as they support damp semi-improved acid grassland with large anthills. Associated flush vegetation includes *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex pallescens*, *Polytrichum commune* and *Sphagnum* mosses, although the diversity is distributed rather patchily within the fields. *Viola riviniana* also occurs locally and may support fritillary butterflies. These fields 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*)

Woodland tree and shrub species: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix caprea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Salix alba*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Buddleija davidii*.

Woodland ground flora: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Veronica montana*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Geum urbanum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Fallopia japonica*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Urtica dioica*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Poa trivialis*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pellia* sp..

Semi-improved neutral grassland at ST127890: *Succisa pratensis*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Montia fontana*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Centaurea nigra*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Iris pseudacorus* (in small pond), *Agrostis capillaris*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex viridula*.

Bracken/ neutral grassland species in open areas (combined list): *Centaurea nigra*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Galium saxatile*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Galeopsis tetrahit*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Poa trivialis*, *Carex ovalis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Fauna observations: Fox, Mole, **Green Woodpecker**, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Robin, Wren, Coal Tit, Chiffchaff, Meadow Pipit, Blackbird, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly, Common Blue Butterfly, Large Skipper Butterfly, Cinnabar Moth, Burnet Companion Moth.

Additional species noted from desk study: *Adoxa moschatellina*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
 LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.159 (SINC 154)
 Cwm yr Aber, South of Abertridwr 17 Ha

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