

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.160</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Mynydd Meio, south of Abertridwr</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST119881</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 115</b>
<b>Survey dates: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.157)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A large unenclosed upland site mostly dominated by a mix of acid grassland and Bracken. The most commonly occurring species include Wavy hair-grass, Sweet vernal-grass, Soft rush and Bracken. The most botanically diverse habitat is an area of mire vegetation at ST11988, which contains Purple moor-grass, Common cotton-grass, Cross-leaved heath and several <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. Several small areas of flush vegetation are also present, mainly near the northern boundary. Plant species within the flushes include Soft rush, Bulbous rush, Star sedge, Ivy-leaved bellflower, Bog stitchwort and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. A disused quarry at the northern boundary (ST119888) supports acid grassland and heath, and rock-exposures supporting bryophytes, ferns and scrub.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Extensive area of open countryside where semi-natural features predominate.</p> <p>Acid grassland containing at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Heathland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Mire / wet heath vegetation with Cross-leaved heath.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Flush.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Grassland with anthills.</p> <p>Rock exposure.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The site is likely to support reptiles, particularly Common lizard.</p> <p>The mire habitat has potential to support breeding waders.</p> <p>The wetland habitats may support locally significant bryophytes.</p> <p>The short grassland areas are likely to support waxcap fungi.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Sheep, and some cattle, heavily graze the whole area. The grazing pressure by sheep is relatively high and a slight reduction would enhance biodiversity. Bracken dominance is a significant problem on the site, reducing the amount of grazing for livestock and shading out low-growing species. Bracken control appears to be currently undertaken by ploughing and alternative control methods would be more appropriate for biodiversity.</p>	

### Access/ community use

The majority of the SINC is open access land and the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath crosses the site. It is popular with walkers and model aeroplane enthusiasts were using it at the time of the survey. There is no formal public access to the disused quarry at ST119888, although there are signs of informal use by members of the public.

### Additional information

Several other areas of nature conservation value adjoin the site and appear worthy of further survey. They include heathland and acid grassland in a horse-grazed disused quarry at ST117891 and marshy grassland at ST11887 and ST124884. 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*)

Species in acid grassland/ Bracken areas: *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ulex gallii*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Luzula campestris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*.

Wet heath/ mire habitat (ST119881): *Erica tetralix*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex nigra*, *Trichophorum cespitosum*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Aulacomnium palustre*.

Flushes at northern boundary (combined list): *Stellaria alsine*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Callitriche* sp., *Potentilla erecta*, *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta*** (rare), *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Oreopteris limbosperma*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Aulacomnium palustre*.

Heath/ Acid grassland in quarry (ST119888): *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Conopodium majus*, *Hedera helix*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Aira praecox*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Luzula campestris*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Polypodium* sp., *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Fissidens* sp., *Racomitrium* sp., *Ptilidium ciliare*.

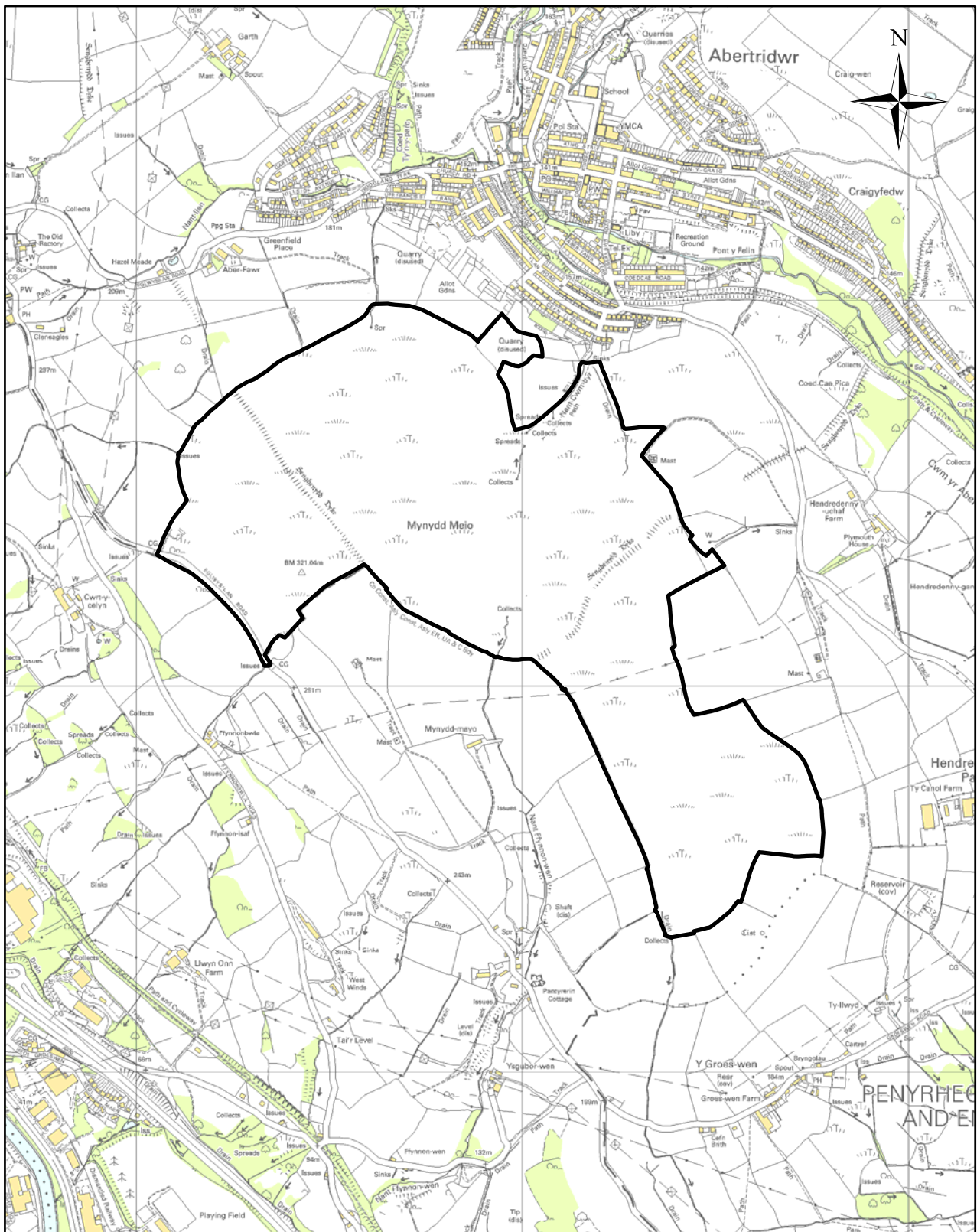
Tree and shrub species (scattered through area, mainly on lower slopes): *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Quercus petraea*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Salix caprea*, *Crataegus monogyna*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, **Skylark**, **Linnet**, **House Sparrow**, Meadow Pipit, Raven, Willow Warbler, Stonechat, Blackbird, Robin, Chaffinch, Mistle Thrush, Pied Wagtail, Small Heath Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly.

Additional species noted from desk study: *Cryptogramma crispa*, *Carex pulicaris*, *Drepanocladus revolvens*, *Sphagnum papillosum*, Grayling Butterfly.

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Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.160 (SINC 157)  
Mynydd Meio, South of Abertridwr 115 Ha

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Mae atgynhychu heb awddurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.  
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.