

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.182</u>	SINC name: Wernddu Woodlands, south of Caerphilly
Grid reference: ST169855	Area (hectares): 45
Survey date: 7th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.159)	
Summary description	
<p>Several blocks of mature woodland, including some ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland. The stands are mainly broadleaved with Oak, Hazel, Alder and Beech, with some Spruce and Larch. The Nant y Pwyntel stream flows through the centre of the area and is bordered by wet woodland dominated by Alder. Most of the area supports a moderate number of semi-natural indicator species in its ground flora. These include Bluebell, Greater stitchwort, Wood sedge, Wood anemone and Wood melick.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland, including ancient woodland, with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Dormouse.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Streams.</p> <p>Conifer plantation.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The habitat is likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The area is likely to support a diverse range of woodland birds.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area is subject to ongoing forestry management, which includes biodiversity objectives (at least in the northern parts). In general, the replacement of some of the conifers with native broadleaved trees would be beneficial for the ground flora and Dormouse population. Local removal of trees to reduce shading of the streams is also likely to enhance biodiversity.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Coed y Werin in the northern part of the SINC is managed by the Caerphilly Woodlands Trust, which also manages the adjacent Wern Ddu Claypits SSSI. There is public access to all the woodland in the north. The woodland in the south has more restricted access, although there are several informal footpaths.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>A large central area of replanted ancient woodland at ST167852 has been retained within the SINC because the conifers have been removed and natural regeneration to broadleaved woodland will result in additional habitat for Dormice and other species. The boundary of this SINC had to be fairly arbitrary and Dormice are likely to use the adjoining areas predominantly occupied by conifers. These areas should be considered at future SINC review, particularly along the Scouring Brook (ST160853) and at The Warren (ST165861).</p>	

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 canopy and shrub species (combined list as the site is too large and complex to note separately): *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Corylus avellana*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa canina*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Picea sp.*, *Larix sp.*, *Ulex gallii*, *Salix aurita*, *Thuja sp.*, *Pinus sp.*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Castanea sativa*, *Acer campestre*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Calluna vulgaris*.

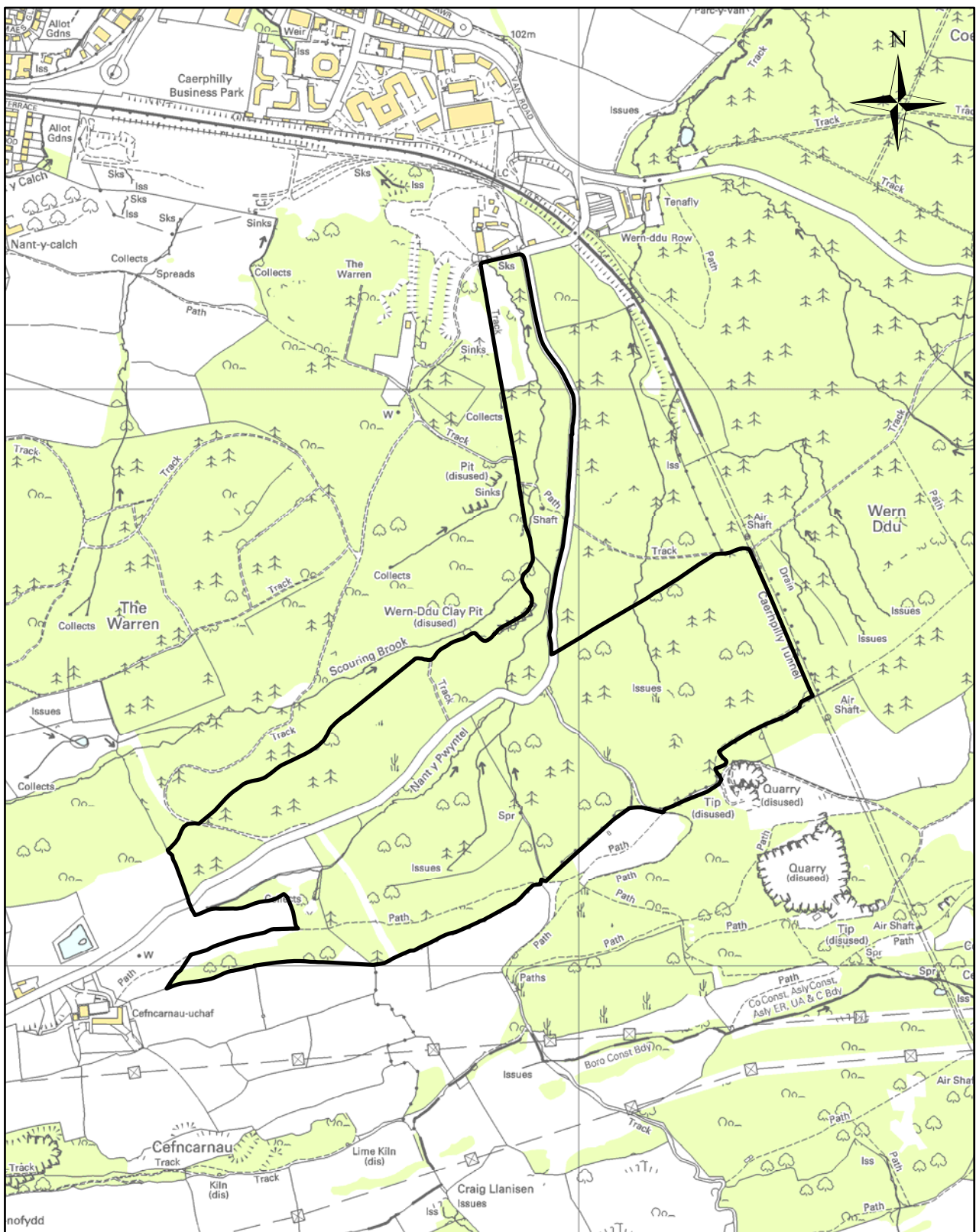
Ground flora species (combined list): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Allium ursinum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Conopodium majus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Valeriana dioica*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Galium palustre*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Viola palustris*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Melica uniflora*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Carex pendula*, *Carex echinata* (very local), *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris affine*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Conocephalum sp.*, *Pellia sp.*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, Grey Squirrel, **Bullfinch**, **Song Thrush**, Crossbill, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Chiffchaff, Jay, Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Wren, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Willow Warbler, Blackcap.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse**, **Common Pipistrelle bat**, **Goshawk**, **Nightjar**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Green Woodpecker**, Tawny Owl, Woodcock, Siskin, Treecreeper, Sparrowhawk, Goldcrest, **Common Lizard**, **Dactylorhiza fuchsii**, **Rhinanthus minor**, *Briza media*, *Carex otrubae*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Tamus communis*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Clematis vitalba*, *Epipactis helleborine*, *Stachys officinalis*

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LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.182 (SINC 159)
Wernddu Woodlands 45 Ha

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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatad 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.