

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.165</u>	SINC name: Warren Drive Meadow, south of Caerphilly
Grid reference: ST158860	Area (hectares): 3
Survey date: 6th June 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.63)	
Summary description	
<p>This SINC comprises two fields of semi-improved neutral grassland and disused quarry, which supports broadleaved woodland and scrub. Much of the grassland is of relatively low diversity, but it has patches of greater diversity, including Pignut, Common knapweed, Meadow thistle, Devil's-bit scabious and Lousewort. The disused quarry is surrounded by woodland with a canopy of Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn and Beech, and a ground flora including Bluebell, Pignut, Common dog violet and Enchanter's nightshade. The centre of the quarry supports dense, tangled Bramble, Willow, Dog rose and Nettle. Water seepages over the shaded rock-faces support local concentrations of bryophytes.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Rock exposure.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The woodland is likely to be used by Dormice (which are known to occur nearby).</p> <p>The woodland has potential to provide foraging and roosting habitat for bats.</p> <p>The grassland is likely to support grassland fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Cattle graze the fields and appear mainly confined to the fields, but also have access to some of the woodland. There is no evidence of recent woodland management. The disused quarry has been used for tipping in the past. In particular, garden refuse near the road has resulted in several garden plants becoming naturalised within the site. The biodiversity of the fields would benefit from a cessation of agricultural improvement and possibly a slight reduction in grazing pressure to enhance biodiversity (provided that they are not already of high importance for grassland fungi). The disused quarry would benefit from removal of tipped materials/ litter/ garden plants (some scrub removal would probably be needed to do this, but it might help to increase the structural diversity of the vegetation).</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There is no formal access to the site, but there are signs of informal use, particularly in the disused quarry.</p>	

Additional information

Dormice are known from woodland to the southeast and the hedgerows connecting this site with the adjacent woodland may feasibly be used by this species. This should be investigated at future SINC review. Much of the grassland area would not meet the SINC selection criteria in its own right, but it has been retained within the SINC in order to map to a distinct boundary, because the site could be enhanced through appropriate management and has potential for grassland fungi.

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 and scrub tree and shrub species: *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula pubescens*, *Salix cinerea*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rosa canina*, *Malus sp.*, *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Lonicera nitida* (garden escape), *Rubus fruticosus*, *Hedera helix*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Geum urbanum*.

Woodland ground flora: *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Urtica dioica*, *Viola riviniana*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Conopodium majus*, *Cardamine hirsutum*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Saxifraga x urbium* (garden escape), *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Poa nemoralis*, *Poa trivialis*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Hypnum sp.*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Plagiothecium cf denticulatum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Nardia scalaris*.

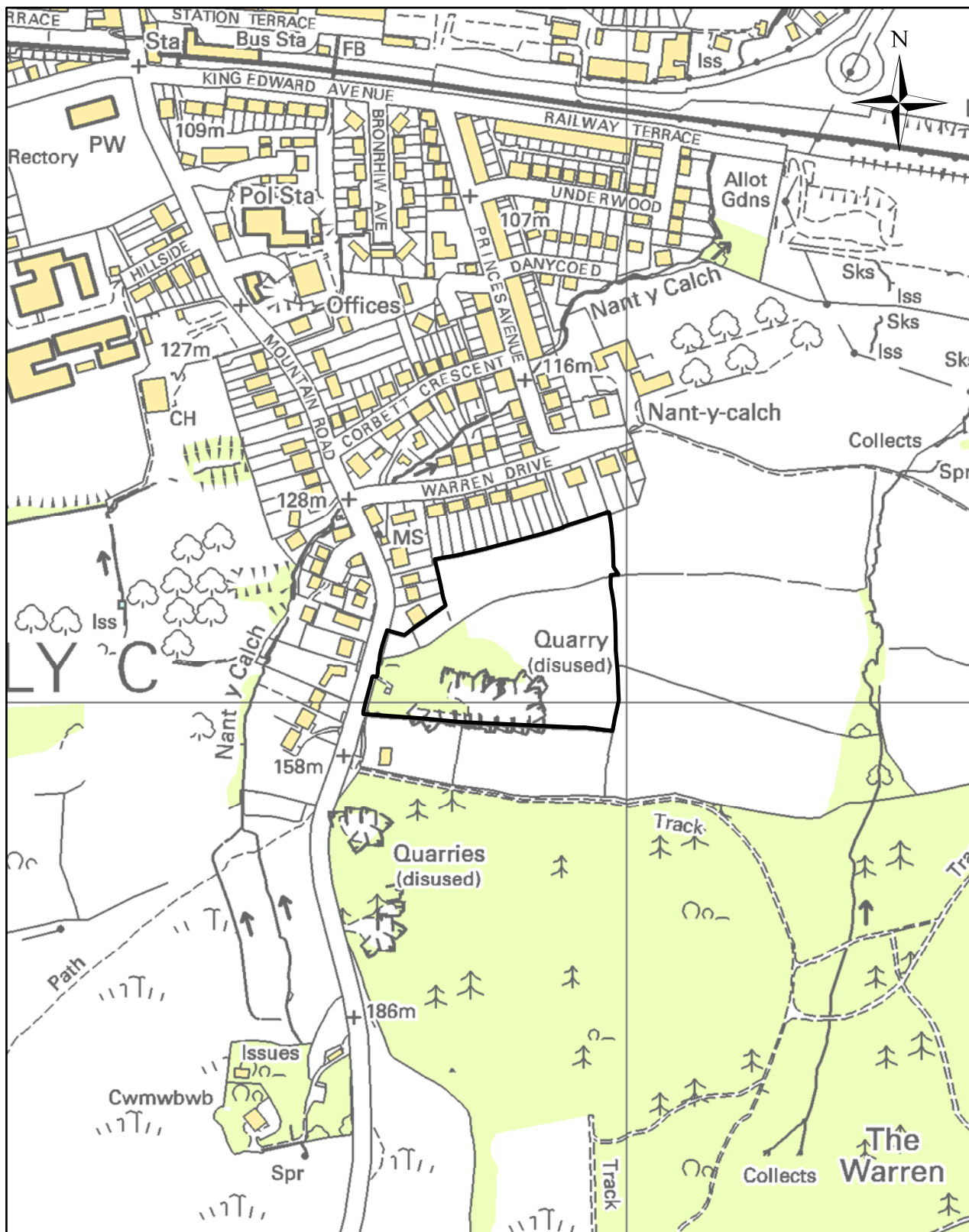
Semi-improved neutral grassland species (both fields combined): *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Trifolium repens*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, *Bellis perennis*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Conopodium majus*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Lolium perenne*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Poa pratensis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus inflexus*.

Fauna observations: *Hedgehog*, *Chiffchaff*, *Great Tit*, *Blue Tit*, *Chaffinch*, *Blackbird*, *Wood Pigeon*.

Additional species noted from desk study/ consultation: **Dormouse** (within 450m of boundary).

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Warren Drive Meadow, South of Caerphilly 3 Ha

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