

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.184</u>	SINC name: Mynydd Rudry Common, Rudry
Grid reference: ST191871	Area (hectares): 97
Survey dates: 16th April 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.165)	
Summary description	
<p>The majority of this SINC is unenclosed common land supporting a mix of Bracken, acid grassland, scrub and woodland. The most abundant habitat is Bracken, which dominates large areas. Bluebell is locally abundant within the ground flora. Nightjars have been regularly observed in this area. Acid grassland and heath is generally limited to areas of shallower soil, particularly near rock outcrops. The dominant species include Wavy hair-grass, Sheep's fescue, Mat grass and Field woodrush. The uncommon moss <i>Leptodontium flexifolium</i> has been recorded from outcrops at Mynydd Rudy (ST181868). The woodland is generally young and dominated by Downy birch with a relatively species-poor ground flora. However, there are a few older woodland stands with canopies of Oak, Ash and Hazel, particularly in the north and east of the SINC. Dormice occur in the wooded areas. Several small wetland habitats are present. The most diverse is a pond at ST181873, which supports Common spike-rush, Brooklime, Bog stitchwort and <i>Sphagnum</i> moss. A large number of disused earth-workings are present in the south of the site and some of these also hold water. Great crested newts occur in some of the ponds in the northeast.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Acid grassland containing at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Ponds with diverse wetland vegetation.</p> <p>Presence of Dormouse.</p> <p>Presence of Great Crested Newt.</p> <p>Presence of Nightjar.</p> <p>Presence of uncommon moss <i>Leptodontium flexifolium</i>.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Broadleaved woodland.</p> <p>Marshy grassland.</p> <p>Rock exposure.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to be a valuable feeding area for bats, and may include roosting sites.</p> <p>The site is likely to support several species of reptiles.</p> <p>The site is likely to provide suitable terrestrial habitat for Great crested newts and other amphibians</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area has been ungrazed for many years and has largely become covered by Bracken and</p>	

scrub. This has resulted in a decline of acid grassland, marshy grassland and heath, together with much of their constituent flora and fauna. Bracken fires have occurred over much of the SINC and undoubtedly also contribute to the decline in biodiversity. Appropriate management would enhance the site's biodiversity. The most urgent management issue is Bracken and scrub control, followed by the re-introduction of grazing by cattle and/ or horses. Several small scrapes have been created near to the southern boundary at approximately ST188867. There would also be considerable biodiversity benefits from the creation of additional ponds and restoring the former marshy grassland/ wetland areas, which have largely become shaded by scrub. Pond management is also required to retain breeding sites for Great crested newts.

Access/ community use

The site is popular for walking and horse riding. The majority of the SINC is open access land. Several roads and public footpaths also cross it and there is a car park at ST182864. There is no formal public access to several domestic properties enclosed within the SINC.

Additional information

Several other areas of biodiversity value adjoin the site and may meet the SINC selection criteria. These include Coed Parc-y-Van at ST175864, which is known to support Dormice; and several adjoining fields (e.g. ST191867) appear likely to support populations of grassland fungi. These 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*)

Tree and shrub species (combined list for whole site, including woodland areas and scattered scrub): *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Quercus robur*, *Salix caprea*, *Salix cinerea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Malus sp.*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Corylus avellana*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii*, *Erica tetralix*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Larix sp.*, *Quercus petraea*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Populus tremula*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Hedera helix*, *Betula pendula*.

Woodland / scrub ground flora species (combined list for whole site): *Circaea lutetiana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Conopodium majus*, *Geum urbanum*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Veronica montana*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Fragaria vesca*, *Hypericum pulchrum*, *Vicia sepium*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Melica uniflora*, *Poa trivialis*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Carex flacca*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Mnium hornum*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Pogonatum aloides*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Diplophyllum albicans*.

Bracken/ acid grassland species: *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Erica tetralix*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Viola riviniana*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Nardus stricta*, *Aira praecox*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Diplophyllum albicans*.

Pond species (ST181873): *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Myosotis secunda*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Lemna minor*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Galium palustre*, *Elodea sp.*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Juncus effusus*, *Eleocharis palustris*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*.

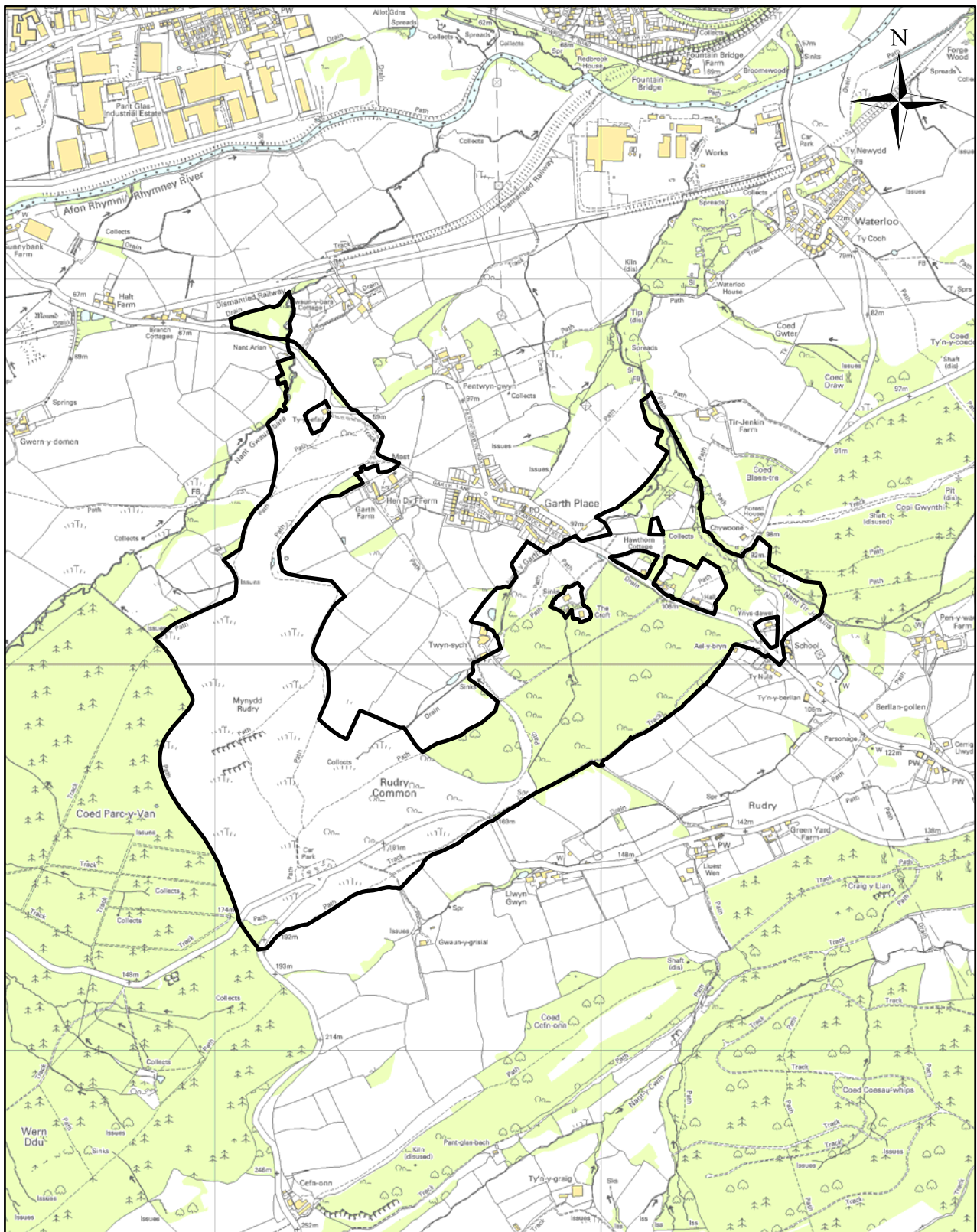
The scrapes at ST188867 support several additional wetland plants including: Potamogeton polygonifolius, Ranunculus omiophyllus, Typha latifolia, Juncus acutiflorus, Cratoneuron filicinum.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Mole*, *Grey Squirrel*, **Common Frog**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Skylark**, **Reed Bunting**, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Stonechat*, *Willow Warbler*, *Wren*, *Meadow Pipit*, *Dunnock*, *Blackbird*, *Whitethroat*, *Chaffinch*, *Great Tit*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Great Crested Newt**, **Dormouse**, **Common Pipistrelle**, **Brown Long-eared Bat**, **Adder** (2005 record), **Grass Snake**, **Common Lizard**, **Nightjar**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Kestrel**, *Redstart*, *Wood Warbler*, *Whinchat*, *Woodcock*, *Tawny Owl*, **Long-eared Owl**, *Redpoll*, *Siskin*, *Garden Warbler*, *Lesser Whitethroat*, *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly*, *Silver-washed Fritillary Butterfly*, *Marbled White Butterfly*, **Double-line Moth**, **Southern Hawker Dragonfly**, **Emperor Dragonfly**, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, **Golden-ringed Dragonfly**, **Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly**, **Emerald Dragonfly**, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Viola palustris*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Leptodontium flexifolium*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.184 (SINC 165)
Mynydd Rudry Common, Rudry 97 Ha

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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwng Ordnans gyda chaniatod 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.