

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.185</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Rudry Woodlands, Rudry</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST195877</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 63</b>
<b>Survey date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.166)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A series of woodlands, including semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, wet woodland, coniferous plantation and scrub, with stream corridors and areas of Bracken. The large central block of Copi Gwynthi is a coniferous plantation over former ancient woodland. It retains some elements of its semi-natural ground flora. Much of the area has been felled and supports a mix of Bracken and acid grassland plants with Bluebells and regenerating Birch scrub. The southern side of this block grades into semi-natural wet woodland dominated by Alder, Oak and Hazel woodland beside the Nant Tir Jenkins. Coed Draw and Coed Blaen-tre are also wet woodlands dominated by Alder, Oak, Hazel and Downy Birch, with a relatively sparse ground flora. The small woodland blocks north of Dan-y-Graig support a semi-natural ground flora. There are several veteran beech trees and limestone outcrops. The northwestern woodland adjacent to Waterloo is largely secondary woodland that has developed on the site of former workings. The centre of the areas has been partially cleared and the cleared area is grazed by sheep, but still has potential to regenerate its woodland ground flora. Two stagnant ponds are present in old tanks, and several watercourses and marshy areas beside the former tips are heavily stained by ochre deposits.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Replanted woodland retaining a range of semi-natural woodland indicator species.	
Presence of Dormouse.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Streams.	
Ponds.	
Veteran trees.	
Acid grassland.	
Bracken.	
Grassland with a high density of anthills (north of Dan-y-Graig).	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
The ponds may support amphibians, potentially including Great Crested Newt.	
The grassland north of Dan-y-Graig may support waxcap fungi.	

### Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

Forestry Commission Wales manages the woodland at Copi-Gwynthi. Recent management has involved felling conifers and much of the area has been allowed to regenerate naturally. Sheep graze the new clearing in the woodland adjacent to Waterloo and the Birch and Bracken habitats at Coed Ty'n-y-Coedcae. Himalyan balsam is present in both of these areas. Sheep also graze the small southeastern woodland block, north of Dan-y-Graig. The other areas show minimal signs of active woodland management.

### Access/ community use

Public rights of way provide limited access to each of the woodland blocks. There is little sign of public use away from the footpaths.

### Additional information

The old workings near Waterloo may be of historic interest.

### 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 (similar in most of the broad-leaved woodland blocks): *Alnus glutinosa*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Betula pendula*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa canina*, *Viburnum opulus*. Additional species associated with the felled plantations at Copi Gwynthi include *Larix* sp., *Picea* sp., *Calluna vulgaris*, *Ulex gallii* and *Cytisus scoparius*.

Ground flora species (similar in most blocks): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Allium ursinum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Conopodium majus*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Galium odoratum*, *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pellia* sp., *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Moerhousia trinervia*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Clematis vitalba* and ***Orchis mascula*** were noted on the more calcareous soils north of Dan-y-Graig.

Grassland species north of Dan-y-Graig: *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lotus corniculatus*, ***Orchis mascula***, *Centaurea nigra*, *Rhynchospora alba*.

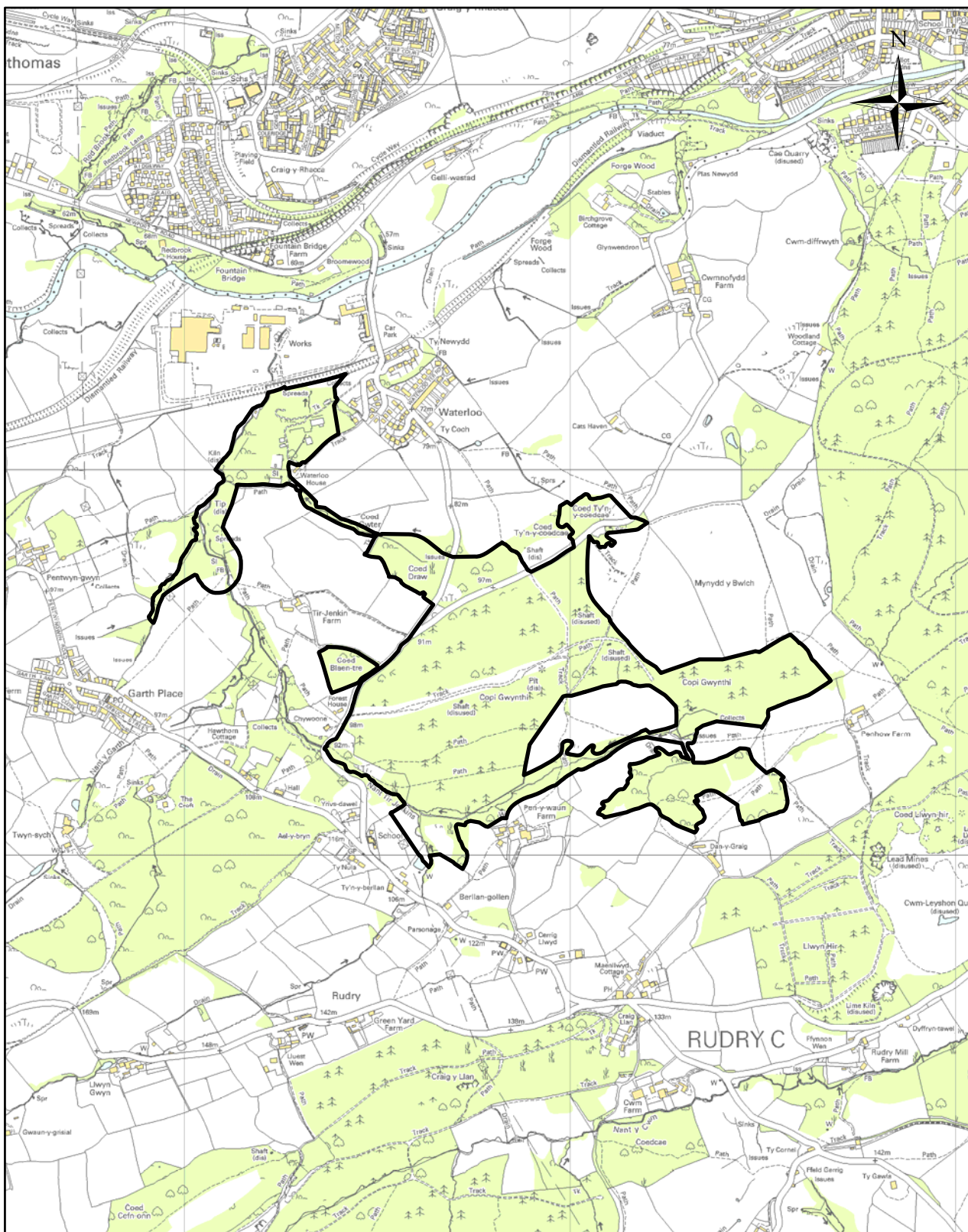
Wetland species in Coed Ty'n-y-coedcae and Coed Draw: *Juncus effusus*, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Impatiens glandulifera*, *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Galium palustre*, *Sphagnum* sp.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Rabbit*, *Grey Squirrel*, **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, **Bullfinch**, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Nuthatch*, *Chiffchaff*, *Jay*, *Coal Tit*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Brimstone Butterfly*, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Orange-tip Butterfly*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, *Red Admiral Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse**, **Badger**, *bat* records from nearby urban areas, **Bullhead**, **Brown Trout**, **Red Wood Ant**, **Double-line Moth** (from Copi Gwynthi), **Primula veris**.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.185 (SINC 166)  
Rudry Woodlands, Rudry 63 Ha

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