

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.168</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Coed y Maerdy, east of Caerphilly</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST169873</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 9</b>
<b>Survey date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.168)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>The northern part of this SINC comprises small blocks of ancient, damp, broadleaved woodland and scrub. The canopy species comprise Oak, Alder and Ash, with a Holly and Hazel understorey. The ground flora includes Wood sorrel, Lesser celandine, Marsh violet, Yellow pimpernel, Remote sedge and Giant fescue. The adjacent field to the southwest supports a mosaic of semi-improved acid grassland, marshy grassland/ flush, Bracken and scrub. The most diverse element is the marshy grassland, which includes Purple moor-grass, Marsh pennywort, Ragged robin, Brooklime and <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses. The adjacent semi-improved acid grassland supports Tormentil, Heath-grass, Heath bedstraw, Pignut and Field woodrush, with occasional Bluebell and Wood anemone.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Ancient woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ flush with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Small streams.</p> <p>Bracken.</p> <p>Scrub.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The area supports a high diversity of plants and a comprehensive survey would undoubtedly confirm additional species.</p> <p>The site is likely to have high value for foraging bats and the woodland may support roost sites.</p> <p>The tussocky wood, scrub and Bracken margins are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The grassland is likely to support waxcap fungi (as are several adjacent fields).</p> <p>The woodland has potential to support Dormice (although it may be too isolated from other sites).</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Cattle graze the whole site and the grazing intensity in the grassland appears to be optimal for a good range of flora and fauna. However, there appears to be relatively limited regeneration of young trees and ground flora in the woodland, and removing livestock from this area during the spring and summer may help to address this. There are several signs of human disturbance in the wood, including shooting and minor vandalism. There may be potential to enhance biodiversity by deepening the temporary puddles at the west and eastern sides of the wood to form ponds (and partially excluding them from grazing livestock).</p>	

## Access/ community use

There are public footpaths around the southern boundary and passing through the eastern part of the woodland. There is an informal path along the adjacent disused railway to the northwest.

## Additional information

The site was not examined thoroughly due to the presence of a bull at the time of the survey and the species-list is therefore likely to be significantly increased by further survey. The semi-improved, grazed fields to the south appear likely to support waxcap fungi and 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*)

Woodland tree and shrub species (ST169873): *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus fruticosus*.

Woodland and scrub ground flora species: *Galium palustre*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Viola riviniana*, *Viola palustris*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Conopodium majus*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Callitriche* sp., *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Festuca gigantea*, *Carex remota*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Marshy grassland species at ST167872: *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Galium palustre*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Myosotis laxa*, *Veronica beccabunga*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Valeriana dioica*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Carex* sp., *Carex panicea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*. *Typha latifolia*, *Oenanthe crocata* and *Iris pseudacorus* occur nearby in a damp depression beside the railway line.

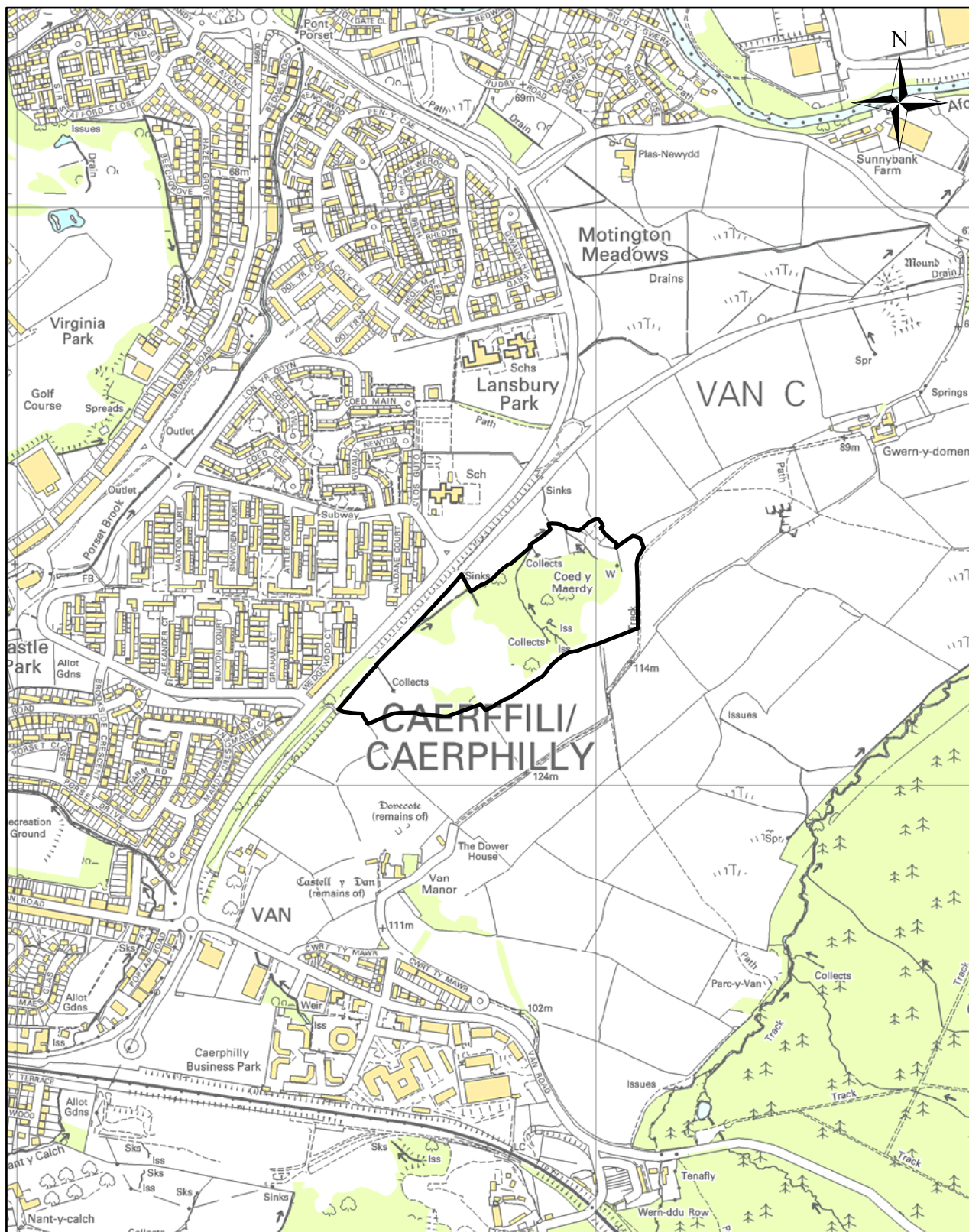
Acid grassland species at ST167872: *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Trifolium repens*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Odontites vernus*, *Conopodium majus*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Danthonia decumbens*, *Luzula campestris*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, *Mistle Thrush*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Chiffchaff*, *Willow Warbler*, *Blue Tit*, *Wren*, *Chaffinch*, *Starling*.

Additional records from desk study: ***Green Woodpecker***, ***Buzzard***, ***Spotted Flycatcher***, ***Bullfinch***, ***Song Thrush***, *Nuthatch*, *Sparrowhawk*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Siskin*, *Snipe*, *Jay*, *Whitethroat*, *Blackcap*, *Redstart*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Sanicula europaea*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Betula pendula*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.168 (SINC 168)  
Coed y Maerdy, East of Caerphilly 9 Ha

1:10,000



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