

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.166</u>	SINC name: Nant Gwaunybara Mire, east of Caerphilly
Grid reference: ST177873	Area (hectares): 17
Survey date: 16th May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.169)	
Summary description	
<p>This SINC follows the course of the Nant Gwaunybara stream, which flows adjacent to Rudry Common in the north and Coed Parc-y-Van in the south. The stream is lined by mature broadleaved woodland along most of its length. Much of this is former ancient woodland and still retains a number of semi-natural indicator species. The canopy species include Alder, Ash, Oak and Hazel, and the ground flora includes Wood anemone, Ramsons and Bluebell. A small field to the west of the stream at ST177873 supports damp semi-improved acid grassland in the northwest of the field and marshy grassland/mire nearer the stream. The semi-improved grassland is generally species-poor, but supports locally abundant Devil's-bit scabious. The dominant vegetation in the marshy grassland area comprises tussocky Purple moor-grass and Soft rush, which are accompanied by a wide variety of wetland plants, including Marsh violet, Greater tussock-sedge, Ragged robin, Marsh pennywort and several species of <i>Sphagnum</i> moss. Glow Worm is present in this habitat.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Ancient woodland / wet woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ mire with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Dormice (<i>reasonably assumed, as they are present in adjacent Coed Parc-y-Van</i>).</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Stream.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Presence of Glow Worm.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The site is likely to be used by foraging and roosting bats.</p> <p>The tussocky grassland and wood margins are likely to support reptiles.</p> <p>The marshy grassland has potential to support uncommon invertebrates such as Marsh fritillary and Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>The area has potential to support uncommon species of bryophytes.</p> <p>The habitat may be used by Great Crested Newts, which are known to occur within 500m.</p> <p>The stream corridor is likely to be used by Otters and native fish species.</p>	

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

The woodland generally appears to be left undisturbed and there were no signs of recent woodland management. The adjacent plantation is managed as commercial forestry. Horses graze the marshy grassland. The stocking density is light and considered optimal for a wide range of flora and fauna. Alder and Willow scrub is becoming established near the stream and limited scrub removal would probably be beneficial, as the scrub will eventually shade out much of the valuable marshy grassland vegetation.

Access/ community use

A public footpath runs beside the southern part of the woodland and stream. Another runs beside the northern boundary of the marshy grassland and crossed the stream at ST179874.

Additional information

Aerial photography and desk study data indicates that the damp grassland beside the woodland at ST173869 has potential to support species of nature conservation significance, including Purple moor-grass, Greater tussock sedge and Devil's-bit scabious. This should be considered 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: *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Allium ursinum*, *Galium palustre*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Viola palustris*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Conopodium majus*, *Veronica montana*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Carex paniculata*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Pellia sp.*, *Conocephalum conicum*.

Marshy grassland species at ST167872: *Cardamine pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Galium saxatile*, *Lycopus europaeus*, *Galium palustre*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Montia fontana*, *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, *Caltha palustris*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Festuca ovina*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex nigra*, *Carex echinata*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum subnitens*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Aneura pinguis*.

Fauna observations: **Buzzard**, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blue Tit, long-tailed Tit, Wren, Chaffinch, Treecreeper, Jay, Blackcap, Glow Worm (larva seen on *Molinia tussock*).

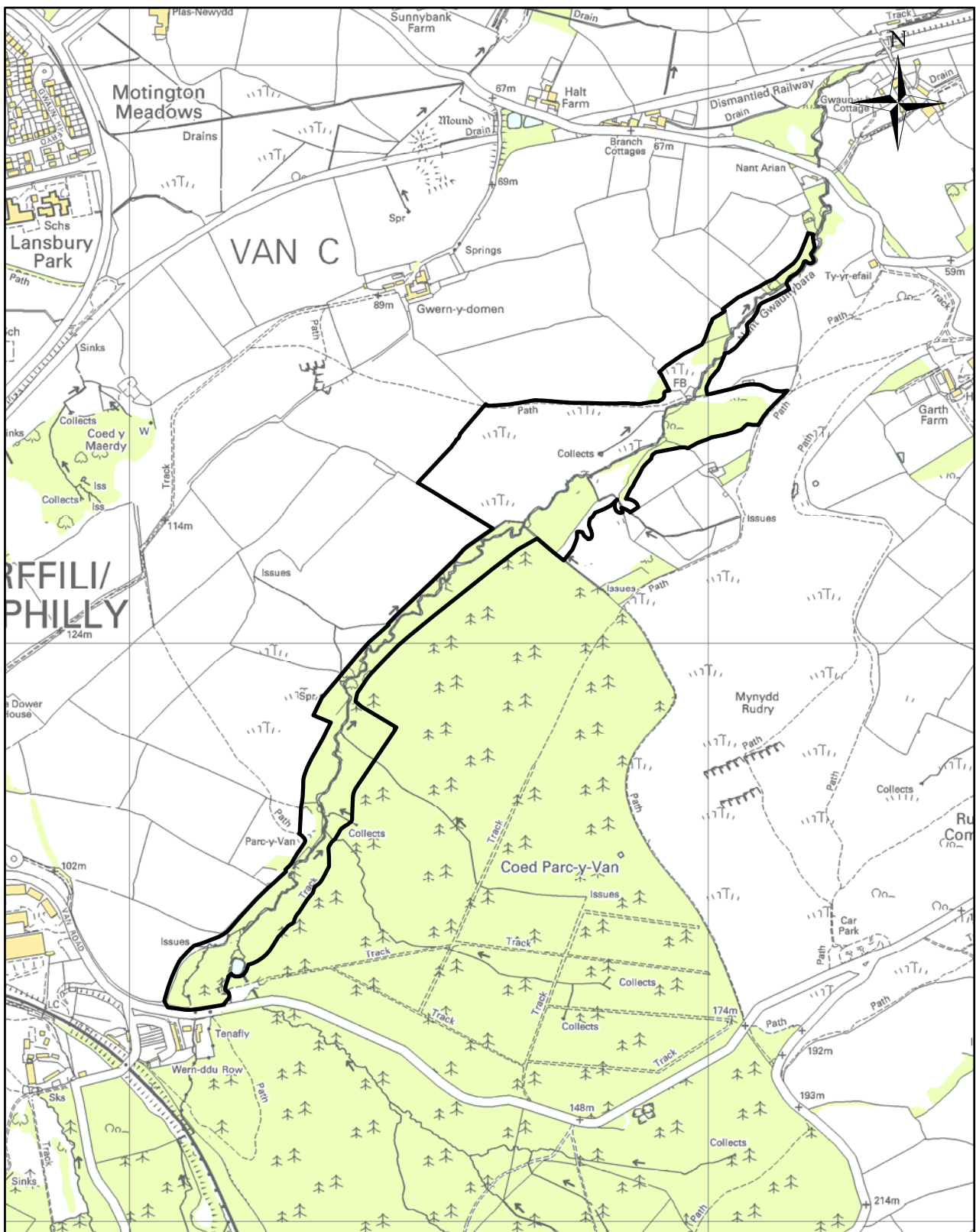
Additional records from desk study: *Cirsium dissectum*, *Genista anglica*, *Mentha aquatica*.

Great Crested Newt within 400m.

Common Pipistrelle bat within 200m.

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Nant Gwaunybara Mire, East of Caerphilly 17 Ha

1:10,000



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