

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.171</u>	SINC name: Berth-goch Wood, north of Trethomas
Grid reference: ST183898	Area (hectares): 11
Survey date: 3 rd May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.171)	
Summary description	
<p>Ancient woodland with a canopy of mature Oak, which is heavily grazed by sheep and cattle. The ground flora is generally low diversity and dominated by grasses, with little woody understorey. A few semi-natural woodland indicator species are still present, including a dense Bluebell carpet in the southern part of the site. Several streams flow through the wood and there are a few areas of damp ground, which support Alders and a small number of wetland plants. At its northern extent there is a west-facing bank, supporting acid grassland with a high density of anthills.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species and anthills.</p>	
Secondary features	
Streams.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
The mature trees are likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep, cattle and horses, grazes the area and this appears to be limiting the ground flora diversity, as well as limiting the regeneration of trees. Fencing the livestock out of some parts of the woodland or reducing the grazing intensity would enhance biodiversity.</p>	
Access/ community use	
The only public access is a public footpath that crosses east to west through the middle of the site.	
Additional information	
<p>Several of the adjacent fields, particularly to the north, appear to have potential to support waxcap fungi and should be considered for inclusion at future SINC review.</p>	
Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)	
(LBAP species shown in bold , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i>)	
<u>Woodland canopy species:</u> <i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Quercus petraea</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> .	
<u>Ground flora species:</u> <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> , <i>Conopodium majus</i> , <i>Oxalis acetosella</i> , <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> , <i>Galium saxatile</i> , <i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> , <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , <i>Holcus mollis</i> , <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> , <i>Poa trivialis</i> , <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , <i>Blechnum spicant</i> , <i>Mnium hornum</i> , <i>Kindbergia praelonga</i> , <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i> , <i>Scleropodium purum</i> .	

In wet areas the ground flora included Cirsium palustre, Stellaria alsine, Cardamine pratensis, Galium palustre, Ranunculus flammula, Viola palustris, Molinia caerulea, Glyceria fluitans, Deschampsia cespitosa, Carex remota, Juncus effusus, Athyrium filix-femina, Calliergonella cuspidata.

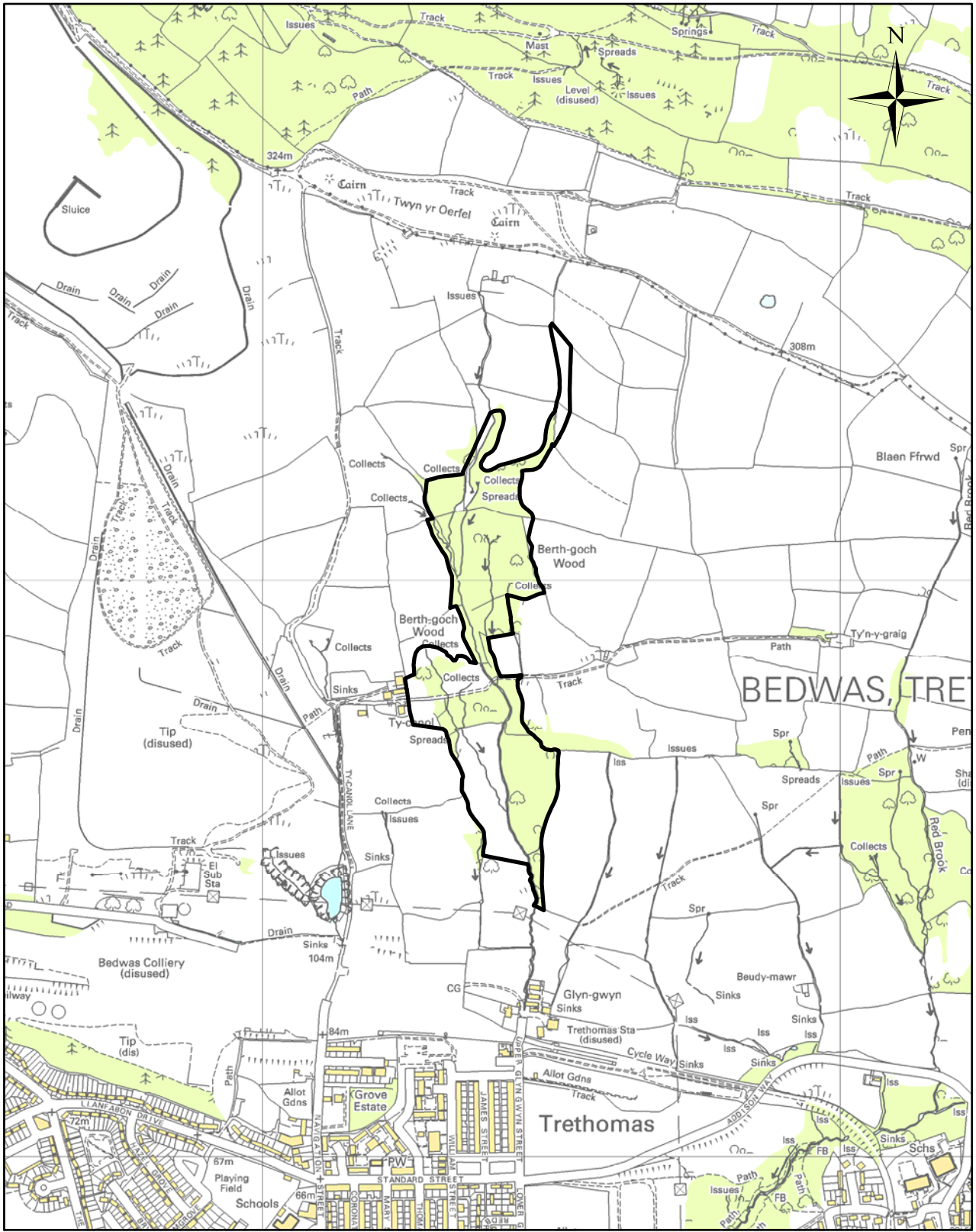
Acid grassland species: *Rumex acetosella, Galium saxatile, Conopodium majus, Pilosella officinarum, **Hyacinthoides non-scripta**, Festuca ovina, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Nardus stricta, Agrostis capillaris, Carex pilulifera, Luzula campestris, Hypnum jutlandicum, Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus, Dicranum scoparium, Polytrichum juniperinum, Polytrichum piliferum.*

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel, **Green Woodpecker, Skylark**, Meadow Pipit, Redstart, Nuthatch, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Cuckoo, Stonechat, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush, Blackcap, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Holly Blue Butterfly, Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly.*

Additional species noted from desk study: **Badger**

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 Berth Goch Wood, North of Trethomas 11 Ha

1:10,000



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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.