

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b>SINC number:</b> <a href="#">C11.174</a>	<b>SINC name:</b> Machen Woodlands, Machen
<b>Grid reference:</b> ST214894 & 207896	<b>Area (hectares):</b> 12 (11 & 1 by respective grid ref.)
<b>Survey date:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2007	<b>Surveyed by:</b> Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.174)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>A series of woodland blocks, ranging from semi-natural woodland with a good range of indicator species, to relatively young scrub woodland. The large woodland block (Coed-y-Fedw) includes a mix of mature Oak, Ash and Beech, with younger stands dominated by Willows, Downy birch, and Bramble and Ash saplings. The upper part includes several open areas dominated by Bracken, with abundant Bluebells and Rosebay willowherb. The lower part includes a similar mixture of mature and young trees with a moderate number of semi-natural indicator species. A disused railway-line mainly fringed by Willow scrub crosses this area. The small western block is damp, semi-natural woodland with a diverse assemblage of indicator species. A small stream flows beside its western boundary.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Presence of Dormouse (this can reasonably be assumed, given a record from Coed-y-Fedw).	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Stream.	
Bracken.	
Scrub.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
All parts of the woodland could potentially support Dormice, which are known from the northern part of Coed-y-Fedw.	
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.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>The woodland within the SINC shows no signs of active woodland management. Japanese knotweed is present in several parts of the Coed-y-Fedw woodland block, particularly near its western entrance. Several parts of the woodland have been removed from the SINC following their conversion to woodland gardens by clearance of ground flora and understorey. Expansion of gardens may be a threat to other woodlands in this area.</p>	

### Access/ community use

There is a public right of way to the north and western sides of Coed-y-Fedw, but there are several informal paths through it that appear to be regularly used. There is no public access to the small western woodland block.

### Additional information

The scrub woodland beside the disused railway does not meet SINC criteria for its habitat, but is included as a potential linking habitat for Dormice. It may be appropriate to include more scrub and/or conifer plantation within the SINC to the north and west of Coed-y-Fedw at future SINC reviews. Several sheep-grazed fields to the east of Coed-y-Fedw support semi-improved acid grassland with high densities of anthills and potential for waxcap fungi. These should be considered for selection 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 canopy and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Salix caprea*, *Hedera helix*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Betula pendula*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rosa canina*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Frangula alnus*, *Sambucus nigra*.

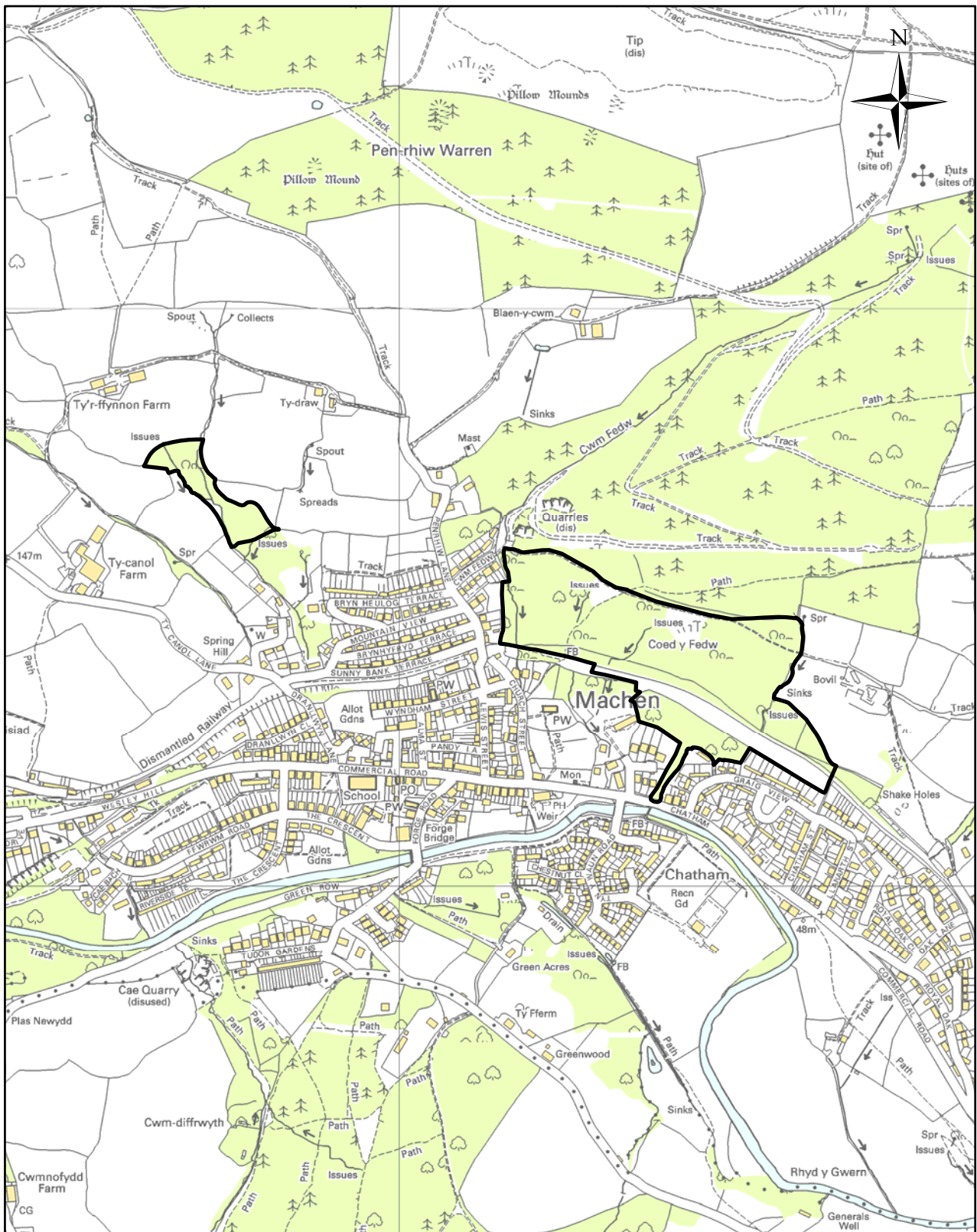
Ground flora species (similar in both blocks, but a greater density of semi-natural indicators in western block): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Allium ursinum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Arum maculatum*, *Conopodium majus*, *Veronica montana*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Rumex sanguineus*, *Moerhingia trinervia*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Stachys sylvatica*, *Geranium robertianum*, *Tamus communis*, *Bromopsis ramosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Melica uniflora*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Carex pendula*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Dryopteris affinis*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Rhizomnium punctatum*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Fissidens bryoides*, *Pellia sp.*, *Nardia scalaris*. A small patch of *Hylocomium splendens* was noted in the small western woodland.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, Rabbit, Grey Squirrel, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, Tawny Owl, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Great Tit, Wren, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Brimstone Butterfly, Holly Blue Butterfly, Peacock Butterfly, Orange-tip Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse**, **Spotted Flycatcher** (1978 record from western woodland block), **Green Woodpecker**, **Bat** records from nearby houses), Wood Stitchwort.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.174 (SINC 174)  
Machen Woodlands, Machen 12 Ha

1:10,000



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