

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.175</u>	SINC name: Coed Pen-Llyn, Machen
Grid reference: ST223893	Area (hectares): 13
Survey date: 3rd May 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.175)	
Summary description	
<p>A mixed area of broadleaved woodland, Bracken and semi-improved acid grassland on gently sloping valley-sides. The woodland canopy is mainly Beech, Oak, Ash and Hazel. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebell and Bracken, with several other semi-natural woodland indicator species. Several small streams and areas of damp ground with willow scrub are also present. The site also includes several small fields of semi-improved acid grassland and Bracken.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Bracken stands with a species-rich ground flora.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved acid grassland.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ flush.</p> <p>Mature trees.</p> <p>Scrub.</p> <p>Stream.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The semi-improved acid grassland has the potential to support waxcap fungi.</p> <p>The marshy grassland/ flush vegetation may have 12 indicator species if surveyed more thoroughly.</p> <p>The grassland and Bracken areas have potential to support Violet-feeding fritillary butterflies.</p> <p>The habitat appears potentially suitable for Dormice, which have been recorded within 1km of the site.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Sheep graze most of the area. There is no sign of any current active woodland management. The site would therefore benefit from woodland management to enhance biodiversity.</p>	

Access/ community use

There are formal footpaths across some parts of the site and the northern woodland area is open access land. However, there is little sign of public access in most of the site.

Additional information

The sheep-grazed fields to the northwest of the site all appear to meet the SINC criteria for grassland with high densities of anthills and have clearly not been ploughed for many years. They are likely to support waxcap fungi. These fields 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 canopy and shrub species: *Fagus sylvatica*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus robur*, *Corylus avellana*, *Quercus petraea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Salix caprea*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Prunus avium*, *Cornus sanguinea*, *Ulmus glabra*, *Picea sitchensis*, *Pinus sylvestris*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Conopodium majus*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Geum urbanum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Allium ursinum*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Melica uniflora*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*.

Marshy grassland / flush species: *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Galium palustre*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Viola palustris*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Carex echinata*, *Carex remota*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum sp.*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

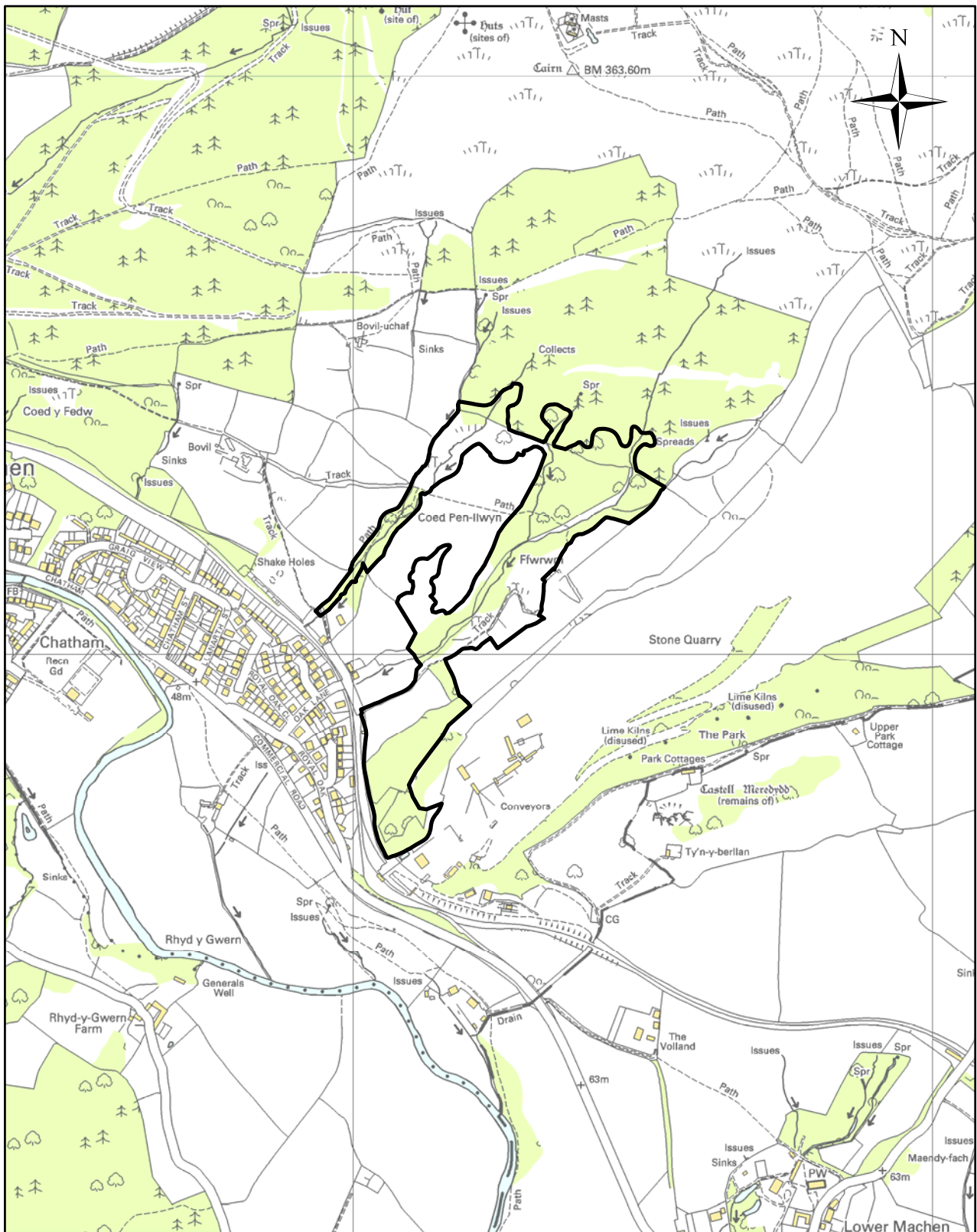
Semi-improved grassland in south-east fields: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Rumex acetosa*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Veronica chamaedrys*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Hypericum tetragonum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Fauna observations: Mole, Grey Squirrel, **Badger**, **Common Lizard**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, Willow Warbler, Nuthatch, Coal Tit, Great Tit, Wren, Greenfinch, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Mistle Thrush, Robin, Blackcap, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Holly Blue Butterfly, Green-veined White Butterfly, Peacock Butterfly.

Additional records from desk study: **Skylark**, **Kestrel**.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
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Coed Pen-Llyn, Machen 13 Ha

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Mae atgynhyrchu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.