

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.176</u>	SINC name: Tudor Gardens Quarry, Machen
Grid reference: ST207887	Area (hectares): 4
Survey date: 12 April & 16 May '07	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd)
(UDP policy reference: C11.176)	
Summary description	
<p>A stand of broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Oak, Alder, Ash, Beech and Sycamore, and a tangled understorey of Hazel, Holly, Bramble and young Beech. The southern part is classified as semi-natural ancient woodland. The northern part is a damp Alder-dominated woodland. The ground flora includes a moderately diverse assemblage of semi-natural woodland indicator species, in particular Bluebell, Yellow archangel and Wood anemone. A small stream runs through the wood. The site includes the remains of disused buildings and a shaded quarry face with water seeping over it, supporting a dense growth of Bryophytes.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Dormouse (reasonably assumed, given records in connected woodland nearby).</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Rock exposure.</p> <p>Stream.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>Proximity to the river may mean that it could provide resting sites for Otters.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>There was no evidence of any recent woodland management. Himalayan balsam is locally abundant in the damp northern part. There is also evidence of litter and vandalism. Fly tipping has resulted in garden plants including Fly honeysuckle and Snowberry establishing near to the houses. The introduction of appropriate management would enhance this site for biodiversity.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Two public footpaths cross the site. A number of informal paths are also present.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The woodland is continuous with Coed Cefn Pwll Ddu SINC (NH 3.177) to its eastern side and the amalgamation of these two SINC's should be considered at future SINC review. The woodland canopy along the northern boundary of the site is continuous with the woodland beside the River Rhymney SINC (NH 3.1). This strip of riverside woodland therefore also has the potential to support Dormouse. There is currently a narrow linear strip between this SINC and the river SINC, which should be considered for inclusion to connect the two sites at future 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 *italics*)

Woodland canopy and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Taxus baccata*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix caprea*, *Ribes uva-crispa*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Hedera helix*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Lonicera nitida*.

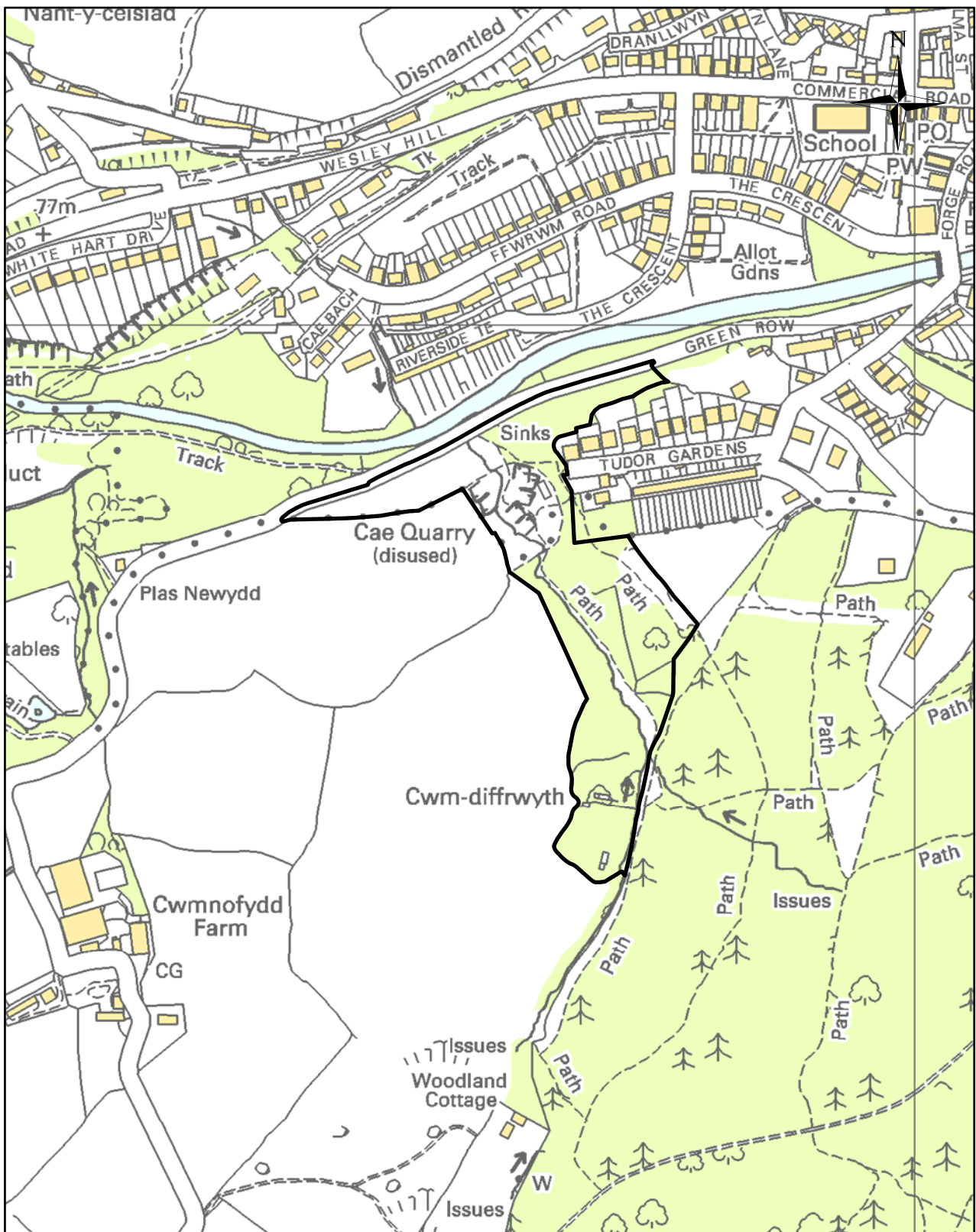
Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolon*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Allium ursinum*, *Arum maculatum*, *Viola riviniana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Veronica montana*, *Conopodium majus*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Isoetecium myosuroides*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Plagiochila cf asplenioides*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Aneura pinguis*, *Conocephalum conicum* and *Pellia sp.*. The most abundant bryophytes associated with the wet rock-face were *Thamnobryum alopecurum* and *Rhynchostegium riparioides*.

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, *Mole*, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Wren*, *Blackcap*, *Jay*, *Blackbird*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Chiffchaff*, *Mistle Thrush*.

Additional records from desk study: **Pipistrelle** (1986 record from on site), **Dormouse** (in adjacent woodland), **Otter** (from adjacent river), **Badger**, *Viola canina*, *Erica tetralix*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.176 (SINC 176)
Tudor Gardens Quarry, Machen 4 Ha

1:5,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg 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.