

| <b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.177</u></b>   | <b>SINC name: Coed Cefn Pwll-Du, south of Machen</b>          |
| <b>Grid reference: ST217878</b>  | <b>Area (hectares): 200</b>                                   |
| <b>Survey date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>   | <b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b> |
| <b>(UDP policy reference: C11.177)</b>   |   |
| <b>Summary description</b>   |   |
| <p>A large block of mainly broadleaved woodland with areas of coniferous plantation. The majority of the area is classed as semi-natural or replanted ancient woodland. Most of the broadleaved stands have a canopy comprising Ash, Oak and Hazel, with a diverse ground flora. Beech is locally dominant with a less diverse ground flora. Other canopy and shrub species include Sycamore, Field maple, Holly and Hawthorn. The blocks of conifers comprise predominantly Spruce, Larch and Western hemlock. Most have a ground flora of sparse Bluebells. There is evidence of old mine-workings throughout the woodland. In the north of the SINC, some of the woodland has developed on colliery spoil. Limestone-spoil, former quarries and lime kilns occur in the south of the area, and support several plant species characteristic of limestone. A series of clearings around disused lead-mines at ST216877 supports a diverse grassland flora and offers good habitat for a range of reptile and invertebrate species. To the west side of the woodland is a field of semi-improved grassland that includes flush vegetation and a pond (ST206876). Ponds are also present at the western edge (ST204880) and in the north of the SINC (ST214886). A series of shaded pools at the northern edge of the SINC are stagnant and stained by ochre from the adjacent colliery spoil. A small field of semi-improved grassland is present in the north of the SINC.</p> |   |
| <b>Qualifying features</b>   |   |
| <p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Dormouse.</p>   |   |
| <b>Secondary features</b>  |   |
| <p>Semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>Marshy grassland/ flush.</p> <p>Ponds.</p> <p>Rock exposures.</p>   |   |
| <b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>   |   |
| <p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats (possibly for Greater and Lesser horseshoe bats). Some old mine-workings could potentially offer hibernation sites.</p> <p>Reptiles (particularly Adders) are likely to occur in the clearings around the disused lead-mines.</p> <p>The woodland and ponds may provide foraging and breeding habitat for Great crested newts.</p> <p>The semi-improved grassland in the west of the site may support waxcap fungi.</p>   |   |

### **Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)**

Most of the area is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission Wales. Sheep graze the semi-improved grassland and flush vegetation at the western side of the SINC, and Donkeys graze the field in the northern part. In the north of the SINC, several problems are associated with the proximity to the built up area, including evidence of fly tipping, litter, fires and vandalism. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam are also present.

### **Access/ community use**

Several public footpaths cross the site and most of it is open to public access. Some of the paths are used for mountain biking.

### **Additional information**

The woodland is continuous with SINC NH 3.176 to its western side and the amalgamation of these two sites should be considered at future review. The southwestern arm of the SINC surrounds disused Cwm Leyshon Quarry, which 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: *Quercus robur*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Euonymus europaeus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Prunus avium*, *Taxus baccata*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix caprea*, *Ribes uva-crispa*, *Hedera helix*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Picea sp.*, *Larix sp.*, *Pseudotsuga heterophylla*.

Woodland ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Allium ursinum*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Galium odoratum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Carex pendula*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Mnium hornum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Polytrichum formosum*. Several species were particularly associated with the former lime-kilns west of Draethen. These included *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, *Clematis vitalba*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Viola reichenbachiana*, *Polypodium sp.*, *Eurhynchium striatum*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Anomodon viticulosus*, *Ctenidium molluscum*.

Wetland species associated with ponds in west of SINC. *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Carex remota*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Alisma sp.*, *Callitriche sp.*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Nymphaea sp.*, *Salix caprea*, *Sphagnum denticulatum*.

Wetland species associated with pond in north of SINC. *Juncus effusus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Carex remota*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Callitriche sp.*

Semi-improved grassland species in donkey field north of SINC: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Trifolium repens*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Carex caryophylla*, *Potentilla sterilis*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Centaureum erythraea*.

Semi-improved and marshy grassland / flush in west of SINC. *Agrostis capillaris*, *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Sphagnum cf denticulatum*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Carex cf echinata*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Juncus effusus*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Galium palustre*, *Juncus bulbosus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Anagallis tenella*, *Cardamine pratensis*.

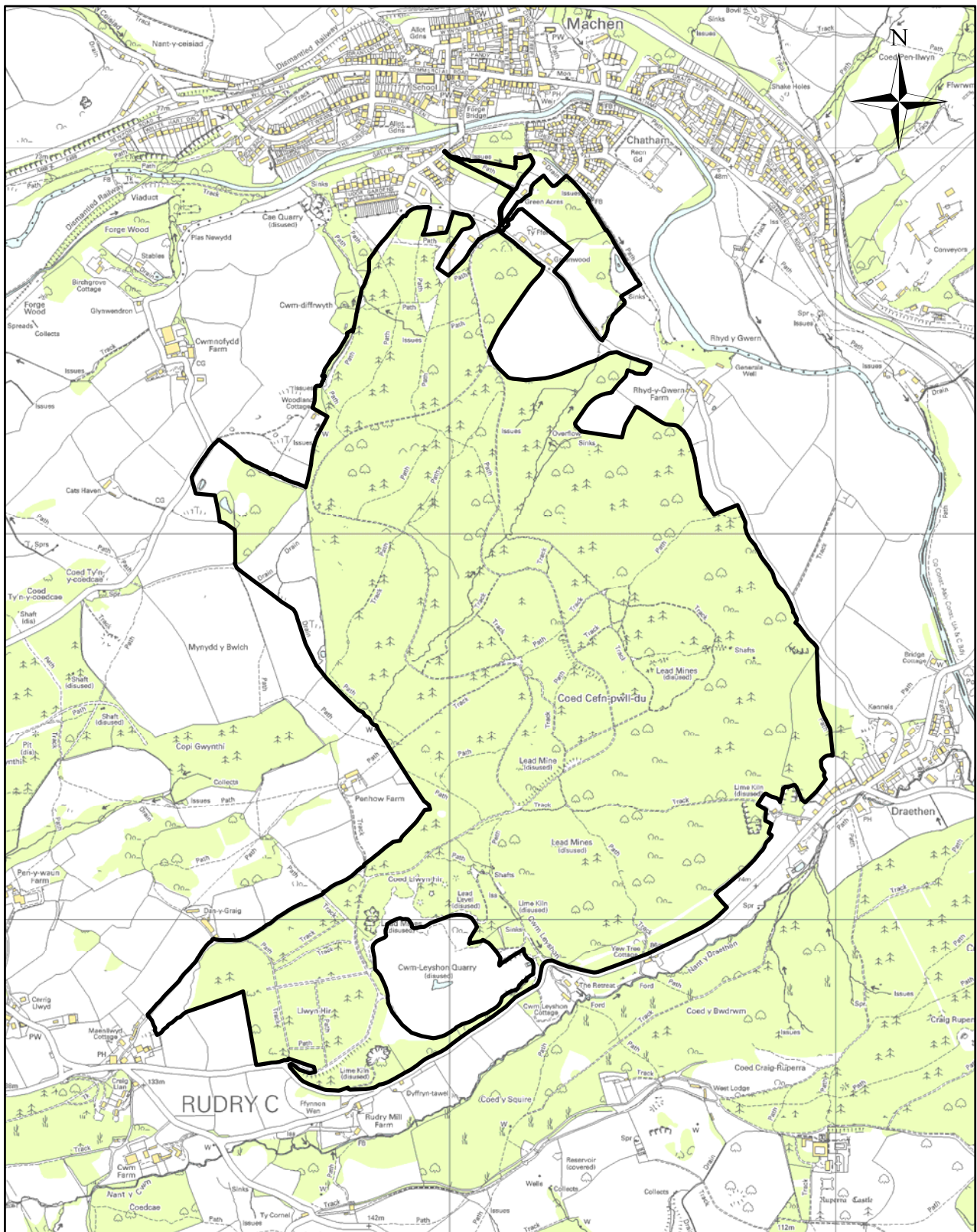
Grassland species associated with lead-mine clearings: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Sanguisorba minor*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Thymus praecox*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Cladonia spp.*

Fauna observations: **Badger**, **Bullfinch**, **Rabbit**, **Grey Squirrel**, **Common Frog**, **Buzzard**, **Green Woodpecker**, **Song Thrush**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Nuthatch**, **Wren**, **Blackbird**, **Great Tit**, **Chiffchaff**, **Dunnock**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Brimstone Butterfly**, **Peacock Butterfly**.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse**, **Lesser Horseshoe Bat**, **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (1976 record from forest clearings), **Adder**, **Common Lizard**, **Slow Worm**, several **bat** records from nearby areas, **Crossbill**, **Nightjar** (within 1km), **Red Wood Ant** (within 1km), **Common Spotted Orchid**, **Alder Buckthorn**, **Fen Bedstraw**, **Hoary Plantain**, **Bird Cherry**.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.177 (SINC 177)  
Coed Cefn-Pwll-Du, South of Machen 206 Ha

1:15,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

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.