

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.186</u>	SINC name: Coed y Squire and Coedcae, Rudry
Grid reference: ST211866	Area (hectares): 31
Survey date: 11th April 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: C11.178)	
Summary description	
<p>Two blocks of broadleaved woodland linked by a tree-lined stream. The majority is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland and supports a diverse ground flora. Coedcae and Coed y Squire have a canopy of Oak, Ash, Hazel and Beech, with occasional Alder, Field maple, Yew and Wild cherry. Brambles are locally abundant, particularly at the margins and areas recently coppiced in Coedcae. Sycamore is locally common in Coed y Squire. Beside the stream, south of Rudry Mill Farm, Alders dominate the woodland with a marshy ground flora, and there is a small field of semi-improved grassland.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Dormouse.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Semi-improved grassland.</p> <p>Veteran trees.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats (possibly including Greater and Lesser horseshoe bats from nearby roosts).</p> <p>The woodland is likely to provide foraging habitat for Great crested newt, which has been recorded in a pond to the east of the site.</p> <p>The semi-improved grassland south of Rudry Mill Farm is likely to support waxcap fungi.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>Coed Cymru has produced a woodland management plan, which includes the removal of Rhododendron and selective thinning. Horses graze the semi-improved grassland and have access to the central area of wet woodland. Japanese knotweed occurs just outside the SINC, near the buildings at the eastern site boundary.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Several public footpaths cross the site.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The woodland is continuous with Coed Craig Ruperra SINC (NH 3.178) to the east.</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 (similar in most areas): *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Betula pubescens*, *Prunus avium*, *Taxus baccata*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Salix caprea*, *Hedera helix*.

Ground flora species (similar in most areas): ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Allium ursinum*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Galium odoratum*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Carex cf strigosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Isoetes macrospora*.

Wet woodland species south of Rudry Mill Farm and associated with stream banks: *Alnus glutinosa*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix caprea*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Allium ursinum*, *Caltha palustris*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Valeriana dioica*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Galium odoratum*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Oenanthe crocata*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Pellia sp.*, *Conocephalum conicum*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Rhynchostegium riparioides*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*.

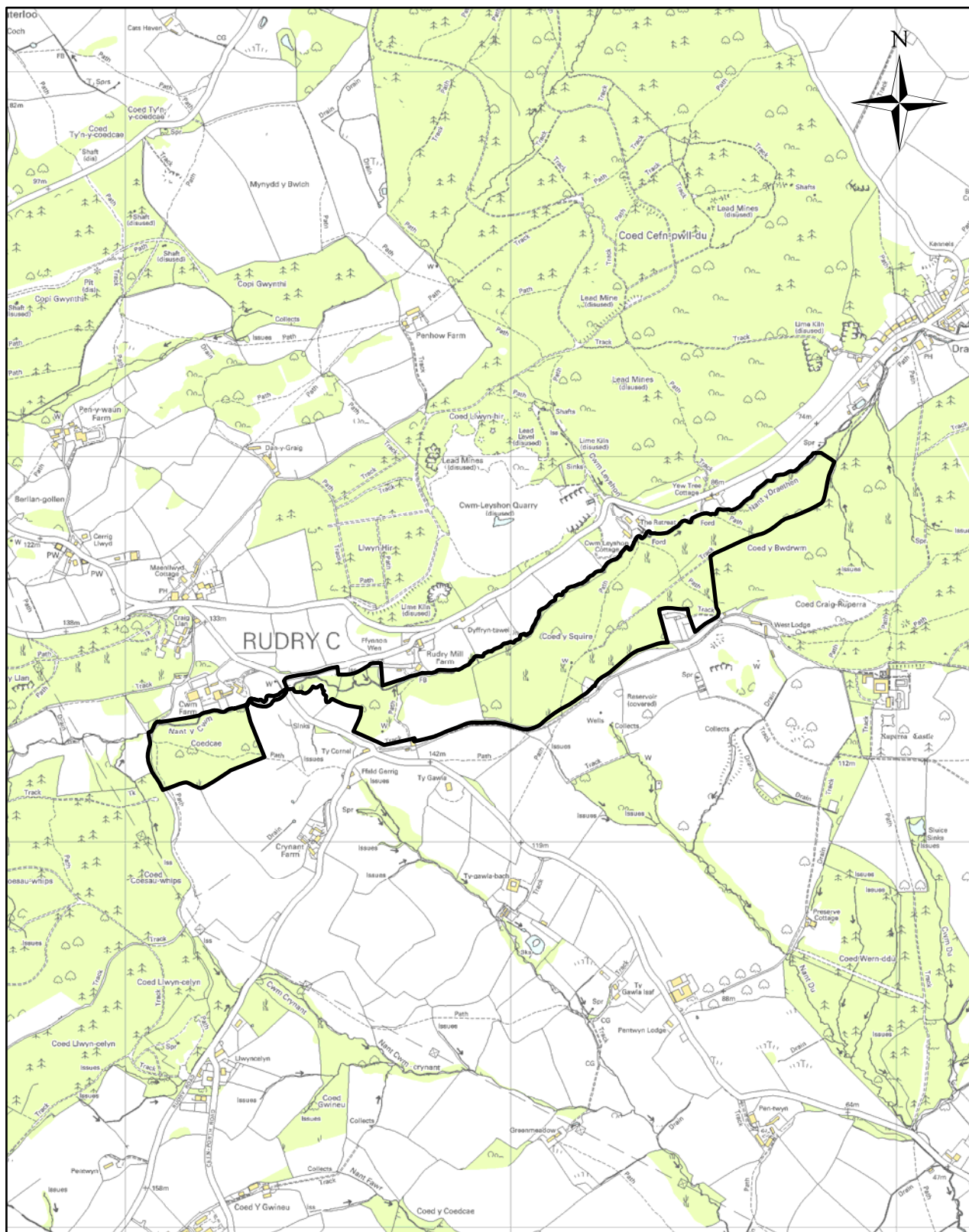
Grassland species south of Rudry mill Farm: *Luzula campestris*, *Festuca rubra*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, *Trifolium repens*, *Conopodium majus*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Primula vulgaris*, ***Rhinanthus minor***, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Rhynchospora alba*.

Fauna observations: **Badger**, *Rabbit*, *Grey Squirrel*, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, *Nuthatch*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Great Tit*, *Brimstone Butterfly*, *Peacock Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse** (in Coedcae, and woodlands adjacent to Coed y Squire), **Great Crested Newt** (in pond adjacent to eastern boundary), several **bat** records from nearby areas.

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Coed y Squire and Coedcae, Rudry 31 Ha

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