

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.167</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Ty-Melyn Coppice, south of Watford Park, Caerphilly</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST144849</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 5</b>
<b>Survey date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: C11.183)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
Broadleaved woodland with a semi-natural ground flora, partly on old mine-workings. The canopy comprises mainly Oak, Beech and Sycamore, with an understorey of Hazel, Holly, Bramble and locally, Rhododendron. The damp grassland in the east of the site is lightly grazed by horses and includes scattered trees of Willow and Oak. The grassland slope north of the river is grazed much shorter, also by horses, and supports a moderate diversity of waxcap fungi.	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.	
Grassland with more than 8 species of waxcap fungi.	
Presence of Dormice (reasonably assumed, given confirmed records in connected habitats).	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Stream.	
Pond.	
Damp neutral grassland.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
Likely to support Great Crested Newt (confirmed records within 100m west of the site).	
Likely to provide good foraging and roosting opportunities for bats.	
Likely to support reptiles and amphibians, particularly in the grassland and scrub near to the pond.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
The grassland and scrub habitats in the centre of the site appear to be being managed for nature conservation, with a light grazing regime and presence of a pond and nest boxes. The woodland appears unmanaged, although the southern part included a disused enclosure (possibly for pheasants). Rhododendron is established through much of the enclosure and may spread into the rest of the woodland. Fly tipping is currently a problem and has contributed to the spread of garden plants, including Fly honeysuckle and Montbretia into the roadside margins.	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
There is no evidence of public access to the woodland. The only footpath runs through the horse-grazed field along the northern boundary.	

## Additional information

Further survey of fungi may require the SINC boundary to be extended further into the northern field.

### 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*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Hedera helix*, *Rosa canina*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pendula*, *Salix caprea*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Allium ursinum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Arum maculatum*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Conopodium majus*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex cf strigosa*, *Carex remota*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Pellia sp.*, *Conocephalum sp.*, *Isoetes macrospora*, *Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*.

Grassland species: *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Conopodium majus*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Calligonella cuspidata*, *Scleropodium purum*.

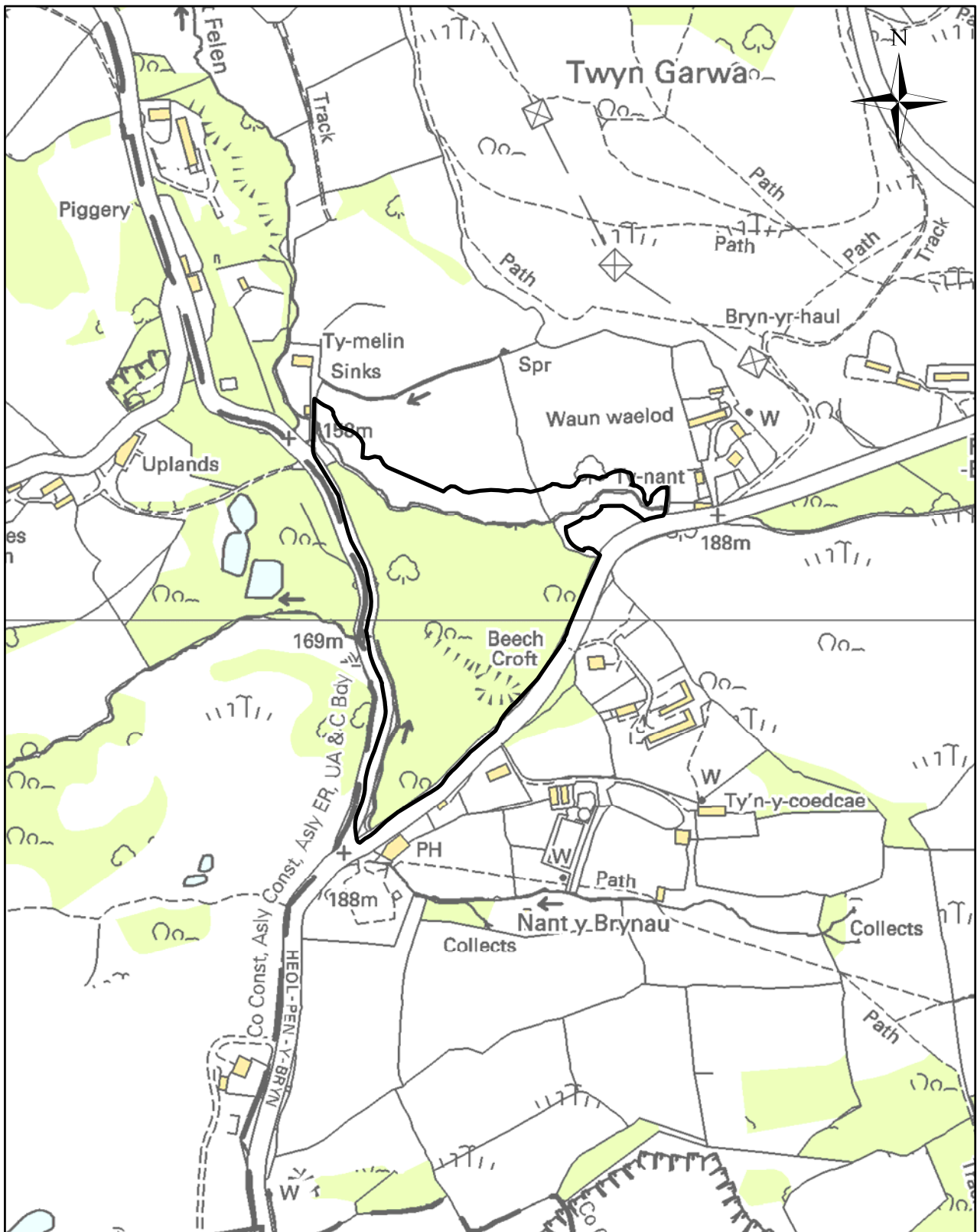
Wetland species associated with pond: *Potamogeton cf polygonifolius*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Juncus effusus*, *Typha latifolia*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Ranunculus flammula*.

Fauna observations: *Grey Squirrel*, *Mole*, **Buzzard**, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Nuthatch*, *Chiffchaff*, *Long-tailed Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Wren*, *Greenfinch*, *Chaffinch*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Dormouse** (in connected nearby woodlands), **Pipistrelle bat**, **Great Crested Newt** (within 100m of the site). Grassland fungi in northern field include *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*, *H. chlorophana*, *H. citrinovirens*, *H. flavipes*, *H. glutinipes*, *H. intermedia*, *H. pratensis*, *H. psittacina* and *H. virginea*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.167 (SINC 183)  
Ty-Melyn Coppice, South of Watford Park, Caerphilly 5 Ha

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