

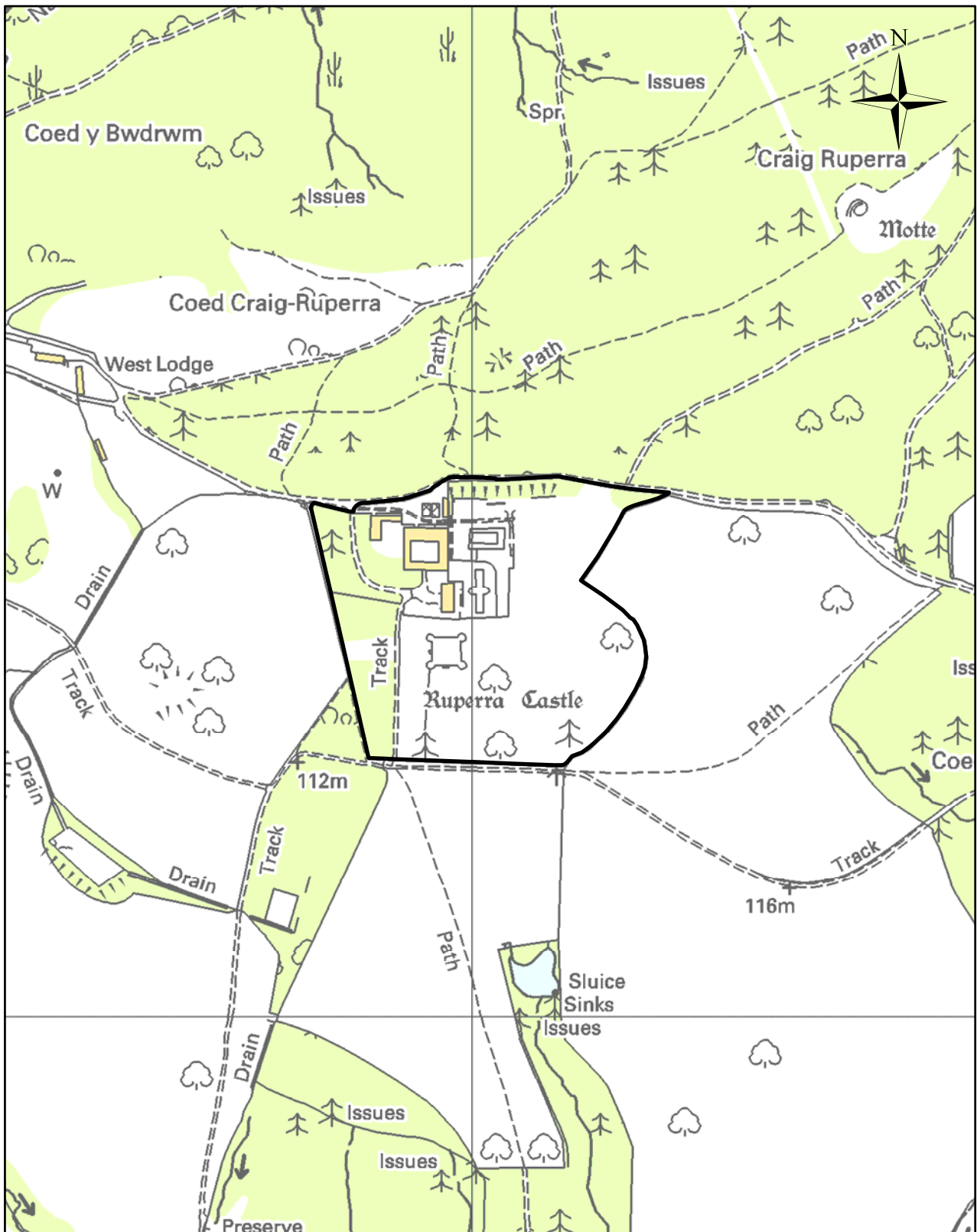
| Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council | |
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| <u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.179</u> | SINC name: Ruperra Castle and Grounds, Draethen |
| Grid reference: ST219864 | Area (hectares): 6 |
| Survey date: 10th April 2007 | Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.) |
| (UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 188) | |
| Summary description | |
| A castle constructed in the 1620s with modifications over the subsequent centuries, but derelict since the 1940s. The land within the walled castle grounds supports an old, heavily vegetated pond, grassland grazed by horses and sheep, large trees and scrub. Other buildings present within the grounds include the old farmhouse, stable block, generator house and summerhouse. All buildings, including the castle, are Grade II listed. | |
| Qualifying features | |
| Presence of roosting Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats. | |
| Presence of Great Crested Newts. | |
| Secondary features | |
| Presence of other bat species. | |
| Large, over-mature trees. | |
| Potential value/ unconfirmed features | |
| Possible presence of Dormouse (known to occur in adjacent woodland). | |
| Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement) | |
| The site is currently in a state of neglect, but subject to development proposals that include mitigation for effects on the resident bats and newts. Horses graze the grassland within the walled castle grounds. | |
| Access/ community use | |
| A footpath runs around the west and southern boundary of the site. The area shows no signs of use by the public. | |
| Additional information | |
| The castle is of historic and cultural significance. | |
| Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species) | |
| (LBAP species shown in bold , species confirmed by 2007 survey in <i>italics</i>) | |
| <u>Trees and shrubs within castle grounds:</u> <i>Quercus robur</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Quercus ilex</i> , <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> , <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> , <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , <i>Malus sp.</i> , <i>Cedrus sp.</i> , <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> . | |
| <u>Wetland species associated with the pond:</u> <i>Elodea canadensis</i> , <i>Typha latifolia</i> , <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> , <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> . | |
| <u>Fauna observations:</u> <i>Rabbit</i> , <i>Grey Squirrel</i> , Buzzard , <i>Wren</i> , <i>Blackbird</i> , <i>Peacock Butterfly</i> , <i>Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly</i> , <i>Comma Butterfly</i> . | |

Additional records from desk study: **Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats, Common Pipistrelle bat, Brown long-eared bat, Dormouse** (in adjoining woodland areas), **Great Crested Newt.**

Palmate Newt, Brown Hare (235m north west in Coed Craig-Ruperra).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.179 (SINC 188)
Ruperra Castle & Grounds, Draethen 6 Ha

1:5,000



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Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatod rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron. Mae atgynhyrchu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron.
Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sifil. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, 100025372, 2008.