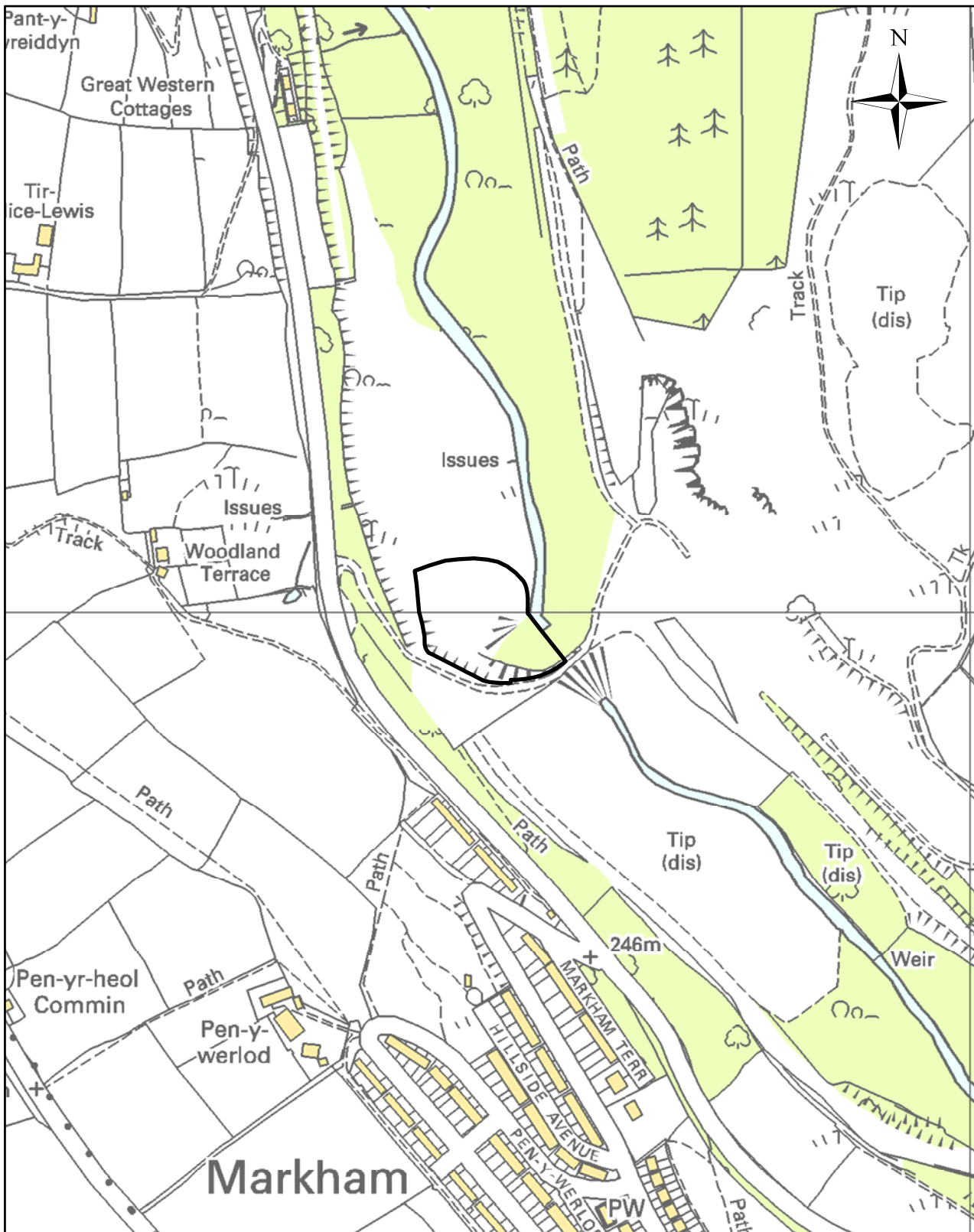


Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.36</u>	SINC name: Markham Colliery, north of Markham
Grid reference: SO166019	Area (hectares): 1
Survey date: 3rd August 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 189)	
Summary description	
A disused mine adit at the former Markham Colliery, which is used by Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The partially back-filled entrance is semi-circular with a brick-lined roof. The SINC includes the adjacent tree-lined Sirhowy river valley, since this is likely to be an important commuting route to and from the bat roost.	
Qualifying features	
Presence of roosting Lesser Horseshoe Bats.	
Secondary features	
Riverbank side trees.	
Partially vegetated colliery spoil.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
Possible presence of other bat species.	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
The colliery is disused but has been subject to some remediation/ landscaping work. A grille to prevent public access covers the adit entrance. Planting of trees near to but not blocking the entrance could be considered, particularly to link the adit with wooded areas nearby. Japanese knotweed occurs in other parts of the colliery site.	
Access/ community use	
There is no formal public access to the site, but it shows signs of informal access.	
Additional information	
The site is designated because of the use of the adit by roosting bats. The surrounding area is only included to provide a buffer around the adit and ensure that habitat links to the wider countryside are protected. The site is adjacent to the River Sirhowy SINC (NH 3.11).	
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 near the adit and nearby river:</u> <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Betula pubescens</i> , <i>Larix sp.</i> , <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> , <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> .	
<u>Plant species associated with the disused colliery spoil near the adit entrance:</u> <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> , <i>Tussilago farfara</i> , <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> , <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> .	
<u>Additional records from desk study:</u> Lesser Horseshoe Bats (Countryside Council for Wales and Caerphilly County Borough Council record). Bat records from nearby urban areas.	

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.36 (SINC 189)
Markham Colliery, North of Markham 1 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.