

| <b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>   |   |
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| <b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.80</u></b>   | <b>SINC name: Enterprise Way Grassland, Pontllanfraith</b>    |
| <b>Grid reference: ST184963</b>   | <b>Area (hectares): 4</b>                                     |
| <b>Survey date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>   | <b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b> |
| <b>(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 190)</b>   |   |
| <b>Summary description</b>  |   |
| <p>The western part of the SINC is a block of broadleaved woodland with a canopy of Oak and Beech, and a tangled understorey including Bramble, Holly, Hazel, Bird cherry and Hawthorn. The ground flora is very sparse in the centre of the wood, but a number of semi-natural indicator species are present at the margins. A recently planted belt of trees beside the recently constructed road, the “Sirhowy Enterprise Way”, links the woodland to habitats further east. Grassland plants including Great burnet and Meadowsweet still occur along this strip. The two eastern fields support species-rich, neutral grassland grading to rush-dominated marshy grassland in the lower parts. The flora includes Devil’s-bit scabious, Meadow thistle, Saw-wort and Purple moor-grass. A belt of young and transplanted broadleaved trees has been planted along the northern edge of the field, proving a connection to a purpose-built Dormouse/ bat crossing point over the road. The disused railway and south-facing bank along the southern side of the fields includes a diverse mix of scrub and grassland species.</p> |   |
| <b>Qualifying features</b>  |   |
| Broadleaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.  |   |
| Marshy grassland with at least 14 indicator species.  |   |
| Neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.  |   |
| Post-industrial land with at least 20 indicator species.  |   |
| <b>Secondary features</b>   |   |
| Scrub.  |   |
| Bat roosts.   |   |
| <b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>  |   |
| The site is likely to provide good foraging and roosting habitat for bats.  |   |
| The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, potentially including Marsh fritillary butterflies.  |   |
| The grassland and post-industrial areas are very likely to support reptiles.  |   |
| <b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>   |   |
| <p>The habitats are currently subject to management as part of the mitigation package for the recently constructed Sirhowy Enterprise Way. This mainly consists of after-care for the newly planted trees. The trees will eventually form a connection for bats and potentially for Dormice, but will result in the loss of a strip of grassland around the field margins. The grassland habitats are no longer grazed and are at risk of becoming dominated by coarse grasses and scrub. The new road passes the site</p>  |   |

in a cutting, which is also likely to result in a loss of diversity as the site dries out. Reintroduction of light grazing would be beneficial for biodiversity, although this is constrained by the presence of the new road and surrounding urban development. The fields would probably be suitable for a horse to graze.

### Access/ community use

A public footpath passes the southern side of the western field and crosses north over the road. There are also informal paths through fields and disused railway line.

### Additional information

The scrub at the southern margin provides a habitat link to a small wooded common south of the industrial estate. This may be valuable as a commuting/ foraging route for bats and other wildlife. This 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 and tree and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Quercus petraea*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pubescens*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Salix cinerea*, *Salix caprea*, *Prunus padus*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Malus sp.*, *Hedera helix*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Rosa arvensis*.

Woodland ground flora: *Urtica dioica*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Geum urbanum*, ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Senecio aquaticus*, *Galium palustre*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Holcus mollis*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Atrichum undulatum*, *Dicranella heteromalla*.

Grassland species (including neutral grassland grading into marshy grassland): *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Galium palustre*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Viola palustris*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Serratula tinctoria*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Hypericum maculatum*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Alchemilla cf xanthochlora*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex panicea*, *Carex flacca*, *Carex hirta*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus conglomeratus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus bulbosus*.

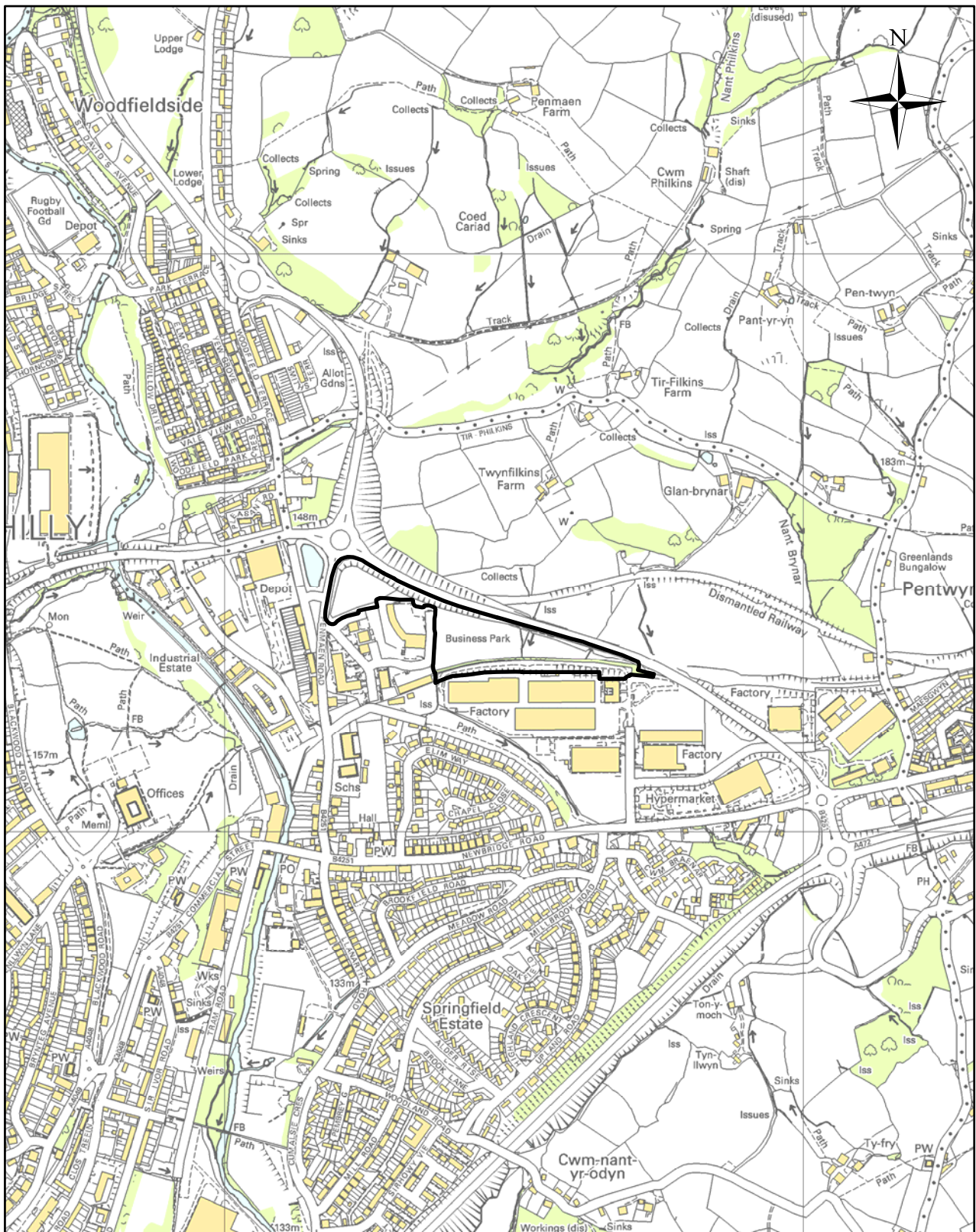
Disused railway line species: *Salix cinerea*, *Salix caprea*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Betula pubescens*, *Rosa arvensis*, *Rosa canina*, *Quercus petraea*, *Hedera helix*, *Quercus robur*, *Cotoneaster sp.*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Stellaria graminea*, *Lathyrus pratensis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Trifolium campestre*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Hieracium sp.*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Euphrasia sp.*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Trifolium dubium*, *Vicia cracca*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, ***Epipactis helleborine***, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Pimpinella saxifraga*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Festuca ovina*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex remota*, *Carex flacca*, *Juncus inflexus*, *Homalothecium lutescens*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*.

Fauna observations: *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Speckled Wood Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Large Skipper Butterfly*, *Burnet moths*.

Additional species noted from desk study: **Dormouse** (in western woodland), **Bats** (Brown Long-eared bats roost north of Enterprise Way and forage over SINC area). **Otter** >300m west in Sirhowy river.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.80 (SINC 190)  
Enterprise Way Grasslands, Pontllanfraith 4 Ha

1:10,000



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