

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP policy Ref. NH 3.54</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Land South of Gelligaer Infants School</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST138968</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 4</b>
<b>Survey date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 191)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>Four cattle-grazed fields comprising mainly damp semi-improved acid grassland, grading into marshy grassland towards its eastern side. Tall hedges, mostly bordered by ditches, divide the fields. These contain mature trees of Oak and Alder, and a moderately diverse ground flora. Bramble, Willow and Alder scrub occurs patchily, particularly near the field boundaries. The majority of the grassland includes a high density of Devil's-bit scabious and supports the Marsh fritillary butterfly, apart from the most southerly field, which currently comprises species-poor semi-improved grassland, but is included as part of the management unit and for its potential to support the Marsh fritillary.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p> <p>Species-rich semi-improved acid grassland with at least 7 indicator species.</p> <p>Presence of Marsh Fritillary and significant numbers of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterflies.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Mature hedgerows with moderately diverse ground flora.</p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The site is likely to be of value for foraging bats and the mature trees may provide roosting opportunities for some species.</p> <p>Reptiles could potentially use the field and scrub margins.</p> <p>The site is likely to support a high diversity of invertebrates, possibly including uncommon species such as Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Cattle graze the area at levels that seem optimal for Marsh fritillary butterflies. Litter has been thrown over the fence from the adjacent industrial estate and there are numerous glass bottles in the southeastern corner of the site and the adjacent area of scrub.</p>	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
<p>There is no public access to the site, although there are signs of informal access (particularly from the eastern side).</p>	
<b>Additional information</b>	
<p>The southern field supports species-poor semi-improved grassland that does not meet SINC</p>	

selection criteria in its own right, but has been retained within the SINC because it contains Devil's-bit scabious and has the potential to support Marsh fritillary butterflies; it also forms part of the single management unit. The field to the east of the SINC boundary is currently dominated by tall herbs and scrub, but has potential for restoration to marshy grassland with suitable scrub clearance and restoration of grazing. This should be considered for inclusion at future SINC review subject to the re-introduction of appropriate management to restore the grassland.

### **Species list (Dominant species, SINC Criteria, RDB or other notable indicator species)**

(LBAP species shown in **bold**, species confirmed by 2007 survey in *italics*)

Hedge and scrub woody species: *Quercus robur*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Salix cinerea*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Betula pubescens*, *Hedera helix*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Frangula alnus*, *Rosa canina*, *Salix caprea*, *Ulex gallii*.

Hedge ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Geum urbanum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Viola riviniana*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Holcus mollis*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Scleropodium purum*.

Grassland/ marshy grassland species: *There is a gradual transition from dry semi-improved acid grassland to marshy grassland; the drier areas support the following:* *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Trifolium pratense*, *Potentilla reptans*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Galium saxatile*, *Trifolium repens*, *Pilosella officinarum*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Festuca rubra*, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Lolium perenne*, *Festuca ovina*, *Nardus stricta*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Rhynchospora squarrosa*.

*The damper areas support the following:* *Cirsium palustre*, *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Hypericum maculatum*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Galium palustre*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Stellaria alsine*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Cirsium dissectum*, *Viola palustris*, *Galium saxatile*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Agrostis canina*, *Festuca ovina*, *Glyceria fluitans*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex panicea*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Sphagnum denticulatum/ inundatum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Calliergonella cuspidata* and possibly *Sphagnum cf angustifolium*.

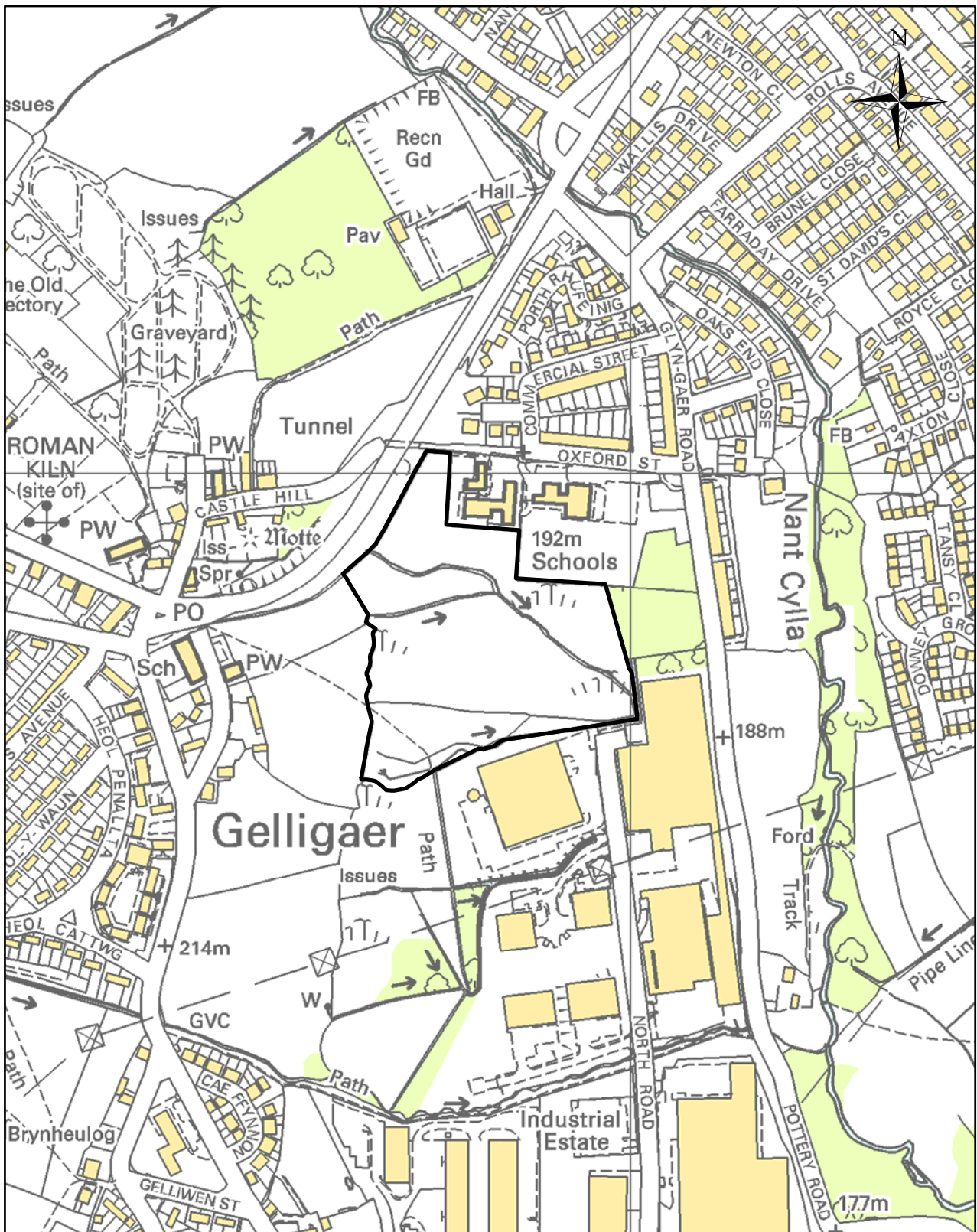
Fauna observations: **House Sparrow**, *Blackcap*, *Willow Warbler*, *Chiffchaff*, **Common Frog**, *Comma Butterfly*, *Small Heath Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, *cf. Small Skipper Butterfly*, **Emperor Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly**, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly** (Butterfly Conservation South Wales), **Dactylorhiza maculata**, *Lathyrus linifolius*.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation  
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.54 (SINC 191)

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Land South of Gelligaer Infants School, Gelligaer 4 Ha



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