

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.178</u>	SINC name: Coed Craig Ruperra, east of Draethen
Grid reference: ST223866	Area (hectares): 80
Survey date: 11th April 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 193)	
Summary description	
<p>Semi-natural and replanted ancient woodland which is currently subject to management to remove conifers, Rhododendron and other non-native shrubs to restore native broadleaved woodland. Mature broadleaved woodland currently dominates the western part of the area, while conifers dominate the northern slopes. The rest of the area supports a very mixed cover, with much of the former canopy having been felled and in varying states of regeneration/new tree planting. Bramble, Birch saplings and Bracken, locally with dense Bluebells below, are a significant component of the flora in most of the cleared area. The woodland is of particular significance as it provides a valuable foraging habitat for the Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats from a nearby roost. It also links closely with other woodlands, providing good direct flight corridors for bats.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Presence of Dormouse.</p> <p>Important foraging habitat for Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland with an assemblage of indicator species.</p> <p>Replanted woodland retaining a range of woodland indicators.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Scrub.</p> <p>Pond.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Trees within the site may provide roosting opportunities for bats.</p> <p>The area is likely to support good numbers of reptiles, particularly Common lizard.</p> <p>The new pond has potential to support amphibians as it develops, potentially including Great Crested Newt (known to occur in adjacent SINC NH 3.179).</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area is managed by the Ruperra Conservation Trust, which is restoring the area through a programme of active woodland management, including biodiversity enhancement as a primary objective. The Trust have created a new pond, planted hedgerows along footpaths and restored areas of heathland.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>There are several paths crossing the site, and information boards for visitors. Volunteers carry out much of the restoration work through the 'Friends of Ruperra' group.</p>	

Additional information

The area includes features of archaeological significance, including an iron age hill-fort and a motte. Nearby areas of coniferous plantation may also meet SINC criteria as important foraging habitat for Horseshoe Bats and these should be considered for inclusion at future 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*)

Canopy and shrub species: *Quercus robur*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Betula pendula*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Prunus laurocerasus*, *Prunus lusitanica*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Salix caprea*, *Rosa canina*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Larix sp.*, *Picea sp.*, *Calluna vulgaris*, *Cytisus scoparius*.

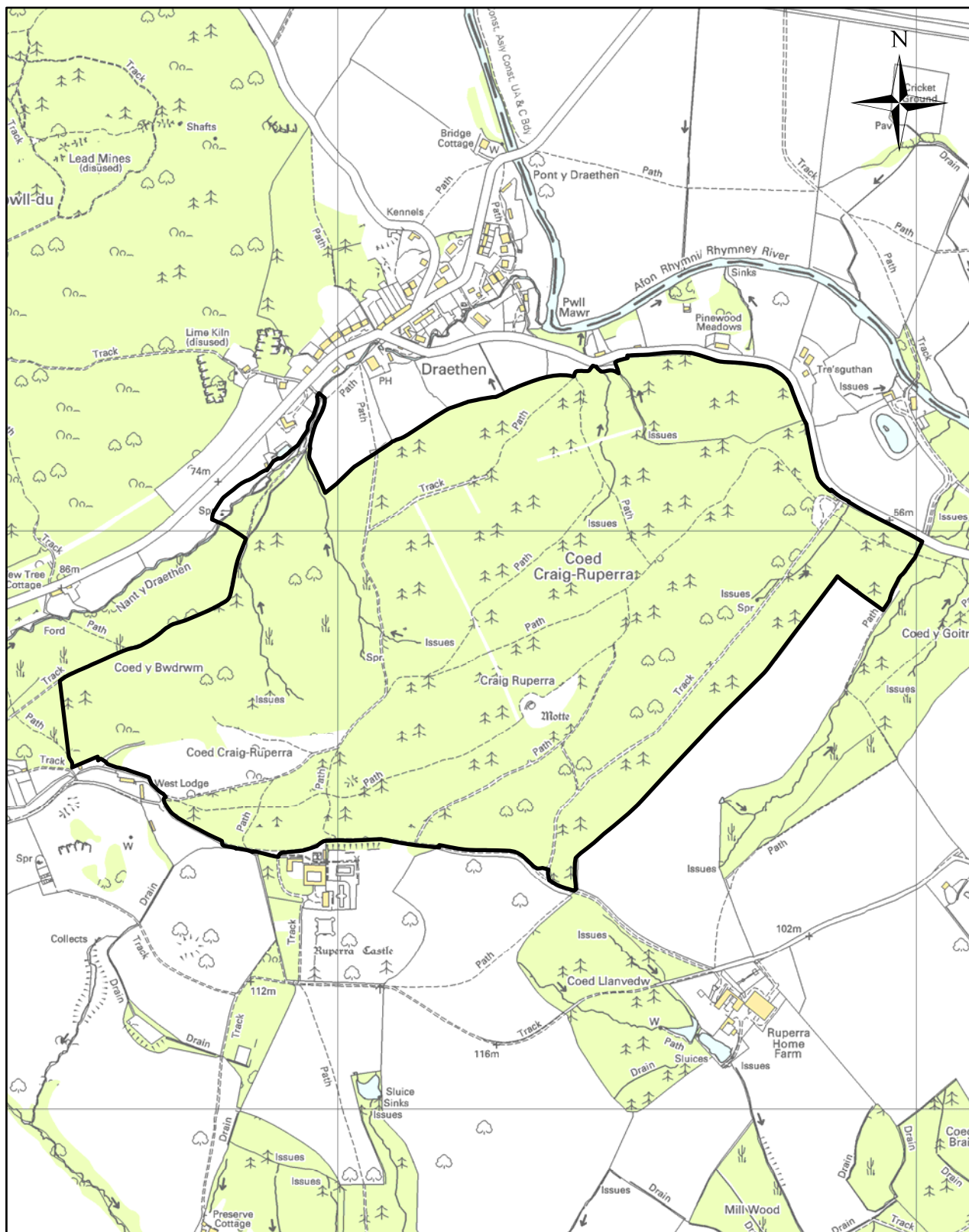
Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Allium ursinum*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Arum maculatum*, *Anemone nemorosa*, *Circaea lutetiana*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Viola riviniana*, *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Conopodium majus*, *Geum urbanum*, *Cardamine hirsuta*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Holcus mollis*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, *Carex sylvatica*, *Carex remota*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Mnium hornum*, *Kindbergia praelonga*, *Campylopus introflexus*.

Fauna observations: *Rabbit*, *Grey Squirrel*, **Buzzard**, **Song Thrush**, **Green Woodpecker**, *Great Spotted Woodpecker*, *Chiffchaff*, *Wren*, *Blackbird*, *Robin*, *Comma Butterfly*, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Brimstone Butterfly*.

Additional records from desk study: **Dormouse**, **Common Pipistrelle bat**, **Badger**, **Goshawk**, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*. **Greater Horseshoe Bat** and **Lesser Horseshoe Bat** (roost record for both species at Ruperra Castle and a Lesser Horseshoe roost to west of Draethen). **Otter** records from River Rhymney and Nant y Draethen. **Slow Worm** and **Adder** (records from Draethen Village).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.178 (SINC 193)
Coed Craig Ruperra, Draethen 80 Ha

1:10,000



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Caerphilly County Borough Council, 100025372, 2008.

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