

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.39</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Land opposite St Sannan's Church, Bedwellty</b>
<b>Grid reference: ST167003</b>	<b>Area (hectares): 2</b>
<b>Survey date: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007</b>	<b>Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)</b>
<b>(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 194)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>This is a horse-grazed field sloping gently to the northeast. Its upper parts support dry semi-improved neutral grassland with scattered Bracken. Its lower parts grade into marshy grassland with rushes and locally abundant Devil's-bit scabious. There is a small pond, which was almost dry at the time of the survey. The field has hedges around each of its boundaries.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
Semi-improved neutral grassland with at least 8 indicator species.	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
Marshy grassland.	
Scrub.	
Bracken.	
Hedges.	
Pond.	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
The abundant Devil's-bit scabious has potential to support Marsh fritillary butterflies.	
The field margins and scattered Bracken have potential to support reptiles.	
The short grassland is likely to support waxcap fungi.	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
Horses heavily graze the whole field. Bracken is locally abundant and some Bracken control would be beneficial. The reduction in amount of Bracken would mean a slight overall reduction in grazing pressure on the rest of the site, which would enhance biodiversity.	
<b>Access/ community use</b>	
A road passes the western boundary and a footpath crosses the middle of the field.	
<b>Additional information</b>	
The adjoining fields east of the site (ST168004 and 169003) support semi-improved neutral grassland, which were closed for hay at the time of the survey. They support a moderate diversity of plant species and appear to come close to meeting SINC selection criteria. These 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*)

Tree and shrub species (including hedges): *Quercus petraea*, *Corylus avellana*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Salix cinerea*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Malus* sp., *Rubus fruticosus*

*The hedge ground flora includes Stellaria holostea, Viola riviniana, Vicia sepium, Pteridium aquilinum and Hedera helix.*

Grassland species (combined list for the whole field, which exhibits a gradual transition from dry neutral grassland to marshy grassland): *Succisa pratensis*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Crepis capillaris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Leontodon hispidus*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Mentha arvensis*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Persicaria hydropiper*, *Ranunculus flammula*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Carex ovalis*, *Luzula campestris*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus acutiflorus*, *Scleropodium purum*.

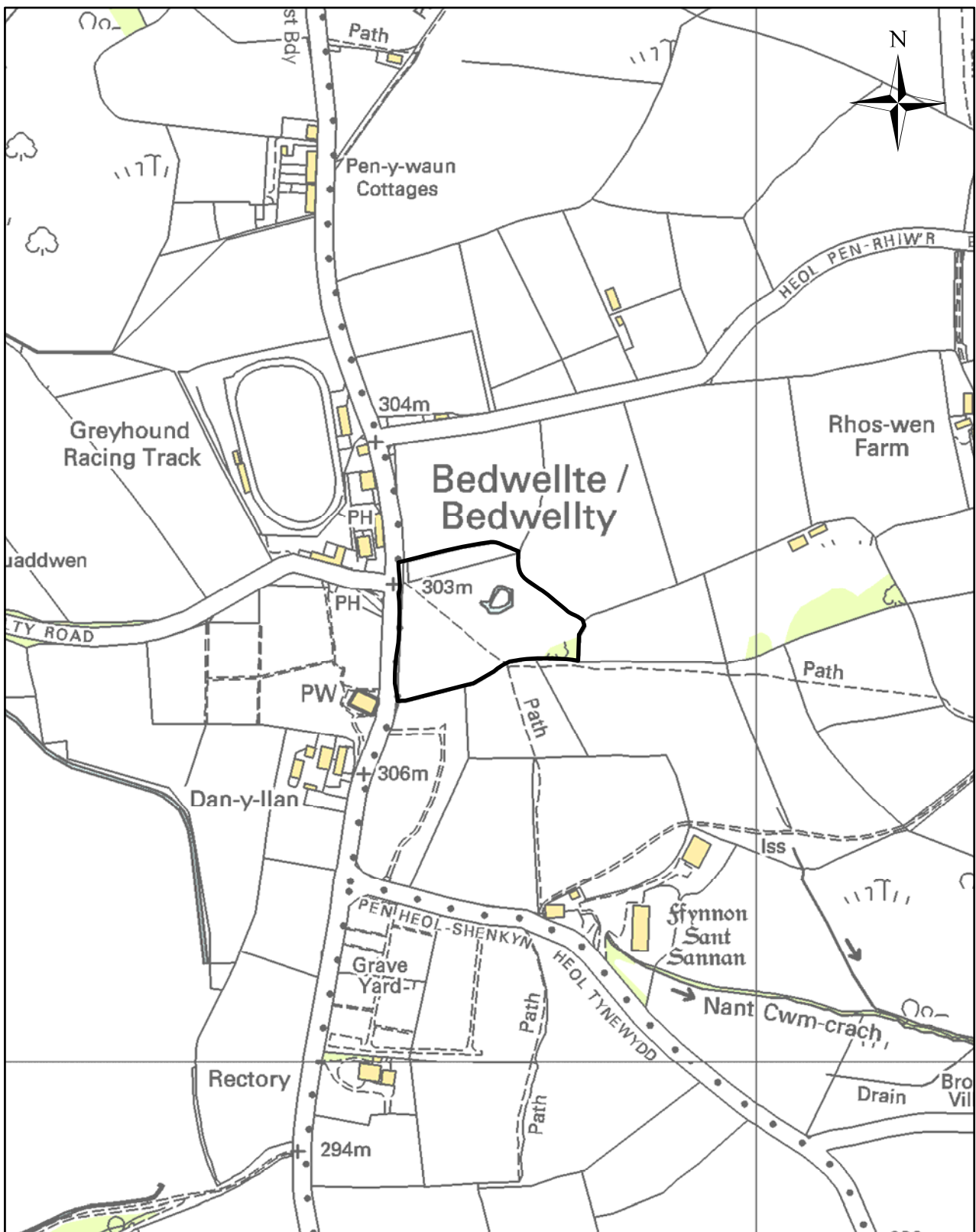
*Hygrocybe glutinipes was noted, and other waxcap fungi would also be expected to occur.*

Fauna observations: *Mole*, **Buzzard**, *Wren*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Peacock Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*.

Additional species noted from desk study: None within field. **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly** record from 1987 from grid square SO1600.

Caerphilly County Borough Council  
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Land opposite St Sannan's Church, Bedwellty 2 Ha

1:5,000



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