

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.16</u>	SINC name: Parc Cwm Darran Larch Plantation, Deri
Grid reference: SO118032	Area (hectares): 7
Survey date: 5th September 2007	Surveyed by: Dr Peter Sturgess (Hyder Consulting Ltd.)
(UDP policy reference: N/A – SINC 195)	
Summary description	
<p>An area of disused coal workings supporting a young mixed plantation (mainly Larch, Pine, Alder, Hawthorn and Oak). Areas where the canopy has not closed or support only light tree cover (perhaps where the trees failed or were burned several years ago) support acid grassland with local patches of heath and a high proportion of mosses and lichens. Some areas of closed canopy plantation support a developing woodland ground flora with dense bramble, while others support almost total ground cover by mosses.</p>	
Qualifying features	
Acid grassland with patches of heath, with at least 7 indicator species.	
Secondary features	
Plantation.	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>The sheltered sunny slope is likely to support a high diversity of heat-loving invertebrates (Violets are locally abundant and may support fritillary butterflies; anthills are locally prominent; and many dragonflies were noted hunting in the clearings of heath).</p> <p>The area is likely to provide an excellent habitat for reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The area appears to have little management input at present. Other than light grazing by sheep and maintenance of footpaths, the area is generally left undisturbed. The diverse acid grassland flora is likely to be a relatively short-term feature that will be lost as the tree canopy closes. Management to create permanent glades and thin some of the trees would therefore be necessary to maintain this habitat in the medium to long term.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>The area lies within Parc Cwm Darran, a country park that is managed by the Caerphilly County Borough Council. It is crossed / bordered by several small footpaths and is accessible to the public. The area is available for informal use by local people and school groups.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>Although this area meets the qualifying criteria for selection as a SINC, it is not exceptional in terms of its habitat, as many young or replanted forestry areas probably support a similar flora as a temporary habitat and at ride margins in other areas. However, in this case, there is good potential that the area will be managed to enhance its nature conservation value in the longer term as part of the country park.</p>	

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: *Larix sp.*, *Pinus sp.*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Alnus incana*, *Quercus petraea*, *Populus alba*, *Betula pendula*, *Betula pubescens*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Rubus fruticosus*.

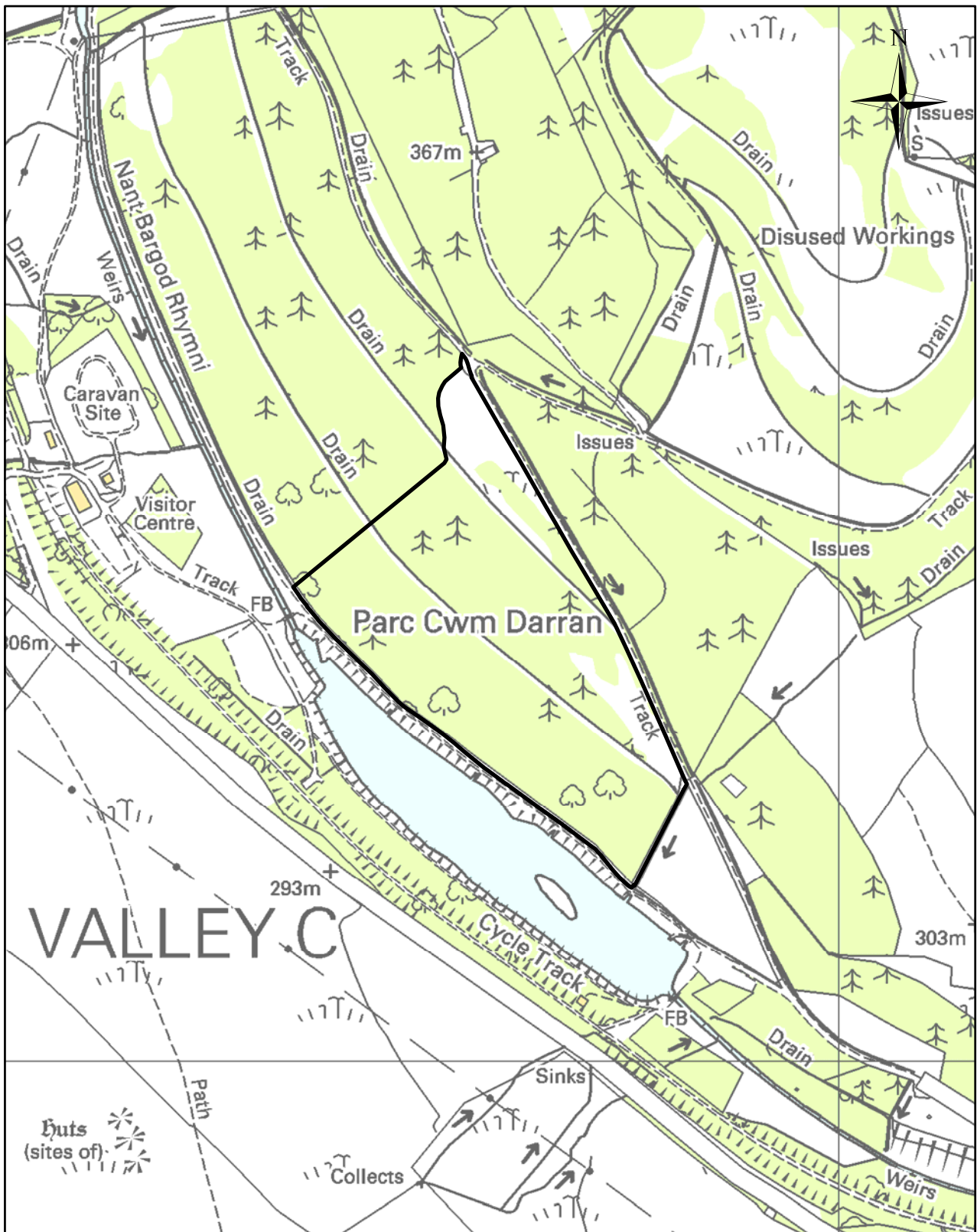
Ground flora species (including open and partially shaded areas, as they merge gradually from one to another): *Calluna vulgaris*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Galium saxatile*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Veronica officinalis*, *Pilosella officinalis*, *Viola riviniana*, *Linum catharticum*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Geranium dissectum*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Festuca ovina*, *Aira praecox*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Carex pilulifera*, *Carex ovalis*, *Carex viridula*, *Luzula multiflora*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Racomitrium ericoides*, *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, *Scleropodium purum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, *Polytrichum formosum*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Cladonia spp.*, *Peltigera sp.*.

Fauna observations: **Green Woodpecker**, **Buzzard**, *Green-veined White Butterfly*, *Meadow Brown Butterfly*, *Gatekeeper Butterfly*, *Small Copper Butterfly*, *Common Blue Butterfly*, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, **Emperor Dragonfly**.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: **Common Frog**, **Goshawk**, **Peregrine**, **Skylark**, **Yellowhammer**, **Reed Bunting**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Curlew**, **Bullfinch**, **Song Thrush**, **Lapwing**, **Kingfisher**, **Grey Wagtail**, **Dipper**, **Kestrel**, **House Sparrow**, *Hobby*, *Crossbill*, *Red Kite*, *Pied flycatcher*, *Redstart*, **Linnet**, **Little Owl**, *Tawny Owl*, *Sparrowhawk*, *Long-tailed tit*, *Redpoll*, *Siskin*, *Tree-creeper*, *Cuckoo*, *Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly*, *Dingy Skipper Butterfly*, **Blue-tailed Damselfly**, **Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly**.

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Parc Cwm Darran Larch Plantation, Deri 7 Ha

1:5,000



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