

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.11</u></b>	<b>SINC name: River Sirhowy</b>
<b>Grid references: from ST22289131 (south) to SO15910593 (north)</b>	
<b>Area (hectares): 141</b>	<b>Survey date: N/A (information gathered from data search)</b>
<b>Data Collation by: Melanie Sutherland</b>	
<b>(UDP policy reference: N/A - SINC 199)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>This SINC comprises the full length of the River Sirhowy within the county borough and adjacent semi-natural habitats. This is one of three main watercourses in the county borough and represents a significant linear wildlife corridor. The river and the adjacent semi-natural habitats have been included to incorporate the whole of the river corridor for ecological connectivity purposes. The river corridor includes the river, the riverbanks and the adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, trees, wetland, hedgerows and species-rich grassland, to retain “ecological functionality”. The river valley is lined by trees along most of its length, and flows in a largely natural, rocky channel. Japanese knotweed occurs alongside most of the river. The river is immediately adjacent to SINC NH 3.32 Markham Railway Line, where it is generally lined by Alder and flows in a largely unmodified channel.</p>	
<b>Qualifying features</b>	
<p>Watercourse with resident populations of bullhead, and brown trout.</p> <p>Watercourses used as regular migratory routes by anadromous species including Atlantic Salmon and sea trout.</p> <p>Probable breeding Otter, plus areas for foraging, laying up and territorial use.</p>	
<b>Secondary features</b>	
<p>Relatively unpolluted main river with unmodified bed and banks.</p> <p>Watercourses with exposed sediment/ erosion features (e.g. soft cliffs).</p> <p><i>Adjacent semi-natural wetland, grassland and woodland habitats as part of the wider river corridor.</i></p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>Potential for roosting bats, particularly Daubenton’s and other <i>Myotis</i> bat species, in mature trees alongside the river.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Mostly low or no-maintenance management. The river itself is “unmanaged” as a habitat, but is subject to flood defence, land drainage and sewerage outflow management by Environment Agency, Welsh Water and the local authority as necessary. Individual landowners may manage adjacent terrestrial habitats within the river corridor as included in this SINC, but there is little information on current management for the whole length of the river. Some riverside habitats are managed for recreational use, including footpaths, cycle ways and parks, and there are some sections that run through built-up areas, where adjacent land has been developed up to the riverbank. Japanese knotweed occurs locally alongside the river.</p>	

## Access/ community use

Sections of the river are accessible via riverside walks, footpaths, cycle ways, footbridges, etc. The majority of the river between Wattsville, Crosskeys and Pontllanfraith is within the Sirhowy Valley Country Park, which is managed by the council's Countryside and Landscape Service.

## Additional information

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

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

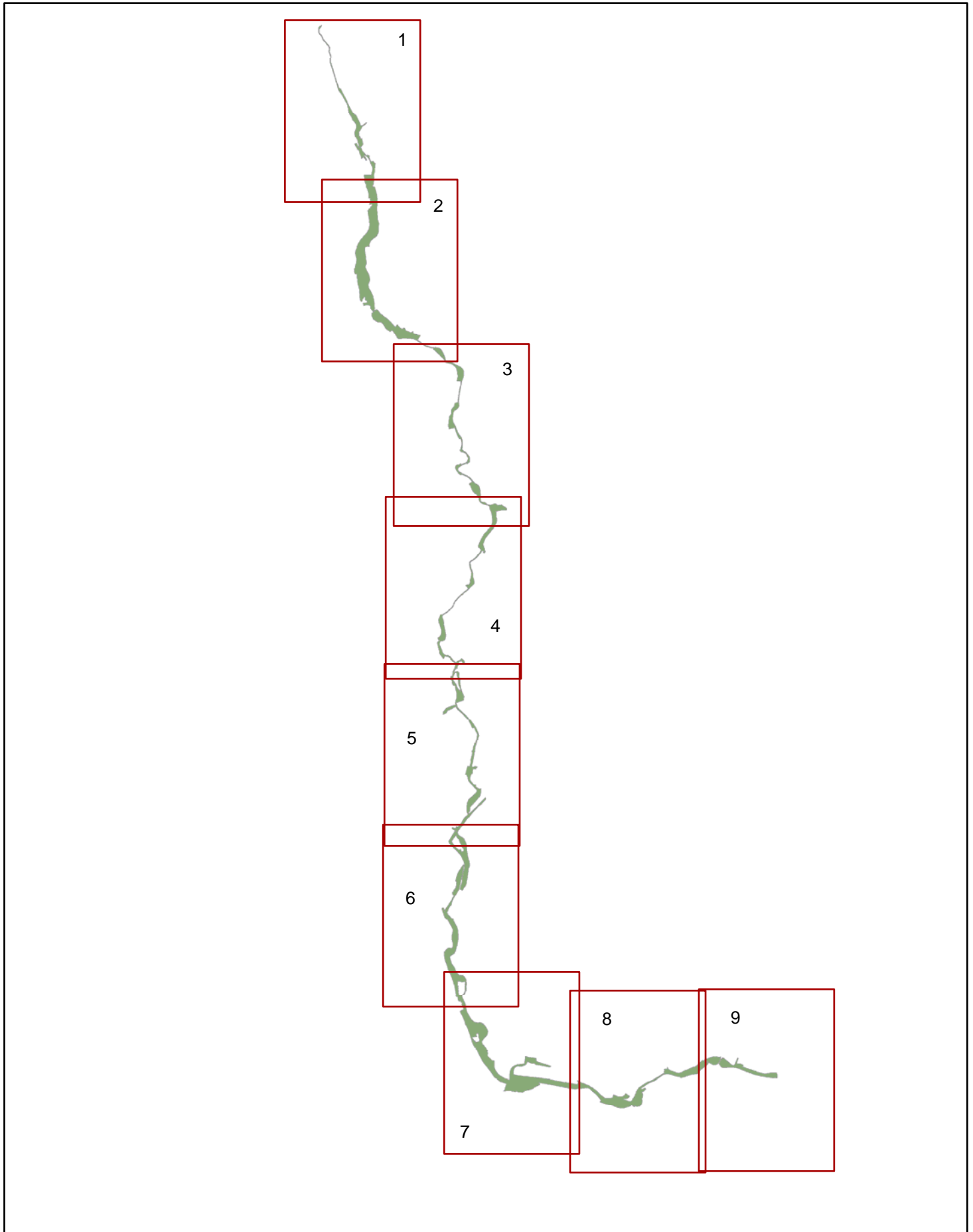
Cinnabar, Dingy skipper, **High brown fritillary**, **Marsh fritillary**, **Silver-washed fritillary**, **Bluebell**, **Common spotted-orchid**, **Badger**, **Brown long-eared bat**, **Common pipistrelle bat**, **Noctule bat**, **Otter**, **Soprano pipistrelle bat**, **Dipper**, Whorled Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum verticillatum*)

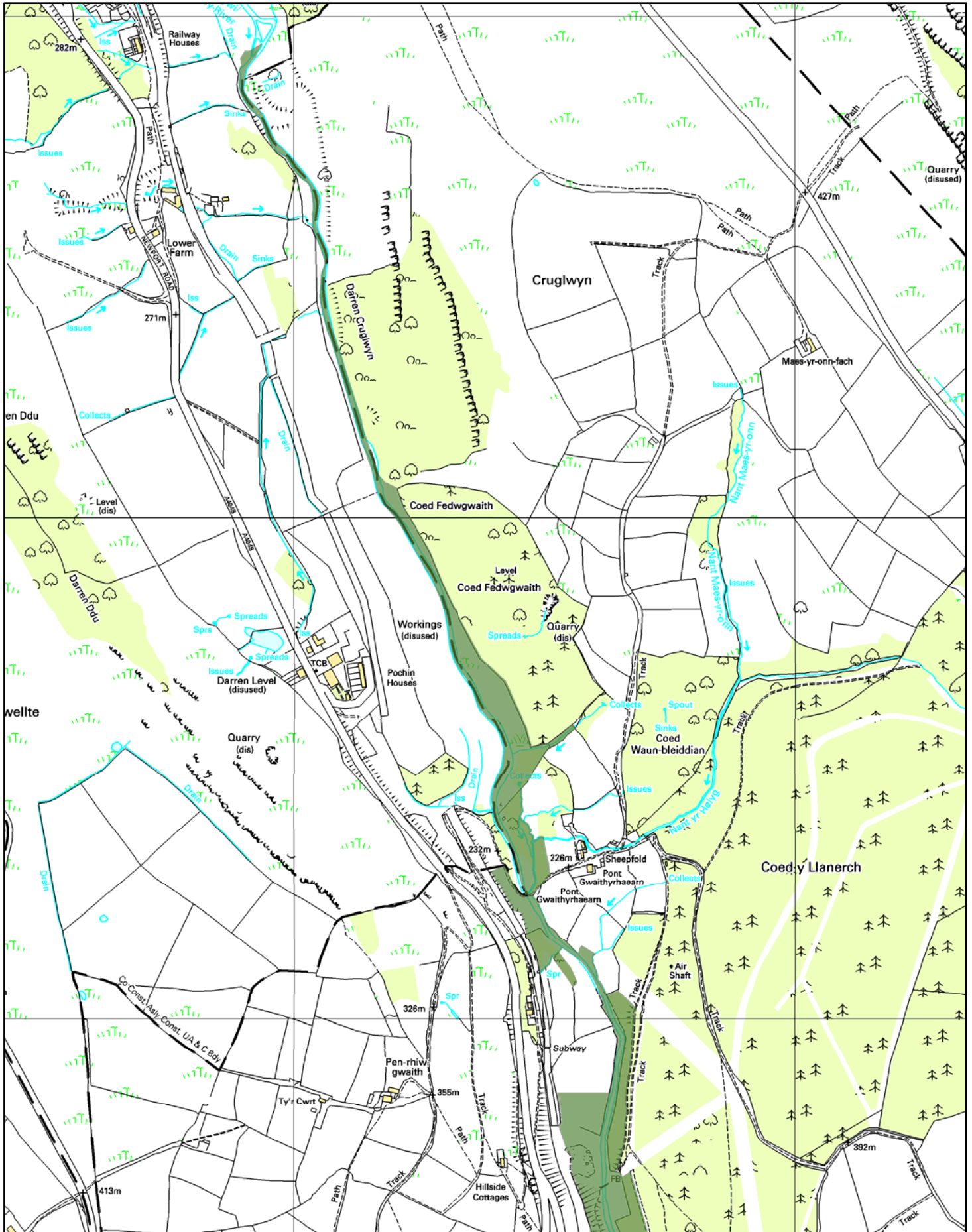
Additional species noted from desk study and consultation:

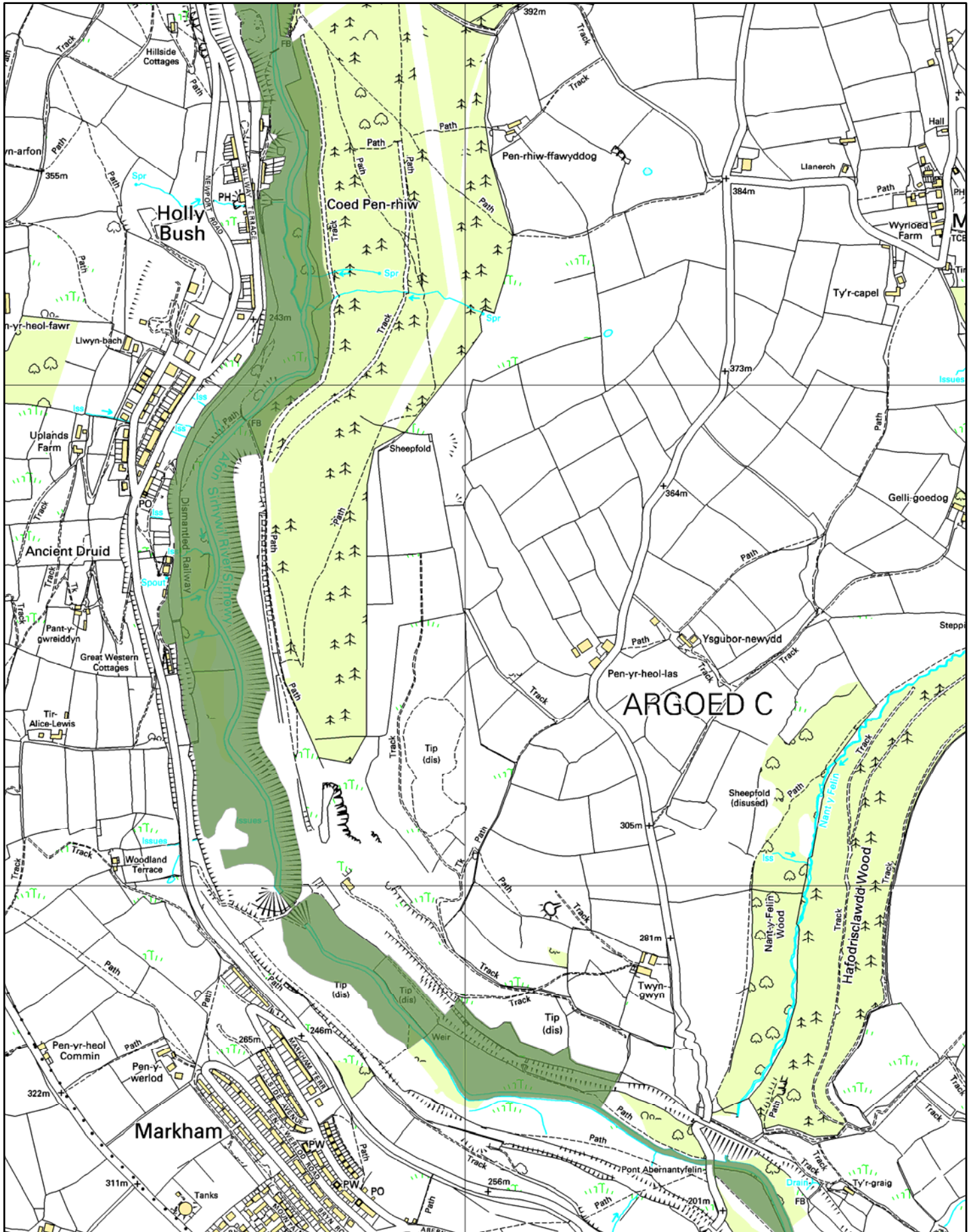
SEWBRc records (within 1km square):

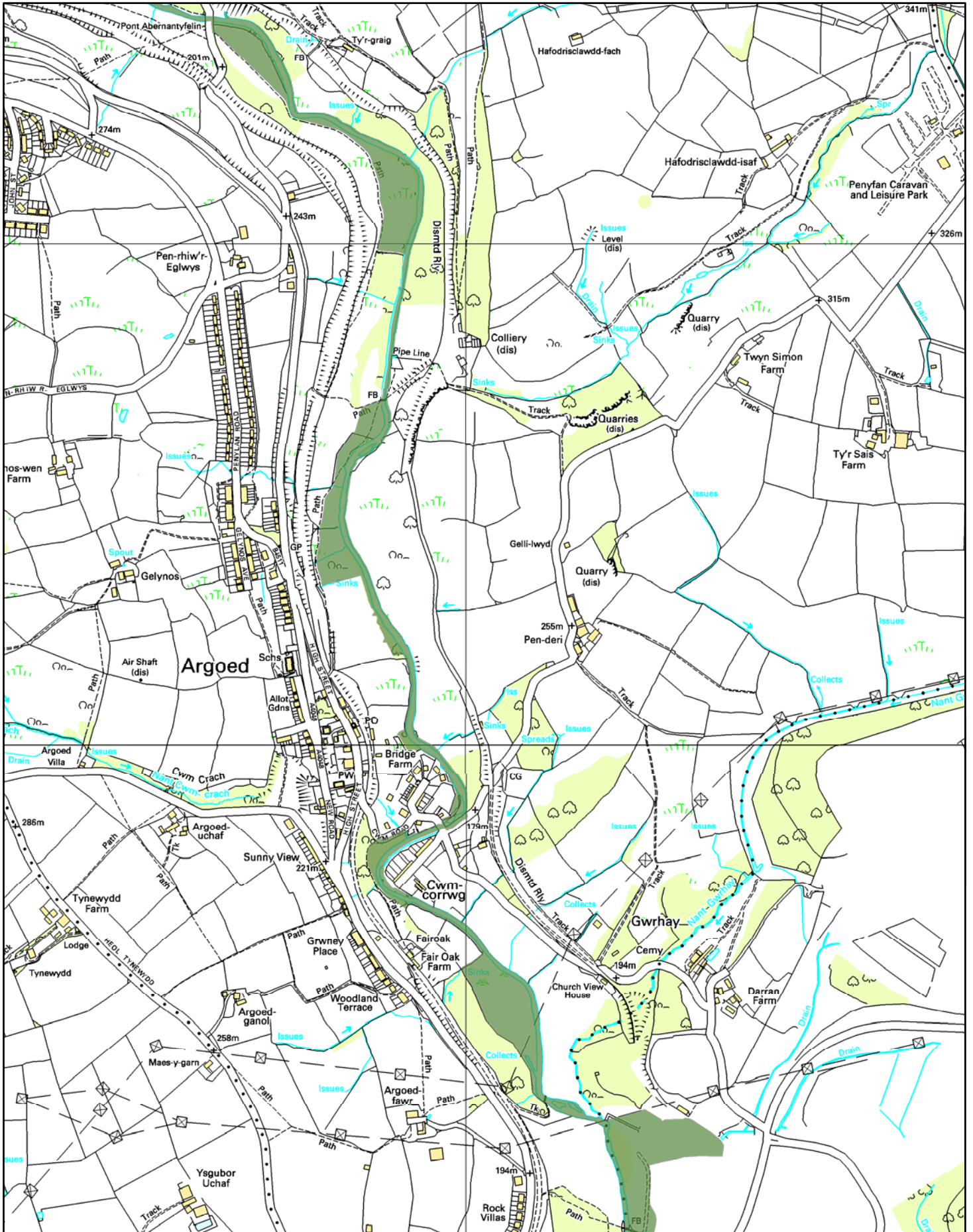
Protected and Priority Species	
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Acronicta psi	Grey Dagger
Acronicta rumicis	Knot Grass
Agrochola helvola	Flounced Chestnut
Amphipoea oculea	Ear Moth
Amphipyra tragopoginis	Mouse Moth
Apamea remissa	Dusky Brocade
Arctia caja	Garden Tiger
Atethmia centrugo	Centre-barred Sallow
Boloria selene	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Brachylomia viminalis	Minor Shoulder-knot
<b>Buteo buteo</b>	<b>Buzzard</b>
Chesias legatella	Streak
Chesias rufata	Broom-tip
Chiasmia clathrata	Latticed Heath
<b>Chiroptera</b>	<b>Unspecified Bat</b>
Coenonympha pamphilus	Small Heath
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo
Diarsia rubi	Small Square-spot
Ecliptopera silaceata	Small Phoenix
Ennomos erosaria	September Thorn
Ennomos fuscantaria	Dusky Thorn
Ennomos quercinaria	August Thorn
Eugnorisma glareosa	Autumnal Rustic
Euxoa nigricans	Garden Dart
<b>Falco peregrinus</b>	<b>Peregrine</b>
Ficedula hypoleuca	Pied Flycatcher
Graphiphora augur	Double Dart
Hepialus humuli	Ghost Moth
Hipparchia semele	Grayling
Hoplodrina blanda	Rustic
Loxia curvirostra	Common Crossbill
Lycia hirtaria	Brindled Beauty
Melanchra persicariae	Dot Moth
Melanchra pisi	Broom Moth
Mesoligia literosa	Rosy Minor

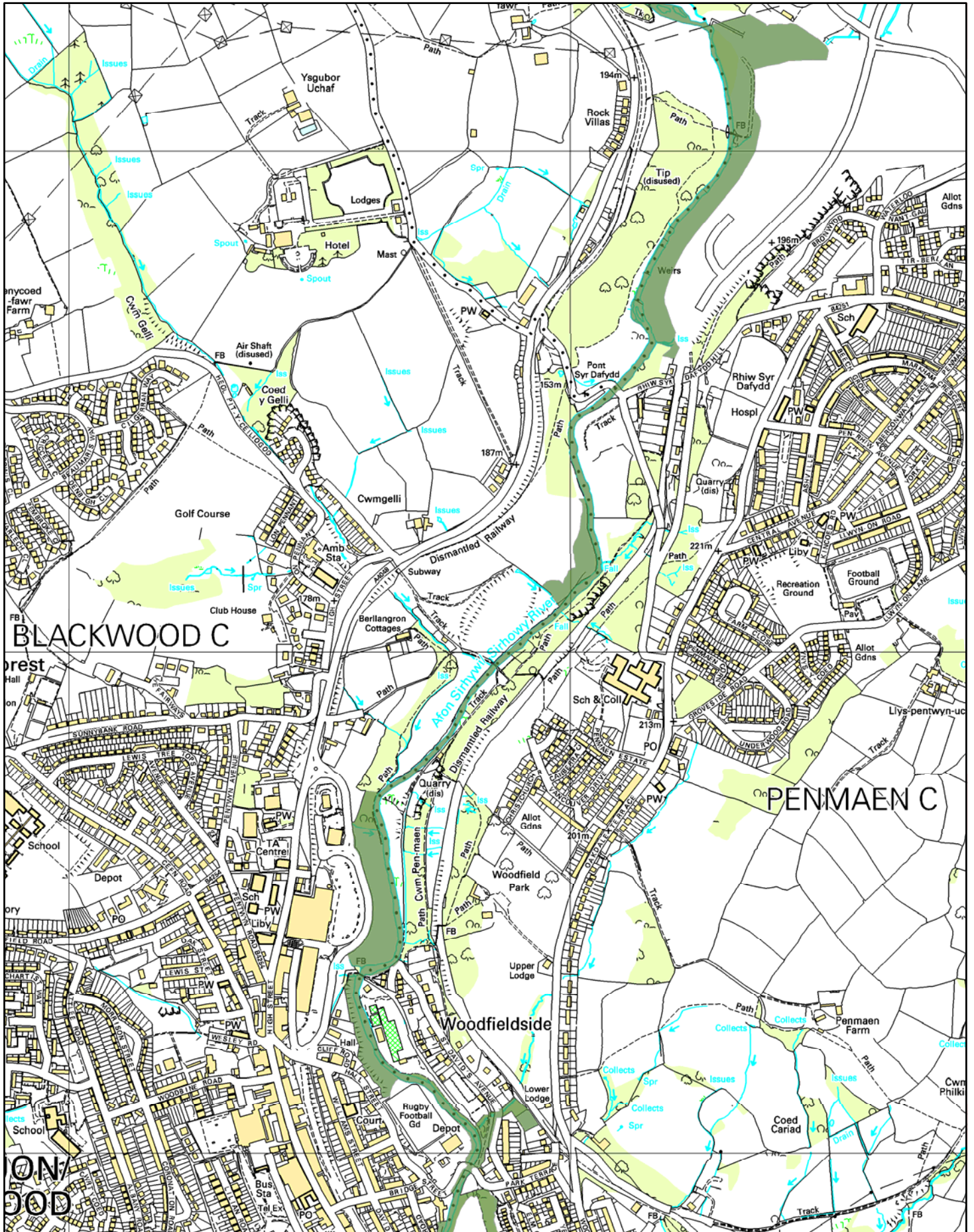
<i>Mythimna comma</i>	Shoulder-striped Wainscot
<b><i>Numenius arquata</i></b>	<b>Curlew</b>
<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Powdered Quaker
<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-bar
<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine
<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Buff Ermine
<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	Anomalous
<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Hedge Rustic
<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Feathered Gothic
<i>Timandra comae</i>	Blood-vein
<b><i>Vanellus vanellus</i></b>	<b>Lapwing</b>
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet
<i>Xestia castanea</i>	Neglected Rustic
<b>Other Species of Conservation Concern</b>	
<i>Brachythecium mildeanum</i>	Sand Feather-moss
<b><i>Motacilla cinerea</i></b>	<b>Grey Wagtail</b>
<i>Racomitrium affine</i>	Lesser Fringe-moss
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush
<b>Species of Local Conservation Concern</b>	
<i>Abraxas sylvata</i>	Clouded Magpie
<b><i>Aeshna cyanea</i></b>	<b>Southern Hawker</b>
<b><i>Anax imperator</i></b>	<b>Emperor Dragonfly</b>
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip
<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	Ringlet
<i>Archiearis parthenias</i>	Orange Underwing
<i>Atolmis rubricollis</i>	Red-necked Footman
<i>Bombus</i>	Bumble Bee
<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	White-tailed Bumble Bee
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Common Carder Bee
<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	Early Bumble Bee
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Holly Blue
<b><i>Coenagrion puella</i></b>	<b>Azure Damselfly</b>
<i>Dicranum tauricum</i>	Fragile Fork-moss
<i>Epirrhoe tristata</i>	Small Argent & Sable
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn
<i>Furcula bicuspis</i>	Alder Kitten
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Brimstone
<i>Idaea fuscovenosa</i>	Dwarf Cream Wave
<i>Inachis io</i>	Peacock butterfly
<i>Lepidium heterophyllum</i>	Smith's Pepperwort
<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	Marbled White
<i>Papestra biren</i>	Glaucous Shears
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	Beech Fern
<i>Psithyrus sylvestris</i>	Four Coloured Cuckoo Bee
<b><i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i></b>	<b>Large Red Damselfly</b>
<i>Racomitrium aquaticum</i>	Narrow-leaved Fringe-moss
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweet Briar
<i>Schistidium platyphyllum</i>	Broadleaf Grimmiid
<i>Schistidium rivulare</i>	River Grimmiid
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Lesser Whitethroat
<i>Tetheella fluctuosa</i>	Satin Lutestring
<i>Vicia sylvatica</i>	Wood Vetch
<i>Xanthia aurago</i>	Barred Sallow



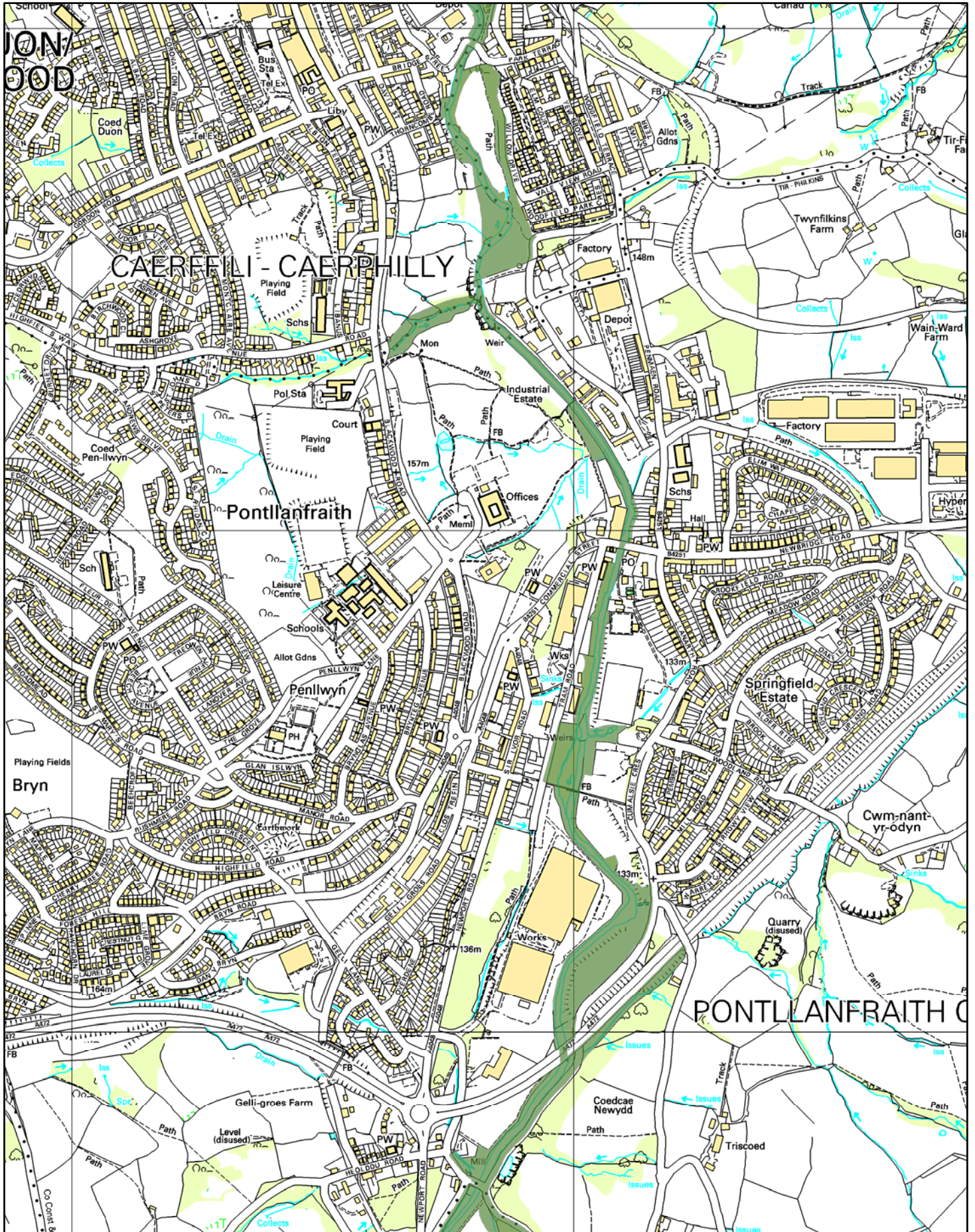


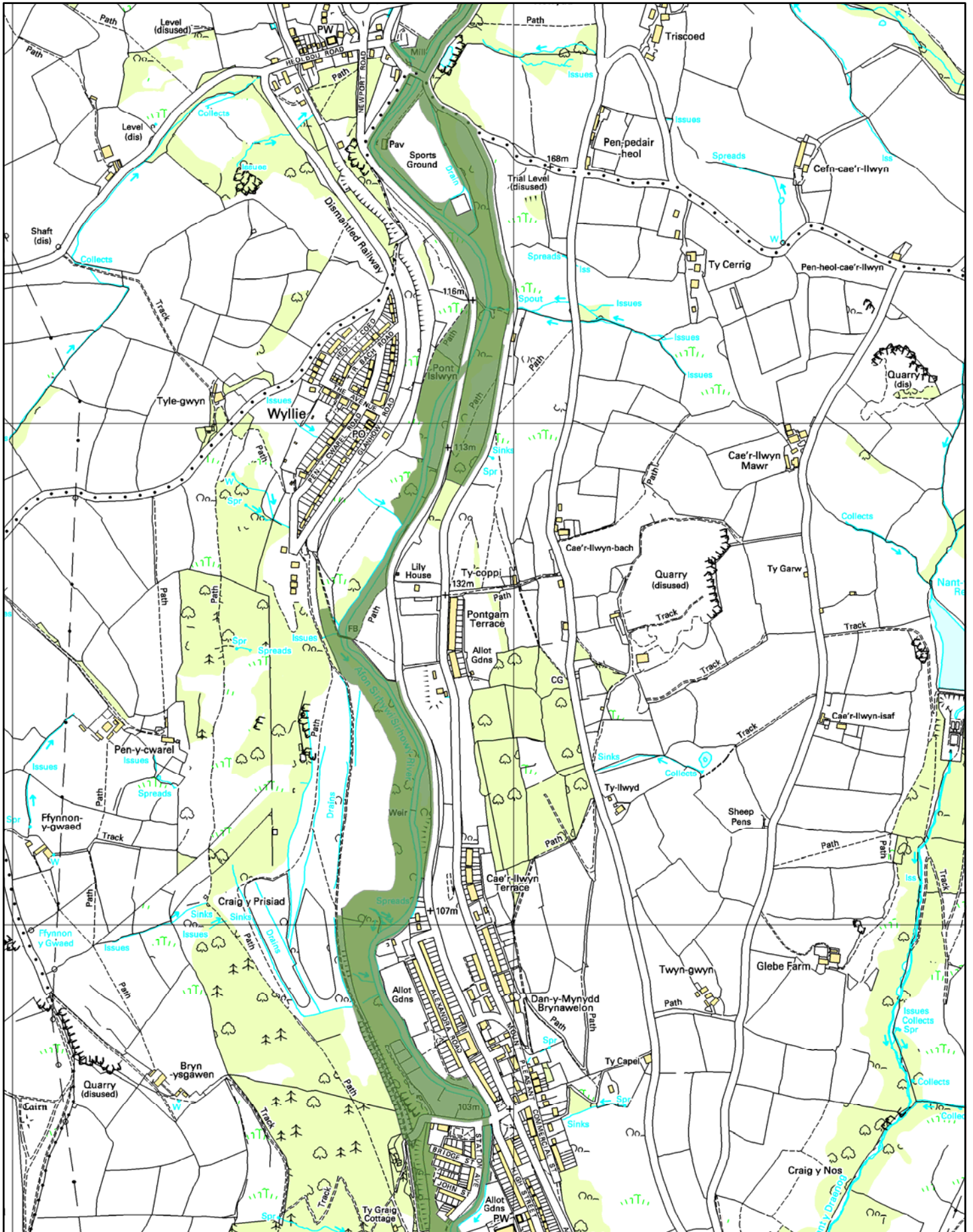












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