

<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council</b>	
<b><u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.156</u></b>	<b>SINC name: Nant yr Aber</b>
<b>Grid references: from ST16308852 (south) to ST12228916 (north)</b>	
<b>Area (hectares): 13</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 200)</b>	
<b>Summary description</b>	
<p>This SINC comprises almost the full length of the Nant yr Aber within the county borough and adjacent semi-natural habitats. This is just one of several tributaries that feed into the River Rhymney SINC (NH 3.1). The stream starts just to the north of Abertridwr, but the SINC starts at the bridge at Abertridwr Road before it becomes the Nant Cwm Parc. The Nant yr Aber runs down through the Aber Valley towards the southwestern side of Caerphilly town. It passes immediately adjacent to the Cwm y Aber SINC (NH 3.159) where it flows over a rocky bed with banks lined by Alders. The water quality appears to be good and Trout were noted during the survey. The stream then continues through Trecenydd, Morgan Jones Park, Churchill Park, past ASDA in Pontygwindy and meets the River Rhymney behind the Crossways Industrial Estate. The stream and the adjacent semi-natural habitats have been included to incorporate the whole of the stream corridor for ecological connectivity purposes. The stream corridor includes the stream channel, the stream banks and the adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, trees, wetland, hedgerows and species-rich grassland, to retain “ecological functionality”, apart from where it passes through NH3.159.</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>Watercourse with exposed sediment/ erosion features.</p> <p><i>Adjacent semi-natural wetland, grassland and woodland habitats as part of the wider stream corridor.</i></p>	
<b>Potential value/ unconfirmed features</b>	
<p>The Otter is known to occur on the stream, but there are no confirmed breeding sites. Further survey work is required to confirm breeding along the stream.</p>	
<b>Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)</b>	
<p>Mostly low or no-maintenance management. The stream itself is “unmanaged” as a habitat, but is subject to land drainage and sewerage outflow management by Environment Agency, Welsh Water and the local authority as necessary. Individual landowners may manage adjacent terrestrial habitats adjacent to and along the stream corridor as included in this SINC, but there is little information on current management for the whole length of the stream. Some streamside habitats are managed for recreational use, including footpaths, cycle ways and parks, and there are some</p>	

sections that run through built-up areas, for example through Caerphilly town and past the ASDA superstore. A Keep Wales Tidy river care group was set up in Abertridwr, which comprised volunteers from the local area, to undertake clean ups and remove fly tipped rubbish and other items from the stream. There are ongoing problems with fly tipping and other rubbish accumulating in the stream. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam occur locally alongside the stream.

### Access/ community use

Sections of the river are accessible via riverside walks, footpaths, cycleways, footbridges, etc. There is a cycleway alongside the part of the stream that runs through the Cwm yr Aber SINC between Abertridwr to Hendredenny and Penyrheol, Caerphilly.

### Additional information

Although this SINC has been designated mainly through a data collation exercise, Dr Peter Sturgess carried out a survey for SINC NH3.159 Cwm yr Aber, which previously included the stream, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Brown trout were observed to be present in the stream during this survey.

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

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

Faunal observations made by Dr Peter Sturgess: **Brown trout**, *Fox, Mole, Green Woodpecker, Blackcap, Chaffinch, Robin, Wren, Coal Tit, Chiffchaff, Meadow Pipit, Blackbird, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly, Common Blue Butterfly, Large Skipper Butterfly, Cinnabar Moth, Burnet Companion Moth.*

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation:

**Common eel, Bullhead, Atlantic salmon, Stone loach, Grayling, Otter, Brown long-eared bat, Common pipistrelle bat, Daubenton's bat, other Myotis bat species.**

SEWBRc records (within 1km square):

Protected and Priority Species	
Accipiter nisus	Eurasian Sparrowhawk
Anas acuta	Northern Pintail
Anas crecca	Eurasian Teal
Anser anser	Greylag Goose
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit
Bucephala clangula	Common Goldeneye
Chlidonias niger	Black Tern
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo
Cygnus columbianus	Bewick's Swan
<b>Euphydryas aurinia</b>	<b>Marsh Fritillary</b>
<b>Hipparchia semele</b>	<b>Grayling</b>
Larus argentatus	Herring Gull
Larus melanocephalus	Mediterranean Gull
Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail
Mustela putorius	Polecat
<b>Natrix natrix</b>	<b>Grass Snake</b>
<b>Passer domesticus</b>	<b>House Sparrow</b>
Phoenicurus ochruros	Black Redstart
Prunella modularis	Dunnock
Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling
Turdus iliacus	Redwing
<b>Turdus philomelos</b>	<b>Song Thrush</b>

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Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare
Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel
Tyria jacobaeae	Cinnabar
<b>Tyto alba</b>	<b>Barn Owl</b>
<b>Other Species of Conservation Concern</b>	
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Aix galericulata	Mandarin
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard
Anser caerulescens	Snow Goose
Aythya ferina	Common Pochard
Aythya fuligula	Tufted Duck
Branta canadensis	Canada Goose
Branta leucopsis	Barnacle Goose
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen
Larus argentatus michahellis	Yellow-legged Gull
Larus canus	Common Gull
Larus fuscus	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Mergus merganser	Goosander
Mergus serrator	Red-breasted Merganser
<b>Motacilla cinerea</b>	<b>Grey Wagtail</b>
Phalacrocorax carbo	Cormorant
Rallus aquaticus	Water Rail
Regulus regulus	Goldcrest
Riparia riparia	Sand Martin
Rissa tridactyla	Black-legged Kittiwake
Sterna hirundo	Common Tern
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush
<b>Species of Local Conservation Concern</b>	
Apus apus	Common Swift
<b>Cinclus cinclus</b>	<b>Dipper</b>
Mergellus albellus	Smew
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat
Turdus merula	Blackbird
<b>Anax imperator</b>	<b>Emperor Dragonfly</b>
<b>Calopteryx virgo</b>	<b>Beautiful Demoiselle</b>
Celastrina argiolus	Holly Blue
<b>Coenagrion puella</b>	<b>Azure Damselfly</b>
Inachis io	Peacock butterfly
<b>Ischnura elegans</b>	<b>Blue-tailed Damselfly</b>
<b>Libellula depressa</b>	<b>Broad-bodied Chaser</b>
<b>Libellula quadrimaculata</b>	<b>Four-spotted Chaser</b>
Synanthedon tipuliformis	Currant Clearwing







