Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council

LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.4

SINC name: Nant Bargod Rhymni, Darran Valley

Grid reference: from SO14960029 (south) to SO10500564 (north)

Area (hectares): 31 Survey date: N/A (information gathered from data search)

Data Collation by: Melanie Sutherland

(UDP policy reference: N/A - SINC 201)

Summary description

This SINC comprises almost the full length of the Nant Bargod Rhymni within the county borough and adjacent semi-natural habitats, although the stream actually starts to the north of Fochriw within SINC NH 3.017 Cefn Gelligaer. This is just one of several tributaries that feed into the River Rhymney SINC. The Nant Bargod Rhymni runs down through the Darran Valley, through Parc Cwm Darran, a country park managed by the local authority, and meets the River Rhymney at the Bargoed viaduct.

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".

The site includes the lakes in Parc Cwm Darran, where a foraging adult otter was seen on 30th April 2008. These lakes also provide habitat for a range of other species including dragonflies, nesting birds and aquatic invertebrates.

Qualifying features

Waters with resident populations of bullhead and brown trout.

Watercourses used as regular migratory routes by anadromous species including Atlantic salmon

and brown trout or sea trout.

Probable breeding Otter, plus areas for foraging, laying up and territorial use.

Secondary features

Watercourses with exposed sediment/ erosion features (e.g. soft cliffs).

Adjacent semi-natural wetland, grassland and woodland habitats as part of the wider stream corridor.

Potential value/ unconfirmed features

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.

The stream corridor is likely to be well used as a flight-line/ feeding area for bats and there is potential for mature trees to provide roosting opportunities for bats such as Daubenton's and other *Myotis* species.

Likely to have significant local value for bryophytes.

Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)

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, cycleways and parks, in particular Parc Cwm Darran, a country park managed by the local authority.

There are ongoing problems with fly tipping and other rubbish accumulating in the stream.

Japanese knotweed occurs locally alongside the stream.

Access/ community use

A new footpath has recently opened following the line of the stream.

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*)

Grey wagtail

Marsh fritillary, Small pearl-bordered fritillary

Badger, Otter, Polecat

Brown long-eared bat, Common pipistrelle bat, Daubenton's bat, Myotis bat sp., Noctule bat, Soprano pipistrelle bat, Whiskered bat

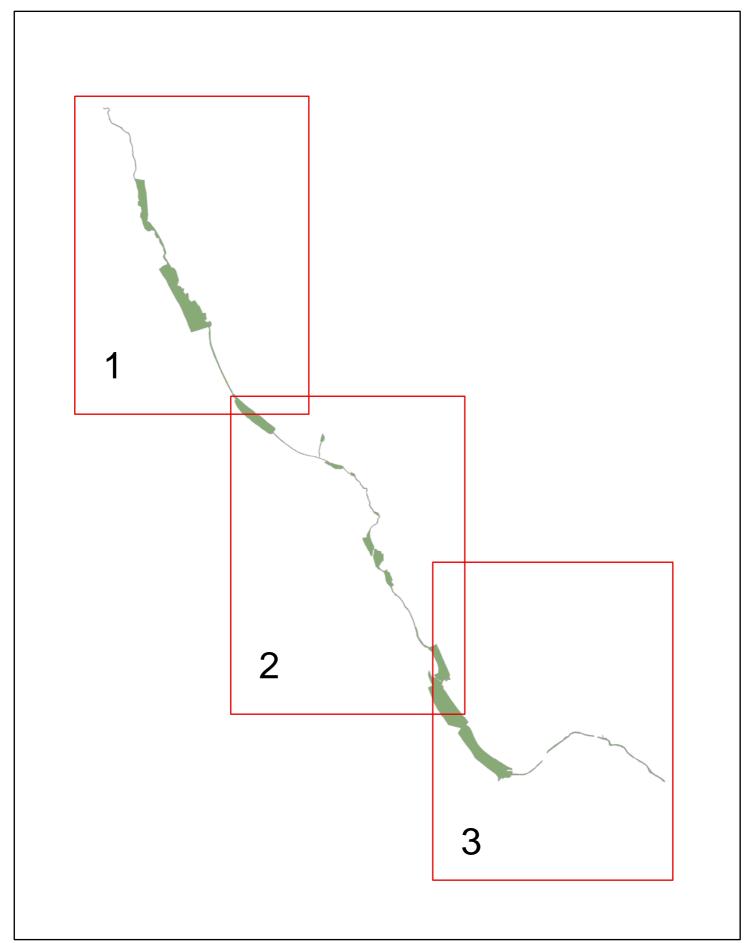
Classic mayfly (Ephemera vulgata)

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation:

SEWBReC records (including within 1km square)

Protected and Priority Species		
Anthus trivialis	Tree Pipit	
Athene noctua	Little Owl	
Buteo buteo	Buzzard	
Carduelis cannabina	Common Linnet	
Coenonympha pamphilus	Small Heath	
Cuculus canorus	Common Cuckoo	
Emberiza citrinella	Yellowhammer	
Erynnis tages	Dingy Skipper	
Falco subbuteo	Eurasian Hobby	
Ficedula hypoleuca	Pied Flycatcher	
Hipparchia semele	Grayling	
Lasiommata megera	Wall Brown	
Milvus milvus	Red Kite	
Numenius arquata	Curlew	
Parus montanus	Willow Tit	
Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Wood Warbler	
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch	
Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Shaded Broad-bar	
Timandra comae	Blood-vein	
Turdus iliacus	Redwing	
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	
Turdus pilaris	Fieldfare	

Turdus torquatus	Ring Ouzel	
Prunella modularis	Dunnock	
Other Species of Conservation Con	ncern	
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit	
Columba oenas	Stock Dove	
Delichon urbicum	House Martin	
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe	
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	
Lymnocryptes minimus	Jack Snipe	
Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Common Redstart	
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	
Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker	
Riparia riparia	Sand Martin	
Saxicola torquatus	Stonechat	
Scolopax rusticola	Eurasian Woodcock	
Turdus viscivorus	Mistle Thrush	
Wahlenbergia hederacea	Ivy-leaved Bellflower	
Species of Local Conservation Con	ncern	
Aeshna cyanea	Southern Hawker	
Alchemilla glabra	Smooth Lady's-mantle	
Anthocharis cardamines	Orange Tip	
Aphantopus hyperantus	Ringlet	
Argynnis paphia	Silver-washed Fritillary	
Carduelis spinus	Eurasian Siskin	
Carex spicata	Spiked Sedge	
Cinclus cinclus	Dipper	
Cirsium dissectum	Meadow Thistle	
Cordulegaster boltonii	Golden-ringed Dragonfly	
Gonepteryx rhamni	Brimstone	
Inachis io	Peacock butterfly	
Libellula depressa	Broad-bodied Chaser	
Melanargia galathea	Marbled White	
Mustela erminea	Stoat	
Oenanthe oenanthe	Northern Wheatear	
Saxicola rubetra	Whinchat	
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler	
Sympetrum striolatum	Common Darter	
Turdus merula	Blackbird	



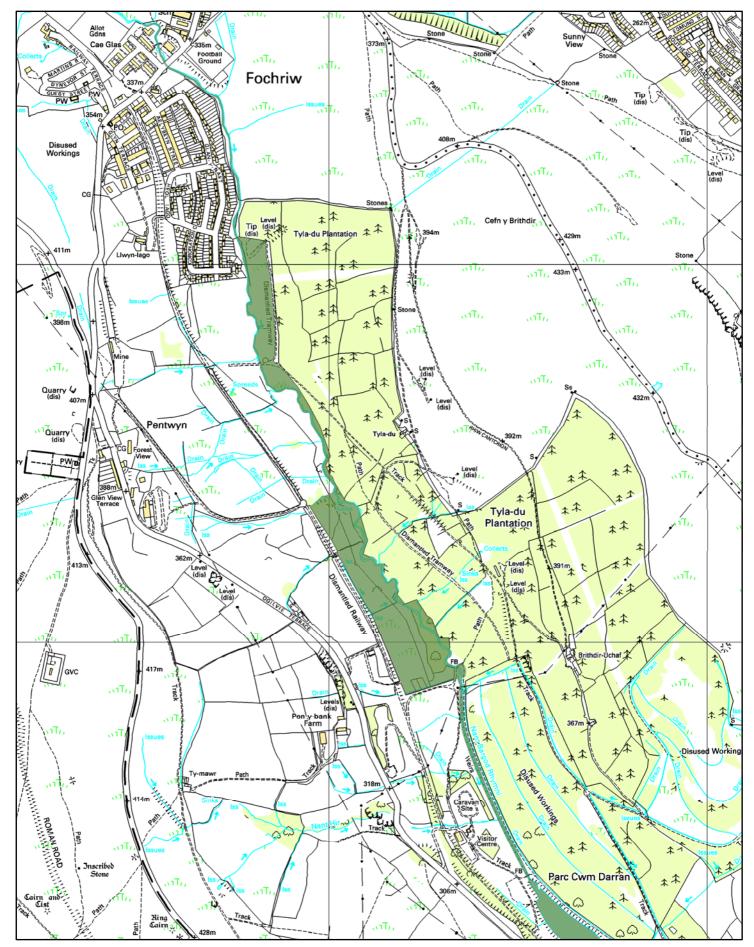
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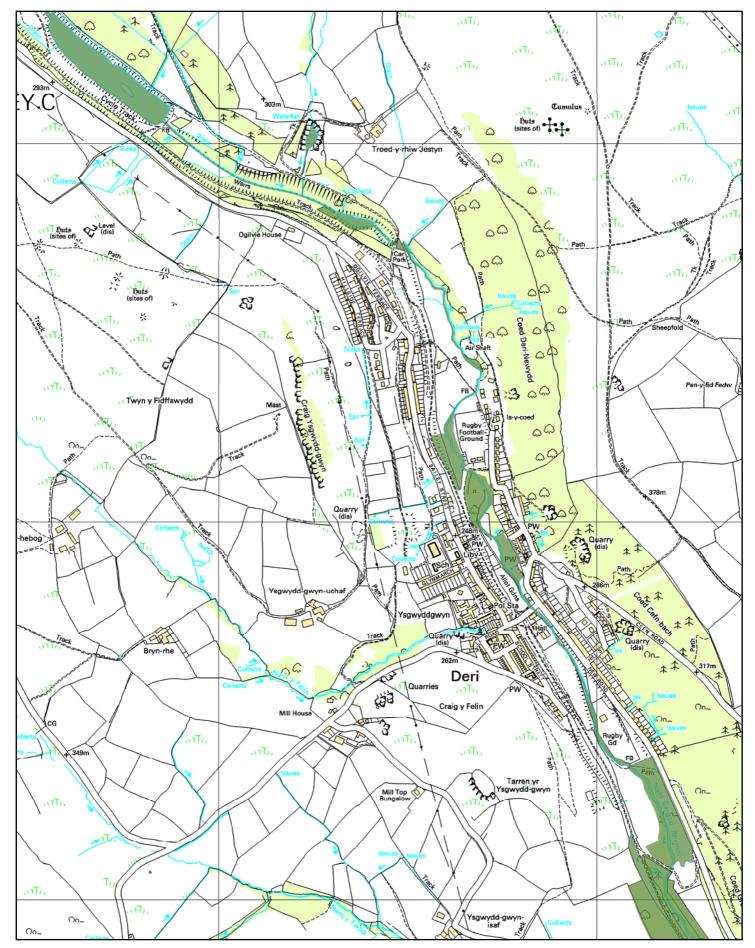
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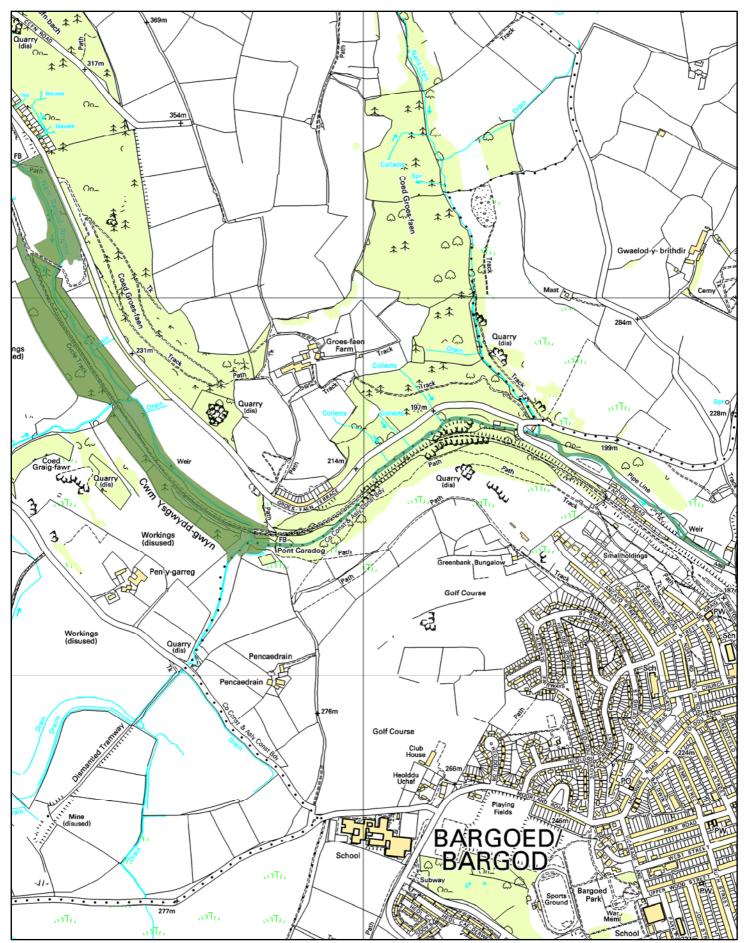
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