

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.4</u>	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	
<p>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.</p> <p>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”.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Waters with resident populations of bullhead and brown trout.</p> <p>Watercourses used as regular migratory routes by anadromous species including Atlantic salmon and brown trout or sea trout.</p> <p>Probable breeding Otter, plus areas for foraging, laying up and territorial use.</p>	
Secondary features	
<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 stream corridor.</i></p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<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> <p>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 <i>Myotis</i> species.</p> <p>Likely to have significant local value for bryophytes.</p>	

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 Concern	
Anthus pratensis	Meadow Pipit
Columba oenas	Stock Dove
Delichon urbicum	House Martin
Gallinago gallinago	Common Snipe
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow
Lymnocyptes 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 Concern	
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







