

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Caerphilly County Borough Council	
<u>LDP Policy Ref. NH 3.75</u>	SINC name: Penllwyn Woodland, Pontllanfraith
Grid reference: ST173960	Area (hectares): 8
Survey Date: 12th August 2008 Surveyed by: Alison Jones (Caerphilly CBC)	
(UDP policy reference: N/A - SINC 202)	
Summary description	
<p>The majority of this SINC supports semi-natural broadleaved woodland; the northwestern corner being of ancient origin, although it may have been partially cleared in the last 100 years. Parts of the site support marshy grassland that was more extensive in the past. The majority of the site comprises Sessile oak and Downy birch, with Hazel and Holly understory; Hazel increasing in frequency towards the south of the site. Along the northern edge of the site mature Beech and Sessile oak border a steep sided stream, the Beech being replaced by Ash towards the northeast of the site. The ground flora is dominated by Bramble; however, there are significant areas of Cow-wheat, Yellow pimpernel, Bluebell and Wood anemone in places. The marshy grassland supports species rich Purple moor-grass pasture, which supports small patches of Devil's-bit scabious, Bog asphodel, Cross-leaved heath, Sphagnum moss, Tormentil and Golden rod.</p>	
Qualifying features	
<p>Broad-leaved woodland with an assemblage of semi-natural indicator species.</p> <p>Species-rich marshy grassland with at least 12 indicator species.</p>	
Secondary features	
<p>Streams.</p> <p>Bracken.</p>	
Potential value/ unconfirmed features	
<p>Potential for Marsh fritillary butterfly, Bleached pug and Lead-coloured pug moths, bats and reptiles.</p>	
Current management (including problems and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement)	
<p>The site is currently unmanaged, although there is evidence of unauthorised burning and felling. There are litter problems in places from garden activities on the edge of the site, and from den building, possibly by local children. There is scope to enhance the marshy grassland areas by selective scrub and bracken clearance, and the introduction of grazing to maintain the open areas, which are becoming invaded by Bracken, Bramble and Birch.</p>	
Access/ community use	
<p>Although there is no formal access onto the site, there are several access points along the western edge of the site, and school children can access the site from the adjacent Pontllanfraith Comprehensive school via a damaged fence.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>The marshy grassland parts of the site would benefit from appropriate management to enhance biodiversity.</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*)

Trees and shrubs: *Quercus petraea*, *Quercus robur*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Betula pubescens*, *Betula pendula*, *Alnus glutinosa*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Corylus avellana*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Salix caprea*, *Lonicera periclymenum*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Rosa canina*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Hedera helix*, *Prunus padus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*,.

Woodland Ground flora species: ***Hyacinthoides non-scripta***, *Urtica dioica*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Carex remota*, *Juncus effusus*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Blechnum spicant*, *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Chamerion angustifolium*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Hedera helix*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Asplenium scolopendrium*, *Arythrum felix-femina*, *Dryopteris dilatata*, *Polytrichum commune*, *Plagiomnium undulatum*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Glechoma hederacea*, *Daldinia concentrica*, *Circaea lutetiana*.
Geum urbanum

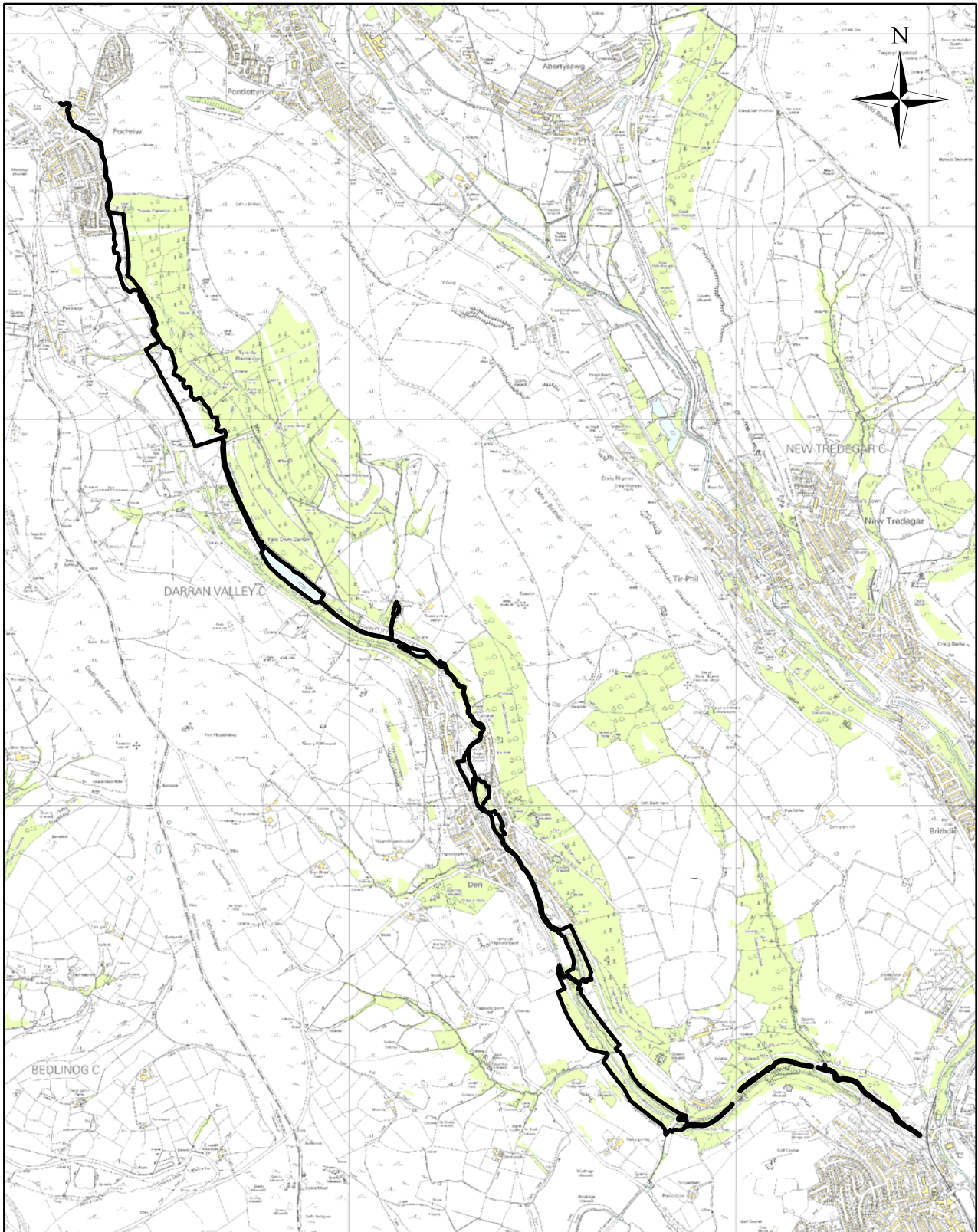
Grassland species in marshy grassland areas (includes a range of habitats from tall Angelica fen to marshy grassland dominated by Purple moor-grass): *Succisa pratensis*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Lotus pedunculatus*, *Galium palustre*, *Potentilla erecta*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Urtica Dioica*, *Valeriana officinalis*, *Hypericum tetrapterum*, *Epilobium palustre*, *Epilobium hirsutum*, *Juncus articulatus*, *Galeopsis tetrahit*, *Ranunculus repens*, *Lotus uliginosus*, *Solanum dulcamara*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, *Carex panacea*, *Juncus effusus*, *Juncus tenuis*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Melampyrum pratense*, *Erica tetralix*, *Festuca ovina*, *Vaccinium myrtillus*, *Caluna vulgaris*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Hieracium perpropinquum*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Sphagnum palustre*.

Fauna observations: Fox, **Bullfinch**, Jay, Blackbird, Wren, Yellow Meadow Ant, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Gatekeeper Butterfly, Speckled Wood Butterfly, Large White Butterfly, **Common Darter Dragonfly**, Common Green Grasshopper.

Additional species noted from desk study and consultation: Peacock Butterfly, Green Veined White Butterfly, Orange Tip Butterfly, Small White Butterfly, *Pedicularis sylvatica* (Melanie Sutherland 18/05/2004).

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
LDP Policy Ref: NH 3.4 (SINC 202)
Nant Bargod Rhymni 30 Ha

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