

# Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: **Lower Cwm-bychan**

GRID REF: **S O 4 8 4 0 6 2**

SURVEYOR(S): **Jan Winder**

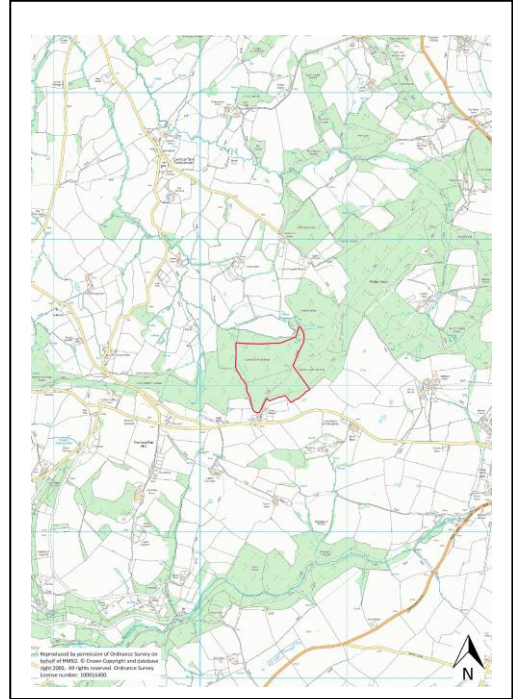
SIZE (approx.): **16.96ha**

DATE OF SURVEY: **7<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA: **Monmouthshire**

WARD: **Trelleck**

### SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:



### MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
Broadleaved Woodland	W14 W8 W7	
Bracken	W25	

### LBAP PRIORITY HABITATS/SPECIES PRESENT?

Priority habitat – Lowland Mixed Deciduous woodland

### FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent land use, access and boundaries etc.):

Lower Cwm Bychan Wood is situated on a west facing slope adjacent to and east of Croes Robert SSSI and Wildlife Trust reserve near Trellech. The woodland appears to have been partially clear felled around 20 years ago, and has been left to regenerate naturally. The woodland supports a diversity of species and habitats, with open areas, wet flushing, springs and woodland rides (21 woodland indicator species). The canopy is mainly dominated by *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), with a local dominance of *Alnus Glutinosa* (Alder), and *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech). Throughout there are the remnants of the previous areas of conifer plantation, mainly areas of *Picea abies* (Norway Spruce) in the understorey. There are previous records for *Paris quadrifolia* (Herb Paris), although it was not seen on this visit.

**Area 1** Dominated by *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) with occasional *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), and referable to the NVC W14 *Fagus sylvatica-Mercurialis perennis* woodland. This area has a sparse understorey and ground layer, mainly *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell) and *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad Buckler-fern).

**Area 2** This is the main area of the woodland dominated by Ash and referable to NVC W8 *Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Mercurialis perennis* woodland. Other canopy species include *Ulmus glabra* (Wych Elm), *Quercus robur* (Oak), *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), *Taxus baccata* (Yew) and some areas of Norway Spruce. The understorey is represented by *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly), young *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), and patches of *Picea abies* (Norway Spruce). The ground flora is rich and species include *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Bluebell), *Mercurialis perennis* (Dog's Mercury), *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel), *Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone), *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* (Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage), *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge), *Carex sylvatica* (Wood Sedge) and *Polystichum setiferum* (Soft Shield-fern). There are we areas along streams where Alder becomes more prominent, leading to the lower wet area of the woodland, area 3.

**Area 3** The damp area of the woodland to the north west where there is a pond. Dominated by *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder), NVC W7 *Alnus glutinosa-Fraxinus excelsior-Lysimachia nemorum* woodland. There is an abundance of *Deschampsia caespitosa* (Tufted Hair-grass), other species include *Carex pendula* (Pendulous Sedge), *Carex remota* (Remote Sedge), *Lysimachia nemorum* (Yellow Pimpernel), and *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* (Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage). The pond is shaded and has little aquatic vegetation.

Throughout the woodland there are grassy, damp woodland rides and open areas where Bramble and Bracken dominate. These areas, particularly the rides provide light allowing a greater diversity for plants, invertebrates and other wildlife. A separate woodland species list had been compiled for these areas.

**Official Use Only:** Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES Y NO Date: 8/2/2021

# DETAILED SITE INFORMATION

SITE OWNERSHIP: Including names of any tenants/graziers Name(s)

Name(s)	[REDACTED]		
Addresses	[REDACTED]		
Tel.no.	[REDACTED]	Email:	[REDACTED]

Please log all landowner/tenant contact starting from the initial permission for access to survey

Date	Contact	Discussion subjects/decisions made
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Is/are the owner(s)

i) aware of the site's nature conservation value? Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) managing the land sympathetically? Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) willing to manage the land sympathetically? Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Unknown

Describe the access to the site:

Forest rides and open access. Adjacent to Croes Robert GWT reserve.

Are there any public rights of way on the site?

**NO**

If so please describe their location:

N/A

What is the current management at the site?

Conservation?

Are there any threats to the site?

Not known

Are there any invasive species present?

Bracken

Are there any protected species present?

Not known

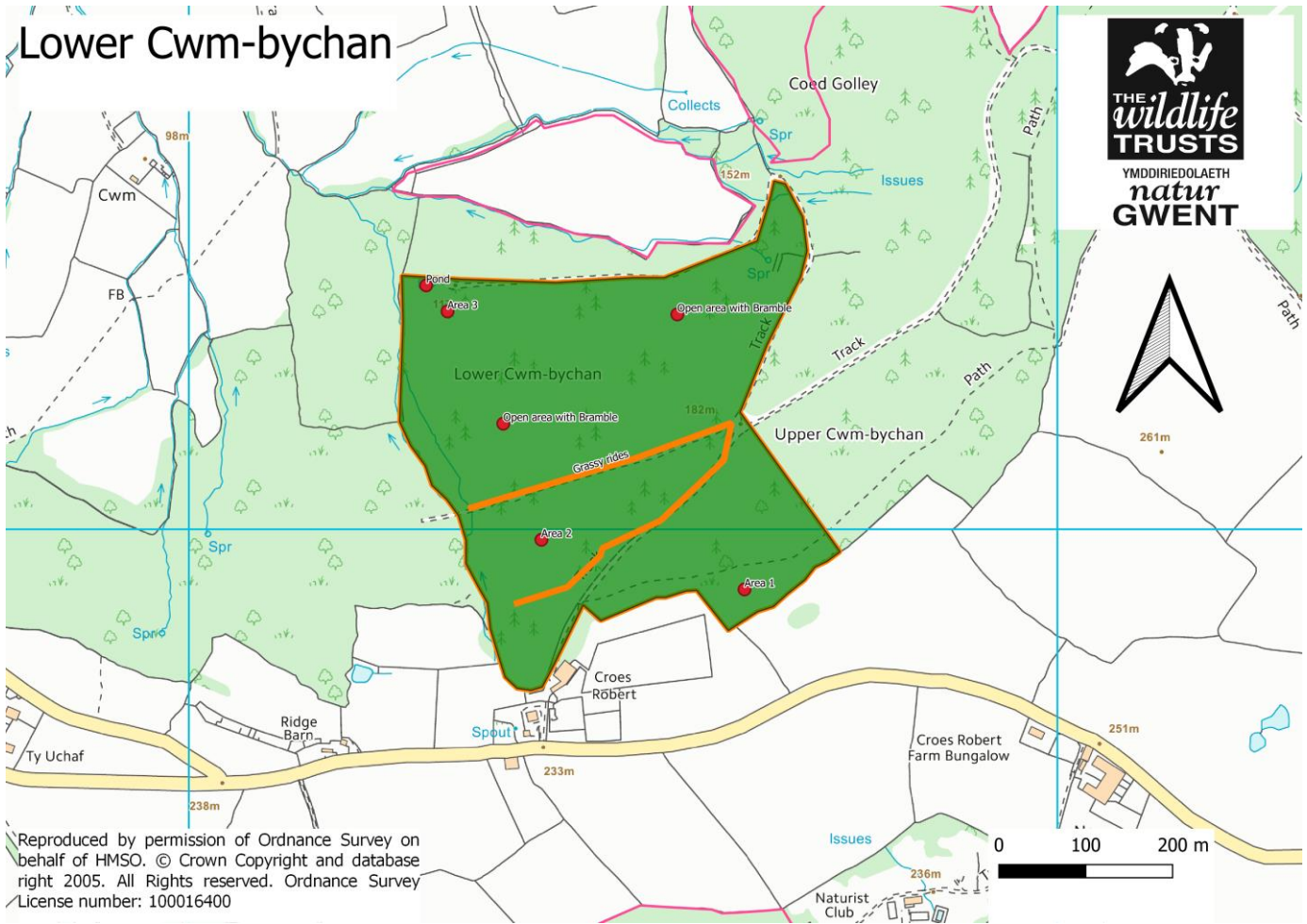
Please state the section(s) of the Wildlife Sites Guidance that this site qualifies under:

**H1) Woodlands-** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat. Indicator species (21 species recorded)

Is the site part of any grant schemes? Yes  No  Grant Scheme:.....End date.....

Does the site already have any designations? Yes  No  Designation:.....

Sketch map of site (including northpoint, scale and areas of the site of particular note):



Please list all additional survey information both past and present that relates to this site:  
CCW Phase 1, 1991.

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Site no.: WS/SO40/78

Please note: The data on this form may be held in accordance with the Gwent Wildlife Trust's registration under the Data Protection Act 1996

SITE NAME:		Woodland Species			
Lower Cwm Bychan		Date – 7/7/2020			
	D			D	D
<b>Acer campestre (Field Maple)</b>		<b>Carex digitata (Fingered Sedge)</b>		<b>Polypodium vulgare (Polypody Fern)</b>	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> (Sycamore)	R	<b>Carex laevigata (Smooth-stalked Sedge)</b>		<b>Polystichum aculeatum (Hard Shield Fern)</b>	
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> (Horse Chestnut)		<b>Carex pallescens (Pale Sedge)</b>		<b>Polystichum setiferum (Soft Shield Fern)</b>	O
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> (Alder)	LD	<i>Carex paniculata</i> (Greater Tussock sedge)		<i>Potentilla anserina</i> (Silverweed)	
<i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	O	<b>Carex pendula (Pendulous Sedge)</b>	LA	<i>Potentilla erecta</i> (Tormentil)	
<i>Betula pubescens</i> (Downy Birch)		<b>Carex remota (Remote Sedge)</b>	O	<i>Potentilla reptans</i> (Creeping Cinquefoil)	
<b>Carpinus betula (Hornbeam)</b>		<b>Carex strigosa (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge)</b>		<b>Potentilla sterilis (Barren Strawberry)</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i> (Sweet Chestnut)		<b>Carex sylvatica (Wood Sedge)</b>	O	<b>Primula vulgaris (Primrose)</b>	R
<i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel)	LA	<b>Chrysosplenium alternifolium (Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage)</b>		<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> (Self-heal)	
<i>Craetagus monogyna</i> (Hawthorn)	R	<b>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium (Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage)</b>	O	<b>Ranunculus auricomus (Goldilocks Buttercup)</b>	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech)	LD	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i> (Enchanters Nightshade)	O	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> (Lesser Celandine)	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)	D	<b>Conopodium majus (Pignut)</b>		<i>Ranunculus repens</i> (Creeping Buttercup)	
<i>Larix decidua</i> (Larch)	R	<b>Convallaria majalis (Lily-of-the-valley)</b>		<i>Rumex acetosa</i> (Common Sorrel)	
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> (Holly)	O	<b>Corydalis claviculata (Climbing Corydalis)</b>		<b>Sanicula europaea (Sanicle)</b>	
<b>Malus sylvestris (Crab Apple)</b>		<i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (Heath Grass)		<b>Scirpus sylvaticus (Wood Club-rush)</b>	
<b>Pinus sylvestris (Scots Pine)</b>		<b>Daphne laureola (Spurge Laurel)</b>		<b>Scrophularia nodosa (Figwort)</b>	R
<b>Populus tremula (Aspen)</b>		<b>Daphne mezereon (Mezeron)</b>		<b>Sedum telephium (Orphine)</b>	
<b>Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)</b>	R	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> (Tufted Hair-grass)	F	<b>Solidago virgaurea (Goldenrod)</b>	
<b>Prunus padus (Bird Cherry)</b>		<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> (Wavy Hair-grass)		<i>Silene dioica</i> (Red Campion)	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> (Blackthorn)		<b>Dryopteris aemula (Hay-scented Buckler Fern)</b>		<i>Stachys sylvatica</i> (Hedge Woundwort)	R
<b>Quercus petraea (Sessile Oak)</b>		<b>Dryopteris affinis (Scaly Male Fern)</b>	R	<i>Stellaria holostea</i> (Greater Stitchwort)	R
<i>Quercus robur</i> (Pedunculate Oak)	O	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> (Broad Buckler Fern)	F	<i>Stellaria neglecta</i> (Greater Chickweed)	
<b>Rhamnus catharticus (Buckthorn)</b>		<i>Dryopteris filix mas</i> (Male Fern)		<b>Stellaria nemorum (Wood Stitchwort)</b>	
<i>Salix cinerea</i> (Grey Willow)		<b>Elymus caninus (Bearded Couch-grass)</b>		<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. (Dandelion)	
<i>Salix caprea</i> (Goat Willow)	O	<b>Epipactis helleborine (Broad-leaved Helleborine)</b>		<i>Urtica dioica</i> (Stinging Nettle)	R
<i>Sorbus aria</i> (Whitebeam)		<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i> (Wood Horsetail)		<b>Vaccinium myrtillus (Bilberry)</b>	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan)		<b>Euonymus europaeus (Spindle)</b>			
<b>Sorbus torminalis (Wild Service)</b>		<b>Euphorbia amygdaloides (Wood Spurge)</b>		<i>Valeriana dioica</i> (Marsh Valerian)	
<b>Taxus baccata (Yew)</b>	R	<b>Euphorbia serrata (Upright Spurge)</b>		<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> (Common Valerian)	
<b>Tilia cordata (Small-leaved Lime)</b>		<b>Festuca gigantea (Giant Fescue)</b>	R	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i> (Brooklime)	
<b>Tilia platyphyllos (Large-leaved Lime)</b>		<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (Meadowsweet)		<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> (Germander, Speedwell)	
<b>Ulmus glabra (Wych Elm)</b>	O	<i>Fragaria vesca</i> (Wild Strawberry)		<i>Veronica hederacea</i> (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)	
		<b>Frangula alnus (Alder Buckthorn)</b>		<b>Veronica montana (Wood Speedwell)</b>	R
		<i>Galium aparine</i> (Cleavers)		<i>Veronica officinalis</i> (Heath Speedwell)	
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> (Broom)		<b>Galium odoratum (Sweet Woodruff)</b>		<b>Vicia sylvatica (Wood Vetch)</b>	
<b>Euonymus europaeus (Spindle)</b>	R	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> (Herb Robert)	R	<b>Viola palustris (Marsh Violet)</b>	
		<b>Geum rivale (Water Avens)</b>		<b>Viola reichenbachiana (Wood Dog-violet)</b>	R
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> (Honeysuckle)	R	<i>Geum urbanum</i> (Wood Avens)	R	<i>Viola riviniana</i> (Common Dog-violet)	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (Bracken)	R	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> (Ground Ivy)		<b>Wahlenbergia hederacea (Ivy-leaved Bellflower)</b>	
<b>Ribes nigrum (Black Currant)</b>		<b>Gymnocarpium dryopteris (Oak Fern)</b>		<i>Picea abies</i>	O
<b>Ribes rubrum (Red Currant)</b>		<b>Helleborous viridis (Green Hellebore)</b>		<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	O

<i>Rosa arvensis</i> (Field Rose)		<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> (Hogweed)		<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	R
<i>Rosa canina</i> (Dog Rose)		<i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire Fog)	R	<i>Clematis vitis-alba</i>	R
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (Bramble)	LA	<i>Holcus mollis</i> (Creeping Soft-grass)		<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	R
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> (Elder)	O	<b><i>Hordelymus europeus</i> (Wood Barley)</b>		<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	R
<i>Cornus sanguineus</i> (Dogwood)	R	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> (Bluebell)	F	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	R
<i>Ulex europaeus</i> (Gorse)		<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i> (Slender St. Johns Wort)		<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	R
<b><i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> (Bilberry)</b>		<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i> (Tutsan)		<i>Galium palustre</i>	R
<b><i>Viburnum opulus</i> (Guelder Rose)</b>		<i>Hedera helix</i> (Ivy)		<i>Linum catharticum</i>	R
<i>Viscum album</i> (Mistletoe)		<b><i>Iris foetidissima</i> (Stinking Iris)</b>		<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	R
		<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> (Yellow Archangel)	O		
		<b><i>Lathraea squamaria</i> (Toothwort)</b>			
<b><i>Aconitum napellus</i> (Monkshood)</b>		<b><i>Lathyrus linifolius</i> (Bitter-vetch)</b>			
<b><i>Adoxa moschatellina</i> (Moschatel)</b>		<b><i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i> (Narrow-leaved Everlasting Sweet-pea)</b>			
<i>Aegopodium podararia</i> (Ground Elder)		<i>Listera ovata</i> (Tway-blade Orchid)			
<i>Aira praecox</i> (Early Hair-grass)		<b><i>Luzula forsteri</i> (Southern Woodrush)</b>			
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (Garlic Mustard)		<b><i>Luzula pilosa</i> (Hairy Woodrush)</b>			
<b><i>Allium ursinum</i> (Ramsons)</b>		<b><i>Luzula sylvatica</i> (Great Woodrush)</b>			
<b><i>Anemone nemorosa</i> (Wood Anemone)</b>	R	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i> (Yellow Pimpernel)	O		
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i> (Wild Angelica)		<i>Melampyrum pratense</i> (Common Cow-wheat)			
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> (Sweet Vernal Grass)		<i>Melica uniflora</i> (Wood Mellick)			
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> (Cow Parsley)		<b><i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> (Bastard Balm)</b>			
<b><i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> (Columbine)</b>		<i>Mercurialis perennis</i> (Dog's Mercury)	F	<b>Woodland Features:</b>	
<i>Arctium minus</i> (Lesser Burdock)		<i>Milium effusum</i> (Wood Millet)			
<i>Arum maculatum</i> (Lords and Ladies)	R	<i>Moehringia trinervum</i> (3-nerved Sandwort)		Hedgebanks	
<b><i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i> (Harts-touge Fern)</b>		<b><i>Monotropa hypopitys</i> (Yellow Bird's-nest)</b>		Ditches	Y
<b><i>Betonica officinalis</i> (Betony)</b>		<b><i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> (Wild Daffodill)</b>		Ponds	Y
<b><i>Blechnum spicant</i> (Hard Fern)</b>	R	<b><i>Neottia nidus-avis</i> (Bird's-nest Orchid)</b>		Active Badger setts	
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (False Brome)	O	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i> (Hemlock Water-dropwort)		Wet flushes	Y
<b><i>Bromus ramosus</i> (Hairy Brome)</b>		<i>Orchis mascula</i> (Early Purple-orchid)		Sunken lane	
<b><i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i> (Wood Small-reed)</b>		<i>Oxalis acetosella</i> (Wood Sorrel)	O	Veteran trees	
<b><i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (Heather)</b>		<b><i>Paris quadrifolia</i> (Herb Paris)</b>		Dry stone walls	
<b><i>Campanula latifolia</i> (Giant Bellflower)</b>		<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (Ribwort Plantain)			
<b><i>Campanula patula</i> (Spreading Bellflower)</b>		<b><i>Platanthera chlorantha</i> (Greater Butterfly Orchid)</b>			
<b><i>Campanula trachelium</i> (Nettle-leaved Bellflower)</b>		<i>Poa nemoralis</i> (Wood Meadow grass)		<b>Fauna seen or evidence of recorded:</b>	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i> (Cuckoo Flower)		<b><i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i> (Solomon's Seal)</b>			

#### Key to abundances

D = Dominant  
A = Abundant  
F = Frequent  
O = Occasional  
R = Rare  
Y = Yes (present)

Prefixes  
L = Local/Locally  
V = Very

Key to colour coding of woodland species list

Species in **Bold** equals indicator species.

Species in **Bold and underlined** equals a species from the contributory species list.

Species in *red italics* equals a species from the primary species list.