

***Appendix Three (published separately)***

***Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan  
2006-2021***

***Supplementary Planning Guidance***

***Nature Conservation***

**2008**

**Appendix Three**

**Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Rhondda  
Cynon Taf**

**Site Descriptions**

## SINC 1

Number	1	Name	<b>Coed Wernhir.</b>	
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC. Coed Wernhir is semi-natural deciduous woodland, part of which is ancient woodland. It supports mixed woodland, characterised by oak, birch, alder and ash with under storey including hazel, rowan, holly and willows. Alder predominates on wetter flushed areas. The woodland is mainly open, with some areas approaching wood pasture in nature. There are significant elements of an ancient woodland ground flora. Within open areas there are associated areas of marshy and semi-improved acid grassland. The woodlands represent good breeding bird habitat, including pied flycatcher. Lesser horseshoe bats occur in the wider area and Coed Wernhir is potentially important foraging habitat.</p> <p>The SINC also includes extensive areas of marshy grassland. These include areas of purple moor-grass and rush pasture (M25), which represent potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat. Elsewhere large areas of marshy grassland are rush dominated, and unmanaged with encroaching scrub, and bramble. These areas, although in poor condition, support wetland grassland habitat, which justifies inclusion in the SINC as part of an extensive habitat mosaic. There are also a few areas of standing water, with stands of reed mace and other emergent species. Based largely upon habitat potential, these have a high potential as amphibian habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SN 908073).</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos	
CCW TN	001 (SN90 NW)	Area (ha)	59.63	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Very limited access via Public Rights of Way. The main road offers good views into the woodland and the marshy grassland.			
Ownership	Not Known			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (2), H (7) and H (20) Contributory Features - H (3), H (4), H (6), H (9), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (17), S (1)., S (2), S (4), and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added			
Survey work undertaken	CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995 Site Visits 1997-2008 Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional), NCC 1986 Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)			
Original Number	1	Original Name	Coed Wernhir	

## SINC 2

Number	2	Name	<b>Werfa Farm</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of marshy and acid grassland (rhos pasture) with smaller areas of associated habitat. At its southern end the SINC represents a good example of lowland, species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification of M24 and M25), particularly notable for a large population of whorled caraway. The main part of the SINC is sheep-grazed marshy grassland with a complex mosaic of purple moor-grass and rush pasture with wet heath and acid flushes (sphagnum bog moss) and large areas of wet acidic grassland. The eastern boundary of the SINC is the deeply incised valley of the Cwm Wylfa, with a fast flowing upland stream and an oak and alder dominated wooded gorge.</p> <p>Although, areas of the site are in relatively poor habitat condition, the size and continuity of habitats, represents an important wet grassland and heath mosaic. The SINC is an important area of marsh fritillary butterfly habitat which lies close to the Blaen Cynon SAC.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 921069</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	TN 008 & 010 (SN90NW)	Area (ha)	62.34
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (7), H (10), H (20), S (6) Contributory Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (12), H (15),		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995 Site Visits 1997-2008 Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)		
Original Number	2	Original Name	Werfa Farm

**SINC 3**

Number	3	Name	<b>Nant Fforch</b>
Description	A complex of valley mire and associated purple moor-grass and rush pasture associated with an apparent drumlin field. The valley mire supports purple moor-grass on deep peat with stands of common cotton grass and sphagnum bog moss. The marshy grassland areas are (in National Vegetation Classification terms) M25 in character with devil's-bit scabious. The site includes areas of marshy grassland assessed as good and suitable marsh fritillary habitat (Smith 2005).		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 912064 And 917065</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	TN 004 (SN90NW)	Area (ha)	10.17
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	One Public Right of Way		
Ownership	Not known		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (7), H(12) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original No	3	Original Name	Nant Fforch (NGR SN 917064).

## SINC 4

Number	4	Name	<b>Brickyard Mire</b>
Description	Small valley mire closely associated with the valley mires of SINC 3 and 5. The site occurs on deep peat and is dominated by purple moor-grass and rush pasture with common cotton grass, soft rush, compact rush, carnation sedge and deer grass. The Site has been degraded by drainage, but retains important peat land features and keys species, including the keeled skimmer dragonfly.		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 916061</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	TN 003 (SN90NW)	Area (ha)	3.008
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Adjacent to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal	Yes	Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Feature: H (12) Contributory Feature: S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	4	Original Name	Brickyard Mire

## SINC 5

Number	5	Name	<b>Rhigos Tramway</b>
Description	<p>A large site which supports a complex mosaic of wet and dry grassland, with areas of gorse scrub, and a wooded stream. The SINC includes extensive areas of purple moor-grass and rush pasture which in National Vegetation Classification terms can be characterised as M25 mire, with small areas of M23 and M24 mire and M15 wet heath. The mosaic includes purple moor-grass (dominate), sphagnum bog moss (frequent), heather (frequent), cross-leaved heath (frequent), soft rush (locally frequent), devil's bit scabious (locally frequent), deer-grass, lousewort and common sedge. Much of this grassland has been identified as suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat (Smith, 2005).</p> <p>Areas of peat support common cotton grass and the Site has remnant valley mire features. The SINC includes areas of drier species rich acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4), neutral grassland National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6) and the species-rich grassland of a small graveyard (with abundant dyers greenweed).</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 922062</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	TN 007 & 009 (SN 90NW).	Area (Ha)	15.85
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal	Yes	Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (4), H (6), H (7), H (12), H (20) and S (6) Contributory Features – H (3), H (10), (H15)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	5	Original Name	Rhigos Tramway

## SINC 6

Number	6	Name	<b>Cwm Gwrelych</b>
Description	<p>A wooded stream and gorge. A typical upland stream section, the woodland is primarily dominated by oak and alder, of which at least part is ancient woodland. The SINC supports a characteristic and typical welsh oak woodland habitat, with attendant potential as wood warbler and pied flycatcher habitat, bat habitat and potential for purple hairstreak butterfly.</p> <p>The stream has potential as otter, dipper and brown trout habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 909056</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN		Area (Ha)	6.393
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features: H(1) and H(15)</p> <p>Contributory Features: S (1), S (2), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional), NCC 1986</li> </ul>		
Original Number	6	Original Name	Cwm Gwelych

## SINC 7

Number	7	Name	<b>Hirwaun Industrial Estate</b>
Description	<p>Large mosaic site which at its heart includes an ancient peat bog, and around its edges a mosaic of 'brown field' grassland and scrub habitats. The peat bog is a continuation of the deep peat of the closely adjacent Cors Bryn-y-Gaer SSSI (part of the Blaen Cynon SAC). It is unmanaged peat land with extensive areas of rank purple moor-grass, with varying amounts of associated cross-leaved heath, deer-grass, heather, common and hares-foot cotton-grass. There are numerous peat pools (possibly associated with old peat diggings) and these have associated sphagnum moss communities.</p> <p>At its fringes the peat bog grades into marshy grassland (in National Vegetation Classification terms mainly M25) with areas of tufted hair grass and rush pasture. This grades further into long derelict brown field grasslands, which are species rich mosaics of marshy grassland and drier neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification of MG5). The site has a raised central 'tump', which supports a large area of gorse and associated dry heath.</p> <p>The habitat mosaic supports good invertebrate habitat, which includes the mountain bumblebee <i>Bombus monticola</i>, and has a high potential for green hairstreak and dingy skipper. The peat bog supports keeled skimmer dragonflies with amphibian and reptile habitat, and diverse breeding bird habitat (including linnet, stonechat and warblers) and potential (in the peat bog) for breeding snipe.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 935065</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	014 (SN 90 NW)	Area (ha)	16.86
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (3), H (4), H (7), H (10), H (12), H (20) Contributory Features – H (6), H (11), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	7	Original Name	Hirwaun Industrial Estate



## SINC 8

Number	8	Name	<b>Clydach Vale</b>
Description	<p>An extensive SINC, which includes the complex of habitats around Clydach Vale, much of the valley bottom and sides of Cwm Clydach. A large component of this habitat is the Clydach Vale Key Countryside Site, which is based on reclaimed colliery spoil habitat, and which has increasingly come to blend into, and complement the habitats of the surrounding natural valley sides.</p> <p>The Key Countryside Site supports a mixture of wet and damp neutral and acid grasslands, woodland plantations, two lakes, quarries, ffridd, dry heath and acid grassland. In composition the grassland is a mixture of acid and neutral grassland with large stands of wet and marshy grassland. The grassland have a long species list, which includes common bent, Yorkshire fog, crested dog'-tail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, cock's-foot, bird's-foot trefoil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin, horsetails, ox-eye daisy, vetches, dog violet, white and red clover, marsh thistle, soft and hard rush. Large numbers of southern marsh orchid are a particular feature of the site, together with some bee-orchid. The SINC supports a nationally important colony of the statutory protected Deptford pink in one of only four Welsh localities. The site is of significance as habitat for dark green and small pearl-bordered fritillary both of which occur in large numbers. Adder and barn owl are regularly recorded, and the dense thickets of tree planting support strong song bird communities including large numbers of warblers.</p> <p>The SINC includes two lakes and the quarry pool. The lakes support rich emergent floras with fringing stands of common reed, greater pond sedge and branched bur-reed. The submerged floras of both lakes are unfortunately dominated by the highly invasive curly pondweed (<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>) but there is a diverse associated emergent and submerged flora which includes native potamogeton pondweeds and water starworts also present. The lakes support large numbers of dragonflies and damselflies, including broad bodied chaser and emperor dragonfly.</p> <p>The southern, and parts of the northern valley sides, above the Key Countryside site have steep slopes, with occasional exposed crags and old quarries. They support a rich mosaic of dense bracken, heath, and marshy grassland. Typical species include heather, bell heather, bilberry, western gorse, common bent, sheep's fescue, purple moor-grass, foxglove, sheep's bit scabious, tormentil, heath bedstraw. <i>Cladonia</i> lichens are locally abundant. Common lizard occurs on the south facing slopes.</p>		

	<p>Forestry Commission plantation dominates the upper valley slopes. These include standing areas of larch and sitka spruce with their associated conifer bird communities (with potential for cross bill, siskin, and goshawk). Stag's-horn club moss has been recorded in the recent past within open areas in the forestry. Some large scale clear felling has been undertaken in recent years creating areas of resurgent open acid grassland and heath, and nightjar breeding habitat.</p> <p>The SINC extends south of Clydach Vale, onto the upland plateau of Mynydd Pwllyrhebog. This expanse of open grassland supports a typical mix of sheep grazed upland acid habitats. The main habitat is large areas of short acid grassland, characterised by sheep's fescue, common bent, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw and tormentil, in places areas of mat grass and heath rush co-dominate. Peaty and wet areas support mosaic of marshy grassland, flush and blanket bog. The marshy grassland is typically soft rush (National Vegetation Classification M23) dominated with compact rush, purple moor-grass, jointed rush, sharp flowered rush and velvet bent with occasional marsh thistle, foxglove, broad buckler fern, tormentil and marsh bedstraw. Areas with occasional hare's-tail and common cotton grass, and abundant sphagnum bog moss have been identified as acid flush (National Vegetation Classification M6c). Areas with abundant sphagnum bog mosses have been identified as blanket bog. All of these upland habitats experience heavy sheep grazing, which masks the full potential of the habitats. The mainly short upland turf supports good numbers of skylark and meadow pipit and smaller numbers of whinchat, stonechat, reed bunting and wheatear. Surveying has recorded occasional use of the site by buzzard, kestrel, merlin and hen harrier, and wintering golden plover, snipe and lapwing.</p>
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Grid Ref	SS 972925	Ward(s)	Cwm Clydach, Tonypany, Penygraig
CCW TN		Area (Ha)	631
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part Council, part FCW		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (16), H (18), H (20), H (21), S (3) and S (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (4), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS others to be added: 412, 416, 415, 459, 418, 108, 109, 110, 111, 386, 419, 420, (411 and 414 on boundaries)		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report – (Hyder 2002)</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Forestry Commission Planting Plans</li> <li>• Rhondda Cynon Taff Pond Survey 2003, National Museum and Gallery of Wales.</li> <li>• Glamorgan Upland Survey, NCC, 1985</li> <li>• Fforch Nest Wind Farm Environmental Statement, Npower Renewables, 2006</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	8	Original Name	Bryn y Gaer Fields (deleted, now part of SAC)
	195		Clydach Vale

SINC 9

Number	9	Name	<b>Hirwaun Ponds</b>
Description	<p>A species rich area of marshy grassland, swamp and ponds occupying low-lying land between A465 and A4061, and part based on old colliery spoil. The marshy grassland supports purple moor-grass, rush and tufted hair-grass and although unmanaged is very diverse. It is best characterised as a mosaic of marshy grassland habitats (National Vegetation Classification M23 and M25) and tall fen communities, which includes meadow thistle, angelica, marsh bedstraw and whorled caraway. This marshy grassland/fen grades into swamp dominated by reed mace and willow scrub. Royal fern has been recorded on the site. At the western end Tower Colliery manage and maintain a number of fishing pools, which contain a rich emergent flora including sea club-rush, common reed and lesser water parsnip. The pools support very species rich dragonfly populations and the site is one of the best-recorded sites in RCT with 14 species recorded, including small blue-tailed damselfly, broad bodied chaser, black-tailed skimmer, and keeled skimmer. The mosaic of wetland vegetation offers excellent invertebrate, amphibian (frogs and toads have been recorded) and nesting bird habitat including reed bunting, grasshopper warbler, reed warbler, water rail, redpoll and sedge warbler. Barn owl and kestrel both breed on or close to the SINC.</p> <p>Coal spoil areas support a mosaic of thin open grassland (with silver hair-grass, carline thistle, pearly everlasting, thyme leaved sandwort, marsh cudweed, and rats tail fescue) and emerging heath (with some lichen heath). Grayling and small copper butterflies occur on the site.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 947056</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos, Hirwaun
CCW TN	TN 025 & 026 (SN90NW)	Area (Ha)	12.31
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	No public access		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features - H (3), H (7), H (11), H (16), H (18), H (20)          Contributory Features – H (4), H (6), H(10), S (2), S (6) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Botanical Society for the British Isles, Plant Record Sheet, 1990</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Wardell Armstrong Ecological Survey (c1996)</li> <li>• Tower Colliery Odonata Survey – Rob and Linda Nottage, 1997</li> <li>• Glamorgan Bird Club Report (various)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	9	Original Name	Hirwaun Ponds

SINC 10

Number	10	Name	<b>Hirwaun Common</b>
Description	<p>Upland parts of this large SINC support an extensive upland mosaic characterised as upland marshy grassland and acid grassland with significant areas of dry heath (heather, bilberry and western gorse) and areas of flushed wet heath. The Upland Survey of Glamorgan listed a number of rare or local species recorded from Hirwaun Common (which includes part of this SINC) these included Newman oak fern (<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>), fir clubmoss (<i>Huperzia selago</i>), mossy saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>), cowberry (<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>), beech fern (<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>), and ivy-leaved bellflower (<i>Wahlenbergia hereracea</i>). A large area of bilberry dominated dry heath includes a small area of western gorse heath. Upland bird communities include skylark and wheatear.</p> <p>The lower slopes of Hirwaun Common represent an expanse of M25 marshy grassland, which includes, sphagnum flushes, wet heath and acid grassland and heather and bilberry dry heath on old spoil. Whorled caraway occurs in the grassland on the lower slopes. Ivy-leaved bellflower is abundant together with bog asphodel and round-leaved sundew. Skylark, wheatear and stonechat nest. Pools have potential for great crested newt. Marsh fritillary butterfly habitat occurs and an adult has recently been recorded. Small pearl-bordered fritillary and grayling have also been recorded. Dark green fritillary and green hairstreak are all likely to occur.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 933049</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos, Hirwaun, Penywaun	
CCW TN	TN 001, 002 and 009 (SN 90 SE)		Area (Ha)	853.1
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Upland parts are Open Access. Lower slopes access restricted to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (18), H (20), and H (21).</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (15), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (6), and S (7)</p>			
RIGS Earth science sites	<p>30 Craig yr Bwlch (score 220)</p> <p>536 South Ty Rhos Crags (score 160)</p>			
Other earth science sites	To be added			

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Upland Survey, NCC 1985</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Wardell Armstrong Ecological Survey (c1997)</li> <li>• Tower Colliery Odonata Survey, Rob and Linda Nottage (1997)</li> <li>• Glamorgan Bird Club Report (various)</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	10, 22 U4	Original Name	Hirwaun Slopes SINC Penywaun Ridge SINC Mynydd y Bwlfa/Hirwaun Common Upland SINC

SINC 11

Number	11	Name	<b>Gelli-ben-uchel</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes the short section of the River Cynon north of the mineral railway and the associated fen meadows of Gelli-ben-uchel.</p> <p>Within the SINC, the River Cynon is a fast flowing upland river with frequent pool-riffle sequences, undercut banks and gravel and boulder bed. The riverbanks support alder, oak, hazel and wych elm woodland, and an ancient (if sometimes sheep grazed) ground flora. Otter, brown trout, dipper and grey wagtail all use this section of river.</p> <p>Gelli-ben-uchel is a small, but very wet and species rich area of marshy grassland which supports fen meadow (National Vegetation Classification M24), with neutral flushes. The site supports devil's-bit scabious, and has a high potential for both marsh fritillary butterflies and narrow-bordered bee hawk moths.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 951065</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos
CCW TN	TN 003 (SN 90NE)	Area (ha)	3.259
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to PROW		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Feature – H (1), H (7), H (15) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (5)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	11	Original Name	Gelli-ben-uchel



## SINC 12

Number	12	Name	<b>Hirwaun Ponds (North)</b>	
Description	<p>The SINC includes a mosaic of wetlands, ponds and drainage channels on the north side of the A465. The complex of water features supports excellent aquatic and emergent flora. The ponds and channels also support diverse dragonfly populations, which includes keeled skimmer. The ponds have a high potential for breeding amphibians. Breeding frogs have been recorded and the habitat represents good quality grass snake habitat. The water bodies support breeding coot and moorhen, with potential for water rail. Reed bunting and sedge warbler occur in areas of reed bed. Small areas of marshy grassland occur, and these have potential as marsh fritillary butterfly habitat (the Site is immediately adjacent to the marsh fritillary colony of Blaen Cynon SAC). Barn owls use the site. The ponds and channels represent otter and possibly water vole habitat.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of willow scrub together with stunted grassland on the coal spoil. This area of open grassland traditionally supported an important lapwing-breeding colony. Base rich flushes, emerge from the very acid tip, and these support interesting floras, including the base loving marsh arrow-grass.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 949059</b>	Ward(s)	Hirwaun	
CCW TN	028 (SN 90 NW)	Areas (ha)	6.101	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access				
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (11), H (16), H (18), H (20) and S (2) Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (12), S(1), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S(6)			
Earth science sites	None			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	12	Original Name	Mount Pleasant Grassland	

SINC 13

Number	13	Name	<b>Hirwaun Iron Works</b>
Description	<p>A largely post-industrial SINC, which lies on the banks of the River Cynon close to the centre of Hirwaun. The Site includes the famous Iron Works Site with areas of slag and spoil. A very diverse assemblage of habitats occurs, which includes species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG1, MG5 and MG10) and smaller areas of wetter, marsh grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23, M24 and M25). Grassland species include lady's mantle (<i>filicaulis susp vestita</i>), pale sedge, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, marsh bedstraw, rough hawkbit, ragged robin, purple moor-grass, rushes, tormentil, greater burnet, common spotted orchid, southern marsh orchid, devil's bit scabious, marsh speedwell, meadowsweet, and lesser reed mace (<i>Typha angustifolia</i>). Areas of shorter turf support potentially wax cap fungi habitat. Grayling butterfly has been recorded.</p> <p>The extensive areas of mixed scrub and a wet alder-willow carr represent particularly good songbird and invertebrate habitat. Seasonal standing water is important for breeding colonies of frog and palmate newt. The mixture of grassland and scrub represents good reptile habitat with slowworm and common lizard both recorded. The site is good bat foraging habitat with a high potential for roost sites within the iron works site and riverbank walls. Hobby has been recorded hunting over the site.</p> <p>The SINC includes a section of the River Cynon, with its riparian woodland, and generally good water quality. Brown trout have been recorded within this section, together with dipper and grey wagtail, and evidence of otter. The SINC includes the wide floodplain grassland, scrub and pool of Parc Hensol. The swamp supports areas of reed mace and wood club-rush and with scattered alder trees and willow scrub.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 955059</b>	Ward(s)	Hirwaun
CCW TN	002, 011 (SN 90 NE)	Area (ha)	17.89
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access			
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (15), H (18),		

Features	Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995 Site Visits 1997-2008 Piper Homes, Hirwaun – Ecological Assessment, Halcrow (2005 and 2006),		
Original Number	13	Original Name	<b>Hirwaun Ironworks</b>

SINC 14

Number	14	Name	<b>Glyncornel</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes all of the areas of woodland, and grassland not included within the Craig Pont-Rhondda Woodland SSSI. A large part of the SINC lies within the Glyncornel Woods Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Within the Local Nature Reserve, the woodlands are a mixture of species rich native oak, alder, birch, hazel, ash, crab apple, alder buckthorn and sycamore largest native woodland. Some of this woodland has a definite ancient woodland ground flora, with bluebell, wood sorrel, male fern, broad buckler fern and dog violet. Elsewhere, in the areas of secondary woodland, bramble is a significant element of the ground flora. The SINC includes areas of conifer plantation with larch and lodgepole pine. Some of this plantation is replanted ancient woodland, and all of it adds to the total woodland area of the SINC/SSSI complex.</p> <p>The site includes the meadows within Glyncornel Local Nature Reserve. These hay meadows support species rich damp acid grassland with Yorkshire fog, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, common bent, greater bird's-foot trefoil, heath bedstraw, bluebell, pignut, hay rattle, ribwort plantain and greater burnet. The grassland include areas of wet neutral grassland with several hundred southern marsh orchids, and elsewhere areas of purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification M25) grassland with tormentil. The meadows have a series of interconnecting woodland strips, which follow old hedge lines. These have mature oak, birch, alder and ash woodland with hazel, hawthorn and holly under storey, and ancient woodland ground flora. There is a wide bramble/bracken fringe to these old hedge lines.</p> <p>The SINC includes Glyncornel lake. The lake is an angling lake, but it also supports associated aquatic invertebrate communities, and winter water birds, which include goosanders and kingfisher.</p> <p>The woodlands are excellent bird habitat, wood warbler are still present in good numbers, although with the cessation of sheep grazing, both pied flycatchers and redstart are now uncommon. The site has spotted flycatcher, and a diverse lowland woodland bird community. The site has an impressive moth list and lunar hornet clearwing moths have been recorded. Glyncornel house holds a pipistrelle bat roost.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 993942	Ward(s)	Llwynypia
CCW TN	CCW TN 007 SS99SE	Area (ha)	30.58
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part FCW, part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), and H (21) Contributory Features – H (16), S (1), S (2), S (4), and (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	14	Original Name	Parc Hensol (now included in no 13)
	194		Glyncornel

SINC 15

Number	15	Name	<b>Upper Cynon Floodplain</b>
Description	<p>A very large SINC, which is comprised of a network of damp and marshy grassland, semi-natural woodland and the meandering course of the River Cynon.</p> <p>The SINC supports an exceptional resource of species rich semi-improved grasslands. These include species rich damp pastures (National Vegetation Classifications MG5, MG6 and MG10) with crested dog's-tail, common bent, sweet vernal grass, Yorkshire fog, red fescue, cock's-foot, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, yarrow, greater burnet, bulbous buttercup, red clover, cuckoo flower, pignut and burnet saxifrage. Areas of old coal workings (e.g. SN990044) support similar species rich neutral grassland communities.</p> <p>The wetter floodplain, and flushed slopes, support marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23, M24, M25 and M27), with purple moor-grass, soft rush, tufted hair-grass, Yorkshire fog, greater bird's-foot trefoil, meadowsweet, tormentil, bulbous buttercup, marsh bedstraw and occasional meadow thistle. Devil's-bit scabious occurs within a number of the marshy grassland and damp neutral grassland pastures and marsh fritillary butterflies have been recorded. The uncommon upright vetch (<i>Vicia orobus</i>) and upright brome have both been recorded.</p> <p>There are significant areas of wet alder woodlands, drier oak woodland and areas of mixed scrub and swamp all within the floodplain of the Afon Cynon. The woodlands are species rich with alder, oak, wych elm, hawthorn, birch, willow, ash and dog rose, and ground floras which include bluebell, dog violet, lesser celandine, wood speedwell, male fern and broad buckler fern.</p> <p>The River Cynon meanders its way through the SINC via a series of typical riffle/pool sequence, with gravel banks exposed at times of low flow, undercut banks and bank side woodland and pastures. Dipper, grey wagtail, goosander and kingfisher, brown trout and otter all occur.</p> <p>A very species rich habitat, supporting one of the largest areas of unimproved lowland grassland and floodplain woodland in the Cynon Valley. The mixture of wet, unimproved pastures, and mature woodland represents excellent invertebrate, bird and bat habitat. Barn owl, which nest locally, will hunt through the wet grassland of the SINC.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 994039</b>		Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Aberdare East, Penywaun
CCW TN	016 (SN90 NE) 013, 018, 019, 020, 017 and 029 (SN90SE).		Area (ha)	81.15
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15), H (18) and H (20) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5), and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Grassland Survey – Llwydcoed Fields</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Robertstown Industrial Estate, Ecological Assessment, Arnott and Man Consulting Ecologists (2004)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	15	Original Name	Upper Cynon Floodplain	

## SINC 16

Number	16	Name	<b>Nant Hir Valley and Reservoir</b>
Description	<p>The wooded valley of the Nant Hir supports ancient woodland of oak, alder, ash, birch, rowan, and hazel. Much of the wooded bank of the stream is essentially ancient woodland with associated ancient woodland ground flora, and songbird communities. The Nant Hir is a fast flowing upland stream, with good water quality, and supports habitat for otter, brown trout, dipper and grey wagtail. The SINC includes the Nant Hir Reservoir, a large water body with bank side oak and larch woodland. The banks of the reservoir include areas of quite diverse neutral grassland with sweet vernal grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, ribwort plantain, bird's-foot trefoil, and black knapweed.</p> <p>The SINC, and the reservoir, extends north under the A465 and includes further areas of oak, birch, rowan, alder and hazel woodland (and a purple hairstreak butterfly colony) with acid grassland (sheep's fescue, common bent, sweet vernal grass, tormentil and heath bedstraw). The acid grassland grades into areas of heather and purple moor-grass marshy grassland with willow scrub. Although unmanaged and rank, the marshy grassland includes elements of species rich grassland with heather, greater burnet, green ribbed sedge, tufted hair-grass, heath bedstraw, and tormentil all present. The purple moor-grass extends into an extensive larch plantation. Although rank, the marshy grassland is in National Vegetation Classification terms M25 and lies within a well-established marsh fritillary butterfly meta-population.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 988065</b>	Ward(s)	Rhigos Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN		Area (ha)	63.71
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H(7), H (9), H (15) and H (16) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5), S (6)		
RIGS Earth science sites	20 Llech Syrhyd waterfall (score 220)		
Other earth science sites	To be added		



Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Site notes from A465 Dualling (1994)</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	16	Original Name	Nant Hir

## SINC 17

Number	17	Name	<b>Nant Hir Gwyddel</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes the wooded valley of the Nant Gwyddel. Nant Gwyddel is a typical upland stream, with pool/riffle sequences, and a rocky/gravel bed. Along much of its length the Nant Gwyddel supports mature woodland with elements of an ancient woodland groundflora. Good woodland breeding bird habitat occurs and otter will use the stream.</p> <p>The SINC includes a section of the wooded disused railway line of the Llwydcoed/Abernant cycle track. This hazel, ash, oak woodland forms an obvious habitat corridor which links the woodlands of Nant Gwyddel with SINC's further south along the line. The SINC includes areas of mature semi-nature woodland associated with disused quarries in Llwydcoed. These support mixed oak, ash, hazel, alder, holly and willow woodland, with areas of associated acid and neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U4 and MG6). The mosaic of habitats represents good songbird and bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 990056</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN		Area (ha)	23.10
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (15) and H (20) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (5)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added.		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	17	Original Name	Nant Hir Gwyddel

SINC 18

Number	18	Name	<b>Llwydcoed Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large area of species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25 with small areas of M24) on the upland edge with purple moor-grass, soft rush, compact rush, tormentil, heather, bilberry, cross-leaved heath, and deer-grass. Heather occurs on drier ground. Flushed areas support yellow sedge, carnation sedge, lousewort, and bog asphodel. In places the flushing is base-rich with flea sedge, carnation sedge, common sedge and meadow thistle. Areas of drier acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) include sweet vernal grass, mat grass, common bent, sheep's fescue, heath grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw and devil's-bit scabious and again where there is evidence of more base rich soil, bird's-foot trefoil, lady's mantle and quaking-grass are locally frequent within the acidic turf. The site has a high potential as marsh fritillary habitat.</p> <p>The southern end of the SINC includes the upper reaches of the valley of the Nant y Gwyddel (see SINC 17).</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 994064</b>	Ward(s)	Llwydcoed/Aberdare West
CCW TN	TN040 (SN90NE and SO00NW)	Area (ha)	35.30
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7), H (10) and H (13)          Contributory Features – H (3), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Notes for A465 Dualling (1994)</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	18	Original Name	Llwydcoed Slopes

## SINC 19

Number	19	Name	<b>Bryn-defaid Heath</b>	
Description	<p>The SINC supports a large area of well-established dry lichen heath (which primarily occurs on old colliery tips), together with acid grassland, conifer plantations and areas of associated marshy grassland.</p> <p>The dry heath supports heather, bilberry, wavy hair -grass and <i>cladonia</i> lichens, with areas of associated acid grassland (including sheep's fescue, sweet vernal grass, mat grass, common bent, heath bedstraw sheep's sorrel and tormentil). There are associated of marshy grassland, which can be characterised as purple moor-grass and rush pasture (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25). The SINC is immediately adjacent to the species-rich grasslands of Bryncarnau Grasslands SSSI.</p> <p>The conifer plantations form part of the habitat complex. They are primarily included as part of the overall habitat mosaic, and for their value as conifer bird habitat. The plantations also have potential for habitat restoration to heath and acid grassland.</p> <p>The SINC represents excellent invertebrate habitat with grayling and green hairstreak butterflies present and a high potential for reptiles. Areas of gorse scrub and conifer plantation offer nesting sites for a range of birds including potential stonechat and nightjar habitat. The site lies close to a great crested newt colony and any areas of standing water have potential as amphibian habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SO002059)</b>	Ward(s)	Llwydcoed/ Aberdare West	
CCW TN	TN040 (SN90NE and SO00NW)	Area (Ha)	49.58	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (10), H (18) and H (20) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S(4) and S(6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGs 1 other to be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	19	Original Name	Bryn defaid	

SINC 20

Number	20	Name	<b>East Llwydcoed</b>
Description	<p>A complex mosaic of grasslands, woodland, heath and scrub on the eastern flank of Llwydcoed.</p> <p>The SINC includes a complex of semi-natural habitat with areas of species rich grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5), with locally frequent bird's foot-trefoil, black knapweed, greater burnet and devil's-bit scabious. The majority of the drier grassland represents a large area of relatively unmodified neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6). The large area of semi-improved grassland is a feature of the SINC and is designated as an important linking habitat. Small, but diverse areas of base flushed marshy grassland occur with meadow thistle a feature (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M24). The old mineral-spoil habitat, supports areas of dry heath (with heather), neutral grassland (with kidney vetch), acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) and large areas of emerging willow, birch, hawthorn, elm, hazel and gorse scrub. The Nany-y-derlwyn stream is included in the SINC and supports mature oak, ash and birch woodland. To the south, the SINC includes a small area of ancient woodland (oak, sycamore, and birch).</p> <p>The SINC includes a section of the Llwydcoed to Abernant Cycle track. This disused railway forms a wooded corridor, with oak, birch, alder, hazel, and ash woodland. This woodland links through to Abernant, and the wooded valley of the Nany Yr Wenallt.</p> <p>The mosaic of woodland, scrub and grassland habitat represents very diverse breeding bird habitat. Survey work in part of the SINC has recorded 34 bird species, which amongst a large number of breeding species included wood warbler and tree pipit. The site is also good invertebrate habitat with 18 recorded butterfly species important species including dingy skipper and green hairstreak. The site also has 7 species of recorded dragonfly including scarce blue-tailed damselfly.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SN998045)</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN	028 and 029 (SN 90SE)	Area (ha)	40.17
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		

Ownership	Part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (3), H (4), H (9), H (10), H (18), H (20), and H (22). Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6).		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Site Report, Croesdy farm, Llwydcoed, Steve Moon (c 1993)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	20	Original Name	East Llwydcoed

## SINC 21

Number	21	Name	<b>Mynydd Bwllfa/Mynydd Cefn y Gyngon</b>
Description	<p>An expanse of upland vegetation supporting blanket bog, upland marshy grassland and dry acid grassland on the upland plateau above Dare Valley Country Park.</p> <p>Blanket bogs occurs in a series of large lenses of deep peat (grading at the western end of the site into the conifer planted blanket bogs of SINC 26). The vegetation supports mixtures of purple moor-grass, deer grass, common and hare's-foot cotton grass, round-leaved sundew, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, and a number of sphagnum bog mosses (including <i>S.subnitens</i>, <i>S.cuspidatum</i>, and <i>S.fallax</i>). Although subject to grass fires, these areas of blanket bog have been assessed as active (peat forming). Bog pools occur within this complex of peat and these support dragonfly populations including black dater and keeled skimmer.</p> <p>The acid and marshy grasslands occur in complex mosaics. Typical species include purple moor-grass, soft rush, wavy hair-grass, heath rush, mat-grass, common bent, sheep's fescue, green-ribbed sedge, common yellow sedge, tormentil, heath bedstraw, and less frequently cross-leaved heath, bilberry and heather.</p> <p>The site supports good populations of skylark, meadow pipit, and wheatear. Merlin has been recorded in the vicinity by local bird watchers, and peregrines (which nest on Tarren Y Bwllfa) are presumed to also hunt over the open moor. There are near annual reports of hen harrier and red kite. Goshawk, and golden plover have also been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>955024</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West
CCW TN		Area (ha)	347
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (6), H (7), H (12) and H (20) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), and S (6)		

RIGS earth science sites	92 Craig yr ysgol (115)		
Other earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland Vegetation Survey, NCC (1985)</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Hirwaun Wind farm, Environmental Statement, Pennant Walters Hirwaun Ltd (June 2006)</li> <li>• Hirwaun Wind farm, Supplementary Environmental Information, Pennant Walters Hirwaun Ltd (June 2008)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	21 U6	Original Name	Penywaun Ridge Cefn Y Rhondda



## SINC 22

Number	22	Name	<b>Cwm Dare North</b>	
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC bordering the northern edge of Dare Country Park.</p> <p>At its eastern end, the SINC includes important areas of rhos pasture with species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of M23 and M25 with smaller amounts of M24), acid flushes, semi-improved neutral, and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5, MG6 and U4). The marshy grassland support devil's-bit scabious and has potential as marsh fritillary habitat. Areas of the drier acid grassland slopes have associated bracken and emerging scrub/woodland, and represent quasi-wood pasture.</p> <p>The SINC includes the upland oak woodland and the wooded valley of the Nant Melyn. The oak woodlands support tree pipits, and breeding buzzards. The Slopes of Craig Nant Melyn support an intricate mosaic of old coal tips (with lichen-heath communities), marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M25), acid flushes, bracken, and steep sloped acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U4). The Nant Melyn is a typical upland riffle and pool stream, with a gravel bed and oak and alder wooded banks.</p> <p>The western end of the SINC includes the lower slopes of Craig-Yr-Ysgol, with a further mosaic of marshy grassland, acid flush, acid grassland and bracken.</p> <p>The SINC supports a particularly diverse mosaic of lowland and upland edge habitats, and represents significant invertebrate and bird habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN 971032</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	
CCW TN	007 and 010 (SN90SE)	Other	71.56	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (18), H (20), and H (21).</p> <p>Secondary Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (6)</p>			
RIGS Earth science sites	531 Bwllfa Road Tips (score 140)			
Other earth science sites	To be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>			
Original Number	22	Original Name	Cwm Dare North	

## SINC 23

Number	23	Name	<b>Cwm Dare South</b>
Description	<p data-bbox="443 344 1355 416">A very large and diverse mosaic SINC, which includes the Dare Valley Country park, and surrounding hillsides.</p> <p data-bbox="443 454 1355 1111">The Dare Valley Country Park is a land reclamation site dating from the early 1970s. The Park includes a mixture of made colliery spoil land, old coal tips and original habitats. These include acid grassland (including National Vegetation Classifications U2 and U4), neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5/MG6) brown field species-rich grassland, marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M23 marshy grassland), acid flushes, wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15) with abundant cross-leaved heath and drier heaths with heather and bilberry heath (some of which is based on old coal spoil). The old coal spoil tips within the Country Park represent superb examples of lichen-heath, and acid grassland with very large population of grayling butterflies. The grasslands support excellent grassland fungi assemblages. The SINC also includes important areas of wet alder carr and upland oak woodland (ancient woodland ground floras with purple hairstreak butterfly colonies).</p> <p data-bbox="443 1149 1355 1402">The Country Park includes a number of lakes, which support breeding coot, moorhen, dabchick, and range of wintering and feeding species, including tufted duck, goosander and heron. The lakes have a good invertebrate fauna, including species-rich dragonfly assemblages. The Nant Dare within the SINC supports breeding dipper and grey wagtail and supports brown trout, and evidence of otter.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1440 1355 1659">The SINC also includes the valley slopes of Craig Rhiw-du, which support a complex mosaic of wooded stream valleys, marshy grassland (mainly National Vegetation Classification M25), wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15), acid flushes, acid grassland and bracken slopes. These areas support a very diverse and species rich mosaic of habitats.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1697 1355 1912">In addition to the species mentioned above, the SINC includes a number of key species, including redstart, reed bunting, tree pipit, passage ring ousel, wintering hen harrier, peregrine (which nest on Cwm Dare), kestrel, Daubenton's bat, polecat, chimney sweep moth, small pearl-bordered fritillary, pink wax cap and the rare grassland fungi <i>Clavulina amethystine</i>.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SN974029)</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN	003, 011 and 012 (SN90SE)	Area (ha)	345.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Dare Valley Country Park is open access. Other areas served by PROWs.		
Ownership	Part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (16), H (18), H (20) and H (21), S (1), and S (2) Contributory Features – S (3), S (4), S (5), S (6), S (8), and S (9)		
RIGS Earth science sites	93 Tarren y Bwlfa (score 180)		
Other earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• A Strategic Conservation Assessment of Heathland and Associated Habitats on the coal spoils of South Wales, Middlemarch Environmental Ltd, CCW (contract No. FC 73-01-533) - 2007</li> <li>• Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Importance and Significance of surviving coal spoil tips in the Heads of the Valleys Area, Govannon Consultancy, CCW (contract No FC 73-03-318) – 2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	23	Original Name	Cwm Dare South

## SINC 24

Number	24	Name	<b>Dare Valley</b>
Description	<p>The remaining 'original' section of the Afon Dare and its bank side habitat. The Afon Dare is a species rich upland stream, with numerous meanders, gravel shoals and pools, in several areas the river channel is braided and includes a narrow floodplain. The Dare Valley supports mature wet woodland, with alder and oak. The Afon Dare offers habitat for dipper and otter.</p> <p>The SINC includes a series of abandoned hay meadows and mature hedgerows on the steep valley slopes. The grassland is primarily species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5 and MG6), and areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) with locally abundant devil's-bit scabious and potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat. Small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly also occur. The hedgerows are mature and species rich, with many tall oak and ash trees. A small 'naturalising' pond on the valley floor has also been included in the SINC.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN984027</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN	013 (SN90SE)	Area (ha)	32.09
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15), and S (1) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• RCT Pond Survey, National Museum and Galleries of Wales (2003)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	24	Original Name	Dare Valley

SINC 25

Number	25	Name	<b>Aberdare South</b>
Description	<p>A diverse valley-side mosaic SINC on the valley slopes above Aberdare. The SINC includes a complex mosaic of semi-natural habitats, which lie between the uplands (above) and the settlement boundary of south Aberdare (below).</p> <p>The western parts of the SINC are a series of wet marshy grassland pastures, with a potential for marsh fritillary butterflies, and supporting a mosaic of the National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M23 marshy grassland (with devil's-bit scabious), acid flushes (abundant sphagnum bog mosses), acid and neutral grasslands (National Vegetation Classification U4 and MG6) with greater burnet. Although fairly heavily horse grazed, these fields are diverse grassland habitats. There are associated areas of wet alder woodland and wet scrub. Central parts of the SINC support a mosaic of woodland, scrub, and smaller areas of heath, acid grassland and bracken. Within the wooded zone, Dumfries Park is a mature oak, birch, rowan and alder woodland with occasional hollies and ancient crab apple trees. In places the woodland is 'open' in character and probably represents old wood pasture. This open woodland type characterises some other areas of alder birch and oak woodland, which occur within the SINC. Elsewhere more typical wet alder woodland occurs, as well gorse and mixed scrub communities on old coal tips. The eastern half of the SINC supports a complex series of open oak and birch woodland and wood pasture with associated smaller areas of acid grassland marshy grassland (with devil's bit scabious), together with areas of bracken and scrub. The SINC includes a section of disused railway line/cycle track with its mixed woodland corridor of oak, ash, alder, hazel, and wych elm.</p> <p>At the north-eastern edge, the SINC also includes the re-vegetated Maesyffynon Tip. The tip is a long disused, spoil tip, which has become well vegetated and supports a mosaic of habitats. The north-western part of the tip supports maturing secondary woodland (including some mature oak trees), scrub and bramble. This area is locally important as breeding bird habitat and has potential for bats. An area of wet willow scrub and wetland area is associated with the stream. The latter area supports a number of wetland plant species, including a large stand of pendulous sedge, a rare species in the Cynon Valley.</p> <p>The remainder of the site supports more open scrub and secondary grassland, with mature trees and tall scrub on the boundaries. The scrub includes a mixture of willows, birch,</p>		

	<p>gorse, guelder rose, bramble and young rowan, oak and ash trees. The scrub represents excellent nesting bird habitat with blackcap, chiffchaff, garden warbler, willow warbler, bullfinch, house sparrow, linnets, robin, dunnoek, blackbird, song thrush, blue tit, great tit, wren, sparrowhawk and woodpigeon. The grassland areas are typically eclectic in their composition, but include a long species list including, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, common dog violets, mouse ear-hawkweed, yellow loosestrife, thyme-leaved speedwell, orange hawkweed, marsh thistle and zig-zag clover. The combination of a diverse grass and scrub composition, together with sheltered warm microclimates offers good invertebrate habitat; common blue, holly blue, speckled wood, meadow brown, green veined white and large skipper butterflies have all been recorded together with day-flying cinnabar and burnet companion moths. The old tip is well used by local people and undoubtedly plays an important local role as a wildlife reservoir, situated on the edge of a large urban area.</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN994017</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare East Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN	CCW TN SN90SE 026, 025, 024, 023 and 022	Area (ha)	37.56
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (15), H (18), H (20) and H (22)  Contributory Features – S (2), S (3),		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Flora of Glamorgan, A.E. Wade et al, The Natural History Museum, 1994.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	25	Original Name	Aberdare South

## SINC 26

Number	26	Name	<b>Mynydd Ystradffernol</b>
Description	<p>A huge upland plantation, which lies on the deep peat of Mynydd Ystradffernol. The great majority of the SINC is Forestry Commission managed upland Sitka Spruce plantation. This is almost exclusively planted into peat, which includes large areas of deep peat (blanket bog). The Site also includes experimental groves of <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation.</p> <p>The plantations are extensive that represent very important bird habitat. Crossbills, siskin, redpoll all occur, together with large numbers of song thrush, blackbird, robin and chaffinch. Cuckoo is common. Goshawk is present, and merlin may breed around the edge of the plantation. Grasshopper warblers use areas of purple moor-grass mire, and willow scrub, and great grey shrike winter in clear fells. Nightjar breed in the same clear fells.</p> <p>The SINC has large areas of purple moor-grass marshy grassland, together with the remnant peat bogs (cross-leaved heath, sphagnum bog mosses, cotton-grass etc). There are numerous small peat bogs, together with forestry pools. Despite its altitude, the site has excellent amphibian potential, with palmate newts and common frog both recorded. The river valley of the Rhondda Fach above Lluest Wen Reservoir has a wide recessed valley floor, with an expanse of sedge, and purple moor-grass mire and willow scrub. Lluest Wen and Castell Nos Reservoirs are both large area of open water, with associated breeding and wintering wildfowl and the locally uncommon, shoreweed. The hillsides on the western flanks of the Reservoirs support important areas of dry and wet heath.</p>		

Grid Ref	SN942004	Ward(s)	Treherbert, Maerdy, Aberdare West/Llwydcoed
CCW TN		Area (ha)	1048
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part FCW		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (15), and S (2). Contributory Features – S (1), S (4) and S (7)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 72, 81 (80 on boundary)		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-95</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates (1988)</li> <li>• Flora of Glamorgan, A. E. Wade, Natural History Museum (1994).</li> <li>• RCT Pond Survey, National Museum and Galleries of Wales (2003)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	26	Original Name	Rhondda River (now 142)
	U6		Cefn yr Rhondda



## SINC 27

Number	27	Name	<b>Garn Wen and Panwen Garreg-wen</b>	
Description	<p>A large sitka spruce plantation on deep upland peat. The site includes significant elements of peat bog habitats, with areas of remnant blanket bog (sphagnum bog mosses, purple moor-grass, cross leaved heath and cotton-grasses), degraded bogs, wet heath and drier bilberry heath. Purple moor-grass marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) occurs within upland rides.</p> <p>The plantations are in varying stages of maturity, with large areas of dead fire-damaged plantation.</p> <p>The site has a diverse plantation/woodland bird fauna, including crossbill, siskin, redpoll, cuckoo, song thrush, blackbird, and chaffinch. There is potential goshawk and merlin habitat. Both species have been recorded. More open ground supports skylark, meadow pipit and whinchat. Dead polecats have been recorded on the Maerdy Road.</p> <p>The bog pools have good dragonfly communities including black darter and keeled skimmer. Common frog and palmate newt breed. Dark green fritillary butterflies occur.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>NGR SN975007</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Maerdy	
CCW TN		Area (ha)	194.7	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (15), and S (2).</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (4) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	None			
Survey work undertaken	<p>CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-95</p> <p>Site Visits 1997-2008</p> <p>RCT Pond Survey, National Museum and Galleries of Wales (2003)</p>			
Original Number	27	Original Name	Garn Wen and Panwen Garreg-wen	

## SINC 28

Number	28	Name	<b>Rhos Gwawr</b>	
Description	<p>The extensive, upland heath and grasslands of Rhos Gwawr, and the valley side ffridd above Cwmaman, Aberaman and Godreaman.</p> <p>Rhos Gwawr supports dry and wet heath, marshy grassland and acid grassland in complex mosaics. These include, heather, and bilberry with some bell heather, and wavy hair-grass, mat grass, sheep's fescue and tormentil in the dry heath and acid grassland, with cross-leaved heath, deer grass, purple moor-grass in the marshy grasslands and wet heath.</p> <p>The upland heath and grass grades into mosaic ffridd on the valley sides. There are large blocks of upland oak woodland (with alder and birch), these include important ancient woodland sites (see Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory) and bracken slopes. The mosaic also includes a series of pastures, which support dry semi-improved acid and neutral grassland (including large stands of the National Vegetation Classifications U4b, and MG6 and a little MG5) and smaller areas of flushed marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M25). Areas of scree occur with acid grassland, bracken, and heath on the steeper valley sides e.g. Craig Fforchaman.</p> <p>The site supports good upland/ffridd bird habitat with skylark, wheatear, whinchat and stonechat all present. The woodlands and lower slopes support diverse woodland bird communities.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO005006</b>	Ward(s)	Aberaman North, Aberaman South	
CCW TN	002 (SO00SW)	Area (ha)	294.6	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (9), H (10).</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	To be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-95</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	28	Original Name	Cwmaman-Aberaman Slopes and Rhos Gwawr Upland SINC	

## SINC 29

Number	29	Name	<b>Aberdare Mountain</b>
Description	<p data-bbox="443 306 1342 450">Extensive areas of natural land and old coal and mineral spoil, which supports a complex mosaic of dry and wet heath, acid grassland, upland marshy grassland, acid flushes, conifer plantation, bracken and areas of open water.</p> <p data-bbox="443 488 1342 1003">Dry heath is an important feature of the SINC with extensive areas of heather, bilberry and wavy-hair grass with western gorse. This intergrades with areas of wet heath with cross-leaved heath, heather, deer grass, purple moor-grass and occasional common cotton grass. On coal/mineral spoil the dry heath includes significant lichen communities. Thirteen species of <i>Cladonia</i> lichen occur, including the nationally scarce <i>Cladonia azorica</i>, three further species which are scarce or uncommon in Glamorgan (Vice County 41): <i>Cladonia cervicornis ssp. verticillata</i>, <i>Cladonia glauca</i>, and <i>Cladonia ramulosa</i>. The lichen species list includes 5 further notable lichens: <i>Arthrorhaphis grisea</i>, <i>Aspicilia grisea</i>, <i>Bachmanniomyces uncialicola</i>, <i>Cercidopora epipolytropa</i> and <i>Trapeliopsis gelatinosa</i>.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1041 1342 1368">The heath communities grade into acid grassland communities characterised by common bent, sheep's fescue, mat grass, matt grass, green-ribbed sedge, tormentil, heath bedstraw, heath speedwell, heath milkwort, and sheep's sorrel. On coal spoil the drier grassland supports a more varied composition, with neutral grassland with common bird's-foot trefoil, rough hawkbit, thyme-leaved sandwort, glaucous sedge and squirreltail fescue. Bare ground is an important feature within this mineral spoil habitats.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1406 1342 1621">The SINC includes areas of purple moor-grass and rush pasture with larger stands of bracken/ffridd, often associated with acid grassland. There are also some old quarries. The large quarry at S0 023042 supports heather and bilberry heath with bell heath, and colonies of both stag's-horn clubmoss and fir clubmoss.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1659 1342 2022">The conifer plantations support lodgepole pine, with sitka spruce and occasional larch. While much of the groundflora under these plantation is sparse, open areas and track sides support diverse marshy grassland communities dominated by purple moor-grass and rushes (including hard rush, and sharp flowered rush) but with glaucous sedge, common sedge, marsh thistle, and greater bird's-foot trefoil. Locally significant species including marsh valerian (a calcicole), lesser skullcap and creeping willow. Stag's head clubmoss (<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>) has been recorded in these plantation rides.</p>		

	<p>There is a network of ponds within the SINC (some of which are associated with coal workings). These support important amphibian populations including great crested newt and the site forms an extension of a meta-population area, which occurs on Winch Fawr West, Merthyr Tydfil. Palmate newt, toad and common frog occur in good numbers. The ponds support dragonfly communities with 11 species recorded, including scarce blue-tailed damselfly and black darter.</p> <p>Within or immediately adjacent to the SINC (including survey work for the Winch Fawr West site, in Merthyr) a number of uncommon and rare moths have been recorded, including Devon carpet (a nationally notable/Nb) plain wave (Local in Great Britain), Welsh wave (Local in GB), small engrailed (Local in GB), red necked footman (notable/Nb), neglected rustic (Local in GB), glaucous shears (Local in GB) and the confused (Local in GB). At least 14 butterfly species include dark green fritillary butterfly, green hairstreak and dingy skipper have been recorded. 11 species of dragonfly and damselfly, including the National Notable scarce blue-tailed damselfly.</p> <p>Thirty one breeding species have been recorded holding territories. The list of birds includes open hill species (wheatear, skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat) and woodland birds (lesser redpoll, siskin, willow warbler, chaffinch etc). The high density of nesting songbirds is reflected in the presence of cuckoo territories (cuckoo is an increasingly scarce breeding bird in the County Borough. The site supports summering (and possibly nesting) lapwing.</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO018052</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare East, Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Cwmbach	
CCW TN	016 (SO00SW)	Area (ha)	384.4	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (18), H (20), H (21), S (4), S (7) and S (9) Contributory Features – H (3), S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 341, 368, 456			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-95</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Winch Fawr West and Bryndefaid Land Reclamation Site, Various Ecological Reports, Pryce Consultants, Walters (1998-2001)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	29	Original Name	Aberdare Mountain	

## SINC 30

Number	30	Name	<b>Nant y Wenallt</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes the remaining 'open' section of the Nant Y Wenallt stream, with its steep sided gorge and fast flowing water. The stream has a wooded gorge with mature oak, alder and ash woodland, with mixed scrub (with much hazel coppice). The wooded stream valley is linked with woodland further west by the wooded corridor of the Lwydcoed to Abernant cycle track.</p> <p>Evidence of otter has been recorded in the stream and brown trout are also recorded. The Site is locally important for its woodland birds and dipper have been recorded on the stream.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR 016038</b>	Ward(s)	Aberdare East
CCW TN	016 (SO00SW)	Area (ha)	7.879
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (15), S (1), and S (5) Secondary Features – H (3), H (4), H (6) and S (2)		
Earth science sites	none		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visit 1997-2008</li> <li>• Former River Level Tips, Abernant, various ecological surveys, Hyder Consulting (2004)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	30	Original Name	Nant y wenallt

SINC 31

Number	31	Name	<b>Cwm y Felin Newydd</b>
Description	<p>A block of species rich habitat, which wraps around Aberdare golf course, and includes on its eastern side the valley of the Nant y Geugarn, and on the west, the slopes bordering Abernant. The site includes a large area (approximately 15 ha) of mosaic mature oak, ash, alder, beech, holly, hazel and willow woodland and mixed scrub associated with the stream valley, disused railway, Plasdraw and coal and iron waste tips. This is a significant semi-natural woodland block, which represent excellent woodland bird habitat with wood warbler, garden warbler, siskin redpoll and spotted flycatcher all recorded. Kingfisher and dipper have both been recorded in the stream sections.</p> <p>The SINC also supports large areas of interconnected grassland habitats. On the west side of the Nant Y Geugarn there is a series of neutral and marshy grasslands. The neutral grassland support old pastures with bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, red clover, red fescue, crested dog's-tail, common bent, and false oat grass. Small areas of acid grassland occur with heath bedstraw (National Vegetation Classification U4) and larger areas of marshy grassland with purple moor-grass, soft rush and tormentil (National Vegetation Classification M25) occur within the complex grassland mosaic. There are considerable areas of developing bramble and hawthorn scrub.</p> <p>The SINC includes a large wet field to immediate east of Plasdraw. This site is a sloping with two quite large ponds. The grasslands are a mosaic of very wet marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23) with areas of damp neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6). The marshy and damp grassland grades in and out and the mosaic is very complex. There are drains/issues down both sides, and stream cuts across the lower part of the site (western part). There is also surface water movement on the site, with water percolating and moving down the slope and within the rather complex undulating topography of the field. The species-rich marshy/damp grassland includes soft, hard and jointed rush, tufted hair-grass, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, common sedge, marsh bedstraw, greater birds-foot trefoil, cuckoo-flower, marsh thistle, sneezewort, common spike-rush and black knapweed. The ponds support open water. One of these ponds has been previously surveyed as part of the Plasdraw planning application. The survey recorded a diversity of aquatic and emergent vegetation, grading into the adjacent marshy grassland. The ecological survey also concluded that</p>		

	the well-vegetated pond was considered to provide suitable habitat for all locally occurring species of amphibian, and the habitats in the vicinity offered suitable terrestrial amphibian habitat.
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SO018028)</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach, Aberdare East
CCW TN	012 and 013 (SO00SW)	Area (ha)	57.68
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (15), H (16), and H (20) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visit 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecological Assessment, Land at Cwmbach Road, Plasdraw, Pryce Consultants (2001)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	31	Original Name	Cwm-y-felin

## SINC 32

Number	32	Name	<b>Aberdare Canal</b>
Description	<p>A remnant section of the Aberdare Canal, with associated woodlands, and wet floodplain pastures. The canal supports standing water, with an emergent fringe and aquatic flora. The site is important for aquatic invertebrates (including dragonflies) and supports nesting moorhen and feeding habitat for kingfisher. Woodlands include areas of alder and willow carr (with willow tit nesting habitat), and areas of drier oak dominated wood-pasture. The SINC includes several low-lying flood-prone pastures, which support semi-improved/inundation grassland, and areas of seasonal and semi-permanent standing water.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO013023</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach, Aberdare East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	7.34
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (8), H (13) and H (16), S (1), and S (2)  Contributory Features – S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-95</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Where to go for Wildlife in Glamorgan, Nigel Ajax-Lewis, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust (1991)</li> <li>• Rhondda Cynon Taff Pond Survey 2003 (National Museum and Galleries of Wales)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	32	Original Name	Aberdare Canal



SINC 33

Number	33	Name	<b>Mid Cynon Floodplain</b>
Description	<p>The mid section of the River Cynon including the network of wetlands and wet grassland pastures on the floodplain.</p> <p>The River Cynon supports clean unpolluted water and a natural river channel and wooded bank side. The riverbed is primarily boulders and gravels, with fast flowing broken water. The river supports brown trout and with the advent of the Treforest fish pass, there is potential for salmon. Kingfisher, grey wagtail and dipper all occur. Goosander and cormorant occur in the winter. Recently otter records have increased markedly, and there are reports of breeding otter.</p> <p>The SINC represents the last sizeable fragment of valley bottom grassland in the mid Cynon valley. The grassland is very mixed and diverse (including stands of marshy grassland, swamp, tall herbs and inundation vegetation) and inter-grades with large stands of species rich scrub and wet carr. The floodplain (Tirfounder Fields) supports permanent and temporary pools, lagoons, ditches and sections of long derelict sections of the old Aberdare canal. The SINC includes the scarce narrow-leaved water plantain and the locally uncommon bog bean.</p> <p>The site supports important invertebrate (including dingy skipper and a rich dragonfly fauna) and breeding bird habitat. The site supports permanent lagoons and experiences extensive winter flooding. In the summer coot, little grebe, moorhen and mallard breed and heron regularly use the site in good numbers. In the winter, the site attracts waders and duck, including mallard, teal, shoveller, widgeon, little egret, water rail and snipe. The SINC supports tall hedgerows, wet woodland, scrub and rank herbage and offers excellent songbird habitat and is particularly good for warblers (including a recent summering Cetti warbler). The ditch side willows support breeding willow tit and lesser-spotted woodpecker have been recorded. Barn owl is regularly reported.</p> <p>Survey work has shown that the floodplain supports a significant grass snake population. The site has a high potential for amphibians. Water vole was previously recorded and bats forage over the wet grassland and open water habitats.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO014019</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach, Aberaman
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CCW TN	006, 007, 008, 009 (SO 00 SW)	Area (ha)	32.35
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (8), H (11), H (13), H (2), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (5), and S (7)  Contributory Features – S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	none		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecological Survey and Impact Assessment, Land at Tirfounder Fields, Aberdare, Tisdall King (October 2002).</li> <li>• Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of Tirfounder Fields, Aberdare, Komex Clarke and Bond (1998)</li> <li>• Rhondda Cynon Taff, Pond Survey 2003 (National Museum and Galleries of Wales)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	33	Original Name	Mid Cynon Floodplain

SINC 34

Number	34	Name	<b>Cwmbach Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic of species rich habitats on the slopes above Cwmbach.</p> <p>On the lower slopes (wrapping around Cwmbach) there is a network of semi-improved neutral fields, which run from the south at approximately NGR SO 030016 north to NGR 027026. The grasslands represent a significant resource of semi-improved neutral grasslands. Although some of these fields have definite signs of previous agricultural improvement, and many of the pastures suffer the cyclic problems of periods of under-grazing (resulting in invasion of scrub/bramble and bracken) followed by over-grazing, at something approaching 25 hectares, they represent a significant neutral grassland resource. Typical grassland can be described as mosaics of the National Vegetation Classifications MG1, MG5 and MG6 neutral grassland with areas of acid grassland. Species composition includes sweet vernal grass, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, common bent, crested dog's-tail, timothy, rye grass, meadow-grasses, with a mixture of herb species including bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, rough hawkbit, red clover, white clover, common sorrel, meadow buttercup, ribwort plantain, cats'ear, broad-leaved dock, meadow vetchling, common centaury, and common daisy. The pastures around Blaen-nant-y-groes have been subject to the CCW Phase II Vegetation Survey. This recorded important areas of MG5 grassland including the uncommon MG5c grassland community with heath grass, devil's-bit scabious and tormentil.</p> <p>Areas of localised, flushing occurs in a number of the fields and this results in areas of damper grassland, which can include species such as jointed rush, slender rush, redshank, greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh willowherb, and marsh thistle. Bristle club-rush has been recorded in wetter areas. Tree and bracken invasion is a feature of a number of the fields.</p> <p>The lowland grassland grades into areas of scrub and woodland with silver birch, sessile oak, alder, grey willow and gorse. These areas have a mixed under storey of bracken, or bramble and in places acid grassland or occasionally bluebells. The scrub/woodland provides nesting bird habitat, and increases the habitat diversity and structure of the SINC.</p> <p>Higher on the slopes the neutral grassland gives way to bracken and acid grassland mosaics. The steep west-facing</p>		

	<p>slopes are dominated by dense bracken over acidic grassland, with scattered mature trees and young saplings, mainly of oak and birch. The slope is lightly sheep grazed. The acid grassland includes sheep's fescue, common bent, matt grass, betony, tormentil, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and pill sedge. Small areas of heath occur with locally abundant heather and bilberry. Purple moor-grass rush pasture is locally present in damp, flushed areas.</p> <p>Penwaun Lago, which occupies the upper slopes of the SINC, supports a block of wet and dry heath. This block of 10 or so hectares has bilberry, sheep's fescue and matt grass dry heath, with purple moor-grass, bilberry and cross-leaved heath wet heath. A green hairstreak butterfly colony has been recorded.</p> <p>The SINC's north-western boundary is the wooded corridor of the Nant y Groes. This stream valley supports a corridor of mature mixed, possibly ancient woodland, supporting oak and birch woodland.</p> <p>The diversity of grassland, ffridd, woodland and heath habitats represents excellent fauna habitat for invertebrates, reptiles, birds and mammals.</p>		
Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO 030020</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach
CCW TN	015 (SO 00 SW)	Area (ha)	110.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (13), H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (12), H (18), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, Hyder (2002)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Report, Blaen-Nant-Y-Groes (1998)</li> <li>• Rose Row Reptile Translocation Report, Csa Environmental Planning (October 2005)</li> <li>• Rose Row, Cwmbach, Ecological appraisal, Csa Environmental Planning (May 2004)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	34	Original Name	Cwmbach slopes

## SINC 35

Number	35	Name	<b>Gelli Slopes</b>
Description	<p>Mosaic SINC on the old Gelli Tips and associated areas. The Gelli Tips supports a series of finger-tips (and is one of the best preserved coal tip systems in the Rhondda). The site supports a highly complex mosaic of habitats, which on the tips is mainly a mixture of acid grassland and dry heath with heather, bell heath, wavy-hair grass, sheep's fescue, heath-grass, common bent, sheep's sorrel, bilberry, heath bedstraw, foxglove and tormentil. The heath land includes a significant moss and <i>Cladonia</i> lichen component. Dog violet is locally abundant in damper gullies. Flushed areas include ciliated fringewort (a key coal spoil species). The site includes areas of skeletal acid grassland (with characteristic coal spoil calcareous species) with early hair-grass, squirrel tail and ratstail fescue, carline thistle, procumbent pearlwort, and mouse-ear hawkweed, New Zealand willowherb and blue fleabane.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas marshy grassland and swamp, which occur in areas of impeded drainage as perched wetlands. A locally important orchid population occurs, with common, heath-spotted and southern marsh orchid in abundance and a variety of hybrids. Common reed swamp occurs, which is very uncommon in the Rhondda. There are associated stands of bracken and acid grassland, with flushed areas supporting bog asphodel.</p> <p>Acid and marshy grassland also occur on the cleared conifer plantations, which form part of the SINC. These areas support breeding nightjar, pools with breeding common frog and palmate newt, and along the edge of the GlynCornel Woods there is significant broad-leaved woodland regeneration.</p> <p>The SINC supports whinchat, stonechat, reed bunting, tree pipit and meadow pipit. Grayling and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly occur. The rare mountain bumblebee <i>Bombus monticola</i> has been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 982945	Ward(s)	Ystrad, Cwm Clydach, Llwynypia, Tonypany
CCW TN		Area (ha)	140.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	

TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (11), H (18), H (20), H (21) and S (2) Contributory Features – S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• A Strategic Conservation Assessment of Heathland and Associated Habitats on the Coal Spoils of South Wales, CCW contract report FC 73-01-553, Middlemarch Environmental, March 2007</li> </ul>		
Original Number	35	Original Name	River Cynon (now part of upper (15), middle (33) and lower Cynon (57) SINCS)
	193		Gelli Slopes

## SINC 36

Number	36	Name	<b>Coed Tir Estyll</b>
Description	<p>An extensive, and visually prominent SINC, which runs along the Cynon valleyside between Cwmbach and Cefnpennar.</p> <p>Coed Tir Estyll is ancient semi-natural woodland. It is mature open woodland, which grows on the steep, west facing hillsides of Coed Y Gwaenydd Bach and Coed Tir Estyll. This diverse, steep woodland support a mixture of oak (sessile and pedunculate), rowan, birch (both silver and downy), sycamore, holly, hazel, and ash with alder and willow in wetter, flushed areas, and on the lower slopes. In areas there is species-rich ancient woodland ground flora. This includes creeping soft grass, wavy-hair grass, bluebell, yellow archangel, wood sage, dog violet, hard fern, scaly male fern, broad buckler fern, bilberry, and foxglove. The site supports a typical woodland bird assemblage. There are old records of an undisclosed wood ant species.</p> <p>The mature woodland intergrades with colonising birch and gorse scrub/woodland over bracken-dominated ffridd/acid grassland.</p> <p>The mature woodlands grades into the land reclamation woodland and grasslands. The woodland plantings are typically eclectic, but represent good songbird habitat, with healthy populations of song thrush, blackbird, and warblers. The open grassland, and wetter berms, support extensive areas of neural grassland, with a developing herb component, including black knapweed and bird's-foot trefoil, with marsh thistle on wetter ground.</p> <p>The SINC supports important nesting bird and reptile habitat (large population of slow worm and translocated common lizard and grass snake). Invertebrate populations include small pearl-bordered fritillary.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SO031004)</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach
CCW TN	010 (S0 00 SW)	Area (ha)	63.45
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	

SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (18), H (20) and S (3) Contributory Features – H (6), H (10), H (21), S (1), S (2), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, Hyder (2002)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rose Row Reptile Translocation Report, Csa Environmental Planning (October 2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	36	Original Name	Coed Tir Estyll



SINC 37

Number	37	Name	<b>Cefnpennar</b>
Description	<p data-bbox="443 347 1347 416">A large SINC, which takes in the mosaics of species-rich semi-natural habitat within the Cefnpennar valley.</p> <p data-bbox="443 454 1347 927">Woodland forms a large component of the SINC. These include a network of mature semi-natural ancient woodlands and mature broadleaved plantations (including Craig Gelli-ddu Fach, Nant Pennar Woodlands, and woodlands around Mountain Ash Hospital). Ancient and mature semi-natural woodland support oak, ash, hazel, alder, and holly woodland. Beech forms an important component of the woodlands, while much of this may have been planted; the beech within the upper valley of the Nant Pennar (SO040008) appears native in character. Species-rich ancient woodland floras exist in these woods with bluebells, enchanter's nightshade, wood sorrel, creeping soft grass, wood speedwell, meadowsweet and remote sedge.</p> <p data-bbox="443 965 1347 1182">The semi-natural woodlands grade in and out of mature broadleaved plantations, ash dominated secondary woodland, land reclamation plantations and emerging birch, alder and willow woodland. Although less diverse, and certainly lacking ancient woodland components, these woods are an integral part of the overall woodland cover within the complex mosaic of habitat.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1220 1347 1290">The woodlands are important bird habitat, and will support typical invertebrate and fungi habitat.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1328 1347 1778">The SINC also includes the superb coal spoil tips of the George Pit, with the associated areas of acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4), bracken (with violets), marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25), acid flushes and relic (ancient) hedgerow trees. The tips support areas of lichen-heath. Grayling, dark green fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies all occur. The mosaics of tall wet vegetation, short grazed grassland and bracken represent excellent bird habitat. Whinchat, stonechat, restart and skylark all occur together with recent records of curlew. Barn owl is recorded in the valley and snipe winter in the flushed grassland.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1816 1347 2020">The SINC includes the Nant Pennar and feeder streams. These are typical upland steams with gravel beds, fast flowing water, and wooded banks. The SINC includes areas of more diverse acid and neutral grassland, which occur on the land reclamation site. This grassland supports grayling butterflies and the mountain bumblebee <i>Bombus monitola</i></p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO 039007</b>	Ward(s)	Mountain Ash East, Cwmbach
CCW TN	TN 010 (SO00 SW)	Area (ha)	111.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H 2), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (18), H (20), Contributory Features – H (17), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Cefn Pennar: Baseline Ecology Reports – various surveys, Halcrow (2000)</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report – (Hyder 2002)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• A Strategic Conservation Assessment of Heathland and Associated Habitats on coal spoils of South Wales, Middlemarch (CCW Report FC 73-01-533) (2007)</li> <li>• Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Importance and Significance of surviving coal spoil in the Heads of the Valleys area, Govannon, (CCW Report FC 73-03-318) (2008)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	37	Original Name	Cefnpennar woodlands and coal spoil

**SINC 38**

Number	38	Name	<b>St. Gwynno Forest</b>	
Description	<p>An extensive area of Forestry Commission plantation, which runs across the ridge of Coetgate, Aberaman down to the St.Gwynno Forestry. The SINC is an expanse of mixed conifer plantation (with small broadleaved components), which occurs in varying stages of maturity. The main tree species are sitka spruce, larch, and lodgepole pine. Recent years has seen major clear fells.</p> <p>The plantations have numerous open areas, which support bracken, open regenerating woodland/scrub, dry heath (bilberry, heather, bell heath and wavy-hair grass), acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U2 and U4) and marshy grassland (rank purple moor-grass M25). The SINC includes small areas of relic ancient woodland (Coed Aberaman) with oak, birch, ash, alder and hazel, and areas of scrub and bracken on the slopes of Coetgate Aberaman.</p> <p>The SINC is a renowned 'hot-spot' for nightjar, which occur in large numbers within the clear-fell and recently replanted areas. The site is also breeding habitat for goshawk, crossbill, siskin and redpoll and great grey shrike have been recorded in the winter. There are also unconfirmed reports of pine martin.</p>			
Grid Ref	NGR ST 010990	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl, Aberaman South, Tylorstown, Mountain Ash West	
CCW TN			Area (ha)	1,330
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Public Rights of Way, Forestry Commission			
Ownership	Part FCW leased			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (20), and S (2),          Contributory Features – H (3), H (7), H (15), H (18), H (21), S (1), S (3), S (4) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added: 265, 266, 267, 299, 300, 487 (514, 496, 333 close to boundaries)			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional), NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	38	Original Name	<b>Coetgate Aberaman slopes</b>	

## SINC 39

Number	39	Name	<b>Mynydd Merthyr</b>
Description	<p>An extensive SINC, which forms part of the continuous corridor of semi-natural habitat along the upper eastern flanks of the Cynon Valley.</p> <p>The SINC includes two main habitat blocks. The northern end supports extensive upland conifer plantations (c 150 hectares). These have associated areas of dry heath (c 6 hectares) and purple moor-grass and rush marshy grassland. Much of the plantations appear to have been established on upland heath and upland marshy grassland. There are significant recent clear fells. The plantations support nightjars, and large raven and woodcock roosts, there is significant breeding habitat for crossbill, siskin, redpoll, goshawk, etc. Dark green fritillary butterflies have been recorded around the edge of the plantations.</p> <p>The southern end of the SINC supports an expanse (70 plus hectares) of upland bilberry heath, with heather, bell heath and wavy-hair-grass and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U2 and U4) with sheep's fescue, common bent, mat grass, wavy-hair-grass, heath bedstraw, tormentil, and sheep's sorrel. Areas of bracken and scree are associated with the heath/acid grassland mosaic.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO 053006</b>	Ward(s)	Mountain Ash East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	282.5
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (20), and H (21), S (2), Contributory Features – H (3), H (7), S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	To be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	39	Original Name	Mynydd Merthyr

## SINC 40

Number	40	Name	<b>Mynydd Brith-weunydd/ Llwynypia hillside</b>
Description	<p>This extensive SINC covers the hillside above Llwynypia, from the Penrhys road in the north, to the edge of Trealaw.</p> <p>The northern slopes (approximately 20 hectares) support a mosaic ffridd. These moderately steep bracken covered slopes are flushed by a series of spring lines. They support a very species rich and diverse biodiversity habitat, with bracken and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4 with spring sedge, sawwort, sheep's-bit and ivy-leaved bellflower) and dry heath (heather, bilberry and western gorse) on drier ground. Numerous wet acidic flushes, with areas of purple moor grass marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) and wet heath occur where springs and flushes emerge. These support a diverse flora including bog asphodel and creeping willow.</p> <p>The majority of the SINC occurs on steep valley sides and support an extensive area of dry heath (approaching 100 ha). This is characterised by the abundance of heather, bell heath and bilberry with associated acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U1, 2 and 4), stands of bracken over acid grassland, and scattered trees (including rowan). There are associated old coal working with areas of lichen-heath and acid grassland. Mynydd Brith-weunydd represents one of the largest stands of lowland heath in the County Borough.</p> <p>The warm sheltered hillside of the SINC supports a very important breeding bird population with whinchat, stonechat, and meadow and tree pipits. Barn owl (which nest in the immediate area) hunt over the slopes. The hillside supports slow worms and is important invertebrate habitat with several colonies of small pearl-bordered fritillary and green hairstreak butterfly.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR SO 001938</b>	Ward(s)	Llwynypia, Trealaw, Ystrad
CCW TN	009 (ST09SW)	Area (ha)	134.8
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	

SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (18) and H (20) Contributory Features – H (1), H (3), H (21), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, Hyder (2002)</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, (1988)</li> <li>• Tyntyla Parc, Llwynypia, Ecological Assessment, Blandford Consulting (2007)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	40	Original Name	Mynydd brith-weunydd/ Llwynypia hillside

## SINC 41

Number	41	Name	<b>Twyn Tyllaudefaid Valley Mire</b>
Description	Remnant valley mire on deep peat within the Rhondda Golf Course. Although the bog is somewhat degraded and is dominated by marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) it supports sphagnum bog mosses and cross-leaved heath and is a rare example of valley mire in the Rhondda Valley. The mire would benefit from positive management.		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR ST009932</b>	Ward(s)	Tylorstown
CCW TN	002 (ST09SW)	Area (ha)	7.589
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Feature – H (12)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	41	Original Name	Twyn Tyllaudefaid Valley Mire

## SINC 42

Number	42	Name	<b>Pont-y-gwaith Hillside</b>
Description	A large area of dry heath and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification of U2 and U4) and scattered bracken on the hillside above Pont-y-gwaith. Typical species of the bracken/acid grassland include common bent, heath grass, sheep's fescue, heath bedstraw, pill sedge, tormentil and foxglove. Dog violets are locally frequent and there is some potential fritillary butterfly habitat. The dry heath supports heather and bilberry.		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR ST011944</b>	Ward(s)	Tylorstown, Ynyshir
CCW TN		Area (ha)	18.95
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (9), and H (10) Contributory Features – H (1), H (3), S (2), S (3) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added: 440 (441, 439, 437 close to boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, Hyder (2002)</li> <li>• Porth and Lower Rhondda Fach Relief Road, various ecological surveys/reports, Pryce Consultants and Halcrow (2000-2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	42	Original Name	Pontygwaith hillside



## SINC 43

Number	43	Name	<b>Mynydd Troed-y-rhiw Slopes</b>
Description	<p>The SINC encompasses an extensive area of diverse 'ffridd' on the western valley side of the Rhondda Fach. The hillside supports large areas (20 plus hectares) of bilberry and heather dry heath. There are also extensive areas of unimproved acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4). The acid grassland and heath occurs in often-complex mosaics, and typically includes heather, bilberry, common bent, sheep's fescue, heath grass, heath bedstraw, heath speedwell, tormentil, and sheep's sorrel.</p> <p>The Standard Tip is a feature of the SINC. It supports sheep grazed dry heath and acid grassland with heather, bilberry, wavy hair-grass, matt grass, heath bedstraw and sheep's sorrel. Amongst 70-recorded bryophytes and 74 lichens, the tips support indicators of good quality lichen-heath with ciliated fringewort (<i>Ptilidium ciliare</i>), nine recorded <i>Cladonia</i> lichens and the lichen <i>Peltigera hymenina</i>.</p> <p>On the sides of the Standard Tip there is an extensive flushed bracken hillside. This supports further areas of acid grassland (with occasional dog violets), and also acid flushes. The marshy grassland areas support soft rush and purple moor-grass (with National Vegetation Classifications of M23/M25). The numerous flushes include stands of the moss <i>Polytrichum commune</i>, bracken, creeping bent, tormentil, heath bedstraw, remote sedge, field horsetail, jointed rush, and marsh thistle. There are also areas of scrub and emerging woodland.</p> <p>The site includes the locally valued Holly Pond (supporting breeding frogs, toad and palmate newts) and a number of upland ponds (with Sphagnum bog moss communities). Old quarries, and rock faces occur on the slopes above Ynyshir, these add to the habitat diversity of the SINC with further heath, fern and moss communities.</p> <p>The SINC supports typical ffridd/upland bird communities including skylark, wheatear, meadow pipit, stonechats and reed buntings. The quarry cliffs represent suitable raven nesting habitat. A total of 97 moth species have been recorded including a number of noteworthy species, such as double line, marsh oblique-barred and small rufus. Grayling butterfly colonies occur, and the presence of dog violets within the bracken slopes offers potential for dark green fritillary. Seven species of dragonfly have been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST022930)</b>	Ward(s)	Tylorstown, Ynyshir
CCW TN		Area (ha)	71.37
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H 910), H (12), H (18), H (20) and H (21). Contributory Features – H (3), H (15), S (2), S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Porth Relief Road – various ecology surveys (Halcrow)</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report – (Hyder 2002)</li> <li>• Standard Colliery Tip – Ecological report (Halcrow 2007)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	43	Original Name	Mynydd Troedyrhiw slopes

## SINC 44

Number	44	Name	<b>Penrhiw Flushes</b>
Description	<p>A large section of hillside ffridd on the east side of the Rhondda Fach. A typical complex ffridd mosaic of bracken and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification of U4), with a series of acid flushes, areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification of M25), dry heath (heather, bilberry and wavy hair-grass), gorse and woodland. The bracken/acid grassland mosaic supports common bent, sweet vernal grass, sheep's fescue, mat grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw, heath milkwort, sheep's sorrel, and locally frequent dog violet. The woodlands support sessile oak, alder and rowan. The ground flora includes wood sorrel, scaly male fern, dog violets, lesser celandine, and wavy bitter-cress. In flushed areas there is opposite leaved golden saxifrage. Sphagnum bog mosses are locally abundant in the frequent acid flushes with bog pimpernel, bog pondweed, and around the edges of the flushes purple moor-grass marshy grassland with marsh thistle, carnation sedge, lady smock, meadowsweet and common marsh bedstraw.</p> <p>As good quality ffridd bird habitat, the SINC supports suitable tree pipit, whinchat and stonechat habitat. Grayling, small copper and small heath butterflies have been recorded. The areas of locally frequent dog violet offer potential fritillary butterfly habitat particularly. The warm, sheltered hillsides support reptiles with slowworm, common lizard and grass snake. Amphibians use the very wet flushed hillside (common frog and common toad are both recorded) and woodcock have been recorded in the acid flushes.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST028934)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynyshir
CCW TN	CCWTN ST09SW 005	Area (ha)	42.79
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), and H (20). Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (13), H (18), H (21), S (2), S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS others to be added: 241, 242		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Llwyncelyn Butterfly Survey, Rob and Linda Nottage (1998)</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, Hyder (2002)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	44	Original Name	Penrhiw Flushes

SINC 45

Number	45	Name	<b>Birch Grove Slopes</b>
Description	<p>The southern extension of SINC 44, Birch Grove Slopes incorporates a complex mosaic of fridd habitats. These include good areas of heather and bilberry heath with acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification communities of U2 and U4) some of the heath is within old spoil. There are large areas of bracken with acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification communities of U4) and additional areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification communities of M23). The SINC includes the mature wooded escarpment of Craig Rhiw-gwyn with its mature oak, and birch semi-natural woodland (identified as ancient woodland in the Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory).</p> <p>There are numerous small quarries and potential for breeding peregrine. The site supports common lizard, slowworm and palmate newt. Grayling butterflies have been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 027920)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysir
CCW TN		Area (ha)	33.31
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (20) and H (21).</p> <p>Contributory Features –S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1997</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Llwyncelyn Butterfly Survey, Rob and Linda Nottage (1998)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	45	Original Name	Birch grove slopes

## SINC 46

Number	46	Name	<b>Y Ffrywd</b>
Description	<p>The upland stream valley of the Y Ffrywd supports a typical clean, fast flowing stream, which cuts through the sandstone bedrock in a series of mini-cascades and a steep sided gorge. Dipper and grey wagtail occur and there is suitable nesting habitat. The stream will support a variety of aquatic micro-invertebrates and as part of the Nant Clydach catchment, the stream supports brown trout and salmon habitat. It is highly suitable otter habitat. The SINC includes the full length of the Y Ffrywd to its confluence with the Nant Clydach.</p> <p>The valley of the Y Ffrywd is a large semi-natural oak and alder woodland. The woodland is diverse and species rich with a canopy of sessile oak, alder, ash, beech, sycamore, crab apple, silver birch and downy birch and an understory of hazel, holly, hawthorn rowan, and goat willow. The ground flora includes marsh violet, bluebells, enchanter's nightshade, wavy hair-grass, ferns, wood avens and bramble. Areas of old mine spoil are associated with the wooded river valley, as well as areas of bracken/acid grassland. The wooded valley represents excellent woodland bird habitat.</p> <p>The SINC includes some wet fields at the head of the stream, which support acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification of U4) and acid flushes.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 043945)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl
CCW TN	CCW TN ST09SW 007.	Area (ha)	21.11
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (12), H (15). Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (5) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	Coed Cymru Site File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1992-1997</li> </ul>		
Original Number	46	Original Name	Y ffrywd

## SINC 47

Number		Name	<b>Mynydd Dinas/Mynydd y Cymmer</b>	
Description	<p>An extensive area of upland and ffridd habitat and a visually striking SINC. The steep slopes of the hill system supports a superb mosaic of dry heath, acid grassland, bracken, flushes and scree. The heathland is characterised by abundant heather and bilberry, with lesser amounts of bell heather. Areas of acid grassland include U2 (National Vegetation Classification) with wavy-hair grass, and U4 (National Vegetation Classification) with heath bedstraw, tormentil and sheep's sorrel. Areas of bracken are associated with acid grassland, and acid flushes. The flat plateau of Mynydd Dinas boasts one of the largest blanket bogs and wet heath mosaics in the County Borough, supporting purple moor-grass, cotton grasses, cross-leaved heath sphagnum bog mosses.</p> <p>The mosaic of heath, acid grassland and bracken represents good quality ffridd bird habitat, with potential for stonechat, whinchat and tree pipit. The habitat is also valuable invertebrate and reptile habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 011909)</b>	Ward(s)	Cymmer, Porth, Penygraig	
CCW TN	CCW TNST09SW001	Area (ha)	155.8	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (18), H (20) and H (21).</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1), H (3), S (2), S (3), and S (6)</p>			
RIGS Earth science sites	210 Craig yr Eos South Dinas (score 150)			
Other earth science sites	To be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>			
Original Number	47	Original Name	Mynydd Dinas	

## SINC 48

Number	48	Name	<b>Bronwydd Park</b>
Description	Large mixed mature deciduous woodland. The principle canopy trees are oak and ash, with alder in flushed areas. Other tree species include wych elm, sycamore, beech, silver birch and downy birch. The under storey include holly, goat willow and hawthorn. The wood supports a ground flora, which includes bluebells, smooth-leaved sedge, male fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern, enchanter's nightshade, dog violet, and wavy hair grass. There is a typical woodland bird assemblage and potential bat and invertebrate habitat.		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 021912)</b>	Ward(s)	Porth
CCW TN		Area (ha)	7.19
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1) and H (2) Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (15), S (1), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	none		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey, 1992-95</li> <li>• Coed Cymru Site File</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	48	Original Name	Bronwydd Park



## SINC 49

Number	49	Name	<b>Trebanog Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of hillside ffridd, which encompasses the north facing valley side between Trebanog and Trehafod. The SINC supports a complex mosaic of dry and wet heath, acid flushes, marshy grassland, acid grassland, bracken, old quarries, and land reclamation grassland.</p> <p>Dry heath and acid grassland mosaics dominate the western half of the SINC. Typical species of the drier heath include abundant heather, bilberry, sweet vernal grass, heath wood-rush, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, tormentil and bracken. There are numerous wet flushes with marshy grassland and these support cross-leaved heath, sphagnum bog mosses, bog asphodel, ivy-leaved bellflower and purple moor-grass. Cornish moneywort has recently been discovered in the SINC. Damper marshy grassland areas include soft rush, articulated rush, marsh thistle, and Yorkshire fog.</p> <p>The SINC includes the open acidic/calcareous grasslands of the Lewis Merthyr land reclamation site. The site has much erosion/bare ground and evidence of motorbike scrambling. The vegetation is characterised by a typically eclectic mix of open ground habitat. This includes established dry heath/acid grassland on undamaged faces with heather, bilberry and acid grassland (with affinities to the National Vegetation Classification communities of U2 and U4 acid grassland). Elsewhere there is a lot of thin, low growing vegetation with sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, common bent, carline thistle, mouse eared hawkweed, hawkweed spp, <i>Cladonia</i> lichens, heather, bilberry, fairy flax, bird's foot-trefoil, goats beard, tormentil, marsh thistle, thyme leaved speedwell, and pearly everlasting.</p> <p>The SINC includes a number of pennant sandstone quarries. These include heath (heather and bilberry), and wavy hair grass acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification communities of U2), together with ferns (lady fern, male fern, broad buckler etc) and mosses.</p> <p>There is excellent ffridd bird habitat. Species recorded include breeding whinchat, meadow pipits, and skylarks, whitethroats, willow warbler, bullfinch, wren and blackbird, linnets, hunting kestrel and buzzard. Butterflies include grayling, large skipper, speckled wood, small heath, small skipper and painted lady, and the golden ringed dragonfly (<i>Cordulegaster boltoni</i>).</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 028904)</b>	Ward(s)	Cymmer, Tonyrefail East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	153.3
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (18), H (20), H (21), and S (7). Contributory Features – H (3), H (13), S (2), S (3) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	CCW Phase I Survey, 1992-1995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Visits 1997-1998</li> <li>• Western Power, Ecological Survey, Hyder consulting (2000)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	49	Original Name	Trebanog slopes

## SINC 50

Number	50	Name	<b>Cilely Farm Rhos Pasture</b>
Description	An area of species rich habitat, which forms an extension to the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The SINC includes areas of semi-improved neutral grassland, with bracken, mixed scrub and old colliery spoil.		

Grid Ref	ST 013897	Ward(s)	Cymmer
CCW TN	CCW TN ST08NW 016, 017	Area (ha)	11.61
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (3), H (4), H (10) and H (21)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI citation, CCW (2008)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	50	Original Name	Cilely Farm Rhos

## SINC 51

Number	51	Name	<b>Cwm Hafod Woodland</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes a mosaic of habitats associated with the steep hanging valley of the Nant Hafod. The stream is a steep flowing channel, partially engineered in places, with a small waterfall. The valley supports ancient, semi-natural oak, birch, beech, holly, willow and alder woodland. The SINC includes areas of adjacent heath (heather, bilberry, sheep's sorrel, and sheep's bit scabious) and dense bracken slopes with acid grassland. Grayling, wall brown, large skipper, small skipper and holly blue butterflies have been recorded. The Sites represents good woodland bird habitat with potential wood warbler habitat. The Cwm Hafod circular walk runs through the SINC.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 042917)</b>	Ward(s)	Porth, Cymmer
CCW TN	CCW TN ST09SW 006	Area (ha)	17.89
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (15), and H (21). Contributory Features – S (2), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Llwyncelyn Butterfly Survey, Rob and Linda Nottage (1998)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	51	Original Name	Cwm Hafod woodland

## SINC 52

Number	52	Name	<b>Coed-yr-Hafod Woodland Complex</b>
Description	A large block of ancient semi-natural sessile oak, willow, holly, alder and birch woodland on the hillside above Trehafod. The SINC includes areas of acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification of U4 acid grassland), wet flushes and bracken slopes. Purple hairstreak, holly blue and small copper butterflies and common lizards have been recorded. The site represents good woodland bird habitat with potential wood warbler habitat.		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 048915)</b>	Ward(s)	Rhondda
CCW TN	CCW TN001 and 002 ST09SE	Area (ha)	41.8
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (9) and H (12) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, 181, 185 to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Llwyncelyn Butterfly Survey, Rob and Linda Nottage (1998)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	52	Original Name	Coed yr hafod woodland complex

## SINC 53

Number	53	Name	<b>Llys Nant and Graig Twyn-y-glog Woodlands</b>
Description	<p>A complex mosaic of habitats, which lie within the catchment of the Llys Nant Valley, and which includes the visually prominent hill of Twyn y Glog, as well as large areas of associated conifer plantation.</p> <p>The upland stream valley of the Llys Nant supports a typical clean, fast flowing stream, which cuts through the sandstone bedrock in a series of mini-cascades and a steep sided gorge. Dipper and grey wagtail occur and there is suitable nesting habitat. The stream will support a variety of aquatic micro-invertebrates and as part of the Nant Clydach catchment supports brown trout and salmon habitat. It is highly suitable otter habitat. The valley is wooded with a species rich mix, which includes oak, alder, sycamore, ash, birch, holly and hazel. There is a strong ancient woodland flora with bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, dog violets, male fern and broad buckler fern. Part of the woodland is mapped as ancient woodland.</p> <p>The SINC extends beyond the valley of the Llys Nant to include the distinctive steep sided slopes of Twyn Y Glog. These slopes are partially wooded with sessile oak, birch, rowan and hazel woodland with bluebells (again part mapped as ancient woodland) and open bracken and acid grassland ffridd with sheep's fescue, common bent, tormentil, bluebell, and gorse. The SINC also includes a large connecting area of conifer plantation (mainly larch and sitka spruce) much of which has been recently felled and supports dense willow, birch and rowan scrub. The standing plantations have potential as conifer bird habitat including goshawk, crossbill and siskin, the clear felled areas are suitable nightjar habitat, and the secondary young woodland is ideal songbird (warbler) habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 055928)</b>	Ward(s)	Rhondda, Ynysybwl, Glyncoch
CCW TN		Area (ha)	105.8
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part FCW (leased?)		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (9), H (15), H (20) Contributory Features – S (2) and S (5)		

Earth science sites	No RIGS, 180, 186 and 197 to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	53	Original Name	Llys Nant and Graig Twyn-y-glog woodlands

SINC 54

Number	54	Name	<b>Mynydd Blaenrhondda and Mynydd Ty-Isaf</b>
Description	<p>An extensive upland and valley side SINC, which occupies the western uplands above Blaenrhondda and Blaencwm.</p> <p>The lower slopes around the western valley side of Blaenrhondda and Blaencwm support a complex mosaic of dry and wet heath, acid grassland, crags, scree, marshy grassland, acid flushes, bracken slopes and conifer and native woodland. Arctic alpines are a feature of the crags with records of roseroot and orpine.</p> <p>The SINC supports excellent invertebrate habitat including <i>Bombus monticola</i>, dark green fritillary and green hairstreak butterflies. The diversity of upland habitats support typical ffridd bird assemblages with whinchat, stonechat, skylark and meadow pipit. The crags offer nesting opportunities for peregrine, and historic nesting sites for ring ousel. The valley side ffridd is good reptile habitat.</p> <p>The upland plateau support an expanse of upland Conifer Plantation managed by the Forestry Commission. Much of this plantation lies on upland peatbog. The forestry is important for both its conifer plantation biodiversity, and the underlying peat bog flora and fauna. The expanse of plantation supports key conifer bird habitat including crossbill, siskin, redpoll, and goshawk. The clear felled areas represent nightjar habitat. The deep peat of the planted blanket bogs retain relic sphagnum bog moss communities, with purple moor-grass and rush communities, a good example occurs at Bryn Ddu bog with common cotton-grass, purple moor-grass and heather.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS920999	Ward(s)	Treherbert, Rhigos
CCW TN		Area	1,129 ha
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part FCW		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (18), H (20), S (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		



Earth science sites of RIGS quality	48 Cwm Lluest (score 240) 287 Pen Pych and W Blaenrhondda Crags (score 215) 40 Craig Blaenrhondda (score 205) 52 Craig Selsig and Craig y Ddelw (score 205) 51 Blaencwm landslide (score 205) 32 Lower Craig Blaenrhondda crag and tip (score 200) 50 Nant y Gwair stream gulley and Cwar y Offeriad (score 200) 34 River Rhondda waterfall (score 170) 49 Nant yr Ychen stream gulley and crags (score 160)		
Other earth science sites	Numerous other sites to be added: 469, 35, 36, 37, 33, 39, 41, 222, 47, 53, 63. (27, 55, 54 and 470 close to boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> <li>• Earth Science visits, 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	54	Original Name	Penrhys Graveyard, no longer SINC
	192		Blaenrhondda and Blaencwm Slopes

## SINC 55

Number	55	Name	<b>Craig Pwllfa</b>	
Description	<p>The habitat mosaic on the lower hillside to south and east of Cwmaman. The SINC is a complex mixture of habitats, and part of the Nant Aman and the side valley fed by the Sychnant spring.</p> <p>The SINC supports large areas of dry heath and acid grassland and bracken, with heather, bilberry and bell heath, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair-grass, common bent, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw, and tormentil. This complex mosaic of habitat occurs on natural ground (higher on the valley side), old and more recently reclaimed coal spoil, and within the quarries and the crags of Craig Tirllaethdyn. Within these open habitats considerable scrub and tree regeneration is occurring with silver birch, rowan and on wetter ground alder and willow. There are small stands of more established semi-natural woodland (including the alder woodland along a tributary stream of Nant Aman and its side valley).</p> <p>The SINC includes more recent land reclamation areas, which support a typically eclectic and moderately species-rich neutral/acid grassland, with areas of heath and associated tree plantings. The SINC also some lower slope conifer plantation.</p> <p>Although largely realigned and engineered, the Nant Aman supports clean water and associated upland stream ecology with dipper and grey wagtail both recorded.</p> <p>The mosaic of habitats is particularly good invertebrate (with fritillary butterfly habitat and grayling butterflies), reptile (including adders) and bird habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST006987)</b>	Ward(s)	Aberaman South	
CCW TN		Area (ha)	124.9	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership	Part Council			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features –H (5), H (9), H (10), H (13), H (18), H (20) and S (3)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), S (2), and S (5) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGS others (100, 515, 562, 526) to be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Aberaman Land Reclamation Scheme, Ecological Survey (various)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	55	Original Name	Craig Pwllfa	

## SINC 56

Number	56	Name	<b>Abercwmbai Lake</b>
Description	<p>A large lake at the old Phurnacite Works at Abercwmbai. The lake is the largest body of open water in the Cynon Valley and supports an extensive emergent fringe with associated bankside scrub.</p> <p>The lake supports a submerged flora of <i>potamogeton</i> pondweeds and starwort (stonewort species have been recorded on the site). The emergent fringe includes brooklime, yellow iris, meadowsweet, spike rush, lesser spearwort and meadowsweet, with a scrubby edge of willow and gorse</p> <p>The lake is important aquatic and marginal habitat for invertebrates with wetland species specialists including the beetles <i>Telmatophilus typhae</i>, and <i>Donacia vulgaris</i>, hoverflies <i>Anasimyia transfugia</i> and <i>Neoascia tenur</i> and what has been described as a good representation of wetland fly species from the families <i>Dolichopodidae</i> and <i>Sciomyzidae</i>. The nationally scarce snail-killing fly <i>Tetantocera punctifrons</i> has been recorded.</p> <p>The site supports a significant assemblage of breeding and wintering water birds. Coot, moorhen and little grebe breed and water rail are a possible breeder. Winter visitors include wigeon, teal, pochard, goosander, common snipe, woodcock and water rail, while spring and autumn passage visitors include greylag goose and common sandpiper. The associated emergent fringe, scrub and wet woodland of the lake surrounds support a diverse range of bird species including willow tit and reed bunting.</p> <p>The Lake supports common frogs, and grass snake. Otter have been recorded using the lake.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR ST028000</b>	Ward(s)	Aberaman South
CCW TN		Area (ha)	6.764
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (11), H (16), S (1), S (2) and S (3)		
Features	Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (7), S (4), and S (6)		

Earth science sites		none	
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Phurnacite Works, Aberaman, Ecological Site Evaluation, Casella (2002)</li> <li>• Abercwmboi, Environmental Statement, Atkins (2004)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	56	Original Name	Abercwmboi Lake

## SINC 57

Number	57	Name	<b>Lower Cynon</b>
Description	<p>The River Cynon below Cwmbach is a wide river, marked by a series of long riffle and pool sequence, with gravel banks exposed at times of low flow, undercut banks and bank side woodland and pastures. Dipper, grey wagtail, goosander and kingfisher, brown trout and otter all occur. Japanese knotweed is locally abundant.</p> <p>The SINC includes a series of associated bank side habitat. These include the wetlands of Pwll Waun Cynon, with willow/alder carr, floodplain grassland and a large floodplain pond. The Pwll Waun Cynon is a Nature Reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales. The pond supports fat duckweed, water chickweed, marsh yellow-cress, greater pond sedge and common club-rush and breeding little grebe and moorhen. The combination of wet, occasionally inundated woodland and grassland and open water represents a species rich wetland habitat.</p> <p>Further south the SINC extends to encompass the woodlands and pastures of Pontcynon. The site supports old meadows with a mosaic of damp and marshy grasslands, and areas of drier grassland with anthills. The grasslands are mainly unmanaged. Typical wetter grassland includes soft rush, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, greater bird's-foot trefoil, hemlock water dropwort, greater burnet, creeping buttercup, hemp dead nettle, meadowsweet, and locally abundant Himalayan balsam. Drier grasslands support red fescue, common bent, sweet vernal grass, cock's-foot, false oat-grass, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, yarrow, creeping cinquefoil, meadow vetchling, ribwort plantain, white clover, sorrel and red clover. Bracken is locally frequent. The site also has a network of species rich hedgerows and emerging woodland with bluebells. Large old fruiting hazel coppice is locally abundant in hedges. The SINC includes the wooded embankments of an old railway embankment.</p> <p>Terrestrial invertebrate surveying within the Phurnacite Works part of the SINC recorded the nationally scarce snail-killing fly <i>Tetantocera punctifrons</i> and the nationally scarce fly <i>Sapromyza opaca</i>.</p>		
Grid Ref	<b>.(NGR ST028004</b>	Ward(s)	Cwmbach, Aberaman South, Mountain Ash East, Mountain Ash West, Penrhiwceiber, Abercynon

CCW TN		Area (ha)	68.33
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15), H (16), and S (1). Contributory features – S (2), S (3), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Phurnacite Works, Aberaman, Ecological Site Evaluation, Casella (2002)</li> <li>• Abercwmboi, Environmental Statement, Atkins (2004)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	57	Original Name	Pwllan Cynon

SINC 58

Number	58	Name	<b>Treherbert Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of ffridd on the lower eastern valley side above Treherbert and Fernhill Colliery.</p> <p>The SINC includes a complex mosaic of dry heath, scree, acid grassland, marshy grassland (with flushes), bracken and woodland/scrub.</p> <p>The heath component supports bilberry heath with wavy-hair-grass, this grades into acidic grassland with wavy-hair grass, sheep's fescue, red fescue, mat-grass, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw and heath milkwort. There are significant areas of bracken growing with the acid grassland and areas of scree slope run along the lower side of the Rhigos Mountain road. Flushed marshy grassland and acid flush occurs on the lowest slopes (National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M23 mire) with purple moor-grass, soft rush, tormentil, marsh bedstraw, sphagnum bog mosses and carnation sedge. The SINC includes small areas of alder and oak woodland, which although subject to sheep grazing support wood sorrel, mosses and fern ground flora and appear to be of semi-natural ancient origin.</p> <p>The SINC includes potential whinchat, wheatear and stonechat habitat, and supports grayling butterfly. There are reports of large numbers of toads annually migrating over the Rhigos mountain road.</p> <p>Part of the SINC is the Blaenrhondda Road cuttings Geological SSSI.</p>		

Grid Ref	SN929003	Ward(s)	Treherbert
CCW TN	CCW TN 007 SS99NW and 003 SN90NW	Area	86.75ha
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10) and H (21)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)</p>		
RIGs earth science sites: SSSI	Includes geological SSSI Blaenrhondda Road Cutting (RIGs no 38)		
Other earth science sites	Details to be added of nos 46, 511, 509 and 62		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	58	Original Name	Roman Camp (now part of Sinc 59 Mynydd y Ffaldau)
	191		Treherbert Slopes



## SINC 59

Number	59	Name	<b>Mynydd Y Ffaldau</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of upland conifer plantation, which although primarily planted with Sitka spruce, supports significant areas of larch, western hemlock, noble fir and broadleaf planting. The plantation represent significant woodland bird habitat for conifer specialists, including crossbill, siskin, redpoll, and goshawk as well as typical native woodland species, such as chaffinch, robin, song thrush and blackbird. There are now large areas of clear felled areas supporting breeding nightjar.</p> <p>The plantations were planted into upland heath, acid grassland and bog. On rides and clearing the original vegetation persist, and there are significant areas of upland marshy grassland, heath and bracken. Dark green fritillary butterflies have been recorded within forestry clearings.</p> <p>The conifer plantations also subsumed two-replanted ancient woodland and these have the potential for restoration.</p> <p>The SINC includes the Graig Y Gilwern (SS 997982). The crags support acid cliffs, acid scree, dry heath (heather, bell heath and bilberry) and scattered birch and rowan trees. The site has populations of parsley fern and reports of cowberry.</p> <p>Within the upland plantations, the SINC also includes the Roman Marching Camp. This ancient monument supports an expanse of dry heath and acid grassland with bilberry, sheep's fescue, wavy hair-grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw and smaller areas of wet heath (purple moor-grass and cross-leaved heath. The site supports grayling butterflies.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS988992	Ward(s)	Aberaman North, Aberaman South, Ferndale, Maerdy
CCW TN		Area (ha)	634.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part FCW (leased?)		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (20), H (21), and S (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS detail of other sites to be added. 276, 99, 508, 517, 488, 279, 486		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary – Interim Report –April 2002 (Hyder)</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Numbers	190	Original Names	Craig Bedwlwyn Wood (incorporated into new SINC 59)
	58		Roman Camp
	59		Craig yr Gilwern

## SINC 60

Number	60	Name	<b>Mountain Ash Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of dry heath, acid and neutral grassland, bracken and rhos pasture on the hillside south of Mountain Ash. The heath is primarily dominated by bilberry, with heather and western gorse more restricted in their distribution. The acid grassland support mat grass, sheep's fescue, common bent, heath bedstraw, tormentil, and sheep's sorrel. Bracken grows across extensive areas of this heath/acid grassland mosaic. The SINC includes associated areas of neutral and marshy grassland, and on lower slopes areas of scrub and woodland.</p> <p>The mosaic of habitat represents good reptile and upland/heathland bird habitat. The bilberry moor is likely to support green hairstreak butterfly colonies and the bumblebee <i>Bombus monticola</i>.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST043983)</b>	Ward(s)	Mountain Ash West, Ynysybwll, Penrhiwceiber
CCW TN	CCW ST09NW TN005, ST09NE TN002	Area (ha)	143.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (9) and H (10)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (7), S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, sites to be added 367, 60, 366		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	60	Original Name	Mountain Ash slopes

## SINC 61

Number	61	Name	<b>Blaenllechau Woodland</b>
Description	<p>Upland ancient oak woodland, with some mature birch, rowan and ash. The bilberry, acid grassland (sheep's fescue, wavy hair-grass) and moss ground flora has been heavily grazed, but is recovering with some regeneration of oak, rowan and birch. The SINC includes the narrow corridor of oak alder woodlands, which grows on the steep sided banks of the upland stream. This has a mostly grassy ground flora with creeping soft grass, common bent, Yorkshire fog, and red fescue, but with occasional lesser celandine, common dog violets, wood anemone, soft rush, hard fern, broad buckler fern, male fern and wood sorrel</p> <p>The SINC also includes an extensive lower valley area of dry heath (heather and bilberry) and bracken/acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) with flushed areas of purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification M25) and Ivy-leaved bellflower. Also associated with old quarry workings there are further areas of dry heath, acid grassland mosaic, and on the lowest flat ground of the old railway line sidings there is a further heath and scrub mosaic (with locally abundant dog violets). The heath/acid grassland support very large grayling butterfly and mottled grasshopper colonies, and the violet rich banks of the railway sidings are likely breeding habitat for the dark green fritillary (and high brown) colony, which occurs in the vicinity.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST005966)</b>	Ward(s)	Ferndale, Tylorstown
CCW TN		Area (ha)	19.34
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10) and S (6) Contributory Features – H (3), H (18), S (2), and S (3)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs other sites to be added 451, 281, 519		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional) NCC 1986.</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Tylorstown Tip and Llanwonno Road Land Reclamation Scheme Ecology Surveys (Hyder 2000, 2001)</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, (Hyder 2002)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	61	Original Name	Blaenllechau woodland

## SINC 62

Number	62	Name	<b>Penrhiw Cradoc Fields</b>
Description	<p>Two large fields on sloping ground, separated by a track. The fields support species rich grassland with sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, red fescue, common bent, bird's-foot trefoil, tormentil, red clover, yarrow, devil's-bit scabious, harebell, marsh thistle, burnet-saxifrage and black knapweed (National Vegetation Classifications MG5c and U4b). The drier grassland grades into damp marshy grassland at the southern corner of the site with soft rush, purple moor-grass and devil's-bit scabious (National Vegetation Classification M23).</p> <p>The site supports potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST045972)</b>	Ward(s)	Penrhiwceiber, Ynysybwl
CCW TN	CCW ST09NW TN009	Area (ha)	16.25
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None (495 close to the boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	62	Original Name	Penrhiw Cradoc fields

SINC 63

Number	63	Name	<b>Cwm Clydach</b>
Description	<p>The wildlife corridor, which lies along the valley of the Nant Clydach from Clydach Reservoir to south of Ynysybwl.</p> <p>The Nant Clydach is an unspoilt upland stream, with pools and riffles, undercut banks and exposed sandstone bedrock. The stream supports an almost continuous strip of alder, oak, ash and downy birch woodland. Much of the river corridor woodland appears to be ancient in with an ancient woodland ground flora, which includes male fern, broad buckler fern, lady fern, hart's-tongue fern, dog violets, wood sorrel, bluebell and enchanter's nightshade. The Clydach Reservoir is a moderately large reservoir, which at times of low water supports areas of emergent fringe, with horsetails and common spike rush. The uncommon wood bitter vetch has been recorded.</p> <p>The upper sections of the stream have a number of associated small marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M23), acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) and neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6) pastures, and areas of associated conifer plantation (larch, Norway spruce, lodge pole pine and sitka spruce). The latter includes the forestry block /land reclamation site of Ffynnon dwym (ST 053963). This supports large areas of mixed conifer plantation, with associated open ground areas of coal spoil grassland which support a typical eclectic mix of acid, neutral and mildly calcareous grassland species, with areas of heather and bilberry heath, and on impeded ground marshy grassland with rushes and marsh thistle.</p> <p>Further land reclamation grassland occurs on the steep slopes of Lady Windsor land reclamation site (ST065941) which support a large complex mosaic of open dry grassland with acid grassland species mixed with carline thistle, fairy flax and bird's foot trefoil. The site includes areas of mixed tree and scrub plantings.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of mixed broadleaved woodland higher on the valley sides, these include mature oak trees, alder, birch, hazel, and ash with ancient woodland ground flora including locally abundant bluebells. At NGR ST062951 there is an area of peatbog, which has been partially land filled. The bog supports deep peat with purple moor-grass, soft rush, tormentil, common cotton grass, lousewort, glaucous sedge, carnation sedge, heath spotted orchid, devil's bit scabious (frequent) and heath milkwort. The bog grades into a series of</p>		

	<p>rank marshy grassland fields (National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M23) with bracken, open woodland and areas of semi-improved neutral grassland (with locally abundant bird's-foot trefoil).</p> <p>The SINC extends further up the hillside to a narrow, west-facing band of ffridd. This mainly supports acid grassland (sheep's fescue, heath bedstraw, tormentil, and mat grass), but includes areas of gorse, bracken and dry heath (bilberry and heather).</p> <p>The SINC forms a complex mosaic of habitats, linked by the valley of the Nant Clydach. The river supports brown trout, breeding dipper and grey wagtail and is used by otter. The woodland and conifer plantations support typical woodland bird communities with nightjars within conifer clear fells. Stonechats and linnets occur in the ffridd. The SINC represents good invertebrate habitat. The valley of the Nant Clydach represents excellent fritillary butterfly habitat with small pearl-bordered, dark green and silver washed fritillary all recorded. The areas of coal spoil have grayling butterflies, and the marshy grassland has potential for marsh fritillary butterflies (which occur in the area).</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST054951)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl, Abercynon
CCW TN	TN CCW ST09NW 004 and 007	Area (ha)	221.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part Council, part FCW (leased?)		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (18), and S (2)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (3), S (4), S (5), and S(6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, other sites to be added: 333, 358, 330, 188, 190		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	63	Original Name	Cwm Clydach



SINC 64

Number	64	Name	<b>Mynydd Ty'n-tyle Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large upland SINC, which supports a complex mosaic of acid and marshy grassland, ffridd and heath. The acid grassland varies from sheep grazed upland (National Vegetation Classifications of U4 and U5) characterised by sheep's fescue, heath bedstraw, and mat grass, through to taller wavy-hair grass dominated grassland on steeper slopes (National Vegetation Classification U2). There are extensive stands of both heather and bilberry-dominated heath, with associated acid grassland and areas of western gorse. The upland plateau support areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification upland M25) and on peat wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15) with deer grass, common and hare's foot cotton grass, sphagnum bog moss and cross-leaved heath. There are additional areas of neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6) and bracken.</p> <p>The SINC supports upland bird assemblages, including large numbers of skylark, meadow pipits and smaller numbers of wheatear, and stonechat, whinchat and linnet in lower valleyside ffridd. Short-eared owl occurs in the winter.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST995964)</b>	Ward(s)	Ferndale, Maerdy, Ystrad, Tylorstown
CCW TN	TN CCW ST09NW 001	Area (ha)	281.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (9), H (10) and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (7), H (12) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs , other sites to be added: 103, 454, 453, 116, 105, 450, 449, 284, 250		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Nature Conservancy Council Upland Survey (1985)</li> <li>• Power Factory Environmental Statement , Hyder 2002</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	64	Original Name	Mynydd Tyntyle slopes

**SINC 65**

Number	65	Name	<b>Old Smokey Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of mosaic ffridd habitat, based partly on natural ground and partly on coal spoil. Acid grassland (mainly forms of U4) is the predominant vegetation and characteristic species include sheep's fescue, common bent, sweet vernal grass, heath bedstraw, heath grass, sheep's sorrel, heath speedwell and heath wood-rush with matt grass on more exposed ground. Stands of tall bracken are associated with a groundflora of acid (or flushed grassland) and scattered trees. Dog violets are locally abundant on bracken and acid grassland slopes. Dry heath (often in mosaic with acid grassland) is an important habitat with bilberry and heather with wavy hair grass and areas of lichen heath with cladonia species. There are two small ponds, both of which support a diverse flora (including marsh st. John's wort and alternate water milfoil).</p> <p>The mixture of habitats, on a west-facing slope, represents excellent habitat for a diversity of fauna. Highlights include an important butterfly fauna (including grayling, high brown fritillary, dark green and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies), dragonfly populations, mottled grasshoppers, abundant green tiger beetles, good reptile (including common lizard) and amphibian habitat (common frog, toad and palmate newt), and distinctive bird assemblage, which include stonechat and whinchat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST016957)</b>	Ward(s)	Maerdy
CCW TN	TN CCW ST09NW002	Area (ha)	113
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (16), H (18), H (20), S (6)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1) H (3), H (7), S (2), S (3), and S (4)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs but others to be added:448, 447, 444, 443, 392		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tylorstown and Llanwonno Road Land Reclamation Ecology Surveys – various (Hyder 2000, 2001)</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary Interim Survey Report, (Hyder 2002)</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	65	Original Name	Old Smokey slopes

## SINC 66

Number	66	Name	<b>Coed Fforest Isaf-Uchaf</b>
Description	<p>An extensive valley side forestry complex, which runs from along the eastern flank of the lower Cynon valley. Predominantly a mixed conifer plantation with sitka spruce, western hemlock, larch, Norway spruce and Douglas fir, there is now considerable clear-fell, and opening up the forestry block. The SINC includes significant areas of replanted ancient woodland with large areas of remnant native woodland, with oak, ash, hazel, alder, downy and silver birch woodland. The ground flora reflects the ancient woodland status including locally abundant bluebells, wood sorrel, male and broad buckler fern and enchanter's nightshade. The SINC includes additional smaller areas of dry heath, and bracken ffridd.</p> <p>The expanse of mixed conifer plantations represents good conifer bird habitat with potential for crossbill, siskin, redpoll and goshawk. The clear fells offer ideal nightjar habitat. Elsewhere the mixed broadleaved woodland supports typical woodland bird assemblages.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST063985)</b>	Ward(s)	Mountain Ash East, Abercynon
CCW TN		Area (ha)	239.8
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part FCW		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Feature H (1) and S (2) Contributory H (9), H (10), S (1), S (3), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIG sites but others to add: 298, 563, 340, 373.		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	66	Original Name	Coed Fforest Isaf-Uchaf

## SINC 67

Number	67	Name	<b>Perthcelyn Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large, species rich mosaic of largely unmanaged grassland and associated habitats. The SINC includes areas of dry neutral (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5 and MG6) and acid (National Vegetation Classification U4b) grassland mosaic with red fescue, sweet vernal grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, cat's-ear, field wood-rush, red clover, bird's-foot trefoil, lady's mantle, tormentil, yarrow, heath bedstraw, devil's-bit scabious and in more acid areas, heather and bilberry. The drier grasslands grade into areas of wetter marshy grassland, (National Vegetation Classifications of M23a and M25) and acid flush (National Vegetation Classification M6) with purple moor-grass, soft rush, sharp flowered rush, angelica, cuckoo-flower, marsh thistle, heath spotted orchid, marsh bedstraw and marsh violet. Within areas of associated willow scrub there are acid flushes with meadow thistle, and devil's-bit scabious.</p> <p>Elsewhere the SINC supports areas of bracken (with locally abundant bluebells), alder woodland and willow scrub. The SINC supports small pearl-bordered fritillary and has potential for marsh fritillary.</p>		
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST056970)</b>	Ward(s)	Penrhiwceiber, Abercynon
CCW TN	CCW TN 001 ST 09NE	Area (ha)	20.368
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (12) and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1), H (3), H (10), H (21), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Vegetation Survey</li> </ul>		
Original Number	67	Original Name	Perthcelyn Slopes

## SINC 68

Number	68	Name	<b>Pen-twyn-isaf</b>
Description	A series of species rich pasture fields. Areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) support purple moor-grass, soft rush, tufted hair-grass, lesser spearwort, marsh violet, field wood-rush, glaucous and carnation sedge and mat grass. The drier grassland supports species rich neutral and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG6 and U4) with black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, cat's-ear, hay rattle, mat grass and sheep's-fescue. Lapwing has been recorded.		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST064959)</b>	Ward(s)	Abercynon
CCW TN		Area (ha)	10.176
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4), H (6), and H (7)		
Earth science sites	none		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> </ul>		
Original Number	68	Original Name	Pentwyn isaf

## SINC 69

Number	69	Name	<b>Tyntetown Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC of heath, grassland, bracken and woodland.</p> <p>The open habitat support a complex mosaic of dry heath, bracken and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of U2 and U4) with heather, bilberry, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair-grass, common bent, tormentil, and heath bedstraw. Small areas of wet purple moor-grass occur in flushed areas. Much of the acid grassland is bracken covered and there is considerable scrub and woodland regeneration.</p> <p>The SINC includes the semi-natural, mature oak, beech, alder and birch woodland of Coed Ty-dan-darren and adjoining woods, and extends into replanted ancient woodland with Scots and Corsican pine and Japanese larch.</p> <p>The SINC represents good reptile and bird habitat, with a high potential for key species including wood warbler and nightjar.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 067961)</b>	Ward(s)	Abercynon
CCW TN	CCW TN005 ST09NE	Area (ha)	55.206
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10) and H (20)</p> <p>Secondary Features – H (3), H (4), H (7), S (2), and S (3)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added: 365, 364, 363, 362 and possibly 329		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Provisional Inventory of Ancient Woodland (NCC 1985)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	69	Original Name	Tyntetown slopes

## SINC 70

Number	70	Name	<b>Darren y Celyn</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC of conifer plantation and heath, which lies on the eastern valley side of the lower Cynon Valley. The SINC includes large areas of dry heath with heather, bilberry and wavy-hair grass; this intergrades with areas of scree and bracken/acid grassland to form extensive areas of open ground heath. The open habitats occur in further mosaic with mixed lodge pole pine, noble fir, and western hemlock conifer plantation. There is considerable recent clear felling.</p> <p>The SINC represents good nesting bird habitat, with the potential for key conifer species, such as goshawk crossbill, and nightjar within clear fells. The heath land areas will support strong reptile populations and have a high potential for invertebrates, including green hairstreak butterflies.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 077963)</b>	Ward(s)	Abercynon
CCW TN		Area (ha)	39.10
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9) and H (10)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (3), S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
RIGs Earth science sites	<p>159 The Gap Quarry (score 200)</p> <p>375 Daren y Celyn (score 140)</p>		
Other earth science sites	Other sites detail to be added: 328, 339, 338, 337, 369, 336.		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey. 1992-1995</li> <li>• Forestry Commission Planting Plans</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	70	Original Name	Darren y Celyn



SINC 71

Number	71	Name	<b>Coed Pen-y-parc</b>
Description	<p>Extensive SINC on the hillsides between Abercynon and Glyncoch. Primarily conifer plantation but including areas of native broadleaved woodland, grassland and ponds.</p> <p>The conifer plantations are primarily replanted ancient woodland sites. The current tree cover of mixed conifer includes sitka spruce, Corsican pine, Scot's pine and larch. The SINC includes extant areas of ancient semi-natural woodland including the mixed oak woodlands of Coed y Cwm. The mixture of plantation and relic ancient woodland support excellent woodland bird habitat, with potential for crossbill, siskin, redpoll, and goshawk. There are large clear felled areas, with potential for nightjar. The forestry areas include a series of crags, and associated acid grasslands (Pen y Foel).</p> <p>On the lower slopes above Abercynon, the SINC includes some small pastures of species rich, horse grazed, neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification of MG5/6) with crested dog's-tail, black knapweed and bird's-foot trefoil, and associated areas of bracken dominated acid and neutral grassland.</p> <p>The SINC also encompasses the Carnetown Ponds at the far end of the Carnetown recreation ground. They support good submerged and emergent floras, bank side vegetation (including the uncommon wood club-rush) and associated fauna. This includes emerald damselflies, frogs and palmate newts, kingfisher, moorhen and excellent bat foraging habitat including noctule, myotid spp. and pipistrelle.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 079951)</b>	Ward(s)	Abercynon
CCW TN	CCW TN 008 ST09NE, ST09SE TN 010	Area (ha)	182.549
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (9) and H (16)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (3), H (7), H (10), H (21), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (6) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others to add 491, 361, 492, 164, 455, 494, 493 (359 and 360 on boundary)		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (Provisional) NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Forestry Commission planting plans</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	71	Original Name	Abercynon Woodland
	76		Coed Pen-y-parc

## SINC 72

Number	72	Name	<b>Heol-y-Mynach Pastures</b>
Description	<p>A series of horse grazed drier and marshy grassland pastures. The drier grassland includes common bent, crested dog's-tail, ribwort plantain, bird's-foot trefoil, autumn hawkbit, red clover, white clover, black knapweed, yarrow, greater burnet, tormentil, sneezewort and sorrel. In National Vegetation Classification terms this equates to a mosaic of MG5, MG6 and U4b neutral/acid grassland.</p> <p>Wetter areas support marshy grassland with purple moor-grass and soft rush (National Vegetation Classification of M25/M23), with great burnet, greater bird's foot-trefoil, devil's bit scabious and tormentil.</p> <p>The SINC is a species rich diverse grassland with the potential for marsh fritillary butterflies (which occur on the nearby Buarth-Y-Capel SINC 73)</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 050954)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl
CCW TN		Area (ha)	4.889
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (4), H (6) and H (7)		
Features	Contributory Features – S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	72	Original Name	Heol y Mynach

SINC 73

Number	73	Name	<b>Buarth-y-Capel wetland</b>
Description	<p>A very species rich SINC, on the north-western fringe of Ynysybwł. The site primarily supports marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of M25, M23 and MG10 with small areas of M24) and acid grassland (including areas of the species rich U4). The centre of the site is very wet and based upon deep peat. This area of valley mire supports areas of open water and species rich, mixed swamp. The swamp and ditches support a colony of great crested newt and large numbers of palmate newt and common frog. The wetland is excellent wetland bird habitat, moorhen and two to three pairs of reed bunting breed in the swamp, which also supports large numbers of wintering snipe together with records of water rail and jack snipe. Curlew, have been recorded in summer. Associated with this area of peat is an area of wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15), with abundant devil's-bit scabious. An area of old- re-vegetated coal spoil occurs at the south-eastern corner of the site. There are areas of open parkland type habitat with mature oak trees</p> <p>The site supports a colony of small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies, and marsh fritillary butterflies and double line moth has also been recorded. The wetland is managed as one grazing unit and grazed by sheep and cattle.</p> <p>The SINC also includes the stream and woodland of the Coed Cribyn-du and alder woodland (which support pied flycatcher). Local residents have reported old records of otter and it is highly probable that otter still frequent this area.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 054943)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwł
CCW TN	CCW TN003 ST09SE	Area (ha)	25.11
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features - H (1), H (2), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (8), H (10), H (11), H (12), H (15), H (18), S (4) and S (6)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), and S (3),</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs 189 to be added (187 on boundary)		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• CCW Site Notes</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Buarth-y-Capel, Ecological Assessments (various), Casella (2000 and 2001)</li> <li>• Buarth-y-Capel, Ecological Assessments, RPS Ecological Surveys (2007)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	73	Original Name	Buarth-y-capel

## SINC 74

Number	74	Name	<b>Dan y Cribyn</b>	
Description	<p>A large area of mature, ancient semi-natural woodland and additional areas of marshy grassland, on the western edge of Ynysybwl.</p> <p>The woodland occupies a moderate to steep east facing slope. It supports mixed oak, ash, beech, alder, hazel, holly, downy birch and hawthorn woodland. The wood has an ancient woodland ground flora with male fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern, hard fern, bluebells, wood sorrel, and opposite leaved golden saxifrage. The woodlands support excellent woodland bird habitat.</p> <p>In addition, at its northern end, the SINC includes areas of heavily grazed, flushed marshy grass. These support purple moor-grass, rush, carnation sedge, devil's-bit scabious, and carnation sedge. Although currently heavily grazed, the marshy grassland has potential as marsh fritillary habitat. Marsh fritillary butterflies occur to the immediate north on Buarth-y-Capel.</p> <p>At the southern end, adjacent to Dan-y-Cribyn, the SINC encompasses small areas of unmanaged purple moor-grass and soft rush, and larger areas of bracken (2 or 3 hectares) with acid grassland with sheep's fescue, sheep's sorrel, tormentil, and heath bedstraw (National Vegetation Classification of U4). The marshy grassland although currently unsuitable for marsh fritillary butterflies has potential for the species, with better management.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 060935)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl	
CCW TN	CCW TN 006 ST09SE	Area (ha)	16.63	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), and H (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No Rigs, 331 to be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992- 1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Coed Cymru Site File</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	74	Original Name	Dan y Cribyn	

## SINC 75

Number	75	Name	<b>Lower Clydach Woodlands</b>	
Description	<p>The lower section of the Nant Clydach, and the associated semi-natural woodland and grassland habitats.</p> <p>The Nant Clydach is a fast flowing, clean upland river, running through an incised, steep sided valley with areas of undercut bank and exposed sandstone bedrock. It supports brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter habitat.</p> <p>The SINC includes the extensive mature semi-natural (and largely ancient woodlands), which occurs on either side of the Nant Clydach Valley. These woodlands support canopies of oak, birch, beech, sycamore, alder and ash, with hazel (old coppice), holly, and guelder rose shrub layer. There is an ancient woodland ground flora with bluebell, wood sorrel, dog violets, enchanter's nightshade, male fern, broad buckler fern, hard fern and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The SINC supports associated areas of bracken/dry grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4/MG6) Cefn Pastures (ST068925 and ST069925) supports species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) with purple moor-grass, tormentil, devil's-bit scabious, articulated rush, compact rush, and cross leaved heath. The pastures include a small area of neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5c) with devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, bird's-foot trefoil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, and black knapweed. This grassland is potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 069925)</b>	Ward(s)	Ynysybwl, Glyncoch, Abercynon	
CCW TN	CCW TN005 and 009 ST09SE	Area (ha)	47.79	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (15), H (20), and S (1)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)</p>			

Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 191, 196		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of Marsh Fritillary Habitat in RCT, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ynysybwl to Taff Trail Links, Ecology Surveys, Pryce Consultants Ecologists (2001) and Michael Woods Associates (2003).</li> </ul>		
Original Number	75	Original Name	Lower Clydach Woodlands



## SINC 76

Number	76	Name	<b>Maerdy Colliery</b>
Description	<p>Areas of dry heath, acid grassland, marshy grassland, bracken, swamp and pools associated with the derelict Maerdy Colliery site. The site consists of a mixture of old colliery spoil, and small areas of original ground. Much of the dry heath is firmly associated with coal spoil, and support heather and bilberry with areas of <i>Cladonia</i> lichen-heath, the heath grades into acid grassland with sheep's fescue, wavy hair-grass, common bent, mat grass, tormentil, sheep's sorrel and heath bedstraw. Areas of impeded drainage support associated marshy grassland.</p> <p>The site supports a colony of grayling butterfly, keeled skimmer dragonfly, brown-banded carder-bee and two club-mosses (stag's horn and fir). Frog, common toad and palmate newt have also been recorded, and a typical ffridd bird assemblage, including whinchat, stonechat, tree pipit and reed bunting.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 966990	Ward(s)	Maerdy
CCW TN		Area (ha)	11.40 ha
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (11), H (18), S (6) and S (7) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), and S (4)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, other to be added: 86		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Maerdy Tip Ecological survey, Hyder, 2001 and 2006</li> </ul>		
Original Number	189	Original Name	Maerdy Colliery
	76		Coed Pen-y-parc (including Coed y Cwm) now in 71

## SINC 77

Number	77	Name	<b>Craig-yr-Hesg / Lan Wood</b>
Description	<p>Coed Craig-yr-Hesg is an extensive area of ancient semi-natural woodland, supporting crags and old quarries. The woodland supports mixed oak, ash, alder, silver and downy birch canopy with hazel and holly shrub layer. The woodland includes steep sloped open woodland with heather, bilberry and bracken ground flora, and wetter lower lying alder woodland with hazel, guelder rose and alder buckthorn, and an ancient woodland with bluebell, marsh valerian, remote sedge, and ferns. Craig Yr Hesg is a Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Lan Wood is the southern part of the SINC. It supports large areas of mixed oak, birch, beech, alder, alder buckthorn, hazel, and willow woodland, with an ancient woodland ground flora, with wood anemone, dog violets, wood sorrel and bluebells.</p> <p>Lan Woods includes important areas of marshy grassland and wet heath. These include relatively large areas of purple moor-grass, devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, heath spotted orchid, petty whin with, in wetter (peaty areas), cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel and sphagnum acid flush and bracken.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of coal spoil workings, and old quarries and tramroads. These supports areas of dry heath (heather and bilberry) and open coal habitats. It also extends along the south side of the Darren Ddu Lane to include further areas of mature semi-natural mixed oak woodland, including Di-goed, and areas of linking acid grassland and bracken.</p> <p>There is a considerable range of flora and fauna. The site represents excellent woodland bird habitat with breeding wood warbler and tree pipit, wintering woodcock and on the crags raven. The marshy grassland supports small pearl-bordered fritillary and marsh fritillary habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 072914)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontypridd Town, Glyncoch, Rhondda
CCW TN	CCW TN007 and 009 ST09NE	Area (ha)	89.72

Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (15), H (18), H (20), H (21), and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2), and S (3),		
Earth science sites	No RIGS sites, others to be added: 172, 529, 173, 503, 177		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Craig Yr Hesg Local Nature Reserve Management Plan</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (Provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Woodland Surveys in South Wales Region – Cooke and Saunders, NCC (1990)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	77	Original Name	Craig yr Hesg Lan wood

## SINC 78

Number	78	Name	<b>Craig-Evan Leyshon Common</b>
Description	<p>An extensive mosaic fridd, which runs along the eastern flank of the Taff valley. Bracken dominates huge areas, but this is associated with 'under storey' of acid grassland (with common bent, sheep's fescue, tormentil, heath bedstraw and sheep's sorrel). Steeper crags support large areas of heather heath with wavy hair grass. The shallower, flushed slopes at NGR ST 097 920, has flushed marshy with tall purple moor-grass, greater bird's-foot trefoil, ivy-leaved bellflower, pennywort, marsh bedstraw, soft rush, sharp flowered rush, tufted hair-grass, marsh thistle sphagnum bog mosses and <i>Polytrichum commune</i>. Cross-leaved heath, bell heath, western gorse and mat grass occur locally.</p> <p>The SINC includes vegetating coal spoil tips. These support open coal spoil grassland with the usual eclectic mix of acid and calcareous species, including carline thistle, fairy flax and a locally extensive area of common thyme grow on the old coal spoil.</p> <p>The SINC includes the relic ancient woodland of Coed Pant-du Isaf and replanted ancient woodlands of Coed Trefychan, and the alder woodland and clean fast flowing stream of the Nant Cae-dudwg.</p> <p>Excellent invertebrate habitats, with grayling butterflies on the coal spoil grasslands and good breeding bird habitat include yellowhammer, raven, stonechat and wheatear. Adder occurs within the main Common. The flushed marshy grassland supports potential fritillary butterfly habitat present. The mixed ancient woodland sites offer a diverse woodland bird habitat, and the Nant Cae-dudwg has dipper, kingfisher and Daubenton bats.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST086939)</b>	Ward(s)	Abercynon, Cilfynydd
CCW TN	TN CCW ST09SE 016, 017	Area (ha)	145.4
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features –H (1), H (3), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (18), H (20), and H (21).</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (6)</p>		

RIGS Earth science sites	161 Navigation Quarry (score 225) 163 Navigation West (score 150)		
Other earth science sites	Details to be added: 371, 160, 162, 561		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Biological Survey of Common Land – Mid Glamorgan</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	78	Original Name	Craig-evan leyshon

## SINC 79

Number	79	Name	<b>Mynydd Eglwysilian</b>
Description	<p>An extensive upland SINC. The predominant vegetation is a bilberry heath (National Vegetation Classification H18). There are significant areas of acid grassland and bracken. The acid grassland has a characteristic composition of sheep's fescue, common bent, wavy hair-grass, tormentil and heath bedstraw, it occurs in complex mosaics with the bilberry. At and around the head of the Nant Corrwg there is a small blanket bog with cross-leaved heath, heather, bilberry and some deer grass. There are old records of Cornish moneywort.</p> <p>The SINC includes the important, semi-natural ancient woodland of Coed Bodwenarth. This mixed oak, ash, and birch woodland lies on the slopes immediately above Cilfynydd. Open areas are dominated by bracken. The woodland has associated areas of marshy grassland (NGR ST090915) this supports purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification of M25) with sharp flowered rush, devil's-bit scabious, with sphagnum bog moss and <i>Polytichum commune</i> in the small acid flushes.</p>		

Grid Ref	(NGR ST 092917)	Ward(s)	Trallwn, Cilfynydd, Rhydyfelin
CCW TN	CCW TN015 ST09SE	Area (ha)	134.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (20), and H (21)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others still to be added: 561		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Biological Survey of Common Land – Mid Glamorgan</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	79	Original Name	Coed Bodwenarth

## SINC 80

Number	80	Name	<b>Pont Sion Norton Woodland and Ffridd</b>
Description	<p>A large valley-side area of woodland and ffridd, occupying the steep hillside above Cilfynydd. The woodland is open in nature, and part is identified as ancient woodland. Typical species include oak, birch, elder, hawthorn and willow woodland. Bluebell is a feature of the open woodlands. The SINC includes large areas of bracken/acid grassland dominated ffridd with sheep's fescue, common bent, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel, dog violets and tormentil, open areas support more neutral grassland with black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, and betony. The ffridd areas have scattered oak, hawthorn and willow trees. The SINC represent good nesting bird and reptile habitat. The bracken slopes, with violets, have potential for fritillary butterflies.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 085913)</b>	Ward(s)	Cilfynydd, Trallwn
CCW TN		Area (ha)	15.156
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), and H (9)  Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None (166, 167 nearby)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	80	Original Name	Pont Sion Norton woodland

## SINC 81

Number	81	Name	<b>Pontypridd Golf Course</b>	
Description	<p>A large mosaic woodland and ffridd SINC, which occupies the eastern slopes of the Taff Valley above Pontypridd.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland is a major component, some of which has been identified as ancient woodland (including ancient woodland above Pentrebach). The woodland character varies. There are significant areas of mixed oak woodland, with ash, beech, sycamore, hazel and holly.</p> <p>There are complex mosaics of bracken and acid grassland, with sheep's fescue, common bent, sweet vernal grass, heath bedstraw, tormentil and sheep's sorrel. On lower slopes there are a few associated small neutral grassland pastures. Although generally heavily grazed semi-improved grassland (In National Vegetation Classification terms MG6) these pastures add to the overall diversity of the SINC.</p> <p>The SINC includes a number of small areas of dry heath. The largest stand is an area of approximately six hectare on steep bank above Penheol Road, which supports heather, bilberry, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, and bracken.</p> <p>Small areas of associated marshy grassland (e.g. ST091909) support purple moor-grass, soft rush, sharp flowered rush, tormentil, ivy-leaved bellflower and mat grass (National Vegetation Classification M25). There is a colony of the small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 087900)</b>	Ward(s)	Trallwn, Treforest	
CCW TN		Area (ha)	71.75	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H 91), H (3), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (17), H (21), S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 168, 425, 473			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional) NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	81	Original Name	Pontypridd Golf Course	



Number	82	Name	<b>Coed-Pen-Maen Common</b>
Description	<p>Otherwise known as Pontypridd Common, perched on the eastern valley side above Pontypridd town, this popular site supports a diverse mixture of woodland, grassland, heath, ffridd and crags.</p> <p>The principal areas of native woodland occur around the periphery of the Common, with a large expanse at the southern end of the Common (associated with the Pentre-bach quarry), and along the site's steep western face. The woodland is mixed with oak, ash, alder, birch, hazel, holly, rowan, willow and hawthorn. Obvious differences in woodland structure occur across the site, reflecting to a large degree the topography of the site, and the age and maturity of the woodland present. While it is assumed that much of the woodland has established fairly recently, a good mixture of mature trees and developing woodland/understorey exists. In places the woodlands support a diverse and varied ground flora. In areas bramble and bracken dominate, but the Common supports a diverse ground flora characterised by bluebell, pignut, wood sorrel, lesser celandine, wood sedge, male fern and creeping soft grass. Where heath has become invaded by woodland, heather and bilberry forms the ground flora. The woodlands are important breeding and feeding bird habitat including species such as willow warbler, chiffchaff, wren, robin, blackcap, blackbird, mistle and song thrush. The woods represent good fungi habitat and will support a range of invertebrates, including a range of moth and butterflies, including species such as speckled wood, brimstone and purple hairstreak. The woodland edges are good bat foraging areas.</p> <p>The Common supports small stands of gorse scrub and represents excellent nesting bird habitat for species such as linnet and long-tailed tit, and potentially habitat for green hairstreak butterfly.</p> <p>On the Common's main plateau there is an expanse of unimproved and semi-improved acid grassland. Most of the grasslands is lowland acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4). It supports a typical acid grassland sward with sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, common bent, sweet vernal grass, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw, and tormentil. In areas (along paths etc) a more neutral grassland sward occurs with common bent, sweet vernal grass, rye grass, crested dog's-tail and herbs such as bird's-foot trefoil, common</p>		

knapweed, etc. Common grassland mosses (in particular *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Pleurozium schreberi*) are well established and the mown grassland swards have a good potential for grassland fungi (including waxcaps).

Only fairly small stands of pure dry heath (heather and bilberry) still occur on the Common. These include some larger areas on the plateau to the immediate north and west of the war memorial and smaller areas on the steep sheer western faces of the common.

Dry heath also forms an important component of much of the acid grassland of the site where it occurs within areas of mown acid grassland on the plateau. It is also present in areas of open birch woodland.

Bracken occurs in complex mosaics with acid, heath and marshy grassland within the Park. Bluebell is in particular associated with bracken areas in the Common.

The Common has at least one main stream running across its southern end and a series of other smaller issues and flushes. Most of the wet, marshy grassland within the park can be described as rhos pasture. This consists of tiny fragments of unmanaged marshy grassland. Much of the lowland marshy grassland is rush dominated with purple moor-grass, soft and sharp flowered rush and associated species such as greater bird's-foot trefoil, meadowsweet, angelica, marsh thistle, cuckoo flower, lesser celandine, ragged robin, common sedge and meadow and creeping buttercup. In areas stands of *Polytrichum* moss become locally dominant, with *Sphagnum* and flushed areas support pennywort, marsh violets and hemlock water dropwort.

The steep west facing slopes of the Common support exposed rock faces and ledges with heath, birch woodland and wood-rush communities.

Cornish moneywort was recorded from the Common In 1885 by the well-known botanist John Storrie (Flora of Glamorgan, Wade et al, 1994). In recent years it has been re-found on Llantrisant Common and Y Graig, Llantrisant, this diminutive species may well still occur somewhere on Pontypridd Common.

The Common supports a diverse woodland fauna, including a range of invertebrates, birds and small mammals. The open heath, rough grassland and woodland edges represent idea reptile habitat and it would be expected that the Common

	would support slowworm, common lizard, and possibly adder and grass snake. There are no well-established ponds on the site, but it is likely that frogs, toads and palmate newts, will occur using rough grassland and woodland as foraging and hibernating habitat.
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 079902)</b>	Ward(s)	Trallwn, Treforest
CCW TN	CCW TN014 ST09SE	Area (ha)	13.30
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (20), and H (21).  Contributory Features – H (4), H (7), S (2), S (3), S (6) and S (9)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs sites, others to be added: 310, 170 (169, 171 close to the boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Coed Pen -Maen Common Ecology Report (RCT CBC)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	82	Original Name	Coed pen maen Common

## SINC 83

Number	83	Name	<b>Mynydd Meiros/Upper Ewenny Fach</b>
Description	<p>The greater part of the SINC is an extensive area of upland acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U4 and U5) partly on the upland plateau of Mynydd Meiros and partly on the steep valley sides of the Ewenny Fach. The acid grassland has scattered bracken throughout large parts. A small area of relic blanket bog occurs at ST013844, there are also a number of acid flushes with purple moor-grass and sphagnum bog moss. The upland sheep grazed grassland supports skylark, meadow pipit and wheatear habitat, and merlin occur in the area. The area is of biodiversity value because of its size and the associated bog habitats.</p> <p>The SINC includes the upper valley of the Ewenny Fach, with its fast flowing incised valley. The river supports breeding dipper and grey wagtail, and potential otter habitat. The river valley supports ancient semi-natural oak and alder woodland, and associated areas rank purple moor-grass rush (National Vegetation Classification M25) with marsh thistle, ragged robin and tormentil. This mosaic of woodland and wetland offers excellent breeding bird habitat, and potential dormouse habitat. The SINC lies close to a lesser horseshoe bat roost and the wet woodlands and grasslands are likely to be used a foraging habitat by this, and other species.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 008843)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan, Tonyrefail West	
CCW TN	CCW TN 005 and 014 ST08SW	Area (ha)	76.98	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H 12), H (15) and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (10), S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (5)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others to be added: 314, 545 (538 close to boundary)			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (Provisional), NCC (1985)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	83	Original Name	Mynydd Meiros Upper Ewenny Fach	

## SINC 84

Number	84	Name	<b>Meiros</b>
Description	<p>A small but diverse area of heavily flushed and sheep grazed acid grassland with invading bracken. The spring fed acid flush (National Vegetation Classification of M6d) supports purple moor-grass with devil's-bit scabious, round leaved sundew, tawny sedge (<i>Carex hostiana</i>) carnation sedge (<i>Carex panacea</i>), marsh violet, meadow thistle, and sphagnum bog mosses. Lousewort (<i>spp hibernica</i>) and common cotton grass are present, and creeping willow has been recorded. Bracken dominates a large part of the SINC and management is a problem.</p> <p>Brown hare have been recorded and this small patch of semi-natural vegetation may represent important habitat within the immediate context of high-improved, heavily grazed pasture.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST012835)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan,
CCW TN	CCW TN013 ST08SW.	Area (ha)	2.66
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (7) and H (12) Contributory Features – S (1), S (6) and S (7)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCW Phase 1 Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> </ul>		
Original Number	84	Original Name	Meiros

## SINC 85

Number	85	Name	<b>Llantrisant Forestry and Craig Melyn</b>
Description	<p>Llantrisant Forest is the oldest Forestry Commission conifer forest in Wales. It is an extensive (several hundred hectares) mixed conifer plantation, which includes sitka spruce, larch, Douglas fir, western hemlock, Corsican pine, Norway spruce, Lawson cypress and giant fir. Llantrisant forest was planted on upland heath, and remnants of that original vegetation remain. There are now significant areas of clear fell opening up the forest blocks.</p> <p>The conifer forest includes areas of replanted ancient woodland at Coed Melyn and Coedynysmaerdy. Both woods retain areas of relic semi-natural woodland including oak, alder and hazel woodland with elements of ancient woodland ground floras (bluebell and wood anemone).</p> <p>To the south the SINC is extended to include areas of wet pastures, veteran parkland trees, a large pond and bracken/acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4).</p> <p>The conifer plantations support good bird habitat with potential for crossbill, siskin, redpoll and goshawk, as well song thrush, blackbird, robin, chaffinch, warblers, and buzzard. The recent clear felled areas are potential nightjar habitat.</p> <p>The mosaic of lowland habitats (woodland, pastures, veteran trees, and water bodies), which runs alongside the A473, is important lesser horseshoe bat habitat. The bat will use these lowland woodlands and pastures as feeding habitat and dark corridors for moving between foraging and roost sites. In addition, a further 8 species of bat have been recorded in the immediate area. Areas of lowland, diverse plantation/woodland have a high potential for dormouse, which is well established in the Llanharan area.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>NGR ST 019840</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan
CCW TN		Area (ha)	306.928
Air photo dates	2003		

Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features		Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (6), H (9), H (15), H (16), H (20), and S (1)  Contributory Features – H (3), H (4), H (7), S (2), S (3), and S (4)	
Earth science sites		No RIGs others to be added : 379, 380, 397, 398, 404, 290.	
Survey work undertaken		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (Provisional)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Forestry Commission stock maps</li> <li>• Valleys Bat Group</li> </ul>	
Original Number	85	Original Name	Craig Melyn woodland

## SINC 86

Number	86	Name	<b>Cynllan Woods</b>
Description	<p>The SINC is a network of small ancient woodland sites and linking hedgerows. The Cynllan Woods is the largest of the constituent woods and is managed as a private nature reserve. The main body of the woodland supports semi-natural ancient woodland, with oak, ash, alder, beech, hazel and sycamore. The woodland has a species-rich woodland ground flora, with abundant marsh violets and ferns. The mosaic of woodland, with a good under storey layer supports a dormouse colony.</p> <p>The SINC also includes the conifer plantation of Coed-y-byn (a replanted ancient woodland site), smaller copses to the east of Cynllan Wood, and the section of connecting ancient, species rich hedgerows. The principle function of this connected SINC network is to maintain habitat links with dormouse colonies and habitat further south and east. The SINC looks to protect the strategically physical connectivity between these related dormouse colonies.</p> <p>Cynllan Wood supports excellent woodland bird habitat and small ponds have breeding smooth newt. Barn owl has been recorded. The network of woodlands, hedgerows, and intervening wet semi-improved pasture, represents excellent bat habitat. Cynllan Lodge supports a large pipistrelle bat roost. Amongst 8 or 9 bat species recorded, survey work has found barbastrelle bats using habitat within SINC 86. The woodland network offers potential roosting habitat for this rare species. The woodlands and hedgerows are also likely to be used by lesser horseshoe bats.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 006826)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan
CCW TN		Area (ha)	14.995
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), and S (1) Contributory Features – S (2), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Coed Cymru Site File</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Llanharan By-pass Ecology Survey Work (Halcrow)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	86	Original Name	Cynllan wood



SINC 87

Number	87	Name	<b>Hendre Owen/Trecastell Tip</b>
Description	<p>This SINC supports an interconnected network of unimproved and semi-improved pastures, woodlands, hedgerows and the brown field habitats of Trecastell Tip.</p> <p>The SINC includes the marshy grasslands and dry neutral grassland in and around Hendre Owen. The marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23 and M25) supports soft rush, purple moor-grass, meadowsweet, carnation sedge, glaucous sedge, lousewort, mat grass, cuckooflower and locally frequent devil's-bit scabious. Some of the marshy grasslands have become invaded with willow scrub and gorse, and are succeeding into wet scrub.</p> <p>The dry neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6) has red fescue, sweet vernal grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, ribwort plantain, yarrow, field wood-rush, and some bird's-foot trefoil and black knapweed.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of linking woodland, including the mixed conifer plantations of the replanted ancient woodland of Coed-cae-bach and interconnecting hedgerows.</p> <p>The western end of the SINC is the old Trecastell Municipal Tip. This is an extensive area of regenerating habitat characterised by a species-rich mixture of pioneer species, gorse, and species rich secondary grassland including bee orchid, bird's-foot trefoil, and common centaury. The site has established boundary hedgerows, which support a dormouse colony. The site has a ridged topography with many waterlogged areas and at its western end areas of reed mace dominated ponds and swamp. The site supports good numbers of skylark, meadow pipit, linnet and reed bunting (and reports of Dartford warbler), and wintering snipe. The species rich grassland, with locally abundant bird's-foot trefoil supports good butterfly fauna (including a large dingy skipper colony). The ponds support common frog.</p> <p>The SINC includes a number of important habitats (including grasslands, and woodlands), it is also fulfils a strategically important biodiversity function by physically linking the dormouse colonies of Cynllan Woods to the west, with the colonies in Coed Trecastell to the east. A second strategic function is the network of marshy grassland fields, which support suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 010822)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharry, Llanharan
CCW TN	CCW TN007, 011 and 012 ST08SW	Area (ha)	30.702
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (17), S (1), and S (6)  Contributory Features – H (11), H (16), S (2), S (3), and S (4)		
Earth science sites	None (check 413 and 264 on the boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Various dormouse records</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in RCT (Richard Smith 2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	87	Original Name	Hendre Owen

## SINC 88

Number	88	Name	<b>Coed Trecastell</b>
Description	<p>The whole of Coed Trecastell has been identified as an ancient woodland site. The great majority of the woodland now supports conifer plantation with sitka spruce, Norway spruce, western hemlock and Lawson cypress. Large areas of the plantation have been recently felled woodland. Remnant areas of semi-natural ancient woodland remain. These include the alder, oak and hazel woodland along the Nant y Graean and Nant Melyn. The semi-natural woodland, and forest rides support a diverse ancient woodland ground flora including wood anemone, bluebell, dog violets, pendulous sedge, remote sedge, male fern, hart's-tongue fern, lesser celandine, sanicle, primrose and dog's mercury,</p> <p>Coed Trecastell supports a dormouse colony. The woodland is physically linked to dormouse habitat further west by woodlands, hedgerows and wetlands. The woodland lies within an area of high bat significance, and there is a high potential that both lesser horseshoe bats and barbastrelle bats will use Coed Trecastell. The wooded streams of the Nant Graean and Nant Melyn offer excellent otter habitat. The mixed conifer/native woodland offers excellent nesting bird habitat, and clear felled areas have potential for nightjar. Coed Trecastell was the last recorded site for the pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 021819)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan, Llanharry
CCW TN		Area (ha)	88.48
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (15), H (17) and S (1) Contributory Features – H (7), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added 136, 406, 263		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Forestry Commission Stock Plans</li> <li>• Various dormouse records</li> </ul>		
Original Number	88	Original Name	Coed Trecastell

## SINC 89

Number	89	Name	<b>Gwaun Llanhari Wood</b>
Description	<p>Species-rich, semi-natural oak ash woodland, with associated scrub, hedgerows on marshy grassland, which lies on the southern edge of Llanharry Common.</p> <p>The woodland and scrub are diverse habitats with a strong characteristic of an ancient structure and ground flora. The woodlands are predominantly wet, and support mature oak and alder, with hazel, beech, willow, birch, field maple, holly, hawthorn, and bramble. The ground flora includes bluebell, wood anemone, male fern, hart's-tongue fern, wood sorrel, dog violets, dog's mercury, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, yellow pimpernel, and lesser celandine.</p> <p>The site includes connecting areas of hawthorn and willow scrub, with areas of marshy grassland.</p> <p>The woodland, scrub and hedgerows have a high potential as dormouse habitat. The site lies within 500 metres of a dormouse colony. The associated areas of marshy grassland, are scrubbing over, but form part of the marshy grassland network which occurs on the east side of Llanharan, and which includes an existing marsh fritillary meta-population area. The combination of mature woodland, scrub, and marshy grassland is also good bat habitat. Survey work within the Llanharan area has recorded 8 or 9 species including the rare barbastelle and lesser horseshoe bats.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 006814)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharry
CCW TN	CCW 002 ST08SW	Area (ha)	7.448
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (17) and S (1) Contributory Features – H (4), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	89	Original Name	Gwaun Llanhari Wood

## SINC 90

Number	90	Name	<b>Ty'n Y Waun</b>
Description	<p>A mosaic SINC, which includes species rich marshy grasslands, semi-improved dry neutral grasslands and areas of ancient semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>The SINC includes the wet marshy grassland within the valley bottom below Ty'n Y Waun. The marshy grassland is fed by two spring fed streams, which join at the site's south-eastern corner. The wet ground supports species rich marshy grassland with sharp flowered rush, purple moor-grass, carnation sedge, tormentil, mat grass, red fescue, devil's-bit scabious, meadow thistle, betony and a small area of lesser pond sedge swamp with willow scrub. The field is identified as supporting areas of both good condition and suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p> <p>The SINC also includes a series of three semi-improved pastures, which occupy the sloping hillside above the marshy grassland. These grasslands support crested dog's-tail, rye grass, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, ribwort plantain, and lesser amounts of cuckooflower, hay rattle, common spotted orchid, black knapweed and bulbous buttercup. These pastures (National Vegetation Classification MG6) link into the semi-natural ancient woodland at NGR ST014814. This woodland has a high potential for dormouse. To the north of the wood lies a large marshy grassland field with rank, unmanaged purple moor-grass and colonising scrub. This field has been identified as suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat and forms the link with Coed Trecastell SINC.</p> <p>The marshy fields support wintering snipe and are ideal breeding site for reed bunting and possibly sedge warbler.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST014814)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharry
CCW TN	CCW TN008 and 009 ST08SW	Area (ha)	13.73
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (7), H (12), S (1) and S (6)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (15), and S (2).</p>		
Earth science sites	None		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional) NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in RCT (Richard Smith 2005)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	90	Original Name	Ty'n Y Waun

## SINC 91

Number	91	Name	<b>Coedcae Marsh</b>
Description	<p>A wetland site of major County Borough significance. The SINC includes one of the largest and most significant remaining areas of swamp / fen in the County Borough (National Vegetation Classification S7). There are also extensive areas of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of M23, with smaller stands of MG10, M24, M25, M27 and species rich dry neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5c and MG6). Bog-bean and marsh cinquefoil are characteristic of a number of small, shallow pools. The rare bladder sedge occurs in large stands. The site includes the meandering Nant Melyn, with its associated species-rich wet alder woodland. There are mature tree lines associated with old 'grown-out' hedgerows (three hedgerows satisfy the Hedgerow Regulations as important hedgerows).</p> <p>The complex mosaic of habitats (with swamp, reed bed, marshy grassland and drier grassland grading into wet carr and mature hedgerows) supports excellent wetland and woodland fauna habitat.</p> <p>The site is good quality bat habitat foraging habitat and is likely to be used as foraging habitat by lesser horseshoe bats (colonies of which occur in the vicinity). A number of veteran trees occur and are potential bat roosts (barbastelle bats have been recorded within 1 kilometre of the site). The Environmental Statement for the site assesses the bat foraging habitat as High Local (County Borough) significance.</p> <p>Otter use the stream corridor and wet woodland, and the hedgerows and woodland are suitable dormouse habitat. Badger activity has been recorded.</p> <p>Common lizard, slowworm and adder (in large numbers) occur and the site has been assessed as high local (County Borough) significance for reptiles.</p> <p>The site supports good bird habitat assessed as high local (County Borough) significance, with 32 wintering species (including snipe) and 30 breeding species. Again the site has been assessed as High Local (County Borough) significance for its assemblage of birds.</p> <p>The marsh represents excellent invertebrate habitat with 89 species of moth have been recorded including Devon carpet-moth (notable) and lesser cream wave moth (a local</p>		

	<p>Glamorgan species), 14 butterfly species (with areas of suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat), and 162 other invertebrate species, including 6 Notable B species, 27 'local' species and a colony of glow-worm and wintering snipe. The site supports some areas of habitat with high potential for marsh fritillary butterflies. The site has been assessed as High local (County Borough) significance for invertebrates.</p> <p>The woodlands in the SINC have also been assessed by ecological survey work as habitats of 'considerable value for lichens' including <i>Micarea adnata</i>, a species not previously recorded in south Wales. Again the site has been assessed as High local (County Borough) significance for lichens.</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST021826)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharan, Llanharry
CCW TN		Area (ha)	12.54
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features - H (1), H (2), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (8), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (17), H (20), H (22), S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (6) .</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (4) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 547 (412 close to boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Garth Parc Ecological Surveys – various (Cresswell Associates)</li> <li>• Strategic Biodiversity Audit- Garth Park, WDA (2000)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	91	Original Name	Coedcae marsh



## SINC 92

Number	92	Name	<b>River Ely</b>
Description	<p>The River Ely is a prime wildlife corridor and SINC 92 includes the river, and associated bank side habitats, between Tonyrefail and Talbot Green. The Ely, although previously polluted, has now recovered to generally good water quality. It is a key river for otter, and it supports kingfisher, dipper and grey wagtail. Brown trout and salmon both breed within its length.</p> <p>The river supports wooded banks, with alder the primary tree, and associated areas of wet alder woodland (with marsh marigold, opposite leaved golden saxifrage and iris). A typical example is the ancient woodland of Coedlanelay-fach. Monk's-hood, is a speciality of the wooded banks of the River Ely.</p> <p>The SINC includes the remnant Ely floodplain to the south of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. There are still two remnant areas of floodplain, which support ponds and floodplain swamp, which in addition to reed mace and purple loosestrife supports an abundance of greater spearwort, and patches of water avens and tufted loosestrife. This is the only known Welsh locality for tufted loosestrife, and both water avens and greater spearwort are very uncommon plants in Rhondda Cynon Taff.</p>		
Grid Ref	<b>ST 026849</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East, Llantrisant Town, Talbot Green, Llanharan
CCW TN		Area (ha)	50.66
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (15), H (16), S (1) and S (7)</p> <p>Secondary Features H (17), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None (280 close CHECK?)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Botanical Society for the British Isles News – January 2002</li> <li>• Ely Meadows Ecological Surveys (David Clements Associates)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	92	Original Name	Coedlanelay-fach

SINC 93

Number	93	Name	<b>Ty-Du</b>
Description	<p>A mosaic SINC, which includes ancient woodlands and hedgerows, old pastures, wooded streams, and the brown field habitats of the derelict Llanharry Iron Ore mine.</p> <p>The ancient woodland support mixed oak, ask, and alder woodland, with hawthorn, hazel coppice, and ancient woodland ground flora which include bluebell, wood anemone, dog violets, ramsons, enchanter’s nightshade, yellow archangel, red campion, primrose, male fern, hart’s-tongue fern, broad buckler fern, and soft shield fern. The woodland structure represents excellent songbird habitat, and (given the proximity of known dormouse colonies) a high probability of dormouse.</p> <p>The SINC includes a series of semi-improved horse and cattle grazed neutral grassland fields. These old pastures support mosaics of species rich neutral grassland with bird’s-foot trefoil and black knapweed (National Vegetation Classification MG5) and less diverse semi-improved grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG6). There are small areas of marshy grassland with soft rush, meadowsweet, cuckoo flower, Yorkshire fog, and greater bird’s foot-trefoil (National Vegetation Classification M23).</p> <p>The Llanharry Iron Ore Mine supports a mixture of diverse, secondary limestone woodland and scrub (with hazel, dog wood, and ash), two ponds (with a diverse emergent and aquatic flora) and large areas of species rich brown field grassland with bird’s-foot trefoil, ox-eye daisy and large numbers of bee orchid.</p> <p>Structures within the SINC support lesser horseshoe bats. Lesser horseshoe bat has been recorded passing through the woodlands and pastures of the SINC, which represent a dark corridor of excellent foraging habitat. The mosaic of woodland, meadows and hedgerows represents excellent bat feeding habitat. Ponds on the iron ore site have breeding amphibian populations including great crested newts, and barn owl use the open grasslands as hunting grounds. The network of hedgerows and small woodland has a high potential for dormice.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 021809)</b>		Ward(s)	Llanharan, Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	33.315	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (16), H (17), H (18), S (1), and S (4).  Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGS sites, others to be added: 394			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Llanharan Ore Mine – Various Ecology surveys related to Planning Applications</li> </ul>			
Original Number	93	Original Name	Ty-Du	

SINC 94

Number	94	Name	<b>Ty-Draw (Pontyclun floodmeadows)</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes a section of the River Ely, through Pontyclun and a large area of floodplain grassland and associated areas of wet ancient woodland and marshy grassland.</p> <p>Within the SINC, the River Ely is a wide, relatively slow flowing river. It has long pool riffle sequences, with undercut banks and areas of exposed shingle. The banks support alder and oak woodland, with hazel, hawthorn, and elements of ancient woodland ground flora. Monk's-hood occurs. The river supports otter, kingfisher, dipper (which breed) and grey wagtail, as well as brown trout and salmon.</p> <p>On the west bank of the river there is a large low-lying, grassland floodplain, intersected with a number of drainage ditches. Until recently, the floodplain grassland was a rare example of unimproved species-rich grassland with a complex mosaic of wetter swamp, marshy grassland, inundation communities and drier grassland, with seasonal pools and runnels. The drier grassland was mostly easily described and supported at least 2 hectares of good quality neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5). This drier grassland graded into areas of diverse swamp and genuine inundation communities with seasonal pools. The wet floodplain grassland had evidence of seasonal flooding with areas of deposited riverine sand. The floodplain was dissected by one fast flowing stream and a number of old drainage ditches with tall alder, ash and willow tress. The site was ploughed within the last 8 years (2000-2008), and much of the original grassland habitats were significant damaged. The site however has continued to receive winter floodwater, and species, including water avens have been recorded as remaining within the floodplain. The site is still a functioning floodplain, and it is too soon after ploughing to fully assess its existing botanical value or potential for recovery. Given, the still functioning floodplain and the potential for habitat restoration, the site is still considered to be rare floodplain grassland worthy of SINC designation. The recent recording of hairy dragonfly (<i>Brachytron pratense</i>) in Pontyclun is likely to have originated from the ditches on this site.</p> <p>The western parts of the SINC include a small, but very species rich wet alder woodland (which is mapped as ancient) and associated areas of marshy grassland. This wet woodland supports a superb swamp groundflora with</p>		

	meadowsweet, hemlock water dropwort, iris, marsh marigold and marsh violet. The associated marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23) supports rushes, greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh bedstraw, cuckooflower and meadowsweet. The woodland represents potential dormouse habitat, and forms part of the likely foraging habitat of lesser horseshoe bats.
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 031813)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun, Llanharry
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 016	Area (ha)	13.81
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (8), H (11), H (15), S (1) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (5), and S (7)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	94	Original Name	Ty Draw

## SINC 95

Number	95	Name	<b>Llanharry Quarry</b>
Description	<p>Species-rich woodland and calcareous grassland, within a disused limestone quarry.</p> <p>The calcareous woodland/scrub is extremely species-rich with ash, oak, field maple, hazel, wayfaring tree, dogwood and spindle present within a diverse scrub woodland. The woods have a species-rich ancient woodland ground flora with wood anemone, primrose, ramson, hart's-tongue, lords'n'ladies, dog's mercury, twayblade, bluebell, barren and wild strawberry, dog violets, false ox-slips, male fern, yellow archangel, and celandine. Climbers include old mans-beard, honeysuckle and black bryony.</p> <p>The grasslands supports a diverse species-rich flora with red fescue, downy-oat-grass, quaking-grass, false brome, common spotted orchid, common bird's-foot trefoil, burnet saxifrage, common knapweed, greater knapweed, agrimony, common field scabious, perforate St. John's-wort, wild strawberry, milkwort, and red clover</p> <p>The wood represents potential dormouse and bat foraging habitat. There is a diverse breeding bird assemblage. The site has a dingy skipper butterfly colony and good numbers of slowworm and common lizard.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 015803)</b>	Ward(s)	Llanharry
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 006	Area (ha)	3.375
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3) and H (5)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (18), S (1), S (2), S (3), S (6) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs sites, other to be added : 376		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Land off Fforest Road, Llanharry Ecological Assessment , David Clements Ecology Ltd, September 2007</li> </ul>		
Original Number	95	Original Name	Llanharry Quarry

## SINC 96

Number	96	Name	<b>Cowbridge Road Playing Field</b>
Description	<p>Playing fields and associated verges in Pontyclun, which supports an extensive and important area of species rich neutral grassland. The grassland includes good stands of very species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5) and includes frequent quaking grass, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, field scabious, rough hawkbit, hoary plantain, ox-eye daisy, bulbous buttercup and cowslip. More modified areas support diverse semi-improved neutral grassland with black knapweed particularly prominent, areas of damper grassland have devil's-bit scabious. All areas are regularly mown and one area appears to be occasionally used as a rugby pitch. The whole site represents a significant area of good quality grassland.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 032811)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	2.45
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Feature – H (4)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	96	Original Name	Cowbridge Road Playing Field

SINC 97

Number	97	Name	<b>Ceulan Farm</b>
Description	<p>A large area of diverse wildlife habitats along the River Ely to the south east of Pontyclun. Here, the Ely is a moderate fast flowing river, with a number of meanders and areas of undercut bank. The river support bank side alder and willow woodland, with associated grassland (see below). The Ely supports otter, dipper, kingfisher, brown trout and salmon.</p> <p>The SINC supports of a series of species rich semi-improved neutral grassland pastures (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6), tall herb communities, species rich semi-natural woodland, a network of mature hedgerows and some ponds.</p> <p>The grasslands range from short pony grazed pasture to less managed, tall, riverside grasslands. While partially modified, the grasslands form a block of almost 10 hectares of species-rich semi-improved neutral grassland. The drier, shorter grassland including crested dog's-tail, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, rye grass, common bent, red clover, carnation sedge, ribwort plantain, daisy, pignut, hay rattle, black knapweed and bird's-foot trefoil. Lower lying grassland along the River Ely is wetter and less managed and supports a mixture of bracken, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, hogweed, black knapweed, and creeping buttercup.</p> <p>The SINC includes important areas of species rich woodland and scrub, which occur on the slopes above the Ely. The main woods are Ivor Park (ST 032807) and the woodland at ST 036 809. The woodlands support a mixture of mature ash and oak, with alder on wetter ground. Hazel coppice is an important element, together willow, hawthorn, guilder rose, and blackthorn. There are ancient woodland ground floras with wood anemone, bluebell, dog violets, dog's mercury, and primrose. Areas of grassland on the slopes at ST 035808 are succeeding into scrubby woodland with hawthorn and gorse scrub, and emerging ash woodland. The SINC includes a network of species-rich hedgerows with oak, ash, hazel, guelder rose, blackthorn willow and hawthorn.</p> <p>The site has a high potential for invertebrates, breeding birds and dormouse. Small pearl-bordered fritillary occurs on scrubby slopes within woodland areas. The site has a number of footpaths and is an important biodiversity resource for the local community. It is continuous with part of the River Ely SINC.</p>		



	The SINC also includes two large new ponds on the floodplain of the River Ely (ST 035807). These have a high potential for dragonflies and breeding amphibians. Hairy dragonfly has recently been recorded from Pontyclun, and may well be using these ponds as a breeding site.
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 035808)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 019 and 021	Area (ha)	28.546
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (9), H (11), H (15), H (17) Secondary Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	97	Original Name	Ceulan farm

SINC 98

Number	98	Name	<b>Heol Miskin Woodland</b>
Description	<p>The river valley of the River Ely between Pontyclun and Miskin. The Ely is a moderately fast flowing river, with meanders, undercut banks, and sand shoals. The river supports otter, dipper, grey wagtail, kingfisher, brown trout and salmon. Monk's-hood is present on the banks and rough horsetail (<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>) grows in one of its few Glamorgan sites on areas of damp bank.</p> <p>The river valley supports important species rich woodland (with floodplain swamp and grassland). The site includes areas of wet flood woodland with alder and willow carr and a species-rich ancient woodland/swamp ground flora and a number of seasonal pools. Higher on the valley side the woodland is drier with oak, ash, and hazel and an ancient woodland ground flora. Alder is the dominant tree, with large, ancient downy birch, and under storey of hawthorn, young alder, willow, guelder rose, holly, and dogwood with oak, ash, beech, sycamore and horse chestnut on drier ground. The woodland has a diverse ground flora with wood anemone, bluebell, sanicle, wood speedwell, enchanter's nightshade, ramson, pignut, wood sedge, remote sedge, greater tussock sedge, thin spiked wood sedge (<i>Carex strigosa</i>), primrose, yellow archangel, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, dog's mercury, wavy bittercress, wood club-rush (<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>), wood sorrel, herb robert, lesser celandine, male fern, harts-tongue fern, broad buckler fern and soft-shield fern. Brambles are locally abundant (providing good nesting habitat) and honeysuckle and ivy are both common.</p> <p>The SINC includes an old riverside meadow with Yorkshire fog, meadowsweet, cuckooflower, bracken and Himalayan balsam, and a large stand of blackthorn scrub.</p> <p>The wet woodland has a large swampy pool at NGR ST 039813. This wetland is very muddy but with areas of near permanent standing water. The pool has an excellent emergent flora with marsh marigold, reed mace, yellow iris, cuckooflower, wavy bittercress, hemlock water dropwort, soft rush, greater tussock sedge, meadowsweet, starworts and creeping bent. The pool is surrounded by dead alder trees with lots of holes which are potential bat roosting sites. Palmate newt and common frog have been recorded.</p> <p>The site supports excellent nesting bird habitat, good butterfly habitat, and it supports slow worms and bats.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 043811)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 025.	Area (ha)	14.07
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (3), H (4), H (9), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (20), S (1), S (5) and S (7)  Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs sites, other to be added: 385		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	98	Original Name	Heol Miskin woodland

## SINC 99

Number	99	Name	<b>Talygarn Woodland and Lake</b>
Description	<p>A large area of ancient and semi-natural woodland, which lies along the valley of the Nant Dyfrigi and includes the mature, historic parklands of Talygarn House.</p> <p>The Nant Dyfrigi is a fast flowing mud, low-banked watercourse with bank side alder woodland. The alder and willow carr occupies the lower, wetter valley sides of the stream, grading into drier woodland higher on the slopes with oak, ash, sycamore and beech woodland, and an under story of hazel coppice, guelder rose, dogwood and holly. On wetter ground there is a swamp/marshy grassland ground flora with brooklime, wavy bitter cress, devil's-bit scabious, pendulous sedge, meadowsweet and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage. The drier woodlands have an ancient wood ground flora with bluebell, wood sorrel, wood speedwell, dog violets, dog's mercury, enchanter's nightshade, yellow archangel, moschatel, sanicle, male fern, hard fern, hart's-tongue fern, and broad buckler fern.</p> <p>Talygarn Park includes an extensive area of parkland and arboretum. These areas are important as bird and bat habitat. There is an unconfirmed report that lesser horseshoe bats have been previously recorded in buildings at Talygarn. The Site is only a few kilometres south of an important population in the Llanharan area.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of marshy grassland along the stream valley, and Talygarn Lake. This large reed fringed lake supports an associated emergent and aquatic flora, with kingfisher and mute swan regularly recorded.</p> <p>The association of wet and dry woodlands, the stream valley, and lake represents species-rich habitat. The SINC is excellent nesting bird habitat, and has a high potential as dormouse and bat habitat. The Nant Dyfrigi has a high potential for otter.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 035800)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 020.	Area (ha)	34.63
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		

Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (2), H (3), H (15), Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawkeswood Ecology Survey for Earth Science Partnership, 2006</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional) Glamorgan, NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Talygarn House, Management Proposals for Parkland Trees, Jerry Ross (May 2003)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	99	Original Name	Talygarn woodland and lake

SINC 100

Number	100	Name	<b>East Miskin</b>
Description	<p>The Ely valley south of Miskin supports a species rich mosaic of woodlands and grassland. The river is meandering, moderately fast flowing, with undercut banks and gravel shoals. The banks support a near continuous fringe of alder woodland, with ancient woodland ground flora. Otter, dipper, kingfisher, grey wagtail, brown trout and salmon all occur. The river supports strong monk's-hood populations. The SINC adjoins parts of the Ely Valley SSSI.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of very species rich, ancient and semi-natural woodland. This includes species rich ancient woodland of the Miskin Scouts wood (ST 046805) and the larger semi-natural woodland of Miskin Cricket Club (ST 051805). The woodland includes mature alder, ash, oak, sycamore and beech (with horse chestnut at Miskin Cricket Club), and a diverse under storey of old hazel coppice, spindle, dogwood, field maple, hawthorn and holly. The ancient woodland ground flora is particularly rich in the Miskin Scouts Wood, with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violet, ramson, dog's mercury, primrose, yellow archangel, wood sorrel, sanicle, soft shield fern, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The cricket club woodland is less diverse (more secondary in nature), but supports significant components of ancient woodland with bluebells, dog violets, male fern, broad buckler fern, opposite leaved golden saxifrage.</p> <p>The SINC includes the marshy grassland fields at ST 050805. These low lying field support purple moor-grass and soft rush, with devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, cuckoo flower and heath spotted orchid, together areas of acid grassland and bracken. The fields are an old marsh fritillary site, and still supports suitable habitat.</p> <p>The SINC supports excellent nesting bird habitat. There is a large soprano pipistrelle bat roost, and the mosaic of river, woodland and wet grassland represents superb foraging habitat</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 050805)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 02 and DT08SE 004 and 024	Area (ha)	15.47
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	

TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15), S (1), S (5) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2), and S (3)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and It's Habitat in Rhondda Cynon Taff – Richard Smith 2005</li> </ul>		
Original Number	100	Original Name	East Miskin

SINC 101

Number	101	Name	<b>Cefn Hendy Community Woodlands</b>
Description	<p>A complex SINC, which encompasses seven 'limestone quarry' woodlands, and a series of grasslands, within the Cefn Hendy area.</p> <p>The woodlands are mainly associated with old limestone workings. As such they support species-rich calcareous woodlands with superb ancient woodland ground floras. Mature ash is the dominant tree species with some oak and beech. The woods have an excellent structure with hazel, field maple, holly, spindle, dogwood and hawthorn. The woods have diverse ground floras with bluebell, ramson, wood anemone, primrose, dog violet, soft shield fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern, male fern, moschatel, twayblade and toothwort. Wild clematis, honeysuckle and ivy are frequent.</p> <p>The SINC also supports associated areas of semi-improved neutral grassland, including stands of species rich secondary calcareous grassland and neutral grassland. The most diverse grasslands (ST 047812 and ST 053815) support common bent, quaking grass, crested dog's-tail, red fescue, cock's-foot, carnation sedge, glaucous sedge, black knapweed, field scabious, bird's-foot trefoil, common spotted orchid, bee orchid, red clover, meadow vetchling, rough hawkbit and ox-eye daisy. There are a number of species rich grass verges, and associated grasslands.</p> <p>The public open space of the Cefn Hendy estate support areas of less diverse, but ecologically improving grassland, in which species such as black knapweed are beginning to spread. In certain areas there is strong oak woodland regeneration. The public open space also includes a network of ancient hedgerows, which link two of the Community woodlands.</p> <p>The SINC is a species rich wildlife habitat. The mixture of woodland and hedgerows supports a diverse bird fauna. There are important bat foraging areas. The field ST 047812 supports large populations of cockchafer beetles, and ghost moths and as a result large numbers of foraging soprano pipistrelle (30 plus) and noctule (up to 5) are regularly recorded in the summer. Barn owl hunt over the fields. The woods support excellent potential dormouse habitat. Areas of taller grassland support long-winged conehead bush crickets.</p>		



Grid Ref	<b>( ST 053816)</b>		Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN			Area (ha)	25.08
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal			Tir Gofal date	
TPO			Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (17) and H (20) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGs others to be added 130, 384, 142, 128.			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	101	Original Name	Cefn Hendy Community woodlands	

## SINC 102

Number	102	Name	<b>Coed-yr-Hendy</b>
Description	<p>The species-rich deciduous woodland of Coed-yr-Hendy, of which the larger part is ancient woodland, and associated pastures and hedgerows.</p> <p>Coed-yr-Hendy is primarily an ash, alder, oak, sycamore, beech and birch woodland with abundant hazel with dogwood, spindle, hawthorn, holly and guelder. Sweet Chestnut predominates in areas. Bird laurel predominates in areas, and there are some random conifer plantings.</p> <p>The woodland has ancient wood banks and a well-developed under storey and species rich ground flora, which include bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, dog violets, ramson, sanicle, yellow archangel, male fern, broad buckler fern, soft-shield fern, hart's -tongue fern and hard fern. There are areas of localised flushing, with locally abundant marsh valerian and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage.</p> <p>The woodland has an excellent breeding bird assemblage (including spotted flycatcher) and supports good invertebrate habitat. The site has high potential for badger, dormouse and bat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 041820)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun, Talbot Green
CCW TN		Area (ha)	35.499
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), S (1), S (5) and S (7)		
Features	Contributory Features – H (4), H (7), S (2), and S (6)		
RIGS Earth science sites	377 Cefn Park Mine (score 270)		
Other earth science sites	One other to be added: 139		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecology Report – Talbot Green , Llantrisant – RPS 2007</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	102	Original Name	Coed yr Hendy

**SINC 103**

Number	103	Name	<b>Pant Marsh</b>
Description	<p>Although affected by the construction of the Llantrisant relief roads and the Glamorgan Retail Park, the remaining parts of Pant Marsh support floodplain grassland and scrub of considerable nature conservation importance. This includes significant areas of swamp, marshy grassland, damp semi-improved neutral grassland, wet scrub/woodland and riverbank habitat. The SINC also includes a section of the Afon Clun.</p> <p>The Afon Clun is a moderately slow flowing river, with undercut banks, and muddy bed. The banks support alder woodland, with ancient woodland ground flora woodland. Otter, dipper, kingfisher, grey wagtail and brown trout all occur. Monk's-hood grows on the riverbank.</p> <p>The grasslands are a mixture of damp neutral, acid grassland and marshy grassland (in National Vegetation Classification terms MG5, MG6, U4, M23 and M25). Typical species of drier grasslands include Yorkshire fog, common bent, crested dog's-tail, tormentil, yarrow, sorrel, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, ribwort plantain, black knapweed, hay rattle and devil-bit scabious. Marshy grassland occurs in complex mosaic with drier areas and is characterised by soft rush, purple moor-grass, lesser spearwort, greater bird's-foot trefoil, floating sweet grass, marsh cinquefoil, marsh bedstraw, meadow thistle, sawwort, and devil's bit scabious. The marshy grassland grades into areas of permanently wet swamp, in which iris, branched burr-reed, brooklime, gypsywort, lesser pond sedge, yellow loosestrife, marsh marigold, reed sweet grass, hemlock water dropwort, marsh cinquefoil, water pepper, bladder sedge, wood club-rush, and greater bird's-foot trefoil occur. The SINC includes an area of secondary calcareous grassland within an old trackway with locally uncommon species, including marjoram, small scabious, and musk thistle.</p> <p>The floodplain supports areas of associated scrub and woodland. This includes alder, willow, ash, hazel and hawthorn with a ground flora of marshy grassland and swamp. The mosaic of scrub and marshy grassland/ swamp represents good nesting bird habitat with lesser whitethroat, whitethroat, garden warbler, blackcap, reed bunting and yellowhammer all recorded.</p> <p>Pant Marsh is a fully functioning species-rich flood meadow, which floods on a regular (annual basis). The flora and fauna on the site represents genuine floodplain biodiversity. The</p>		

	<p>SINC has a very high potential for a number of rare, or locally important species. An indication of the value of the site for invertebrates is that recent survey work identified one uncommon damselfly species (scarce blue-tailed damselfly), three water beetles formerly regarded as Notable B species, and five nationally scarce fly species. The site has previously supported marsh fritillary butterflies, and suitable habitat is still present (in good condition).</p> <p>The section of the River Clun within and adjacent to the SINC supports otter, dipper, kingfisher, grey wagtail and monk's-hood. Three species of bat have been recorded feeding along the river and associated habitats.</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 044823)</b>	Ward(s)	Talbot Green, Llantrisant Town
CCW TN		Area (ha)	19.40
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (5), H (6), H (7), H (8), H (11), H (15), S (1), S (5) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (7)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecology Report – Talbot Green, Llantrisant – RPS (2007)</li> <li>• CCW letter to RCT Planning Department (Nov 1996)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	103	Original Name	Pant Marsh

## SINC 104

Number	104	Name	<b>Y Graig</b>
Description	<p>Hillside Common overlooking Talbot Green. Bracken dominates most of the Common, but grows over very species rich acid grassland with dog violet, bluebell, saw-wort, golden-rod, devil's-bit scabious and betony, with heather and bilberry on steeper ground, and path banks. Mature oak trees and developing woodland border the lower slopes, gorse and broom occur elsewhere and a disused quarry support fern communities. Adder-tongue fern is present and Cornish moneywort occurs on the sides of spring lines.</p> <p>Meadow pipit and linnet breed on the Common and stonechat and whinchat have been recorded. Common lizard and slowworm are both present. Y Graig is excellent invertebrate habitat with small pearl-bordered fritillary, grayling, purple hairstreak, dingy skipper butterflies and the National Biodiversity Action Plan micro-moth <i>Anania funebris</i>. The site supports slowworm, common lizard and adder.</p> <p>Common is criss-crossed by footpaths and has a high amenity value. The site is managed by the Freemen of Llantrisant and recently grazing has been re-introduced.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 040835)</b>	Ward(s)	Talbot Green, Llantrisant Town	
CCW TN	CCW ST08SW 030 and 031.		Area (ha)	17.95
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (9), H (20), S (3), and S (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (10), H (21), S (2), and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGs 295 to be added			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Common Land Survey</li> <li>• Site Records from Richard Smith</li> <li>• Site Report for the Forestry Commission by George Peterken.</li> </ul>			
Original Number	104	Original Name	Y Graig	

## SINC 105

Number	105	Name	<b>Llantrisant Common</b>
Description	<p>The Llantrisant Common SINC represents an extension of the marshy grassland, species-rich neutral grassland, tall tree lined hedgerows and wet woodlands of the Llantrisant Commons and Pasture SSSI.</p> <p>To the north of the SSSI, the SINC includes a series of wet marshy grassland fields, with areas of associated wet woodland. Areas of previously SSSI designated pastures on and around ST051852 support a mosaic of heavily horse grazed damp neutral and marshy grassland. Typical species of the wetter marshy grassland include soft and sharp flowered rush, Yorkshire fog, common bent, creeping bent, creeping buttercup lesser spearwort, carnation sedge, common yellow sedge, cuckoo-flower, marsh thistle, greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh bedstraw, and devil's-bit scabious. This drier neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5/6) supports common bent, rye grass, crested dog's-tail, ribwort plantain, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, fleabane, carnation sedge, white clover, common daisy and cat's-ear. The marshy grassland at and around ST050852 has only been viewed from the adjacent Common but includes purple moor-grass, soft rush, cuckoo-flower, marsh thistle and devil's-bit scabious.</p> <p>To the east of the SSSI, the SINC takes in the sloping fields around Llwynocrwn Farm, up to the boundary with the Llantrisant Road, and Beddau itself. The SINC also includes pastures, and areas of oak and alder woodland to the south-east of the common (ST056840) The pastures include an assemblage of horse grazed and or hay cut neutral pasture on the higher slopes (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5/6) and marshy purple moor-grass and rush pasture on lower slopes next to the common. There are also areas of woodland and bracken slopes. These wet fields support associated stream and ditch lines, with ribbons of ancient species rich hedgerow and wet woodland.</p> <p>The eastern and southern SINC is characterised by marshy grassland on the lower wetter slopes (National Vegetation Classifications M25, M23 and U4) and drier neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5/6) on the upper pastures. Marshy grassland includes purple moor-grass, soft rush, greater bird's-foot trefoil, meadowsweet, devil's-bit scabious, angelica, marsh violet, southern marsh orchid, ragged robin and tormentil. Some of the grassland is heavily grazed, some managed for hay, and other areas are neglected</p>		

	and succeeding into wet scrub.		
	<p>The drier areas include good quality neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification of MG5) with red fescue, sweet vernal grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, Yorkshire fog, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, devil's-bit scabious, hay rattle, heath spotted orchid, ox-eye daisy. Some of the grassland is more modified but still supports a diverse sward with red fescue, sweet vernal grass, rye grass, crested dog's-tail, common bent, meadow buttercup, hay rattle, sorrel, red clover, black knapweed, ribwort plantain, sorrel and locally frequent bird's-foot trefoil. Again the grasslands include areas which are heavily horse grazed, and others, which are hay cut.</p> <p>The wet and drier grasslands support a network of ancient species-rich hedgerows, and small areas of wet woodland with oak, alder, ash, hazel, guelder rose and holly with ancient woodland ground floras, including bluebell, dog violets, wood anemone, cow wheat, wood sorrel, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The SINC supports important wildlife habitat, including marsh fritillary habitat, and forms an integral and indivisible part of the nationally important biodiversity resource of Llantrisant Common. The woodland and hedgerow network has a high potential for dormouse and represents good quality bat foraging habitat. Barn owl occur.</p>		
Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST056845)</b>	Ward(s)	Llantrisant Town, Beddau
CCW TN	CCW ST 08SW 032, ST 08SE 005, 006 and 008, ST 008 NE 001).	Area (ha)	44.77
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15) and H (17) Contributory Features - S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, one other to be added: 352		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• An Ecological Assessment of a proposed 18 Hole golf course site at Llwynyrwn Isaf Farm Beddau, Dr Slater (2002)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	105	Original Name	Llantrisant Common

## SINC 106

Number	106	Name	<b>Cefn Craig Amos</b>
Description	<p>An extensive ffridd site, which lies along the eastern valley side of the Rhondda Fach. Large areas of dry heath and scree dominate the steeper mid and upper slopes, while lower slopes support mosaics of dry and wet heath, flushed marshy grassland and bracken.</p> <p>Bracken dominates the lower slopes, giving way to acid grassland, heath and scree higher on the slope. Several small streams cut across the slope in shallow valleys. Flushed areas of purple moor-grass and sphagnum bog mosses punctuate the lower slopes. There are scattered mature sessile oak trees (especially at the eastern end) with groups of young birch and oak. The bracken slopes support an under-storey of acid grassland and foxglove. The larger stands of acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) support sheep's fescue, tormentil, sheep's bedstraw, and occasional ivy-leaved bellflower. The marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) is rank with some tormentil and soft rush. The dry heath supports heather, bell heath and bilberry with cross-leaved heath in flushed areas. There are small areas of <i>Cladonia</i> lichen heath.</p> <p>Common frog is present in pools and wet marshy grassland and common lizard has been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS980988	Ward(s)	Maerdy, Aberaman South, Aberdare West/Llwydcoed, Ferndale
CCW TN		Area (ha)	145
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (16), and H (21) Contributory Features – S (3) and S (4)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others to be added 87, 461, 88		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• High Brown Fritillary – Interim Report –April 2002 (Hyder)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	106	Original Name	River Ely (now included in SINC 92)
	188		Cefn Craig Amos



## SINC 107

Number	107	Name	<b>Tonyrefail Mountains</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of un-enclosed upland habitat associated with Mynydd Maendy, Mynydd Hugh and Mynydd Portref, to the south of Tonyrefail. The SINC is a mosaic of wet heath, marshy grassland, acid grassland, acid flush and valley and basin mire. These wetland and acidic habitats occur in complex association with non-SINC improved grasslands. The SINC habitat surviving on the poorest, least improved soils, and within the wet peat and peaty-soils.</p> <p>The wettest habitats are based on deep peat and have been identified as valley mires. These areas are dominated by purple moor-grass with deer grass, cross-leaved heath, cotton-grasses, bog asphodel, round-leaved sundew, heather and sphagnum bog mosses (including <i>S.palustre</i> and <i>S.squarrosum</i>) and bog groove-moss (<i>Aluacomnium palustre</i>).</p> <p>On shallower peat, marshy grassland predominates. This is mainly soft rush (National Vegetation Classification M23) dominated, although purple moor-grass also occurs. Associated species include marsh bedstraw, marsh violet, tormentil, and water mint. These areas of marshy grassland (and the deep peat valley mires) inter-grade with areas of wet heath and acid flush with purple moor-grass, sphagnum bog mosses, cross-leaved heath, common cotton-grass and yellow and carnation sedge. Whorled caraway is locally abundant.</p> <p>Elsewhere the SINC includes large stands of upland sheep grazed acid grassland and bracken (e.g. ST 003863), which support sheep's fescue, mat grass, tormentil, sheep's bedstraw and heath rush. The southern extension of the SINC is the narrow, steep valley side ffridd below Mynydd Coedbychan. This bracken dominated hillside supports further areas of associated acid grassland. The narrow eastern extension of the SINC (NGR ST 014856) includes a steep sided wooded stream valley, which supports oak, ash and alder woodland characteristic of ancient woodland.</p> <p>The mosaic of upland wet habitat supports a characteristic upland bird assemblage with meadow pipit, skylark, stonechat, reed bunting, linnets and wheatear all recorded. In the winter, snipe and jack snipe occur in the bogs and marshy grasslands. Great crested newt has been recently recorded in ponds on the Coed Ely land reclamation site. Brown hare occur in the mosaics of wetlands and short grassland. Dark green fritillary butterflies have also been recorded.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(SS 989862)</b>		Ward(s)	Brynna, Gilfach Goch, Tonyrefail West, Llanharan
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW 006 and 007	Area (ha)	198.4	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (15), H (16), H (20), and S (4)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), and S (6)			
Earth science sites	No RIGs, details of 315 to be added. (343 and 289 on the boundary?)			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Mynydd Portref Wind Farm, Environmental Statement, Gifford, 2006</li> </ul>			
Original Number	107	Original Name	Tonyrefail Mountains	

## SINC 108

Number	108	Name	<b>Llanilid Valley</b>		
Description	<p>The valley of the Nant Llanilid and its associated woodland and marshy grassland. The Nant Llanilid is a fast flowing stream, with pool and riffle sequences, exposed bedrock and unpolluted water. The stream valley has potential as otter habitat. The valley side oak, alder, ash, hazel, willow and holly woodland (although partially sheep grazed) is diverse with an ancient woodland ground flora (bluebells, wood sorrel, dog violet, wood sorrel, male fern, broad buckler fern, lady fern and hard fern). Bracken is locally dominant with emerging/regenerating woodland. The valley represents excellent woodland bird habitat and potentially good bat and dormouse habitat.</p> <p>The areas of SINC marshy grassland are virtually continuous with areas of marshy grassland notified as part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. Soft rush marsh (National Vegetation Classification M23) predominates, with tormentil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh bedstraw, cuckooflower and the moss <i>Polytrichum commune</i>. Much of the rush-dominated grassland is tall, and willow scrub/birch scrub is invading. The wet fields at ST 004867 have a series of acid flushes.</p> <p>There are smaller areas of purple moor-grass marshy grassland, and marshy grassland associated with the water works (SS995866) include small areas of good condition marsh fritillary butterfly habitat with devil's bit scabious locally abundant. Small pearl-bordered fritillary has also been recorded in this area.</p>				
Grid Ref	ST 000868	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail West		
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW 001 and 002		Area (ha)	13.50	
Air photo dates	2003				
Ownership					
Tir Gofal			Tir Gofal date		
TPO			Conservation area		
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (9), and H (15)				
Features	Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), and S (6)				
Earth science sites	No RIGs, other to be added:343				
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary and its Habitat in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>				
Original Number	108	Original Name	Llanilid Valley		

## SINC 109

Number	109	Name	<b>Garth-Grabban Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A small modified valley mire and associated marshy grassland, which occupies a strategically important location for marsh fritillary butterfly. The bog and marshy grassland are dominated by soft rush, with purple moor-grass, tormentil, carnation sedge, and cuckooflower. Large parts of the SINC have been identified as suitable marsh fritillary habitat.</p> <p>The strategic importance of the site for marsh fritillary butterflies is based on its potential role in linking the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI (to the north) and marsh fritillary habitat around Llantrisant Common to the south.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 026860)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East, Llantrisant Town
CCW TN		Area (ha)	7.551
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (7), H (12) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None (400, 401 close to the boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary and its Habitat in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	109	Original Name	Garth-Grabban

## SINC 110

Number	110	Name	<b>Rhiwfelin Fawr</b>
Description	<p>A mosaic of marshy grassland and woodland habitat, which lies within the wider complex of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI.</p> <p>Although much of the grassland has been modified by agricultural improvement, the site represents an important wet grassland resource. The SINC supports a mosaic of soft rush and purple moor-grass dominated marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25) with sharp-flowered rush, marsh bedstraw, greater bird's-foot trefoil, tormentil, cross-leaved heath, yellow sedge, and carnation sedge. Devil's-bit scabious is locally common, especially within areas of base-flushed purple moor-grass fen meadow (National Vegetation Classification M24) where it occurs with meadow thistle and tawny sedge. The fen meadow has a small area of associated base flush (approximating to the National Vegetation Classification M10) with bog pimpernel, bulbous sedge, purple moor-grass, flea sedge, tawny sedge and the uncommon slender spike rush (<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>).</p> <p>More acid flushes (National Vegetation Classification M6) support sphagnum bog mosses, marsh violet and water purslane. On peaty areas there are stands of wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15) with purple moor-grass, deer-grass, common sedge, carnation sedge, sheep's fescue, and common cotton-grass.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of semi-natural mixed woodland, with alder, oak, hazel, ash and willow.</p> <p>The site supports marsh fritillary habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 028854	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East, Llantrisant Town
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW 031 and 033	Area (ha)	6.912
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (12), S (6) and S (7)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Vegetation Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	110	Original Name	Glanmychydd Fach

SINC 111

Number	111	Name	<b>Nant Muchudd</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes the valley of the Nant Muchudd, from close to its confluence with the River Ely at the A4119, to Sawmill House.</p> <p>The Nant Muchudd is a clean, fast flowing, shallow stream, with gravel shoals, undercut banks, and variously braided channels. The stream supports salmon, brown trout, otter, dipper, and grey wagtail.</p> <p>The stream banks are predominantly wooded. Much of the wooded valley is ancient woodland, including Rhiwfelen-fach Woodland. Typical composition includes alder woodland along the riverbank and valley bottom, and more mixed oak, ash, beech, wych elm and sycamore on drier valley side. The woodlands have a rich shrub layer including hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, holly and guelder rose. There is a consistent ancient woodland ground flora with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violets, wood speedwell, enchanter's nightshade, dog mercury, wood sorrel, pignut, remote sedge, foxglove, creeping soft grass, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. In places the woodland grades into garden (e.g. around sawmill house) and while efforts have been made not to include private gardens as SINC, parts of these garden woodlands are likely to support ancient woodland components.</p> <p>The woodlands have generally good structure, and represent important woodland bird habitat.</p> <p>There are also areas of wet (swamp) woodland. A good example occurs near Tal-y-Fedw at ST 049856 where within the alder carr, greater tussock sedge, meadowsweet, hemlock water dropwort, marsh marigold, marsh violet, marsh valerian, pennywort and brooklime occurs.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of associated marshy grassland. At Taly-y-Fedw (ST048856) there is a large field of very wet marshy grassland, with purple moor-grass, soft rush, meadow thistle, marsh thistle, tufted hair-grass, bugle, petty whin, marsh bedstraw and cuckoo flower. The remnant marshy grassland at NGR ST 038844 has been partially drained and improved but still support soft rush and purple moor-grass marsh grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23/M25) with carnation sedge, marsh thistle, tormentil, devil's-bit scabious, oval sedge, ragged robin, fool's watercress and cuckoo flower.</p>		

	The river corridor also contains areas of drier grassland. This includes species rich neutral grassland within the Llantrisant Industrial Estate (NGR ST040847), which supports bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, common spotted orchid, carnation and glaucous sedge and areas of establishing scrub. These areas support lesser whitethroat, and have a high potential for dingy skipper.
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Grid Ref	<b>(ST044857)</b>	Ward(s)	Llantrisant Town, Beddau, Tonyrefail East
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW 039 and 040.	Area (ha)	28.80
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (15), S (1), and S (5) Contributory Features – S (2), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	111	Original Name	Rhiwfelen-fach Ancient Woodland

## SINC 112

Number	112	Name	<b>Coedcae-mawr</b>
Description	<p>Ancient woodland, which is part of a larger habitat mosaic (see SINC 111 and 113). The woodland is damp with alder, oak, birch, beech, willow, rowan and hazel, and a ground flora, which includes dog violet, hard fern, lady fern, wood anemone, lesser celandine, meadowsweet and bluebell. The woodland is sheep grazed, but the ground flora and structure are still strongly indicative of ancient woodland. The SINC has areas of associated marshy grassland with soft and sharp flowered rush (National Vegetation Classification M23), marsh bedstraw, tormentil and cuckooflower.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST040863)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	2.574
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), and H (7) Contributory Features – S (2)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	112	Original Name	Coedcae Mawr



## SINC 113

Number	113	Name	<b>Pant-y-ddraenen</b>
Description	<p>The upper valley of the Nant Muchudd and associated tributary streams, and marshy and drier neutral grassland.</p> <p>The Nant Muchudd is a clean, fast flowing, shallow stream, with gravel shoals, undercut banks, and variously braided channels. The stream supports salmon, brown trout, otter, dipper, and grey wagtail.</p> <p>The Nant Muchudd (and sections of tributary stream) are wooded and support alder woodland along the riverbank and valley bottom, and more mixed oak, ash, beech, wych elm, and sycamore on drier valley sides. The woodlands have a rich under storey including hazel, hawthorn, crab apple, holly and guelder rose. There is a consistent ancient woodland ground flora, with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violets, wood speedwell, enchanter's nightshade, dog mercury, wood sorrel, pignut, remote sedge, foxglove, creeping soft grass, male fern, broad buckler fern, and hart's-tongue fern. The woodlands are good bird and bat habitat.</p> <p>The SINC includes a network of marshy and dry semi-improved fields and pastures. These are continuous with areas of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. Although undoubtedly modified by agricultural improvement and drainage works, the pastures within the SINC retain recognisable attributes of species rich grassland. The SINC includes semi-improved marshy grassland (e.g. NGR ST 033863, ST 036870 and ST 042864) with soft rush, purple moor-grass, Yorkshire fog, sweet vernal grass, common bent, mat grass, lesser spearwort, cuckooflower, marsh bedstraw, marsh thistle, greater bird's-foot trefoil, and tormentil. Some of the fields south of Pant-y-ddraenen were previously species rich wet heath and marshy grassland, and were ploughed and drained in the mid 1990s. After the initial improvement works, these fields appear to be reverting back to a more diverse marshy grassland.</p> <p>The network of SINC fields, support drier (although still damp) grasslands. These are generally horse grazed and support modified neutral grassland with common bent, rye grass, crested dog's-tail, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, white clover, ribwort plantain, creeping bent and common daisy. Some areas of more acidic pasture occur with sheep's fescue, tormentil and heath bedstraw.</p>		

	The SINC represents an important resource of ancient woodland and semi-improved grassland within a strategically important location. The site lies between the strong marsh fritillary population of Rhos Tonyrefail to the North, and the good quality marsh fritillary habitat of Llantrisant Common to the south.
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Grid Ref	<b>(ST036868)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 019, 020, 035, 036 and 037.	Area (ha)	58.81
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15) and S (1)  Contributory Features – H (6), H (17), S (2), and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	113	Original Name	Panty Ddraenen

## SINC 114

Number	114	Name	<b>Crofft-yr-haidd Marshy Grassland</b>
Description	<p>A wooded stream valley, with associated marshy grasslands. The wooded stream is a natural continuation of the Nant Muchudd valley, with its strip of mature semi-natural woodland, and an ancient woodland ground flora, which includes bluebell, wood sorrel, dog violets, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The marshy grassland at NGR ST 048873 is approximately 4 hectares of purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification of M25) marshy grassland. The site lies immediately east of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI and has the potential to act as a stepping stone site for the dispersal of the marsh fritillary butterfly. The protection of stepping stone marshy grassland sites (such as Crofft-yr-haidd Marshy Grassland) between Rhos Tonyrefail to the north and marsh fritillary sites further south and east is an important long-term conservation objective.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>ST047873</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	6.075
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), and H (7) Contributory Features – S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	114	Original Name	Crofft yr haidd

## SINC 115

Number	115	Name	<b>Nant Gelliwion /Waun Castellau</b>
Description	<p>The SINC is a network of wet woodland and marshy grassland habitats. The Nant Gelliwion is a fast flowing stream, which cuts down through pennant sandstone, in a steep sided stream valley. The stream supports otter, brown trout, dipper and grey wagtail habitat. The stream valley supports associated woodland. This is a typical mix of alder, oak, ash, birch, beech and sycamore with hazel, hawthorn, rowan and holly. The woodland is variously grazed by sheep but still supports a significant ancient woodland ground flora with bluebell, wood sorrel, creeping soft-grass, marsh violet, enchanter's nightshade, male fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern and hard fern. The woodland is a continuation of the Gelliwion Woodlands SSSI, which occupies the mid valley section of the Nant Gelliwion.</p> <p>The Nant Gelliwion is an important stream, and the SINC includes the whole upper length of the Nant Gelliwion (in the valley above Tyla-winder farm). On its upper reaches the woodland cover thins, and the steep valley sides support acid grassland, bracken and areas of purple moor-grass marshy grassland. The wooded stream valley is good bird and bat habitat.</p> <p>Marshy grassland is an important component of the SINC and occupies a strategically important location for the marsh fritillary butterfly. Waun Castellau supports two large fields (approaching 8 hectares) of marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) with purple moor-grass, rush, tormentil, carnation sedge and devil's-bit scabious. The site qualifies as a SINC on the basis of its value as a moderately large stand of marshy grassland; it is also suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat. Further large areas of marsh fritillary habitat occur in the marshy grassland found on the slopes above Gelliwion woods (ST 053882 and ST 054884). These areas are also purple moor-grass dominated, with soft rush, devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, marsh thistle, greater bird's-foot trefoil, and marsh bedstraw.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST046881)</b>	Ward(s)	Graig, Tonyrefail East
CCW TN		Area (ha)	40.33

Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (15) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (5)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	115	Original Name	Waun Castellau

## SINC 116

Number	116	Name	<b>Darran Park</b>
Description	<p>An ancient oak, birch, alder, sycamore and hazel woodland, in the cwm overlooking Darran Park, Ferndale. The mature woodland has recovered from the heavy sheep grazing. The shaded damp woodland supports a typical fern, moss and lichen flora. The SINC includes the inaccessible crags and rock face of the cwm, and areas of dry heath and acid grassland, with heather, bilberry, tormentil, sheep's fescue and wavy hair-grass and small areas of soft rush marshy grassland at the foot of the woodland.</p> <p>Darran Park supports excellent woodland bird habitat, the open structure woodland has a high potential for pied flycatcher, wood warbler and redstart.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS995969	Ward(s)	Ferndale
CCW TN		Area (ha)	11.29
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1) and H (21) Contributory Features – H (10), and S (2)		
Earth science sites	104		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional), NCC, 1986</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	116	Original Name	Tonyrefail Valley Mire, (now SSSI)
	187		Darran Park

## SINC 117

Number	117	Name	<b>Tonyrefail East</b>	
Description	<p>The SINC includes the upper section of the Nant Muchudd and areas of marshy grassland, woodland and neutral grassland, which are continuous with the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI</p> <p>The Nant Muchudd is a clean, fast flowing, shallow stream, with gravel shoals, undercut banks, and variously braided channels. The stream supports salmon, brown trout, otter, dipper and grey wagtail.</p> <p>The valley of the Nant Muchudd and associated woodland (e.g. ST 021880) support mature alder, oak, ash, wych elm, beech, hazel, holly, hawthorn and guelder rose with a ground flora which includes bluebell, wood sorrel, dog's mercury, dog violet, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The woodland is good woodland bird and bat habitat. Purple hairstreak butterfly colonies occur.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of marshy grassland, with purple moor-grass, soft rush, tormentil, lesser spearwort, and occasional devil's-bit scabious. Although modified by agricultural improvement, these marshy grasslands maintain key species and given their immediate proximity to Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI they have potential as marsh fritillary habitat.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>(ST021880)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East	
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW022, 023, 026 and 027	Area (ha)	26.85	
Air photo dates	2003			
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (7), H (15)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (5) and S (7)</p>			
Earth science sites	None			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	117	Original Name	Tonyrefail East	

## SINC 118

Number	118	Name	<b>Cae'r-ysgol Woodland</b>
Description	Small ancient woodland, which lies along the southern edge of part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The woodland is mixed with oak, alder, ash, hazel and holly, and supports an ancient woodland ground flora. The woodland supports good woodland bird and bat habitat.		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 016879)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East
CCW TN	CCW ST 08NW 011 and 014.	Area (ha)	2.275
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1) Contributory Features – S (1) and S (2)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory , NNC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	118	Original Name	Cae'r-ysgol wood



## SINC 119

Number	119	Name	<b>The Glyn</b>
Description	<p>A wooded valley and associated marshy grassland, which lies along the eastern edge of part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The valley is steep sided, with a fast flowing 'mountain' stream. The valley gorge supports apparent ancient woodland with oak, ash and alder trees, and a shrub layer, which includes hazel, holly and hawthorn. There is a species rich ground flora with bluebell, wood sorrel, dog violets, enchanter's nightshade, male fern, broad buckler fern, and hart's-tongue fern. The valley represents good bird and bat habitat.</p> <p>The valley stream originates in purple moor grass and soft rush marshy grassland at NGR ST023893. Although lying outside the SSSI this grassland has potential to support marsh fritillary butterflies.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST023888)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW018, 024, 025 and 029.	Area (ha)	9.701
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (7) and H (15)</p> <p>Contributory Features –S (2) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGS but one other to be added: 274		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey. 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	119	Original Name	Tonyrefail Slopes

## SINC 120

Number	120	Name	<b>Mynydd y Glyn</b>
Description	<p>Extensive areas of upland bog, valley mire, wet and dry heath and acid grassland on the south and west facing upper slopes of Mynydd y Glyn.</p> <p>The predominant vegetation cover is wet heath characterised by purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath, bilberry, deer-grass, mat grass and tormentil, this grades into areas of modified bog and valley mire with sphagnum bog mosses and bog asphodel. The western side of the SINC supports drier bilberry, heath with wavy hair-grass, sheep's fescue, tormentil, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel and bracken.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 031894)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail East, Rhondda
CCW TN	.CCW ST08NW 030 and 038	Area (ha)	74.34
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (10) and H (12)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	120	Original Name	Mynydd y Glyn

## SINC 121

Number	121	Name	<b>Penrhiw-fer Road Woodland</b>
Description	<p>The SINC supports habitat, which forms an extension to part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The SINC is the large area of wet alder woodlands (and associated wet grassland and bracken/acid grasslands) centred on NGR ST 009890 and associated with old mine workings, and wet floodplain of the River Ely.</p> <p>The woodlands support good bird and bat habitat and areas of marshy grassland have potential for small pearl-bordered fritillary and marsh fritillary butterflies.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 008890)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail West
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW 004, 005 and 008.	Area (ha)	12.53
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (9) and H (18) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	121	Original Name	Penrhiwfer road east

## SINC 122

Number	122	Name	<b>Penrhiw-fer Road West</b>
Description	A large area of upland fringe marshy grassland, which forms an extension to part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The wet grazed marshy grassland is predominantly purple moor-grass, with soft rush, tormentil, marsh thistle, mat grass, and acid flushes with yellow sedge and carnation sedge (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25).		

Grid Ref	<b>(SS995892)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail West
CCW TN	CCW ST08NW003.	Area (ha)	26.60
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (6) and H (7)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs other sites to be added: 262		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	122	Original Name	Penrhiwfer road west

## SINC 123

Number	123	Name	<b>Ystrad Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large SINC, which encompasses part of the upland plateau of Mynydd Ty'n-tyle, and the valley slopes above Ystrad. Mynydd Ty'n-tyle is a sheep grazed expanse of upland close-cropped marshy and acid grassland. The grassland supports sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, common bent, sweet vernal grass, mat grass, heath bedstraw, green ribbed sedge, pill sedge, bilberry and the moss <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>. The valley side habitats are continuous with the Mynydd Ty'n-tyle and support areas of acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4), bracken, occasional acid flushes and dry heath, with heather, bilberry and western gorse. The site includes Cwm Bodringallt bog (SS964985) a perched bog, which amongst the sphagnum bog mosses and purple moor-grass supports cranberry and wintering snipe and jack snipe.</p> <p>The SINC includes the ancient woodland of Bodringallt Wood and associated woodland areas. The oak dominated woodland includes alder, ash, hazel, birch, holly, crab apple and lies on the valley sides of the fast flowing Cwm Bodringallt. The open woodland structure supports suitable pied flycatcher, wood warbler and redstart habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS987959	Ward(s)	Ystrad, Pentre, Maerdy, Ferndale	
CCW TN	CCW TN 012 and 013	SS 99NE	Area (ha)	148.7
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (9), H (10), H (12) and H (15) Contributory Features – S (2) and S (7)			
Earth science sites	No RIGs other sites to be added: 103, 484, 482, 248 and 117			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Power Factory Environmental Statement, Hyder 2002</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>			
Original Number	123	Original Name	Gelliwion	
	186		Ystrad Slopes	

SINC 124

Number	124	Name	<b>Mynydd Gelli-wion and Gelliwion Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A very large mosaic SINC, which encompasses a variety of habitats. The SINC includes the large Forestry Commission plantations of Mynydd Gelliwion, and connecting stream valley (with acid and wet grasslands and woodland) and the mosaic of woodland, ponds, grassland and coal spoil habitats of the Gelliwion Key Countryside Site.</p> <p>The Mynydd Gelliwion forestry plantation supports a mosaic of recent clear fell and standing western hemlock, sitka spruce, larch, lodgepole pine with areas of mixed broadleaved. The mixed conifers support good conifer bird habitat, with habitat for goshawk, siskin, and crossbill. The clear fell areas are potential nightjar habitat, while a well-established heronry favours areas of western hemlock. There are repeated, but unconfirmed, sightings of red squirrel from this area.</p> <p>The plantation includes associated open ground habitats, including ponds and pools (with palmate newt and common frog), and areas of upland bog. The valley mire at NGR ST 055895 is based on deep peat and although short grazed by sheep and ponies, it supports a diverse bog flora with purple moor-grass, sphagnum bog mosses, <i>Polytrichum commune</i>, and common cotton grass. Drier acid grassland supports sheep's fescue, mat grass, <i>Cladonia</i> lichens, tormentil, sheep's sorrel and heather.</p> <p>The main forestry block is connected to the rest of the SINC by a stream valley (NGR ST 053892). On its upper slopes this steep sided valley supports bracken and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) which grade lower down the slope into flushed marshy grassland. These wet pastures support a mosaic of soft rush marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23), flushed purple moor-grass with devil's-bit scabious (National Vegetation Classification M25) and areas of damp neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG10) and bracken. There are areas of mature 'open' wet alder woodland associated with streams and issues and which connect into the Gelliwion SSSI. The wet pastures support suitable marsh fritillary butterfly habitat, and the mosaic of rough pasture and woodland represents diverse bird and invertebrate habitat, and potentially important bat habitat.</p> <p>The SINC extends into the lower valley of the Nant Gelliwion. Within the Gelliwion Key Countryside Site there are extensive areas of mixed broad-leaved woodland plantation with areas relic semi-natural woodland. The woods support a diverse,</p>		

<p>sometime eclectic mix of trees with birch, willow, alders, oaks, and ash. There are associated areas of species-rich secondary grassland. The plantation woodlands support a diverse bird assemblage.</p> <p>The Key Countryside includes part of Shoni's pond, which lies on the Nant Gelliwion. The pond is shallow, with fringes of diverse swamp and wet alder woodland. The pond supports a large common toad population (500 plus have been counted), with palmate newt and common frog. The Key Countryside Site extends to the superb coal spoil tips around NGR ST 061888. These support a complex mosaic of heather, bilberry and <i>Cladonia</i> lichens, acid grassland, and extensive gorse thickets. The tips supports excellent reptile habitat (slow worm and common lizard), breeding stonechat and green hairstreak butterfly habitat. The tips grade into additional areas of established semi-natural woodland, with ash, oak, sycamore hazel (a lot of old coppice), willow, hawthorn and holly and ground floras which have a significant ancient woodland component, with bluebell, dog violet, enchanter's nightshade, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The woodlands have potential for dormouse, and again represent diverse bird, invertebrate and bat habitat.</p> <p>The SINC support a diverse mosaic of habitats, which form an interconnected expanse of semi-natural habitat (and plantations) on the western side of Pontypridd.</p>			
Grid Ref	<b>ST052898</b>	Ward(s)	Rhondda, Cymmer, Tonyrefail East, Graig
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 011 and 012.	Area (ha)	261.1
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part FCW, part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (15), H (16), H (18) and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs other sites to be added 308, 183, 182 (check 558, 322 on the boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Numbers	123	Original Name	Gelliwion
	124		Mynydd Gelliwion Slopes

## SINC 125

Number	125	Name	<b>Coed Craig-Fach</b>
Description	<p>Mature ancient woodland on the hillside above Maesycoed. The woodland is mixed in composition with oak, ash, sycamore, beech and birch and an under storey of hazel, holly and hawthorn. There is an ancient woodland ground flora with bluebells. The SINC includes associated areas of bracken slopes with acid grassland and locally abundant bluebell.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 061896).</b>	Ward(s)	Rhondda
CCW TN		Area (ha)	14.6
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6) and H (9)          Contributory Features – S (1) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	None (check 557 on boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	125	Original Name	Coed craig fach



## SINC 126

Number	126	Name	<b>Treforest Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive ffridd and ancient woodland SINC, which dominates the hillside above Treforest and the Graig, Pontypridd. The SINC includes extensive woodlands, with the mature ancient woodland of Coed Fforest-Uchaf and Coed Berthlwyd, and interconnecting areas of secondary woodland. The woodlands are mixed with oak, ash, alder, beech, sycamore and birch with hazel, guelder rose, holly, hawthorn and willow. The ancient woodland has good ancient woodland ground floras with bluebell, wood anemone, wood sorrel, dog violet, male fern, broad buckler fern, hard fern and hart's-tongue fern. The SINC includes large areas of acid grassland, and bracken, with sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, common bent, tormentil, heath bedstraw and sheep's sorrel. In places there is significant woodland regeneration within bracken, with rowan, birch, ash and oak.</p> <p>The north facing slopes above the Graig, support an expanse of heathland, with heather, bilberry, wavy hair grass. There is a small area of purple moor-grass marshy grassland and flush at NGR ST 076851.</p> <p>The hillside mosaic of woodland, heath and grassland supports good quality invertebrate, reptile, bird and bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 076886)</b>	Ward(s)	Graig, Treforest	
CCW TN	CCW ST 08NE 025 and 026.	Area (ha)	100.2	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), and H (12)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others to be added: 322, 201, 194, 311, 559, 555, 554 (556 and 560 on boundaries)			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	126	Original Name	Treforest Slopes	

## SINC 127

Number	127	Name	<b>Coed Castellau</b>
Description	<p>The valley of the Nant Castellau and its associated habitats.</p> <p>The Nant Castellau is a typical fast flowing stream, which has pool/riffle sequences, areas of gravel bed, undercut banks, and associated bank side habitats. The stream supports potential habitat for brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter.</p> <p>The SINC includes the large ancient woodland of Coed Castellau. The site is sheep grazed, and the ground flora is somewhat impoverished as a result. Beech dominates much of the slope woodland with a shrub layer of holly. The ground flora includes bracken, creeping soft grass and bluebells. Areas of sessile oak woodland occur with hazel and a grass dominated ground flora with wood sorrel. The valley floor is wet and supports alder dominated wet woodland with remote sedge (<i>Carex remota</i>), smooth stalked sedge (<i>Carex laevigata</i>), marsh violet, opposite leaved golden saxifrage, meadowsweet and yellow pimpernel. The woodland will support an associated woodland invertebrate (e.g. purple hairstreak butterflies), bird (strong potential for wood warbler, redstart and pied flycatcher), and bat assemblage. The woodland has some potential for dormouse.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of remnant marshy grassland associated with the issues and ditches which feed the upper sections of the Nant Castellau. These wet pastures are relics of a once more extensive marshy grassland area, and although not surveyed in detail, they support areas of soft rush and purple moor-grass, and will have potential to be restored as marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 053867)</b>	Ward(s)	Beddau
CCW TN	CCW ST 08NE 003	Area (ha)	32.84
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (15)		
Features	Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (4), S (5) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Woodland Surveys in South Wales Region and Brecknock District 1989, Cooke and Saunders (NCC 1990)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	127	Original Name	Coed Castellau

## SINC 128

Number	128	Name	<b>Pen-y-coedcae Grassland</b>
Description	<p>A large area of pony and cattle grazed grassland, marsh and bog on the Pen-y-Coedcae plateau and the associated wooded valley of the Nant Tyralwydd.</p> <p>The main part of the SINC supports an intricate mosaic of grassland habitats. The dry grassland is largely species rich neutral and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications of MG5c and MG6). Typical species include red fescue, crested dog's-tail, common bent, sweet vernal grass, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil and devil's-bit scabious, with sheep's fescue, tormentil, and heath bedstraw in the more acidic pasture. Some of the dry grassland is more agriculturally modified, with a higher frequency of white clover and rye grass, but bird's-foot trefoil, and black knapweed are still largely present and justify SINC designation. There are also smaller areas of dry heath.</p> <p>The areas of marshy grassland include stands of purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classifications of M25a and b) with tormentil and devil's-bit scabious, which grade into base flushed marsh with meadow thistle (National Vegetation Classification M24). Large stands of soft rush marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23) include greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh thistle and marsh bedstraw, which in turn grades into areas of less diverse wet grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG10) with rushes, Yorkshire fog and creeping buttercup.</p> <p>As a large area of suitable marsh fritillary habitat, the SINC represents potentially significant stepping stone habitat for the butterfly</p> <p>The wet pastures will supports characteristic bird assemblage, such as reed bunting and wintering snipe.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 065875	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre, Graig, Beddau
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 014, 016, 017 and 018	Area (ha)	41.93
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			

Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7) and H (10) Contributory Features – S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	128	Original Name	Pencoedcae Grassland

## SINC 129

Number	129	Name	<b>Coedcae-du</b>
Description	<p>A grassland and woodland SINC on the south facing slopes above Cwm Colliery. The two enclosures support dry semi-improved neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6) with red fescue, rye grass, common bent, sweet vernal grass, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, and greater bird's foot trefoil. There is a small associated area of purple moor-grass marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) with tormentil and devil's-bit scabious. Marsh fritillary butterflies have been recorded, and the marshy grassland (and associated drier grassland) is good quality marsh fritillary habitat.</p> <p>The woodlands are wet, often mature and associated with streamlines. Typical species include oak, alder, ash, birch, hazel, holly, and willow with bluebell, bugle, male fern, broad buckler fern, and hart's-tongue fern. The woods support characteristic woodland bird assemblages, bat foraging habitat, and they are potential dormouse habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 064865)</b>	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre, Beddau
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 013	Area (ha)	13.16
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (7) and S (6) Contributory Features –S (1) and S (2)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, 325 to be added		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Cwm Colliery Ecology Survey, Wessex (1996)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	129	Original Name	Coedcae du

## SINC 130

Number	130	Name	<b>Rhyd-y-Ilech</b>
Description	<p>A series of species rich pastures, scrub, and woodlands on the northern edge of the Cwm Coking Works, Beddau. The grasslands are a mixture of species rich grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5, MG6 and U4), often with associated wet or flushed areas. Typical species include common bent, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, crested dog's-tail, bird's foot-trefoil, black knapweed, pignut, tormentil, red clover and ribwort plantain. Flushed, or wetter areas, support sharp flowered rush, cuckooflower, common sedge, oval sedge, marsh bedstraw, and greater bird's-foot trefoil. The grasslands support potential dingy skipper butterfly habitat.</p> <p>The SINC include species rich wet woodland (National Vegetation Classification W10 and drier W7), Typical species include alder, oak, sycamore, birch and ash, with bluebell, enchanters nightshade, scaly male fern, male fern, broad buckler fern, lady fern, hard fern, wood sorrel, yellow pimpernel, dog violet. The SINC also includes small quarry woodland with alder, oak, hazel, hawthorn, rowan, willow and bluebell. Two enclosures support species rich semi-improved neutral grassland National Vegetation Classification MG6) with associated mature woodland. The woods support characteristic woodland bird assemblages, bat foraging habitat, and they are potential dormouse habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 070873	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 022	Area (ha)	10.82
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6) and H (7) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	326		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Cwm Colliery Ecology Survey, Wessex (1996)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	130	Original Name	Rhyd-y-Ilech

SINC 131

Number	131	Name	<b>Cwm Colliery Grasslands</b>
Description	<p>A large area of horse grazed, species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25, with areas of M24), and associated rush pastures, which occupy a series of pastures, which lie east and north of Cwm Colliery, Beddau. The marshy grasslands are diverse and complex, and include dominant purple moor-grass, sharp flowered rush, soft rush, heather, tawny sedge, oval sedge, meadow thistle, marsh thistle, heath spotted orchid, cross-leaved heath, greater bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin, tormentil, devil's-bit scabious and marsh violet. Marsh Fritillary and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies have both been recorded and the Site supports a large area of good quality marsh fritillary habitat.</p> <p>The less diverse marshy grassland is dominated by soft rush, and grassland (National Vegetation Classification M23/MG10) with greater bird's-foot trefoil, cuckooflower, marsh thistle, Yorkshire fog, creeping buttercup, and lesser spearwort.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of species-rich, wet woodland ((National Vegetation Classification W7 or W10) with beech, hazel, oak, and willow, and mature 'over-grown' hedgerows.</p> <p>The SINC represents good invertebrate, breeding bird and small mammal habitat. There are also unconfirmed records of Harvest Mouse.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 073863	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN	CCW ST 08NE 020	Area (ha)	15.67
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (7) and S (6) Contributory Features – H (17), S (1) and S (2)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Cwm Colliery Ecology Survey, Wessex (1996)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	131	Original Name	Cwm Colliery Grasslands



SINC 132

Number	132	Name	<b>Cwm Colliery Spoil and Lake</b>
Description	<p>Semi-vegetated coal spoil, with bare ground, ephemeral vegetation, secondary species rich grassland, scrub, secondary woodland, flushes, lake and secondary wetland.</p> <p>The lake supports shallow open water and a wide ring fringe of reed and greater reed mace, with sea club-rush, this grades into wet ephemeral vegetation and marshy grassland with rushes, marsh bedstraw, large numbers of southern marsh orchid, false fox-sedge, fleabane, and colt's-foot. Elsewhere wet willow scrub predominates.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of the drier coal tip. These support an eclectic mixture of ephemeral grassland species and communities. On open bare ground common cudweed, sand spurrey and pale toadflax, with <i>Cladonia</i> lichens occurs, this grades into areas of more established grassland with locally abundant bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, kidney-vetch, centaury, carnation sedge, wild carrot, carline thistle, and betony. Areas of heath occur with heather and heath milkwort. There are areas of tree planting and emergent scrub and woodland.</p> <p>The SINC has a very high biodiversity significance, which includes a diverse flora and very significant invertebrate fauna. The latter includes, 11 species of dragonfly including keeled skimmer and scarce blue-tailed damselfly, 18 species of butterfly, including grayling and dingy skipper (and a high potential for small blue) and a number of moth records, which includes the nationally notable Devon Carpet moth. The lake supports frogs and palmate newt. Snipe winter on the Site.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 071862	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN		Area (ha)	8.016
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	

SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (10), H (11), and H (16) Contributory features – S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> <li>• Cwm Colliery Ecology Survey, Wessex (1996)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	132	Original Name	Cwm Colliery spoil and lake



## SINC 134

Number	134	Name	<b>Croesged Grassland</b>	
Description	A narrow band of fields on a west-facing slope. Although semi-improved in character the fields still support a diverse range of grasses and tall herbs, including black knapweed and meadowsweet, with areas of betony, rough hawk bit and the locally rare, corky-fruited dropwort.			
Grid Ref	ST 067853	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre	
CCW TN		Area (ha)	1.228	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4) and S (7)			
Earth science sites				
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Cwm Colliery Ecology Survey, Wessex (1996)</li> </ul>			
Original Number	134	Original Name	Croesged grassland	

## SINC 135

Number	135	Name	<b>Beddau East</b>
Description	<p>The remaining parts of the once extensive Gwaun Miskin wetlands, the Beddau East SINC still represents a very large interconnected 'wetland' habitat area. The site supports a sizeable area of species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) dominated by purple moor-grass, but with locally abundant or frequent devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, heather, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, lousewort, heath spotted orchid, heath grass, deer grass and <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>. The uncommon bristle bent also occurs. There are stands of wet heath (National Vegetation Classification M15) within the purple moor-grass. The wet grasslands are potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat.</p> <p>At its north eastern side, the SINC supports unimproved, horse grazed, neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5a) with bird's-foot trefoil, greater bird's foot-trefoil, black knapweed, rough hawkbit, ox-eye daisy, bulbous buttercup and glaucous sedge. These grasslands are potentially significant invertebrate habitat with, for instance, potential for dingy skipper butterflies.</p> <p>The SINC includes the ancient woodland of Nant Myddlyn valley. This supports alder with English oak, ash, and downy birch, with hazel, holly, dogwood and hawthorn, grey willow dominates. The National Vegetation Classification communities include W7a, W7b, W7c, W10e and W8. The ground flora is marshy in places with marsh marigold, meadowsweet, remote sedge, reed canary grass, and iris. On drier ground there is creeping soft grass, bluebells, dog's mercury, yellow archangel and enchanter's nightshade. The woods support characteristic woodland bird assemblages, bat foraging habitat, and they are potential dormouse habitat.</p> <p>The SINC also supports a number of small pools, with marsh st john's wort. These ponds are potentially important amphibian habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 068849	Ward(s)	Tyn y Nant, Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN	CCW ST08SE 012	Area (ha)	20.96
Air photo dates	2003		

Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features		Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (15), and S (7)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)	
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase II Grassland Survey</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) NCC, 1986</li> <li>• Woodland Surveys in South Wales Region and Brecknock District, 1989 – Cooke and Sanders 1990</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>	
Original Number	135	Original Name	Beddau East

## SINC 136

Number	136	Name	<b>Duffryn Dowlais</b>
Description	<p>A large block of mature woodland with a well developed structure, and strong elements of ancient woodland ground flora.</p> <p>Canopy tree species are oak, ash sycamore and beech, with some aspen and alder frequent in wetter, flushed, areas. The under storey is equally rich with hazel, hawthorn, wych elm, holly, dog rose, and willow. Drier ground supports brambles, bluebell, wood anemone, enchanter's nightshade, sanicle, wood speedwell, broad buckler fern, male fern, hart's-tongue fern, lesser celandine and dog violets. The woods also include flushed areas with marsh marigold, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, and wood sedge.</p> <p>The woods support characteristic woodland bird assemblages, bat foraging habitat, and they are potential dormouse habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	NGR ST081856	Ward(s)	Church village, Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN		Area (ha)	8.003
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1) and H (3) Contributory Feature – S (1) S (2)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	136	Original Name	Dyffryn Dowlais

## SINC 137

Number	137	Name	<b>Llantwit Fardre Marsh</b>
Description		<p>An extensive area of marshy grassland, drier grassland wet woodland and a section of the Nant Dowlais. The SINC supports large stands of species rich marshy grassland, with smaller areas of base-rich marsh (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25 with smaller areas of M24). The marsh grasslands are dominated by either purple moor-grass, or soft rush (with lesser amounts of sharp flowered and other rushes), with a large number of associated species, including tormentil, marsh bedstraw, marsh violet, devil's-bit scabious, heath spotted orchid, southern marsh orchid, meadow thistle, marsh cinquefoil, meadowsweet, and marsh valerian. There are peat lenses near to the Nant Dowlais and these support areas of cotton-grass bog and cross-leaved heath.</p> <p>Drier grasslands include significant areas of species-rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6), with smaller areas of more acid grassland typical species include crested dog's-tail, common bent, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, quaking grass, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, ribwort plantain, devil's-bit scabious, black knapweed, carnation sedge, and betony. Blue-eyed grass has been recorded. The disused railway supports species rich neutral grassland with kidney vetch and a colony of the small blue butterfly.</p> <p>There are also important areas of wet alder and willow woodland and a series of tall, mature hedgerows (with strong songbird populations). The wet grasslands support reed bunting, stonechat and wintering snipe. Good numbers of bats (of at least five species) have been recorded using the site. Marsh fritillary, small pearl-bordered fritillary and short winged cone head bush-crickets occur.</p> <p>The SINC includes the meandering Nant Dowlais stream with its ancient woodland bank side. The stream supports brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter habitat. The stream banks have stands of monk's-hood. There is at least one large pond and this is potentially important as amphibian habitat and grass snake has been recorded at Parc Dowlais.</p>	



Grid Ref	NGR ST082849	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre, Church Village
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE 023 and ST08SE 020, 023 and 025.	Area (ha)	71.80
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (15), H (17), H (20), S (6) and S (7)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (5)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Grassland Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys/Assessments (various 1998-2005)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	137	Original Name	Llantwit Fardre Marsh

## SINC 138

Number	138	Name	<b>Tonteg Marsh</b>
Description	<p>Large area of wet valley bottom habitat, bisected by the dismantled railway line. The Site can be characterised as a complex mosaic of wet and drier grasslands, wet scrub and species-rich woodland.</p> <p>Marshy grassland is a major habitat feature. This includes areas of both well-grazed marsh and other areas of largely unmanaged grassland. The main communities can be classified as the National Vegetation Classification types M23, M25, M27 and M24 mire, with purple moor-grass, soft rush, devil's-bit scabious, marsh thistle, meadow thistle, meadowsweet, angelica, greater bird's-foot trefoil, tormentil, marsh bedstraw, and ragged robin. Drier neutral and acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5, MG6, MG10 and U4) support common bent, Yorkshire fog, red fescue, crested dog's-tail, sheep's fescue, sweet vernal grass, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, devil's-bit scabious, heath bedstraw, ivy-leaved bellflower and tormentil.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of apparently ancient, species rich mixed woodland, and the mature secondary woodland of the railway embankment. The woods vary from very wet alder carr, to more mixed drier woodland; typical species include oak, alder, ash, sycamore beech, willow, alder buckthorn, rowan, guelder rose, holly and hawthorn. The ground flora includes strong ancient woodland components with bluebell, primrose, enchanter's nightshade, dog violet, wood anemone, lesser celandine, male fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern, and marsh marigold in wetter areas. There are stands of open grassland in the woods, with remnant marshy grassland still supporting devil's-bit scabious. The SINC includes a number of small ponds with common frog and palmate newt.</p> <p>Marsh fritillary and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly colonies occurs in the marshy grassland. The SINC has a very high potential for invertebrates.</p> <p>The SINC also includes open space areas associated with the Nant Celyn housing development and adjacent marshy fields. Although the housing estate destroyed valuable grassland, some areas of amenity ground have retained elements of a marshy grassland flora (National Vegetation Classification M23, and MG10 with small areas of M24). The estate includes a small amenity pond, with common frog and toad populations, and wetland birds including wintering water rail. Grass snake is</p>		

	<p>present. The SINC extends into adjacent areas of semi-improved wet grasslands, which support a mixture of rush and purple moor-grass grassland, canary reed grass, greater bird's-foot trefoil, angelica, cuckooflower, Yorkshire fog and creeping bent. These grasslands include at least one largish pond (with fringe of reedmace). These wet rush pastures support breeding habitat for reed bunting, stonechat and grasshopper warbler.</p> <p>The SINC includes the meandering Nant Dowlais stream with its ancient woodland bank side. The stream supports brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter habitat. The stream banks have stands of monk's-hood.</p> <p>The mosaic of habitats represents excellent woodland and wetland bird habitat, good numbers of foraging bats have been recorded.</p>
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Grid Ref	ST 093857	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre, Tonteg, Church Village
CCW TN	CCW ST08NE027, 030 and 031	Area (ha)	39.24
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (11), H (15), H (16), S (3) and S (6)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (4) and S (5)		
Earth science sites	428, 154		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Grassland Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys/Assessments (various 1998-2005)</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	138	Original Name	Tonteg Marsh

## SINC 139

Number	139	Name	<b>Heol-y-Cawl</b>
Description	<p>A small but important area of species rich marshy (National Vegetation Classification M25) and dry neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6), with associated areas of woodland and scrub. The marshy grassland supports marsh fritillary butterfly habitat with purple moor-grass, soft rush, devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, marsh bedstraw and marsh thistle. The site is another in the link of smaller sites which support marsh fritillary habitats and which lie between Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI (to the north-west) and the larger marshy grasslands of Llantwit Fadre and Tonteg Marsh to the south.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas drier neutral grasslands, which support sweet vernal grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, ribwort plantain and black knapweed. There are also a number of associated small copses with oak, ash, alder and hazel. The mixture of damp pastures and woodlands represent potentially good amphibian, bird, and bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 083873	Ward(s)	Tonteg
CCW TN		Area (ha)	11.87
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4) and H (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features –H (3), S (1), S (2), S (4) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	139	Original Name	Heol-y-cawl

## SINC 140

Number	140	Name	<b>Brynhill Chapel Grassland</b>
Description	Three species rich neutral pastures, which wrap around Brynhill Chapel. Although semi-improved and evidently subject to previous agricultural improvement, the grasslands are moderately species rich with sweet vernal grass, crested dog's tail, common bent, common toadflax, black knapweed and hay rattle. They have a good potential as grassland invertebrate habitat e.g. dingy skipper butterfly habitat.		

Grid Ref	ST 079865	Ward(s)	Church Village
CCW TN		Area (ha)	3.089
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4) Contributory Features – S (6)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	140	Original Name	Brynhill Chapel grassland

## SINC 141

Number	141	Name	<b>Coed y Fardre</b>
Description	<p>Large semi-natural woodland on the upper valley side of the River Taff with associated bracken slopes and semi-improved neutral grassland.</p> <p>The woodland occurs on relatively steep slopes and is a mixture of apparently ancient and more obviously secondary woodland. Much of the SINC woodland is acid oak-birch woodland with strong ancient woodland characteristics occurring on the steep slopes. The woods support mature oak, ash, alder sycamore, birch and beech, and an under storey which includes hazel, holly, rowan, hawthorn and willow. Generally, the acid ground flora is open and upland in character with creeping soft rush, rough meadow grass, bluebell, pignut, foxglove, bracken, male and broad buckler fern. In places (particularly on wetter ground) the ground flora includes bluebells, enchanter's nightshade, dog violets, wood sorrel, male fern, broad buckler fern, hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of more recent woodland, with birch, ash, willow, and alder. These areas of secondary woodland form part of the woodland unit. The woodland area is extended to include slopes above Tonteg Close. These unmanaged slopes support mosaic of emerging oak and birch woodland, and hawthorn scrub with large areas of bracken and associated acid (National Vegetation Classification U4) and neutral (National Vegetation Classification MG6) grassland. The mix of woodland, scrub, and open ground habitats represents a diverse mosaic habitat, which complements the more established woodland areas.</p> <p>The SINC represents excellent bird habitat (good numbers of a wide range of species have been recorded), with wood warbler using the open acid woodlands. The woodlands are also good bat foraging habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 090875)</b>	Ward(s)	Treforest, Tonteg
CCW TN		Area (ha)	28.99
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			

Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3) and H (9) Contributory Features – H (4), H (6), S (1) and S (2)		
Earth science sites	552, 156, 155, 554		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 199201995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys/Assessments (various 1998-2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	141	Original Name	Coed y Fardre

## SINC 142

Number	142	Name	<b>Taff and Rhondda Rivers</b>
Description	<p>The River Taff is the main river of the County Borough and a major biodiversity artery. The river and its bank side habitats are extremely diverse and varied. The river supports kingfisher, sand martin, otter, salmon and brown trout. Notable features include shingle banks (which may support important beetle and invertebrate faunas) and sections of undercut bank, and bank side woodland.</p> <p>In places the River Taff SINC extends to include larger areas of associated habitat, this occurs notably at Webb's Timber Yard at Treforest and the modified floodplain grassland and woodland associated with the Cilfynydd Waste Water Treatment Works. The land at Webb's Timber Yard includes large areas of broad-leaved woodland and grassland, both primarily associated with old railway embankments. The woodlands are predominantly secondary in nature but are mature and relatively species-rich, with birch, sycamore and hawthorn the main canopy species, with alder, oak, alder buckthorn, willow, and dog rose all present. In places wet alder carr occur, and along the Nant-y-Fforest stream there is a strip of ancient woodland. In general the drier secondary woodland ground flora supports ivy, male fern, broad buckler fern, herb robert, bramble, enchanter's nightshade, wild strawberry, germander speedwell, wood dock, creeping soft-grass and wood sedge. Where wetter woodland occurs the ground flora includes marsh or swamp ground flora with opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, marsh bedstraw, lesser spearwort, water pepper and marsh violets. Areas with ancient woodland characteristics include hazel coppice, with bluebell, yellow archangel, hard fern, lady fern, scaly male fern, hart's-tongue fern and broad-leaved helleborine.</p> <p>The grasslands occur as grazed glades within the woodland complex. The pastures are heavily over-grazed and their structure and composition suffers as a result, but they still represent relatively diverse semi-improved dry and marshy compositions. Typical species include common bent, Yorkshire fog, rye grass, self heal, autumn hawk bit, sheep's sorrel, field woodrush, common centaury, eyebrights, common knapweed and thyme leaved speedwell. In marshy areas devil's-bit scabious is locally abundant, with sharp flowered rush, water mint, marsh bedstraw, lesser spearwort, marsh pennywort, common sedge and bristle scirpus (<i>Scirpus setaceus</i>).</p>		



<p>The Rhondda River (Fach and Fawr) is a typical 'spatey' upland river, with pools and riffle sequences. The river is clean and supports a diverse invertebrate fauna, with brown trout, and potentially salmon. The river supports a good breeding bird assemblage; dipper and grey wagtail are common breeders, and kingfisher is also frequently reported (although nesting Sites are more limited). Sand martins breed in a number of locations, using drainage holes in retaining walls. In the winter goosanders are a frequent visitors, and herons feed along the river throughout the year. Otter have recently re-colonised the Rhondda.</p> <p>The SINC boundary in the Rhondda closely flows the river corridor, and in urban locations the SINC boundary is tight to the riverbank. Elsewhere the river corridor of the SINC is expanded in areas where a dry heath, marshy grassland or woodland occurs in close association with the river.</p>			
Grid Ref	ST 088878	Ward(s)	Taff's well, Hawthorn, Treforest, Trallwng, Pontypridd town, Cilfynydd, Glyncoch, Abercynon, Graig, Rhondda, Cymmer, Porth, Trealaw, Penygraig, Tonypandy, Ynyshir, Llwynypia, Tylorstown, Ferndale, Maerdy, Ystrad, Pentre, Treorchy, Treherbert
CCW TN			Area (ha)   245.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (8), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (22), S (1) and S (5)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4), S (6) and S (7)</p>		
RIGS Earth science sites	158 River Taff terrace deposits (score 100)		
Other earth science sites	157, 176, 184, 434, 270, 402, 476		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys/Assessments (various 1998-2005)</li> <li>• Ynysybwl to Taff Trail Links, Ecology Surveys, Pryce Consultants Ecologists (2001) and Michael Woods Associates (2003).</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> <li>• Webb's Timber Yard, Various Ecological Reports, Hyder (1999, 2000)</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	142	Original Name	Nant y Fforest

## SINC 143

Number	143	Name	<b>Llantwit Fardre West</b>		
Description	<p>The SINC includes remnants of the southern part of the CCW Glanmyddlyn Grassland Phase II grassland Site. The main remaining part is the horse grazed pasture at ST 069843. Although over-grazed, it still supports an important mosaic of species rich grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5a, MG5c and MG6 grassland). Characteristic species include common bent, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, common bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, black knapweed, devil's-bit scabious and the globally threatened Ivy-leaved bellflower.</p> <p>The SINC also includes species rich diverse woodland (oak, ash, hazel, willow, dog rose and birch) along the wooded disused railway line, and adjacent areas of alder dominated wet woodland at ST067843. The railway line woodland links through to the ponds at Rhiwbridwell Farm (ST064837), which support a great crested newt colony. The woodlands and wooded corridor are part of a habitat area used by dormouse.</p> <p>In addition, the SINC includes the alder and oak woodland of the Nant Myddlyn Stream (otter have been recorded using this stream), and the associated semi-improved grasslands of the public open space of ST072 846. The grassland supports Yorkshire fog, cock's-foot, sweet vernal, red fescue, common bent and rye grass, with red clover, white clover, docks, common bird's-foot trefoil, and black knapweed. There are large overgrown hedgerows with oak, hazel, hawthorn, ash and field maple. The hedges have typical ancient wood ground flora with bluebells, dog violets, male fern, hart's-tongue fern and broad buckler fern. There are associated areas of bracken with bluebells.</p>				
Grid Ref	ST068842	Ward(s)	Tyn y Nant, Llantwit fardre, Llantrisant town, Beddau		
CCW TN	CCW ST08SE 011, 012 and 013	Area (ha)	16.44		
Air photo dates	2003				
Ownership					
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date			
TPO		Conservation area			
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (15), H (17), S (1) and S (4)				
Earth science sites	351				
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase II Grassland Survey</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>				
Original Number	143	Original Name	Glanmyddlyn Railway grasslands		

## SINC 144

Number	144	Name	<b>Careau'r-Ilan Slopes</b>
Description	<p data-bbox="443 378 1305 412">A large mosaic of habitats on the eastern side of Llantrisant.</p> <p data-bbox="443 454 1326 999">The SINC includes a large woodland component. The lower ground e.g. along the stream valley and disused railway line supports mature alder carr. Much of this wet woodland is well structured wet alder carr, with hazel, guelder rose, alder buckthorn, willow, and oak, with honeysuckle, and an ancient semi-natural ground flora which includes wood anemone, dog violet, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, marsh marigold, cuckoo flower, greater tussock sedge, meadow sweet, and marsh valerian. In places (e.g. NGR ST 059848) the alder woodland is horse grazed, and subsequent has a reduced under storey and ground flora, however the high ecological potential remains. The stream is clean, fast flowing, and shallow, with gravel shoals, undercut banks, and variously braided channels. The stream supports potential brown trout, otter, dipper, and grey wagtail habitat.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1041 1347 1585">Higher on the hillside the woodland is drier and can be characterised as mixtures of oak, ash, and birch woodland (although alder is still present) with hazel, hawthorn and holly. Much of the woodland supports elements of an ancient semi-natural ground flora with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violets, enchanter's nightshade, wood sorrel, yellow archangel, lesser celandine, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. Areas of woodland associated with quarries are more secondary in nature, but are long established and support mature oak and ash with hazel and holly. The small copse at NGR ST062838 is partially based on old spoil (possibly associated with the railway line). This again supports long established species rich secondary woodland with old hazel coppice, with oak, sycamore, blackthorn, guelder rose and ash, and a developing ground flora, which includes Solomon's seal.</p> <p data-bbox="443 1628 1347 2024">The SINC includes some large areas of scrub. In particular the fields sloping down to Southgate, Llantrisant have developed a complex mosaic of gorse, hawthorn, and bramble scrub, with bramble and increasingly small areas of semi-improved neutral grassland. The SINC supports some extensive areas of bracken-dominated slope, with an acid and neutral grassland ground flora, which includes locally abundant dog violets, and expanses of bluebell. The SINC includes various areas of species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5 grassland) with common bent, sweet vernal grass, common bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, red clover</p>		

	<p>and rough hawkbit, and devil's-bit scabious locally frequent. The warm, sunny slopes support good potential reptile habitat.</p> <p>On lower slopes, and flushed areas, the SINC supports areas of marshy grassland with purple moor-grass and rush, tormentil, marsh bedstraw, marsh thistle, meadowsweet, common lousewort, and devil's-bit scabious. The SINC includes additional areas of less diverse marshy and neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG10), which fulfil a habitat-connecting role.</p> <p>The mosaic of habitats supports very species rich bird and invertebrate habitat. Assessment work undertaken as part of the church Village by-pass recorded a range of woodland bird species, and over 20 species of butterfly have been recorded, including a small marsh fritillary colony and small pearl-bordered fritillary and purple hairstreak. The SINC is particularly important as dormouse habitat. Dormouse has been recorded in the SINC and work for the Church Village by-pass assessed and mapped the value of a large part of the SINC as dormouse habitat. A feature of the Site is the habitat connectivity; with areas of high quality dormouse woodland connected to other areas of high quality habitat, by hedgerows, areas of scrub, bramble and secondary woodland.</p>
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Grid Ref	ST 056836	Ward(s)	Llantrisant Town, Beddau
CCW TN	CCW ST08SE 003 and 010	Area (ha)	37.26
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (15), H (20), H (21), H (22), S (1), S (6) and S (7)  Secondary Features – S (2) , S (3) and S (5)		
Earth science sites	523		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys (various)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	144	Original Name	Careau'r-Ilan Slopes

## SINC 145

Number	145	Name	<b>Diswylfa Woodland</b>
Description	<p>Diswylfa woodland is a small ancient woodland site, which supports wet alder woodland with birch, oak, ash, hazel, and guelder rose.</p> <p>The woods have potential as dormouse habitat and will support a woodland bird assemblage.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 076833	Ward(s)	Llantwit fardre
CCW TN		Area (ha)	3.286
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (3), H (7), S (1) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	145	Original Name	Diswylfa woodland

## SINC 146

Number	146	Name	<b>Efail Isaf South</b>
Description	<p>A broadly linear mosaic of woodland and marshy grassland, which runs partly along a disused railway line and then the valley of Cwm Nant Felin. The SINC habitat extends into Cardiff in several places. The main function of the SINC is to link via the disused railway line, and the stream valley, the network of small woods, and wetlands, which occur as a fringe of habitats around the lowest slopes of Ty'n-y-coed, Graig Gwilym, and the Garth. As such the SINC is a mosaic of woodland and wetland types, and is identified as a habitat corridor, which extends, in several places, into the Cardiff Council area.</p> <p>The woodland is a mixture of wet, alder carr, and drier oak, beech, sycamore and ash woodland, with hazel, guelder rose, holly and hawthorn, and additional areas of birch and willow thicket, and associated scrub. A significant proportion of the woodland has been identified as ancient or replanted ancient woodland. Ancient woodland ground flora occurs in the best woodlands including bluebell, wood anemone, dog violets, yellow archangel, wood speedwell, male fern, hart's tongue fern and broad buckler fern. Elsewhere more secondary woodland occurs on the railway line, and where woodland planting, or grazing abandonment has occurred.</p> <p>The SINC includes associated areas of marshy grassland. The fields at ST 080837 and 080832 supports purple moor-grass and rush pasture, which has been identified as potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat. Additional areas of marshy grassland occur as part of the habitat mosaic.</p> <p>The SINC includes the Nant Felin, with its shallow fast flowing stream channel, and wooded banks. The stream corridor has a high potential as otter, brown trout, dipper and grey wagtail habitat. The woodland mosaics offer excellent bird habitat and potentially significant bat and dormouse habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 082834	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre
CCW TN	CCW ST08SE 022	Area (ha)	59.25

Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (9), H (15), H (17), H (22), S (1) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2) and S (5)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	146	Original Name	Woodland south of Efail Isaf

## SINC 147

Number	147	Name	<b>Afon Clun Valley and Rhiwsaeson Hill</b>
Description	<p>The SINC is a mosaic, which includes the middle section of river valley of the Afon Clun and a complex of associated wetlands and woodlands, and the connected woodlands and bracken of Rhiwsaeson Hill.</p> <p>The Afon Clun is a moderately fast flowing river, which within the SINC runs along a meandering river course, with frequent pool-riffle sequences, under cut banks and gravel shoals. The Clun supports excellent otter habitat, and is important for brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail, kingfisher and sand martin. The river is wooded for much of its length with alder, hazel, oak and ash woodland and ancient woodland ground flora. Monk's-hood is present. The floodplain woodland blocks are large in several places and form diverse areas of alder carr, with oak, hazel, willow, holly and guelder rose. These wet woodlands support a mixture of ancient woodland and swamp/marshy ground flora, which includes iris, and marsh marigold.</p> <p>The floodplain of the Afon Clun extends from the river to encompass a series of marshy and damp neutral grassland pastures. A number of the marshy grassland fields are good quality purple moor-grass and rush pasture (National Vegetation Classifications M23 and M25, with a little M24), there are also unimproved and semi-improved drier pastures (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6) and areas of swamp. The marshy grasslands include a wide range of species, typical or characteristic species include purple moor-grass, soft rush, sharp flowered rush, meadowsweet, devil's-bit scabious, marsh bedstraw, tormentil, meadow thistle, ragged robin, marsh thistle, angelica, iris and cuckoo flower. The drier grassland include unimproved MG5 grassland with common bent, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, crested dog's-tail, red clover, black knapweed, common bird's-foot trefoil, betony, common spotted orchid and rough hawkbit. Some of the drier grasslands have been more agriculturally modified but still support significant species diversity and can be classed as species rich MG6 grassland. The grasslands support an associated network of species-rich hedgerows and woodland strips, which further connect and link habitats.</p>		



	<p>Noteworthy plant species include monk's hood, early purple-orchid and wood club-rush. Marsh fritillary butterflies occur in areas of rhos pasture. Both water vole and badger have also been recorded in the study area. The SINC has a high potential for dormouse and as bat habitat (a number of bat species have been recorded).</p> <p>The SINC includes the network of semi-natural woodlands on Rhiwsaeson Hill. This has been surveyed as part of dormouse assessment work for the Church Village By-pass. The woodlands support oak, ash, birch, field maple, hawthorn, dog rose, and hazel, with areas of bluebell and bracken, and gorse scrub. The woodlands form a network of interconnected habitats with a high potential for dormouse. Areas of semi-improved grassland and bracken are included within the Rhiwsaeson Hill fort.</p>
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Grid Ref	ST 058827	Ward(s)	Llantrisant town, Pontyclun
CCW TN	CCW ST08SE 002 and 009	Area (ha)	68.98
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (15), H (17), H (20), H (22), S (1), S (6) and S (7)  Contributory Features – H (9), H (11), S (2), S (3), and S (5)		
Earth science sites	393		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys (various)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecology Survey and Nature Conservation Issues, proposed Development at Mwynydy Park, Llantrisant (ERAR, 1998)</li> <li>• Mwynydy Development, Environment Statement, 2003/4, (Atkins)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	147	Original Name	Afon Clun

## SINC 148

Number	148	Name	<b>Nant Myddlyn/Afon Clun/Tor-y-Coed Woodland</b>
Description	<p>The SINC encompasses the riparian corridor of the lower Nant Myddlyn (below Llantwit Fardre) and upper River Clun, with associated areas of woodland, including Tor-y-coed.</p> <p>The fast flowing river, occupies a meandering river course, with frequent pool-riffle sequences, under cut banks and gravel shoals. The Clun and its tributaries, support excellent otter habitat, and are important for brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail, kingfisher and sand martin. The river is wooded for much of its length with alder, hazel, oak and ash woodland and ancient woodland ground flora. Monk's-hood is present. The floodplain woodland blocks are relatively large and form diverse area of alder carr, with oak, hazel, willow, holly and guelder rose. These wet woodlands support a mixture of ancient woodland and swamp/marshy ground flora, which includes iris, and marsh marigold. Tor-y-Coed is a particularly large area of wet ancient woodland, with associated areas of floodplain and marshy grassland either side of the Afon Clun. A particular feature of the SINC is its lack of public access. As a result this wooded riverside habitats are quiet and undisturbed. The woodland and wetlands have a high potential value for otter, dormouse and bats. They also represent excellent woodland and riparian bird habitat.</p> <p>The SINC is a continuation of SINC 147, and forms a vital part of the network of SINC, which provide habitat connectivity within the southern part of the County Borough.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 063824	Ward(s)	Pontyclun, Llantwit fardre, Llantrisant town
CCW TN		Area (ha)	23.66
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (7), H (8), H (15), H (17), S (1), and S (7)</p> <p>Contributory Features - S (2) S (5) and S (6)</p>		

RIGS earth science sites	378 Rhiwsaeson tips (score 270)		
Other earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Church Village By-pass Ecological Surveys/Assessments (various 1998-2005)</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	148	Original Name	Tor- y-coed Woodlands

SINC 149

Number	149	Name	<b>Ty Newydd Woods and Grassland</b>
Description	<p>A large species rich area of mixed woodland and scrub, with additional areas of species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5) and two large ponds (with a number of smaller ponds). The SINC forms a continuation of SINC 147.</p> <p>Ty Newydd Woods is a mosaic of ash and oak woodland with hazel, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly under storey. Although partially based on pulverised fuel ash, and other workings, the woods have a species-rich ground flora with strong ancient woodland components with dog's mercury, red campion, enchanter's nightshade, dog violet, yellow pimpernel, bluebell, herb bennet, primrose, hart's-tongue, male fern, soft shield fern, and broad buckler fern. The SINC includes a series of hedgerows and smaller wooded copses, which link into Ty Newydd woods. These support ancient woodland compositions with ash, hazel, oak, alder, hawthorn, dogwood, dog rose, guelder rose, spindle and ground floras which are often species rich and include early purple orchid, moschatel, ramson, wood anemone, remote sedge, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, primrose, and bluebell.</p> <p>The SINC includes two large ponds. One is a farm pond north of Ty Newydd Woods, the other a flooded quarry to the east of the wood. The farm pond is shallow and supports a significant aquatic vegetation with locally dominant floating reed-sweet grass, <i>potamogeton</i> pondweeds, and emergents, which include brooklime, water mint, and hemlock water dropwort. The pond supports breeding colonies of all three-newt species. The quarry pond supports mature, well established, wooded banks with oak, and ash trees, and hazel. The pond has not received any amphibian surveying, but given the proximity of a known great crested newt colony it is considered a potential great crested newt breeding site.</p> <p>Elsewhere the SINC includes areas of species rich neutral grassland with scrub. These support horse grazed species-rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG5 and MG6) with crested dog's-tail, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, black knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, ox-eye daisy, lesser stitchwort, and lady's mantle. To the south-west of Ty Newydd woods the SINC also includes areas of low-lying meadow, with pond sedge, iris, common reed and small seasonal pools</p> <p>Cont.</p>		

	The SINC includes old quarry workings in which barn owls have been recently recorded. The SINC has a colony of great crested newt (together with the other two newt species). The mosaic of scrub woodland has a high potential for dormouse and bats, and presents important woodland, scrub and grassland bird habitat.
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Grid Ref	ST 0059817	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	25.11
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (16), H (17), H (18), and S (4)  Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), and S (3)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey , 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecology Survey and Nature Conservation Issues, proposed Development at Mwynydy Park, Llantrisant (ERAR, 1998)</li> <li>• Mwynydy Development, Environment Statement, 2003/4, (Atkins)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	149	Original Name	Ty Newydd woods Grassland

## SINC 150

Number	150	Name	<b>Mwyndy Lake</b>
Description	One of the largest still water bodies in the area, Mwyndy Lake has areas of emergent fringe and wooded banks. Although an active angling lake it is identified as SINC because of its size, and its potential as aquatic invertebrate, great crested newt, water bird and bat (Daubenton) habitat.		

Grid Ref	ST 055817	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	2.301
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (16) Contributory Features – H (1), S(1), S (2) and S (4)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Mwyndy Development, Environment Statement, 2003/4, (Atkins)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	150	Original Name	Mwyndy Lake

## SINC 151

Number	151	Name	<b>Cefn Parc Cemetery</b>
Description	<p>An important area of dry unmodified neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5), with a classic species rich hay-meadow flora with abundant cowslip, black knapweed, bird's foot trefoil, and calcareous elements, such as quaking grass, and field scabious. The Cemetery is the only County Borough site for green winged orchid and is also one of the few adder-tongue fern locations. The grassland supports a grassland invertebrate assemblage, including mother Shipton's moth. The unimproved grassland supports a number of waxcap fungi</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 052822	Ward(s)	Llantrisant Town
CCW TN		Area (ha)	3.179
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (4)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (6) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• CCW Phase II Vegetation Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	151	Original Name	Cefn Park Cemetery

## SINC 152

Number	152	Name	<b>A4119 Road Verge</b>
Description	A linear area of secondary, species-rich calcareous grassland with kidney vetch, bee orchid, purging flax, common centaury, common spotted orchid and ox-eye daisy, which occurs intermittently on the road cuttings and verge of the A4119, between the M4 and Talbot Green.		

Grid Ref	<b>ST 058807</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	2.119
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4)		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	152	Original Name	A4119 road verge



## SINC 153

Number	153	Name	<b>Hendy Quarry and Miskin Manor Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large SINC on the edge of Miskin Village, which includes woodland and quarry habitat around Hendy Quarry, and parkland grassland and trees of Miskin Manor.</p> <p>Hendy Quarry supports a typical species-rich mosaic of calcareous grassland and woodland around the quarry bowl. The area of calcareous grassland supports kidney vetch, bee orchid, purging flax, common centaury, glaucous sedge, carnation sedge, common spotted orchid and ox-eye daisy with abundant bird's-foot trefoil. In other areas wetter secondary marshy grassland has developed. The grassland represents potentially significant invertebrate habitat (e.g. small blue and dingy skipper butterflies) and good reptile habitat.</p> <p>There are also significant areas of species rich woodland with hazel, dogwood, oak, ash and wild clematis. The scrub is excellent breeding bird habitat and potential dormouse habitat and areas of wet willow scrub support a large colony of common twayblade.</p> <p>The slopes above Miskin Manor are a classic parkland landscape, with small copses and individual trees, including large number of mature and over-mature oak, ash, beech and sycamore trees. The parkland grassland supports an extensive area of moderately species-rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classifications MG6/MG5) with areas of marshy grassland and seasonal pools. The grassland has colonies of the long-winged cone head bush crickets and a range of grassland butterflies. Barn owls use this extensive area of open parkland and peregrine falcons nest in the quarry.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 053809	Ward(s)	Pontyclun
CCW TN		Area (ha)	32.98
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	

SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (3), H (4), H (5), H (9), S (2) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (1) and S (3)		
Earth science sites	129		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Hendy Quarry recycling, Ecological Surveys for planning application.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	153	Original Name	Hendy Quarry

## SINC 154

Number	154	Name	<b>Fforest Wood Quarry</b>
Description	<p>The site of previously extensive woodland, now only fragments of woodland remain on the fringe of the quarry bowl. However these fragments are diverse with old hazel coppice, ash, oak and dogwood and species rich ground floras, which include locally abundant herb paris (in its only known County Borough locality). The woodland structure and type is potentially suitable for dormouse. Badgers occur in the immediate area.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of road verge, which support species rich neutral grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5) with abundant bird's-foot trefoil, rough hawkbit and glaucous sedge.</p> <p>The calcareous grassland sward has a high potential as invertebrate habitat, including dingy skipper butterfly and glowworm. The quarry supports a Schedule 1 (Wildlife and Countryside Act) protected bird species.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 019796	Ward(s)	Llanharry
CCW TN		Area (ha)	4.617
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (5) and H (18)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (6) and S (7)</p>		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Forest Wood Quarry, various ecological surveys, David Clements Associates.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	154	Original Name	Fforest Wood Quarry

## SINC 155

Number	155	Name	<b>Rhydhalog</b>		
Description	<p>A large area of diverse habitat, which runs along the southern boundary of the County Borough. The SINC includes over 2 hectares of cattle grazed, species rich marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classifications M23, M24 and M25) in which blunt-flowered rush occurs in its only confirmed County Borough locality, together with purple moor-grass, sharp flowered rush, compact rush, devil's-bit scabious, meadowsweet, tormentil, meadow thistle and carnation sedge. There good possibility that marsh fritillary butterflies may use this habitat: an established marsh fritillary colony exists within 1 kilometre. The marsh grassland grade into damp neutral pastures and the floodplain of the Nant Dyfrig and the remnants of the once extensive Ystradowen Bog. Although improved and partially drained this large area of grassland is still wet and the associated drainage ditches (a rare habitat in the County Borough) have associated 'reen' floras and potentially significant invertebrate fauna (including potential hairy dragonfly habitat). Species such as meadowsweet and pond sedge occur within the damp modified fields of rye grass. The bog has a great potential for restoration.</p> <p>The SINC also includes areas of semi-natural woodland with oak, alder, ash, and hazel, and a network of species rich hedgerows. There is some potential for dormouse.</p> <p>The Nant Dyfrig is a fast flowing mud, low-banked watercourse with bank side alder woodland. The alder and willow carr occupies the lower, wetter valley sides of the stream The stream supports potential brown trout, otter, dipper, and grey wagtail habitat.</p>				
Grid Ref	<b>(ST 024790)</b>	Ward(s)	Pontyclun		
CCW TN		Area (ha)	18.494		
Air photo dates	2003				
Ownership					
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date			
TPO		Conservation area			
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (7), H (11), H (15) and H (17)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (6) and S (7)</p>				
Earth science sites	No RIGs, details to be added:132				
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>				
Original Number	155	Original Name	Rhydyhalog		

SINC 156

Number	156	Name	<b>Coed y Gedrys and Garth-fawr</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC of woodland and marshy grassland.</p> <p>The principal habitat is ancient woodland, and replanted ancient woodland. The ancient woodland can be characterised as mixed drier oak and ash woodland, and wet alder woodland. Ancient woodland ground flora includes bluebell, wood anemone, common dog violet, wood speedwell, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The replanted ancient woodland supports conifer plantation with larch, and douglas fir. Large areas have been clear felled and the Forestry Commission areas are subject to plans to restore ancient woodland cover.</p> <p>The SINC includes a series of marshy grassland (and damp neutral grasslands). These include areas of purple moor-grass and rush pasture (National Vegetation Classifications M25 and M24) with tormentil, meadow thistle, marsh violet, meadowsweet, and greater burnet. These areas grades into more rush dominated marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG23) with soft and sharp flowered rush, ragged robin, cuckoo flower, marsh bedstraw, and marsh thistle, and damp acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) with red fescue, common bent, devil's-bit scabious, tormentil, black knapweed, lousewort, heath spotted orchid, heath bedstraw and bluebell.</p> <p>The woodland represents a large area of ancient woodland, with associated flora and fauna. The conifer plantations currently support a diverse mosaic of standing plantation, clear fell, and broadleaves. The clear fells have potential for nightjar. The marshy grasslands support a small pearl-bordered fritillary colony and potential marsh fritillary habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 112849	Ward(s)	Tonteg
CCW TN	CCW TN 019 - ST18SW	Area (ha)	68.96
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	

SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7) and S (6) Contributory Features – H (17), and S (2)		
Earth science sites	152, 149, 485		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	156	Original Name	Coed-yr Gedrys and garth-fawr

## SINC 157

Number	157	Name	<b>Fforest Fawr</b>
Description	Part of the extensive ancient and replanted ancient woodlands of Fforest Fawr. The SINC includes remnant area of native beech woodland, and a large block of mixed broad leaved and conifers plantations. The SINC lies adjacent to the Cardiff Beech Woods Special Area of Conservation. Fforest fawr is a significant area of woodland/plantation with silver washed fritillary butterflies, and the nationally uncommon bird's-nest orchid, and a range of ancient woodland ground flora and woodland fauna. The SINC has a high potential to support dormouse.		

Grid Ref	<b>ST 128832</b>	Ward(s)	Taff's Well
CCW TN	CCW TN 038 - ST 18SW	Area (ha)	35.49
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification	Primary Features – H (1)		
Features	Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (6) and S (7)		
RIGS earth science sites	383 Taffs Well Hematite workings (score 110)		
Other earth science sites	146		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	157	Original Name	<b>Castell Coch Woodland</b>

SINC 158

Number	158	Name	<b>Ty-Rhiw Woodlands and Penrhos Cutting</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of semi-natural woodland (including areas of ancient woodland), which runs along the Taff Trail and the complex of railway sidings at Penrhos cuttings.</p> <p>The woodland is complex in nature and ranges from drier oak, ash, beech and sycamore woodland on steep embankment sites, to wet alder carr on wetter ground. Associated canopy and under storey species include willows, field maple, wych elm, hazel, guelder rose, dog rose and alder buckthorn, there are small areas of larch plantation. The woodlands support diverse semi-natural ground floras (much indicating ancient woodland) with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violet, bugle, yellow pimpernel, primrose, red campion, wood speedwell, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The SINC supports associated areas of open grassland (associated with embankments and derelict sidings) and these include species rich areas of neutral and marshy grassland.</p> <p>The woodland complex represents high quality woodland bird habitat, with wood warbler breeding in Penrhos cutting. Marbled white butterflies have been recorded in the cycle track grasslands, at their only known site in the County Borough. The mosaic of violet rich woodlands offers excellent fritillary butterfly habitat. The woodland complex supports a dormouse colony and represents potential important bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 121850	Ward(s)	Taff's Well
CCW TN	CCW TN 010 - ST 18NW	Area (ha)	66.39
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (22) and S (1)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites			



Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	158	Original Name	<b>Ty Rhiw Woodlands</b>

## SINC 159

Number	159	Name	<b>Craig Yr Allt Slopes</b>
Description	<p>An extensive mosaic SINC, which extends around the Craig Yr Allt Common, and encompasses the pastures of Rockwood Riding school, and the complex of woodlands associated with the Castel Heights Golf Course.</p> <p>Craig yr Allt is a visually prominent hillside common of some 55 hectares. The main part of the Common is bracken/acid grassland with areas of heath. Typical species are common bent, sheep's fescue, wavy hair-grass, heath bedstraw, tormentil, sheep's bit scabious, and sheep's sorrel, with areas of bilberry, heather, bell heath and western gorse heath.</p> <p>The southern and eastern slopes of the Common grade down in a complex mosaic of woodland, marshy grassland, neutral pastures and bracken. This area of habitat (which itself is over 50 hectares in extent) is extremely biodiverse. The woodlands are largely ancient and include wet alder woodland, and drier oak, ash, beech, birch and sycamore. The woodland structure varies, but is generally good with an under storey which includes hazel, willows, hawthorn, guelder rose, rowan and crab apple. Similarly the woods support significant (if somewhat patchy) ancient woodland ground flora with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violet, bugle, yellow pimpernel, primrose, red campion, wood speedwell, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The marshy grasslands are short, horse grazed, pasture, and such modified, but they are extensive and support purple moor-grass with tormentil, soft rush, lesser spearwort, devil's-bit scabious, and carnation sedge. There are also extensive areas of bracken and neutral/acid grassland. The grassland is species rich, with sheep's fescue, sweet vernal grass, Yorkshire fog, yarrow, tormentil, common bird's-foot trefoil, dog violets, heath bedstraw, common sedge, heath milkwort, and tufted vetch.</p> <p>The SINC also includes the network of woodland (again much of it mapped as ancient) which lies within the Valley of the Nant Y Brynau and the wooded streams, and issues on Castle View Golf Course.</p> <p>Cont.</p>		

	A number of key species occur within the SINC. The SINC supports a great crested newt colony, and the network of woodlands represents ideal dormouse habitat and ideal habitat connectivity. High brown fritillary butterflies occurred in the late 1990's on the bracken slopes and small pearl-bordered fritillary, dark green fritillary and grayling all occur.
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Grid Ref	ST 133845	Ward(s)	Taff's Well
CCW TN	CCW TN 026, 027 and 040	Area (ha)	160.7
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (17), H (20), H (22), S (1), S (4) and S (6)  Contributory Features – S (2) and S (3)		
Earth science sites	144, 145, 147, 148		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Biological Survey of Common Land – Mid Glamorgan (20), Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1991</li> </ul>		
Original Number	159	Original Name	<b>Craig yr Allt Slopes</b>

SINC 160

Number	160	Name	<b>Coed Caedryys/Tir Thomas James Tip</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic SINC, which straddles a section of the Taff Trail.</p> <p>South of the Taff trail the SINC includes the small but species rich woodland of Coed Caedryys. This is a mature semi-natural oak, hazel, alder, sycamore, holly and ash woodland. Mature, planted wild cherry is an additional interesting woodland feature. The woodland supports an ancient woodland ground flora with a superb display of bluebells, but also wood anemone, common dog violets, wood speedwell, male fern, broad buckler fern, and hart's-tongue fern. The SINC includes a small area of unmanaged playing field, which abuts the woodland and supports devil's-bit scabious.</p> <p>The Taff Trail supports its own corridor of secondary (species-rich woodland) and this connects north of the Trail into an expanse of old coal spoil tips. These visually prominent tips support a very large area of gorse scrub, with associated species-rich coal spoil grassland.</p> <p>The semi-natural woodland areas support excellent bird habitat, while the expanse of gorse supports linnets, and stonechats, and has a high potential for Dartford warbler, green hairstreak butterflies and reptiles. The woodland network supports potential dormouse habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 122859	Ward(s)	Hawthorn
CCW TN		Area (ha)	48.08
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (6), H (9), H (18), and H (22)</p> <p>Contributory Features - S (1), S (2), S (3) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> </ul>		
Original Number	160	Original Name	<b>Coed Caedryys</b>

## SINC 161

Number	161	Name	<b>The Willowford</b>
Description	<p>A near continuous series of small copses and woodlands on the eastern flank of the Garth, above Treforest Industrial Estate. The SINC includes areas of ancient woodland, and is primarily dominated by oak, ash, alder and birch, with hazel, willow and hawthorn. There is an ancient woodland ground flora in much of the woodland with bluebell, wood anemone, dog violet, bugle, primrose, red campion, wood speedwell, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. There are associated smaller areas of bracken and marshy grassland.</p> <p>The SINC represents a large block of semi-natural woodland with good quality woodland bird and bat habitat, and potential for dormouse. The network of woods also performs an important connectivity role, linking the Tonteg Marsh/Llantwit Fardre Marsh SINC (to the north) with Coed Gedrys SINC (to the south).</p>		

Grid Ref	ST 106860	Ward(s)	Llantwit Fardre, Tonteg
CCW TN		Area (ha)	18.84
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3) and H (17)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (7), H (9), S (1) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC 1986</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	161	Original Name	Coed Maes-bach and the Warren

## SINC 162

Number	162	Name	<b>Taff Trail Cycle track</b>
Description	<p>A section of cycle track/disused railway line between Rhydyfelin and Coed Caedyrys. The disused railway line and adjacent areas supports a mosaic of habitats, including wet alder and willow carr, dry oak woodland, areas of swamp, species-rich banks and violet rich bracken slopes. The verges and bank side woodland is managed as part of the key countryside site.</p> <p>The cycle track represents an important linear habitat corridor with good nesting bird and foraging bat habitat, and potential dormouse habitat. Areas of sunny, violet rich railway embankment offer fritillary butterfly habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	ST114869 ST 112875	Ward(s)	Hawthorn
CCW TN		Area (ha)	15.66+1.49=17.15
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership	Part Council		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9) and H (22) Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, 426 to be added (381, 427 close to boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	162	Original Name	<b>Taff Trail Cycletrack</b>

SINC 163

Number	163	Name	<b>Fforestnewydd</b>
Description	<p>A block of ffridd on the valleyside above the upper boat industrial estate, Rhydyfelin.</p> <p>The SINC includes a network of small woodlands forms runs along the valley side above Rhydyfelin. Much of this woodland is associated with the numerous small stream valleys, which run down the valley side, and includes the larger wooded valley of Nant Corrwg. Some of the woodland is mapped as ancient, and much of it has ancient woodland characteristics. Typical species include alder, oak, ash, sycamore, hazel, willow, hazel and hawthorn, with ancient woodland ground flora, which include bluebell, common dog violets, red campion, wood anemone, lesser celandine, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The SINC includes a wooded section of the Taff Trail.</p> <p>The SINC also supports a large area of unimproved and semi-improved acid grassland/bracken slopes with common bent, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw, and sheep's sorrel. There are associated smaller areas of neutral and marshy grassland</p> <p>The SINC fulfils a habitat connectivity function within an agriculturally improved section of the Taff Valley slopes. The woodland network will support a typical woodland bird assemblage, and bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 107877)</b>	Ward(s)	Hawthorn, Rhydfelin
CCW TN	CCW TN 001 ST18NW	Area (ha)	42.97
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (9), H (15) and H (22)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (7), S (1) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	163	Original Name	<b>Fforest Newydd</b>



## SINC 164

Number	164	Name	<b>Graig Cottages</b>		
Description	<p>A series of species rich pastures which lie along the eastern lower slopes of Craig Yr Allt. The grasslands are mostly horse grazed, and although short grazed support a diverse mixture of neutral (National Vegetation Classifications MG5/6), acid (National Vegetation Classification U4) and marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25).</p> <p>The neutral grassland predominates and supports a diversity of grassland species, including common bent, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, rye grass, crested dog's-tail, common bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, hay rattle black knapweed, ribwort plantain, white clover, self heal, tormentil, cat's ear and spring sedge. Acid grassland includes heath bedstraw and frequent tormentil, while over-grazed marshy grassland supports purple moor-grass, sharp flowered rush, Yorkshire fog, lesser spearwort, greater bird's-foot trefoil, devil's-bit scabious, marsh violet, silverweed, water mint, carnation sedge and yellow sedge.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of oak and beech woodland on Black Rock, and associated bracken slopes.</p> <p>The SINC supports good invertebrate habitat, including potential for marsh fritillary butterfly. The woodland elements offer nesting bird habitat, and potential dormouse and bat habitat</p>				
Grid Ref	ST 139856	Ward(s)	Taffs Well		
CCW TN	CCW TN 008 ST18NW	Area (ha)	18.35		
Air photo dates	2003				
Ownership					
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date			
TPO		Conservation area			
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4) and H (6)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (6)</p>				
Earth science sites	No RIGs, 151 to be added				
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>				
Original Number	164	Original Name	<b>Graig cottages</b>		

## SINC 165

Number	165	Name	<b>Mynydd yr Eglwys</b>
Description	<p>Large areas mosaic SINC on the valley side north of Ystrad. The habitat mosaic is a typical complex mix of habitats being partly based on a mosaic of natural ground, coal spoil and quarries.</p> <p>Bracken and acid grassland form the main habitat. The acid grassland supports common bent, sheep's fescue, mat grass, sheep's sorrel, tormentil, and heath bedstraw. Where the bracken is regularly burnt the under storey acid grassland is impoverished with rosebay willow herb. On steeper ground, scree and disused quarries, the acid grassland is in better condition.</p> <p>Dry heath occurs within quarries and again on steeper ground, this supports heather, bilberry, and wavy-hair-grass. There is an important area of wet heath with purple moor-grass and cross-leaved heath. On lower slopes the SINC includes a series of acidic flushes with sphagnum bog mosses and areas of associated marshy grassland with purple moor-grass, tormentil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, yellow sedge and green ribbed sedge, these support flushed acid of unimproved acid grassland, network of acid flushes, scree, bracken and dry and wet heath. Stream lines support soft rush, compact rush, male fern, bracken, angelica and creeping bent. Palmate newts have been recorded and the site supports good quality reptile habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS973956	Ward(s)	Ystrad, Pentre
CCW TN	CCW TN 007 and 010 SS99NE	Area (ha)	54.59
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (18), H (20) and H (21)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (3) and S (4)</p>		
RIGS earth science sites	407 Mynydd yr Eglwys landslide score 140		
Other earth science sites	483 (68, 409 on the boundary)		

Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Land North of Ystrad Road, Ystrad Rhondda, Ecological Survey, Pryce Consultant Ecologists, 2003</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	165	Original Name	River Taff (now part 142)
	185		Mynydd yr Eglwys

## SINC 166

Number	166	Name	<b>Parc Eirin</b>
Description	<p>The SINC includes an area of oak woodland (which lies adjacent to the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI) with associated acid grassland, bracken and areas of lowland marshy grassland and peat bog.</p> <p>The woodland is a narrow band of oak, birch and ash with holly, guelder rose hazel, and hawthorn. The woodland is acid in nature with a partially sheep grazed ground flora, and creeping soft grass predominant in some areas. However, elsewhere there is a more species rich ground flora with bluebell, common dog violet, greater stitchwort, lesser celandine, male fern and broad buckler fern.</p> <p>The marshy grassland and lowland valley mire are the remnants of a once larger wetland habitat area. The majority of the grassland is purple moor-grass and rush pasture with small areas of associated wet heath with tormentil, greater bird's-foot trefoil, and occasional devil's-bit scabious (cross leaved heath, bog asphodel and deer-grass). Areas of deep peat still mainly support purple moor grass and rush pasture, but include areas of common cotton grass. Much of the remnant bog and marshy grassland is subject to a planning permission for an employment development.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(SS984874)</b>	Ward(s)	Gilfach Goch, Tonyrefail West	
CCW TN	CCW TN 008 SS99NE	Area (ha)	39.49	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (16), H (20) and S (6) Contributory Features – S (2)			
Earth science sites	None (344 outside the boundary)			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Ecological Surveys for Parc Eirin Development, various David Clements Ecology, (1997-1998),</li> </ul>			
Original Number	166	Original Name	Parc Eirin	

**SINC 167**

Number	167	Name	<b>Gilfach Road Wetlands</b>
Description	<p>Areas of marshy grassland, and wet alder, which lie along the Nant Eirin, and are continuous with part of the Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI. The main feature of the SINC is the stream, which is shallow and fast flowing, with typical pool and riffle sequences. The Nant Eirin supports brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter habitat. Much of the stream supports associated woodland with alder, oak, hazel, guilder rose, ash and willow. These woodland (and the stream banks) support ancient woodland and/or swamp ground floras. The woodlands support good bird and bat habitat, with potential for dormouse. An old harvest mouse nest has been recorded in rank marshy grassland.</p> <p>Areas of neutral and marshy grassland occur in the stream valley, and this includes small areas of purple moor-grass and rush pasture with devil's-bit scabious.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(SS 002877)</b>	Ward(s)	Tonyrefail West
CCW TN		Area (ha)	8.66
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (4), H (7), H (15) and H (16)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2), S (5) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Parc Eirin Ecological Surveys (various), David Clements Ecology , 1997-1998</li> </ul>		
Original Number	167	Original Name	Gilfach Road wetlands

## SINC 168

Number	168	Name	<b>Mynydd y Gilfach</b>
Description	<p>An area of modified, but extensive acid and marshy grasslands, and associated heath and conifer plantation above Gilfach Goch. The site is designated as a large area of upland acid grassland, which fulfils a habitat connectivity function, linking the lowland rhos, pastures of Tonyrefail (to the south) to the expanse of upland grassland and conifer plantations in the Rhondda Valley.</p> <p>The grasslands vary from acid marshy grassland, through to drier upland acid grassland. Typical species include common bent, mat grass, sweet vernal, Yorkshire fog, heath rush, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel, heath woodrush, field woodrush, and heath milkwort. The marshy grassland include the above with purple moor-grass and soft rush, and in places more typical marshy grassland with marsh bedstraw, marsh pennywort, lemon-scented fern and marsh thistle.</p> <p>The SINC includes small areas of wet heath, with purple moor-grass, deer-grass, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, cotton-grass, <i>Polytrichum commune</i> grass, and sphagnum bog mosses. Given, its close proximity to Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI, the areas of marshy grassland have potential as marsh fritillary butterfly habitat</p> <p>The large Forestry Commission conifer plantation supports mature stands of larch (with potential for goshawk, and other conifer bird species) and a series of wide grassy rides. The ground flora of these rides is unmanaged upland edge purple moor-grass and rush pasture with velvet bent, green-ribbed sedge, heath bedstraw, soft rush, tufted hair-grass and angelica.</p> <p>The SINC also includes the disused quarries at SS997898, which support dry heath, acid grassland and bracken slopes.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 988904	Ward(s)	Penygraig, Tonyrefail West, Gilfach Goch
CCW TN		Area (ha)	139.5
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	

TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10) and H (18) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, one other 499		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Trane Renewable Energy Park Environmental Statement, Hyder Consulting, 2006</li> </ul>		
Original Number	168	Original Name	Mynydd y Gilfach

**SINC 169**

Number	169	Name	<b>Gilfach Goch Slopes</b>
Description	<p>The steep west-facing slope above Gilfach Goch supports a long, narrow strip of heather, bell heath and bilberry heath. This grades in and out of areas of acid grassland (sheep's fescue, velvet bent, common bent, wavy-hair-grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw and sheep's sorrel), associated areas of scree and small acid flushes.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of more heavily sheep grazed acid grassland, which have been found to support good numbers of wax-cap and earth-tongue fungi.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 985896	Ward(s)	Penygraig, Gilfach Goch
CCW TN		Area (ha)	53.18
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (10) and H (12)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (8)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs others: 271, 500 (504 close to boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Trane Renewable Energy Park Environmental Statement, Hyder Consulting, 2006</li> </ul>		
Original Number	169	Original Name	Gilfach Goch Slopes



## SINC 170

Number	170	Name	<b>Nant Ciwc</b>
Description	<p>The upland stream valley of the Nant Ciwc is a typical upland stream, with a narrow but steep valley, pool-riffle sequences and undercut banks. The valley of the Nant Ciwc is wooded and supports semi-natural ancient mixed woodland.</p> <p>The woodland has a high potential for dormouse.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 982846	Ward(s)	Bryнна
CCW TN		Area (ha)	8.12
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (15), and S (1)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), and S (5)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodland in Glamorgan (Provisional) NCC (1986)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	170	Original Name	Nant Ciwc

## SINC 171

Number	171	Name	<b>Llanbad-fawr Marsh</b>
Description	A wet, marshy field supporting marshy grassland (National Vegetation Classification M25) and associated acid flushes. The site supports potential marsh fritillary butterfly habitat, and lies a kilometre northeast of the large marshy grassland complex of the Brynna Wern Tarw SSSI. The site has potential to form a linking/connecting function as part of a loose network of marshy grasslands, which lie between the Wern Tarw SSSI (to the south) and Rhos Tonyrefail (to the north).		

Grid Ref	SS 985845	Ward(s)	Brynna
CCW TN	CCW TN 038 SS98 SE	Area (ha)	3.418
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (7) and H (12) Contributory Features – S (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	171	Original Name	Llanbad-fawr Marsh

## SINC 172

Number	172	Name	<b>Cwm Llanbad</b>
Description	<p>The Nant Llanbad is a typical mountain stream, and the SINC encompasses its whole length, including part of its confluence with the Nant Ciwc. The stream has a typical riffle/pool sequence, with undercut banks, and a steep narrow valley. The lower slopes of the valley support mixed oak, alder, ash, hazel, willow and hawthorn woodland, with ancient woodland ground flora which includes wood anemone, dog's mercury, meadowsweet, dog violet, lesser celandine, broad buckler fern, male fern, and hart's-tongue fern.</p> <p>The stream corridor has potential for otter, grey wagtail and dipper.</p> <p>The woodland includes glades of purple moor-grass (national Vegetation Classification M25) marshy grassland with devil's-bit scabious, and mapped as good condition marsh fritillary butterfly habitat. The wooded valley has a high potential for dormouse.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 989841	Ward(s)	Brynna
CCW TN		Area (ha)	10.87
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (7), and H (15)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (1), S (2) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitats in Rhondda Cynon Taff, Richard Smith (2005)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	172	Original Name	Cwm Llanbad

## SINC 173

Number	173	Name	<b>Fernbank East</b>
Description	<p>The SINC wraps around the eastern edge of the Brynna Wern Tawr SSSI.</p> <p>Most of the SINC can be characterised as a series of marshy grassland and dry neutral grassland fields, with small areas of lowland bog/basin mire and wet woodland. The marshy grasslands include purple moor-grass dominated mire (National Vegetation Classification M25 and M23) with tormentil and devil's-bit scabious, carnation sedge and soft and sharp flowered rush, marsh bedstraw, angelica, marsh thistle and greater bird's-foot trefoil. The marshy grassland grades through Yorkshire fog dominated wet grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG10) into drier grasslands, which in turn include species-rich grassland (National Vegetation Classification MG5) with crested dog's-tail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, bird's-foot trefoil, ribwort plantain, rough hawkbit, devil's-bit scabious, self heal, black knapweed, and acid (National Vegetation Classification U4) grassland with common bent, tormentil, heath bedstraw, eye-bright and sheep's sorrel. Areas of more improved grassland support more typical neutral grassland with rye grass, common bent, crested dog's-tail, white clover and cats' ear. There are small areas of bog vegetation with purple moor-grass, cotton grass, star sedge, bog pondweed, marsh cinquefoil and pennywort.</p> <p>The SINC includes a series of old mature hedge lines, and small areas of species-rich wet woodland. These support a diverse mix of oak, ash, alder, birch, hazel, hawthorn, rowan, guelder rose and willow woodland. These apparently ancient woodlands have a good woodland structure and ancient woodland ground floras with bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, dog violet, red campion, remote sedge, male fern, broad buckler fern, and hard fern.</p> <p>The marshy grassland has a high potential for marsh fritillary butterflies and the network of hedgerows and woods are ideal dormouse habitat. The mosaic of wet grassland and woodland also represent good quality lesser horseshoe-bat habitat.</p> <p>Cont.</p>		

	<p>Although the habitats are modified, the Whitehills Golf course also supports a diverse mosaic of wet and drier grasslands, with a number of old bog pools. Areas of rough and fairway support a complex mosaic of dry grassland with common bent, red fescue, crested dog's-tail, Yorkshire fog, common bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, and red clover. Wetter areas support purple moor-grass and rush pasture with tormentil, lesser spearwort and marsh st.John's-wort. There are small areas of meadow thistle (National Vegetation Classification M24 fen meadow). The bog pools are particular interesting features. These shallow pools support bog pondweed, brooklime, floating sweet-grass and water mint. The pools support excellent dragonfly habitat with 11 species with common hawkler, southern hawkler, emperor, broad bodied chaser, keeled skimmer, black tailed skimmer dragonflies and azure blue, common blue, large red, emerald and blue-tailed damselfly all recorded. The ponds support frog and palmate newts and adder have been recorded.</p>
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Grid Ref	SS981183	Ward(s)	Brynna
CCW TN	CCW TN 020, 026, 027, 030, 034 and 037 SS98 SE	Area (ha)	19.87
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (15), H (16), H (17), H (22), S (1), S (3), and S 6) Contributory Features – S (2) and S (4)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Reports on the survey findings at Whitehalls Golf Course, Brynnau, M.J. Clarke (2001)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	173	Original Name	Fernbank East

## SINC 174

Number	174	Name	<b>Llanharan Marsh/ Brynna Woods/ Jubilee Marsh)</b>
Description	<p>A superb area of wetland habitat in the valley bottom between Brynna, Llanharan and Bryncae. Extensive areas of marshy grassland pasture are intermingled with large stands of swamp (the largest remnant stands in RCT) and wet woodland. The site includes associated areas of scrub, bracken and neutral grassland. The site supports marsh fritillary butterflies, adder, abundant amphibians and excellent wetland bird habitat.</p> <p>Brynna Woods lies at the western end of the SINC. The mixed woodland includes areas of ancient hazel coppice. The site supports dormouse. The SINC also includes areas of species-rich re-vegetated coal spoil (which support dingy skipper), bracken slopes, and old mine workings (potential bat habitat). The Ewenny Fach support brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and otter habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS992830	Ward(s)	Brynna, Llanharan
CCW TN	CCW TN 040 and 041 SS98 SE.	Area (ha)	44.35
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (17), H (18), H (20), H (22), S (1), S (3) and S (6)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (4) and S (5)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others: 431, 275		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Llanharan Marsh/Brynna Woods Ecological Surveys, David Clements Ecology (2006)</li> <li>• Site Assessment, Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	174	Original Name	Llanharan Marsh

## SINC 175

Number	175	Name	<b>Ewenny Fach and associated woodlands</b>		
Description	<p>The Ewenny Fach is an important wildlife corridor. The southern section of its length in RCT (from Brynna Woods to the M4) takes a meandering course, with fast flowing gravel bedded pool and riffle sequences and increasingly (as one moves downstream) more silted, slower flowing sections. The river has good water quality and supports brown trout, dipper, grey wagtail and kingfisher and the resurgent otter. The SINC includes narrow strips of associated floodplain, including a small area of ancient oak wood pasture.</p> <p>The SINC includes a number of small associated woodlands (including the ancient woodland of Tir-Eithin). These woodlands are a typical species rich mixture of oak, ash, alder, birch, hazel, guelder rose, alder buckthorn, willow and hawthorn, with ancient woodland ground floras which include bluebell, enchanter's nightshade, dog violet, early dog violet, yellow archangel, primrose, moschatel, male fern, lady fern and broad buckler fern.</p> <p>The woodland SINC supports potential dormouse habitat.</p>				
Grid Ref	<b>(SS 978825)</b>	Ward(s)	Brynna		
CCW TN		Area (ha)	14.28		
Air photo dates	2003				
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way				
Ownership					
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date			
TPO		Conservation area			
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (8), H (15) and S (1)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), and S (5)</p>				
Earth science sites					None
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Various ecological assessments for the Dragon International Studios, Davies Light Associates (2000 onwards).</li> <li>• Land at Llanilid OCCS, Llanharan, Ecological Survey and Supplementary Ecological Survey, Tisdall King (2001 and 2003)</li> <li>• Glamorgan, Ancient Woodland Inventory (Provisional), NCC 1986</li> <li>• Pencoed Technology Park, Environmental Statement, David Clements Ecology (2002).</li> </ul>				
Original Number	175	Original Name	Tir-Eithin Woods		

## SINC 176

Number	176	Name	<b>Llanilid</b>
Description	<p>The SINC represents a corridor of species-rich habitat, which runs around the southern edge of the old Llanilid Opencast and the proposed Llanilid Film Studio site. It also includes areas of great crested newt habitat and open water within the main reclaimed site.</p> <p>At its western end the SINC supports species rich woodland (including Gelynog Fach and Llanilid Church). Although not mapped as ancient, these woods are complex and species rich with oak, alder, hazel, ash, wych elm, guelder rose, holly and alder buckthorn. The woods have ancient woodland ground flora with bluebell, wood anemone, primrose, sanicle, early dog violet, dog's mercury, lady fern, male fern and broad buckler fern.</p> <p>The SINC continues along a ribbon of semi-natural habitat which includes hedgerows and a hedged green lane (including small leaved lime), further areas of mature semi-natural woodland, secondary scrub (including large stands of gorse), water bodies and ditches (associated with the old open cast site and which developing reed bed) and areas of marshy and dry grassland.</p> <p>The areas of woodland, scrub and hedgerows around the southern perimeter of the Film Studio Site supports near continuous dormouse habitat. There are dormouse records along virtually the entire length of this habitat network.</p> <p>The SINC includes important great crested newt colonies, which are associated with water bodies and associated habitat.</p> <p>The whole Llanilid 'open cast' site has been the subject of detailed bird surveying, which has recorded a very long list of species including a number of key breeding and passage birds. Perhaps the most important bird species on the site is the little ringed plover breeding population, which although mainly associated with the bare margins of the large water bodies, has used other areas of bare open ground on the site.</p> <p>Cont.</p>		



		Ecological survey work for the Llanilid Film Studios planning permission has also identified important butterfly species including small blue and dingy skipper.	
		The whole of the Llanilid Film Studio Site is subject to a Landscape and Nature Conservation Management Plan, which sets out priority habitats, species and management prescriptions to cover the whole of the Film Studio site.	
Grid Ref	SS 978812	Ward(s)	Brynna, Llanharry
CCW TN		Area (ha)	65.87
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (9), H (11), H (15), H (16), H (17), H (18), H (20), S (1), S (2), and S (4) Contributory Features – S (3) and S (6)		
Earth science sites	None (546 close to boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Various ecological assessments for the Dragon International Studios, Davies Light Associates (2000 onwards).</li> <li>• Llanilid Park, Landscape and Nature Conservation Management Plan, Davies Light Associates (November 2005).</li> </ul>		
Original Number	176	Original Name	Llanilid

**SINC 177**

Number	177	Name	<b>Dolau Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A complex of marshy and dry grassland and large areas of mainly wet semi-natural woodland.</p> <p>The marshy grassland represents the remaining fragments of a larger area, much of which has succeeded into woodland or been lost to landfill operations. The marshy grassland varies considerably in character. Much of the marshy grassland is horse grazed and supports horse grazed mire (National Vegetation Classification M23) with soft rush, sharp flowered rush, Yorkshire fog, lesser spearwort, ragged robin, greater bird's-foot trefoil, marsh bedstraw, marsh thistle and purple-moor grass mire (National Vegetation Classification M25), with typical species include purple moor-grass and tormentil with varying amounts of saw-wort, cuckoo-flower, carnation sedge, glaucous sedge, lousewort, marsh violet, devil's-bit scabious, heath spotted orchid, angelica, common cotton-grass, jointed rush and fleabane with a little sphagnum. These areas of marsh are often associated with damp grassland with Yorkshire fog and creeping buttercup (National Vegetation Classification MG10). Elsewhere there are areas of heavily grazed but species rich grassland with common bent, Yorkshire fog, sweet vernal grass, red fescue, crested dog's-tail, rye grass, bird's-foot trefoil, black knapweed, white clover, common daisy and ribwort plantain. In a few places the drier neutral and marshy grassland are in good management conditions and these highlight the potential of the wider, over-grazed, grassland resource.</p> <p>The SINC includes areas of mature wet woodland with alder and associated areas of drier oak, ash hawthorn and hazel woodland. The wet woodland supports a swamp ground flora with meadowsweet, hemlock water dropwort, marsh marigold and iris, and guilder rose and willow. Drier oak woodland is often associated with old hedge lines or small copses (with oak, ash, hazel and holly) and these can support an ancient woodland groundflora of bluebells, dog violets, wood sorrel, foxgloves, enchanter's nightshade, primrose, lady fern, male fern and broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. Secondary willow has developed over much of the marshy grassland and the thickets of goat and grey willow and young alder have elements of marshy</p>		

	<p>grassland ground flora, occasional glades of marshy grassland support areas of tall, unmanaged, but species rich, mire (National Vegetation Classification M25), with purple moor-grass, meadow thistle, angelica, meadowsweet and devil's-bit scabious.</p> <p>An area of landfill has a small pond, which has reed mace, hemlock water dropwort, red-sweet grass and brooklime. The ponds support common or palmate newts.</p> <p>The woodland complex is likely to support dormouse (which occur in adjacent woodland). The mosaic of wet grazed pastures and woodland are also excellent bat foraging habitat and both lesser horseshoe bat and barbastrelle bat are likely to use these areas. Marsh fritillary butterflies have been recorded in recent years and glow worms occur on areas of open, dry grassland.</p>
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Grid Ref	ST004822	Ward(s)	Llanharan, Llanharry
CCW TN		Area (ha)	22.44
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (2), H (3), H (4), H (7), H (11), H (16), H (17), H (18), S (1), and S (6)  Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (7)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Llanharan By-pass, Draft Ecological Assessments, Halcrow (2004/5)</li> <li>• Penyparc Farm, Llanharry, Phase I Habitat Survey, Casella (2001)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	177	Original Name	Dolau Slopes

**SINC 178**

Number	178	Name	<b>Cwmparc</b>
Description	<p>An extensive area of wetland habitat in the bowl of Graig-fawr and Graig Fach (SSSI). While parts have been subject to land reclamation projects, the site represents a complex mosaic of grassland and marshy grasslands, intersected by streams and issues.</p> <p>The marshy grassland is an expanse of purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification M25) and soft rush (National Vegetation Classification M23) with common bent, Yorkshire fog, tormentil, angelica, marsh bedstraw, marsh thistle and greater bird's-foot trefoil. These marshy expanses grade in and out of drier acid grassland with sheep's fescue, common and velvet bent, mat grass, heath rush, sheep's sorrel, heath bedstraw and tormentil. The complex of streams and issues adds diversity with wetter gullies and areas of inundated vegetation. The are smaller areas heather and bilberry heath, and where land reclamation has occurred, areas of drier semi-improved neutral and acid grassland with rye grass, crested dog's-tail, common bent, red fescue, sheep's fescue, sweet vernal grass, white clover, carline thistle, creeping thistle, sheep's sorrel, mouse eared hawkweed, fairy flax and common bird's-foot trefoil. There are a few areas of oak and rowan woodland.</p> <p>The basin is cattle and sheep grazed and is a valuable expanse of wetland acidic vegetation. Grayling butterfly occur.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS936958	Ward(s)	Treorchy
CCW TN	CCW TN 003, 006, 008 and 009.	Area (ha)	239.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (4), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (12), H (15), and H (18)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1), S (1), S (4), and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs other sites: 71, 70, 58, 61, 217, 218		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 199-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	178	Original Name	Cwmparc

**SINC 179**

Number	179	Name	<b>Mynydd Tyle-coch</b>
Description	<p>The steep heavily forested slopes on the western valleyside of the Rhondda Fawr above Treorchy.</p> <p>The forestry plantation is an extensive area of mixed larch, sitka spruce, western hemlock, douglas fir, Norway spruce and lodgepole pine. Much of this conifer plantation is replanted ancient woodland and the remainder was planted onto acid grassland/heath. The plantations represent good bird habitat, with potential for crossbill, siskin, redpoll and goshawk.</p> <p>The SINC includes a large area of remnant ancient woodland on the northern side of Graig Nant-y-Blaidd. The woodland is a typical upland oak, birch and alder woodland. Much of Graig Nant-y-Blaidd supports a mosaic of acid grassland (common bent, sheep's fescue, red fescue, tormentil and heath bedstraw), with bracken. Old quarry working support heather dominated dry heath, while on the lower slopes there is a series of flushed areas of marshy grassland with soft rush, purple moor-grass, marsh bedstraw and marsh thistle.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS 948968	Ward(s)	Treorchy
CCW TN	CCW TN 010 SS99NW and 001 SS99NE	Area (ha)	234.4
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9) and S (2)		
RIGS earth science sites	430 Tarren Maen-du quarry and landslide (score 100)		
Other earth science sites	471, 73, 65, 253, 64, 258,56, 255, 306, 259, 75, 57, 512, 518, 257		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	179	Original Name	Graig Awr Slopes

## SINC 180

Number	180	Name	<b>Nant Pentre Forestry</b>
Description	<p>Most of the SINC is a large Forestry Commission conifer plantation on the hillside above Pentre. The plantation is a mix of Sitka spruce, larch and noble fir. The site was originally upland acid grassland and heath, and these form part of the plantation's ground flora. Parts of the plantations lower slopes are replanted ancient woodland. The site represents high potential for conifer bird species including crossbill, siskin, redpoll and goshawk.</p> <p>The SINC also includes a small area of ancient oak woodland.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS974967	Ward(s)	Pentre
CCW TN		Area (ha)	80.94
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6) and H (10)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others: 74, 77, 477 (102 is near the boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient woodland Inventory (provisional), NCC 1986</li> </ul>		
Original Number	180	Original Name	Bryn Du (now part of SINC 54 Mynydd Blaenrhondda, Mynydd Ty Isaf)
	184		Nant Pentre woodland

Number		Name	<b>Treorchy Slopes</b>
Description			<p>An extensive and classic example of upland peat bog, acid grassland and valley side ffridd and heath land.</p> <p>The upland plateau support large areas of peat bog and associated marshy and acid grassland. The peat habitats include blanket bog, valley mire and wet modified bogs. These bogs vary from less diverse modified bogs to good quality blanket bog. Purple moor-grass is usually the dominant species, but with an associated species composition which includes deer-grass, cross-leaved heath, common cotton-grass, bog asphodel, round-leaved sundew, bottle sedge and sphagnum mosses. Bog pools are frequent in areas of valley mire.</p> <p>Marshy grassland dominates large areas of the upland plateau and also occurs as flushed component of the valley side ffridd above Treorchy. The marshy grasslands are mainly soft rush (National Vegetation Classification M23) and purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification M25) dominated, with tormentil, marsh bedstraw, marsh thistle and foxglove. The lower valley side slopes support the more diverse stands of marshy grasslands.</p> <p>Mynydd Maerdy supports extensive areas of wet and dry heath (with more modified bog). Bilberry, heather and wavy-hair grass dominate the dry heath, while cross-leaved heath and purple moor-grass are additional components of the wet heath. There is also a very significant acid grassland (National Vegetation Classifications U4 and some U5) component to the SINC with mat grass, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, sweet vernal grass, heath bedstraw, sheep's sorrel, heath milkwort and tormentil. On the lower valley sides the acid grassland occurs in a complex mosaic with heath, marshy grassland, bracken, and forms typical ffridd habitat. The re-modelled coal tips of Ty'n-y-bedw support extensive stands of gorse.</p> <p>The SINC includes the valley of the Cwm Fforchy, which is a good quality upland stream with fast flowing water, gravel and bedrock bed, undercut banks, and associated areas of wetland, woodland and heath. Brown trout occur in the stream.</p>

	<p>The uplands areas support strong populations of skylark and meadow pipit, and smaller numbers of stonechat, whinchat and wheatear. Other locally important species include reed bunting, tree pipit and merlin. Snipe and jack snipe occur in the winter, and the blanket bogs represent a potential breeding site for snipe. Grayling butterfly and the mountain bumblebee <i>Bombus monticola</i> occur on the lower slope acid grassland. Pools and ponds support breeding populations of frog, toad and palmate newt. Common lizard and slowworm are well established on sheltered lower slopes.</p>
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Grid Ref	SS 960967	Ward(s)	Treherbert, Treorchy, Maerdy
CCW TN	(CCW TN006).	Area (ha)	492.9
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (1), H (18), S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)</p>		
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others: 465, 83, 80, 76, 79, 101, 85, 84 (256 close to boundary)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Environmental Statement, Maerdy Windfarm, Entec (2006)</li> <li>• Ty'n-y-Bedw Tips, Ecological Surveys, Halcrow (1999)</li> <li>• Ty'n-y-Bedw Tips, Vegetation Monitoring, David Clements Ecology (2006)</li> </ul>		
Original Number	181	Original Name	Treorchy slopes



**SINC 182**

Number	182	Name	<b>Treorchy Cemetery</b>
Description	<p>A large Victorian Cemetery on the lower valley side above Treorchy. The Cemetery is old and well established and supports a mosaic of grassland habitat, although modified much of the grassland is species rich. Typical grassland is an acidic/neutral (National Vegetation Classifications U4, MG5/6) sward with sweet vernal grass, common bent, red fescue, cock's-foot, false oat-grass, Yorkshire fog, bird-foot trefoil (locally frequent), greater bird's-foot trefoil (wet areas), black knapweed, devil's-bit scabious (occasional), carnation sedge, hay rattle, white clover, red clover, ribwort plantain, ox-eye daisy, common daisy, creeping jenny (in wet flushes), creeping cinquefoil, field rush, germander speedwell, primrose, sorrel, pignut and the moss <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>.</p>		

Grid Ref	SS959975	Ward(s)	Treorchy
CCW TN		Area (ha)	11.86
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features – H (4) and H (6)		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> </ul>		
Original Number	182	Original Name	Treorchy Cemetery

**SINC 183**

Number	183	Name	<b>Ton Pentre Slopes</b>
Description	<p>A large upland SINC, which encompasses the uplands of Mynydd Maendy and Mwynyd Ton and the valley of the Cwm lan. The SINC supports a complex mosaic of upland grassland and heath, crags, and forestry plantation.</p> <p>The upland grassland includes sheep grazed acid and marshy grassland with common bent, velvet bent, sheep's fescue, mat grass, purple moor-grass, soft rush, heath rush, tormentil, heath bedstraw, green ribbed sedge and heath milkwort. Associated areas of old quarry working and crags supports areas of heather and bilberry heath and acid grassland, which contain wavy-hair grass. Large parts of this upland grassland are relatively species poor and heavily sheep grazed but they represent a significant area of upland vegetation. Areas associated with old quarries and crags, and the steeper valley slopes overlooking Cwmparc, support extensive areas of dry heath, scree and acid grassland. The SINC includes the Mynydd Ton Bog (SS943 943) where the Nant lan rises in a small acidic bog and a series of bog pools, with common and hare's tail cotton grass and round-leaved sundew.</p> <p>Where grazing levels are reduced and the ground is wetter, the upland vegetation becomes considerably more diverse. The northern valley sides of Cwm lan support a diverse range of habitats. The valley consists of a series of dry hummocks on which bracken and acid grassland dominate, set in a valley of low lying, wet and flushed ground. This wetland component is often based on deep peat, and purple moor-grass and soft rush marshy grassland communities predominate, with areas of common cotton grass mire and wet heath. Typical species include purple-moor grass, cotton grass, cross-leaved heath, bog asphodel, heath-spotted orchid, tormentil and various rushes. Drier acid grassland includes areas of heather and bilberry, with dog violet and ivy-leaved bellflower. The Cwm Lan is a typical fast flowing upland stream with under cut banks, and bedrock/gravel bed. The stream has a deeply incised valley, which supports apparently ancient oak woodland. Sheep grazing limits ground flora.</p> <p>Cont.</p>		

	<p>The hillside farmland immediately above Ton Pentre supports a mosaic of species rich semi-natural woodland, species rich unimproved acid grassland (with abundant anthills), flushed marshy grassland and bracken. The woodland supports mix oak, alder, rowan, hazel, ash and birch. There has been localised woodland plantings, which have linked up some of these semi-natural woodland blocks. The acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification U4) includes areas with anthills and support common bent, sheep's fescue, sheep's sorrel, tormentil, heath bedstraw and heath milkwort.</p> <p>The SINC includes extensive areas of Forestry Commission conifer plantation. Planted on acid grassland and heath the plantation support larch, Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and Norway spruce. The plantation represent good conifer bird habitat and a well established heronry occupies an area of western hemlock. Areas of plantation above Cwmparc have been subject to land reclamation and clearance work, these areas of open ground represents additional habitat variety, and potential habitat for nightjar.</p>
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Grid Ref	<b>(NGR SS960948)</b>	Ward(s)	Treorchy, Pentre, Ystrad
CCW TN		Area (ha)	494.8
Air photo dates	2003		
Public access	Limited to Public Rights of Way		
Ownership	Part FCW		
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	Primary Features - H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (20) and H (21) Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), S (4) and S (6)		
RIGS Earth science sites	304 Tarren Felen Uchaf (score 220)		
Other earth science sites	216, 69, 67, 66, 78, 305, 106, 303, 107, 433, 301, 408, 433, 302 (218, 417 close to the boundaries)		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> <li>• Glamorgan Upland Survey, NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Rhondda Environmental Survey, Michael Littlewood Associates, 1988</li> <li>• Earth Science site visits 2003-4 Haycock et al.</li> </ul>		
Original Number	183	Original Name	Ton Pentre Slopes