



Aderyn

LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database

Customer Reference: Vaynor Quarry

[PUBLIC]

LERC Reference: 0223-113

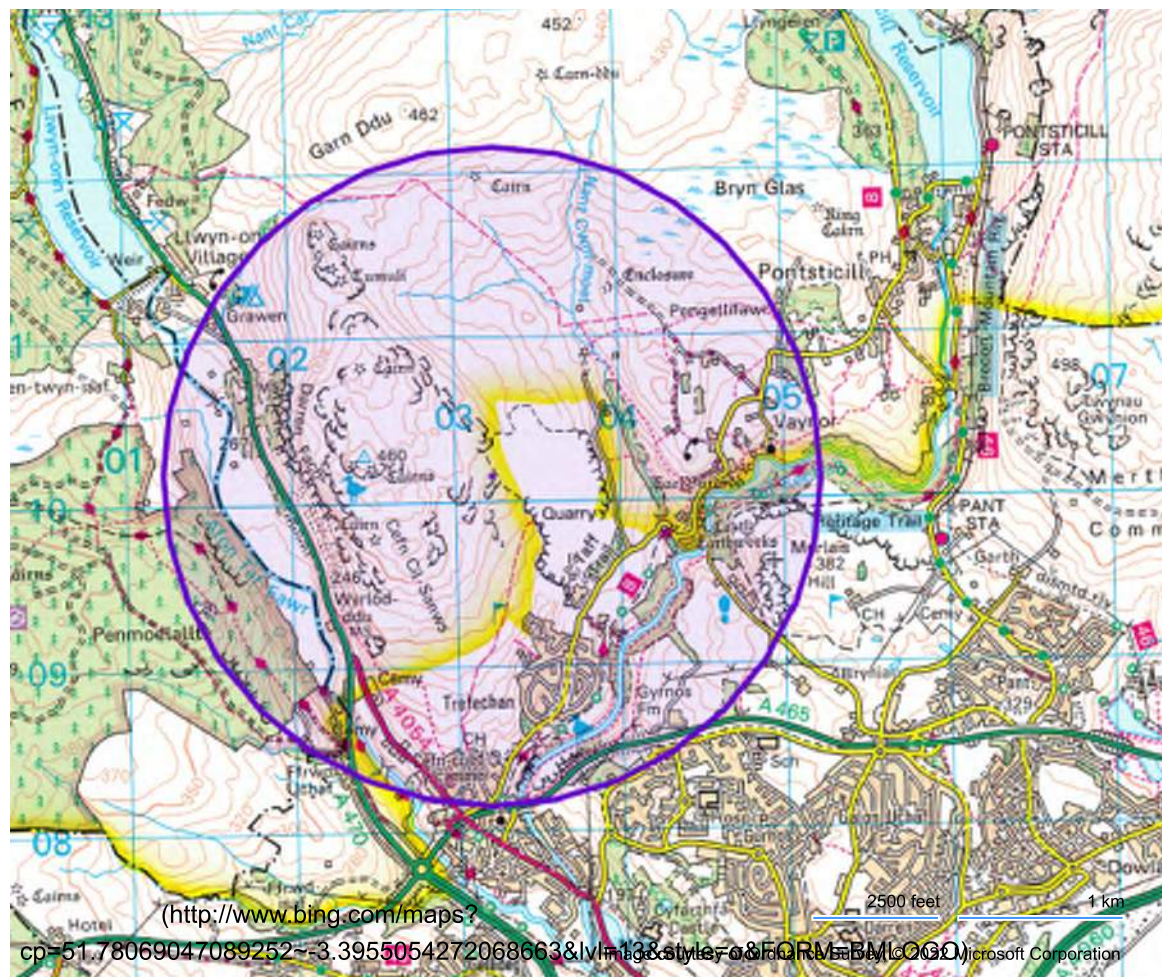
Date: 25-May-2022 14:43

Search Results Summary

Package C: Priority Species 2km Search for relevant species, designated sites and Phase I habitats within 2km of your location(s)

Species Records	3194
Pri. Species	1,228
Cons. Concern	770
Loc. Important	1,011
Species Status	185
Invasive Non-Native	185
Species Status	185
Sites	12
Habitats	30

Location



Additional Access Names (Data Users)

Name	Organisation
Mark Frampton	Hanson
Chris Mitchell	SLR Consulting Ltd
Emma Clarke	SLR Consulting Ltd

Important Dates

Enquiry Created	25/05/2022
Enquiry Delivered	25/05/2022
Data Use Expires	25/05/2023

Important Issues

- Use of the data is governed by the Aderyn Terms & Conditions as agreed on the client's Data Enquiry and Release Form.
- Unless otherwise agreed, you must not share the data or the method for accessing it with anyone other than specified Data Users.
- Confidential information has been removed from this Public report.
- You should not amend any part of the downloaded records.
- Unless otherwise agreed, use of the data is valid until the Expiry Date (25/05/2023).
- The data was generated on the Enquiry Created date (25/05/2022) and is not live.
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Notes

- The LERC Wales Aderyn commercial enquiries system uses a search system which reports species (usually high priority or protected species) within a specified search radius or buffer (as specified in the selected search package). With the exception of Package A (BARB searches), a search will also include high priority 'Mobile Species', such as bats, otters, amphibians and certain invertebrates, which lie outside the specified search radius. They have been selected as 'Mobile Species' as their territory (possibly due to foraging activity or life cycle) could intersect with the search radius.
- NRW have identified a number of species for which data is exempt from general release as described under Environmental Information Regulations. For further information click on this link (http://www.bis.org.uk/storage/library/NRW_Data_EFGR__resolution_release.pdf).
- For further ecological advice on records in this report please contact relevant County Recorder which can be found on LERC websites (where relevant).
- For detailed information on Designated Sites in Wales go to NRW website (<https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-sea/?lang=en>).
- Package A (BARB searches): If this is a Bats and Roof-nesting Birds report, please note that 'roof-nesting birds' includes all records (including non-breeding sightings) of the following species which habitually nest in buildings and roof-spaces: Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*), Little Owl (*Athene noctua*), Common Swift (*Apus apus*), Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*), Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*).
- Please note that records of the same grid reference and species have been concatenated into a single row in all the provided data outputs. This process will be indicated in the 'date' column, which will state the number of records plus first and last year of recording, e.g. '2 records, between 2011 and 2013'. Other fields such as Recorder(s) and Comments will be concatenated. If you require the full details for each record, please contact the LERC.

Data Description

- **Distance:** Indicates the distance, in metres, between the grid reference of the record (using the central point of the grid square) and the centre of the search location.
 - **Grid Reference:** Full grid reference based on the Ordnance Survey grid system. For any Sensitive Species Records, this cannot be released into the Public Domain.
 - **Status:** Any local, national or international conservation statuses or legal protection which apply to this species and whether it is included in any Local Biodiversity Action Plans. See 'Abbreviations' for more details.
-

Abbreviations

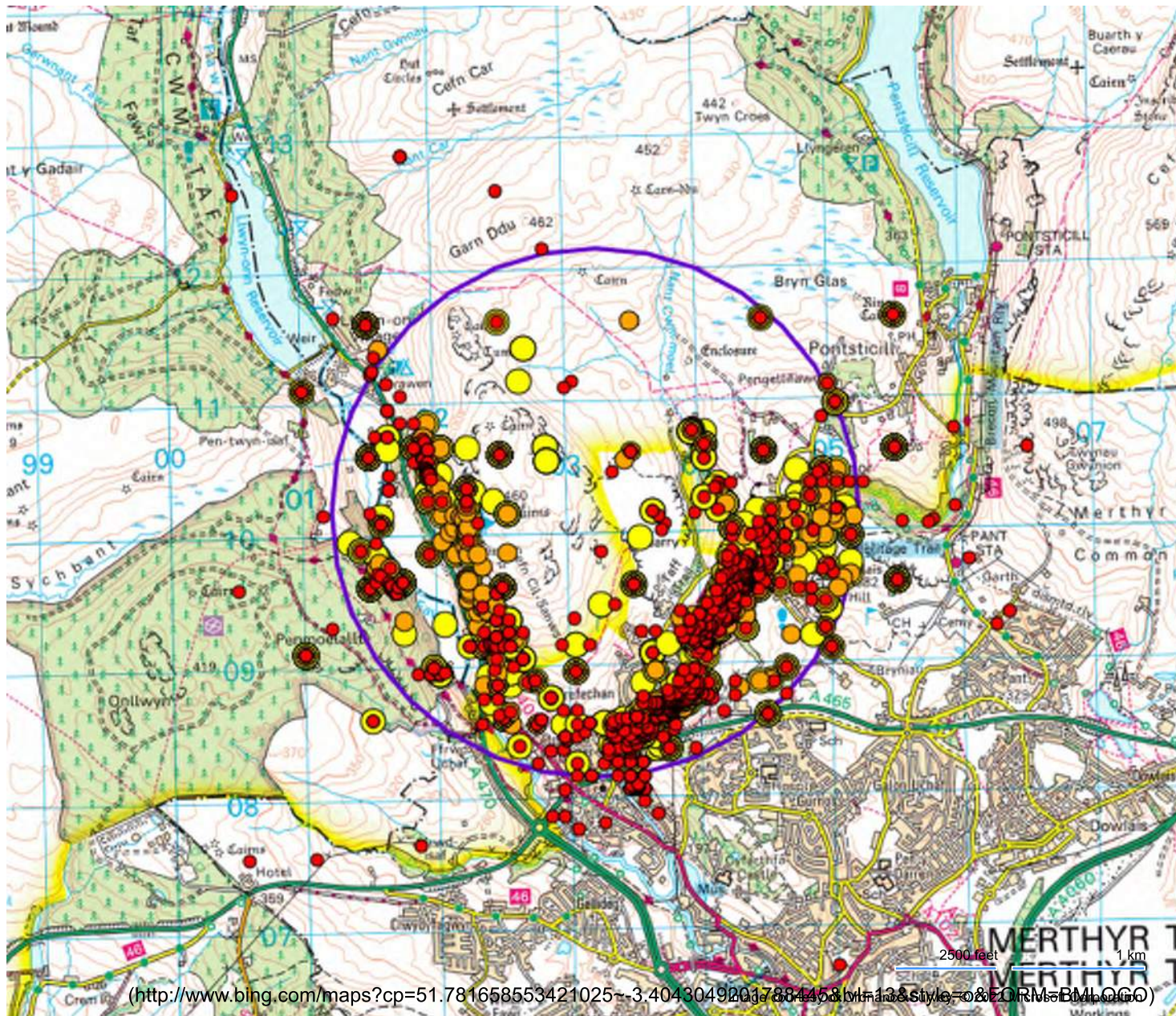
- BA = Protection of Badgers Act
- UKBAP = UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species
- UKBAP (R) = UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species (Research only species)
- BDir1 = EC Birds Directive Annex 1 Species
- BDir21 = EC Birds Directive Annex 2.1 Species
- BDir22 = EC Birds Directive Annex 2.2 Species
- Bern = The Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
- Bonn = The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Species
- CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
- EPS = European Protected Species
- HDir = EU Habitats Directive Species
- NRW = Natural Resources Wales Priority Species
- RD1 (Wales) = Welsh Red Data Book listing based on IUCN guidelines
- RD1 (UK) = UK Red Data Book listing based on IUCN guidelines
- RD2 (UK) = UK Red Data Book listing not based on IUCN guidelines (Nationally Rare and Scarce)
- WBR (RSPB) = RSPB Welsh Red listed birds (not based on IUCN criteria)
- WBAm (RSPB) = RSPB Welsh Amber listed birds (not based on IUCN criteria)
- UKBR (RSPB) = RSPB UK Red listed birds (not based on IUCN criteria)
- UKBAm (RSPB) = RSPB UK Amber listed birds (not based on IUCN criteria)

Abbreviations (cont.)

- S7 = Environment Act (Wales) Section 7 Species
 - WCA1.1 = Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 Part 1 Species
 - WCA5 = Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 5 Species
 - WCA8 = Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 8 Species
 - WCA9 = Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 9 Species
 - INNS = Invasive Non-Native Species
 - WSG.P = Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales - Primary species
 - WSG.C = Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales - Contributory species
 - WVP = IUCN Threat Listing of Welsh Vascular Plants
 - LBAP (xxx) = Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species (see key below)
 - LI (SEWBRc) = Locally Important Species (as identified by local specialists) in SEWBRc area
 - LI (BIS) = Locally Important Species (as identified by local specialists) in BIS area
 - LI (BRYO-MON) = Locally or nationally scarce or rare bryophyte in Monmouthshire
 - LI (VC##) = Locally Important Species (as identified by local specialists) in Vice County ##
 - LI (VC##, LS) = Locally Scarce in Vice County ##
 - LI (VC##, LR) = Locally Rare in Vice County ##
 - LI (VC##, EX) = Extinct in Vice County ##
 - LI (VC##, UR) = Under Recorded in Vice County ##
-

Species Map

Species records are mapped below. Records are mapped as centred points (centre of grid reference polygon).



Icon	Name
●	Pri. Species
●	Cons. Concern
●	Loc. Important

Designated Sites

Below is a summarised list of sites within the search area (based on the largest buffer).

SINC information is not held for Rhondda-Cynon-Taf. For further information, please contact the county ecologist. (richard.j.wistow@rctcbc.gov.uk (<mailto:Richard.J.Wistow@rctcbc.gov.uk>))

Type	Count	Intersection Area	Percentage	Description
Site of Special Scientific Interest	4	National - Statutory	875,993.00m ²	7.01%
Local Nature Reserve	1	Local - Statutory	391,360.00m ²	3.13%
Wildlife Site / SINC (Adopted)	7	Local - Non-statutory	1,600,655.00m ²	12.81%
Wildlife Trust Reserve	2	Local - Non-statutory	922,114.00m ²	7.38%
Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	32	Priority Area	644,245.00m ²	5.16%
Restored Ancient Woodland Site	5	Priority Area	131,552.00m ²	1.05%
Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	7	Priority Area	74,117.00m ²	0.59%
Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category	6	Priority Area	66,583.00m ²	0.53%
NRW Priority Area (Woodland - PAWS)	7	Priority Area	74,119.00m ²	0.59%
Important Plant Area	1	Local - Non-statutory	199,228.00m ²	1.59%
B-Lines	1	Local - Non-statutory	2,082,824.00m ²	16.67%

Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

These are broadleaf woodlands comprising mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years. The ground vegetation will reflect the naturalness of these woodlands and will frequently feature species which provide clear indication of long and continued woodland cover. They will have been woodland for centuries and contribute substantially to our natural and cultural heritage.

Restored Ancient Woodland Site

These are woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. They will have gone through a phase when canopy cover will have been more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50% broadleaf. Please note that the information sources do not identify whether broadleaved trees are site native and therefore an assumption has been made that they are native. The use of the term restored ancient woodland describes woodland which appears using remote sensing techniques to have returned to a more natural condition. The inventory designation does not mean that the woodland is fully restored or that it is in good ecological condition. Active restoration work may well be essential to consolidate the improvement in condition or to improve it further.

Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

These are sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years. They have been replanted with native or non-native species, most commonly with conifers. They currently have a canopy cover of more than 50% non-native conifer tree species. They will have varying levels of remnant features of ASNW.

Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category

Woodlands which may be ASNW, RAWs or PAWS. These areas are predominantly in transition where the existing tree cover is described as shrubs, young trees, felled or ground prepared for planting.

B-Lines

B-Lines (959 m)

Important Plant Area

Important Plant Area (1083 m)

Local Nature Reserve

Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands (1093 m)

NRW Priority Area (Woodland - PAWS)

NRW Priority habitat areas are large scale areas which were prioritised for targeted conservation work, based on factors including the habitats within them.

Wildlife Site / SINC (Adopted)

Dan y Darren Wildlife Site (1063 m)

Morlais Hill (1460 m)

Cwm Taf Fechan (1081 m)

Cwm Taf Fawr (1637 m)
Y Graig (1817 m)
Gynnos Wood (1822 m)
Cilsanws Common South (946 m)

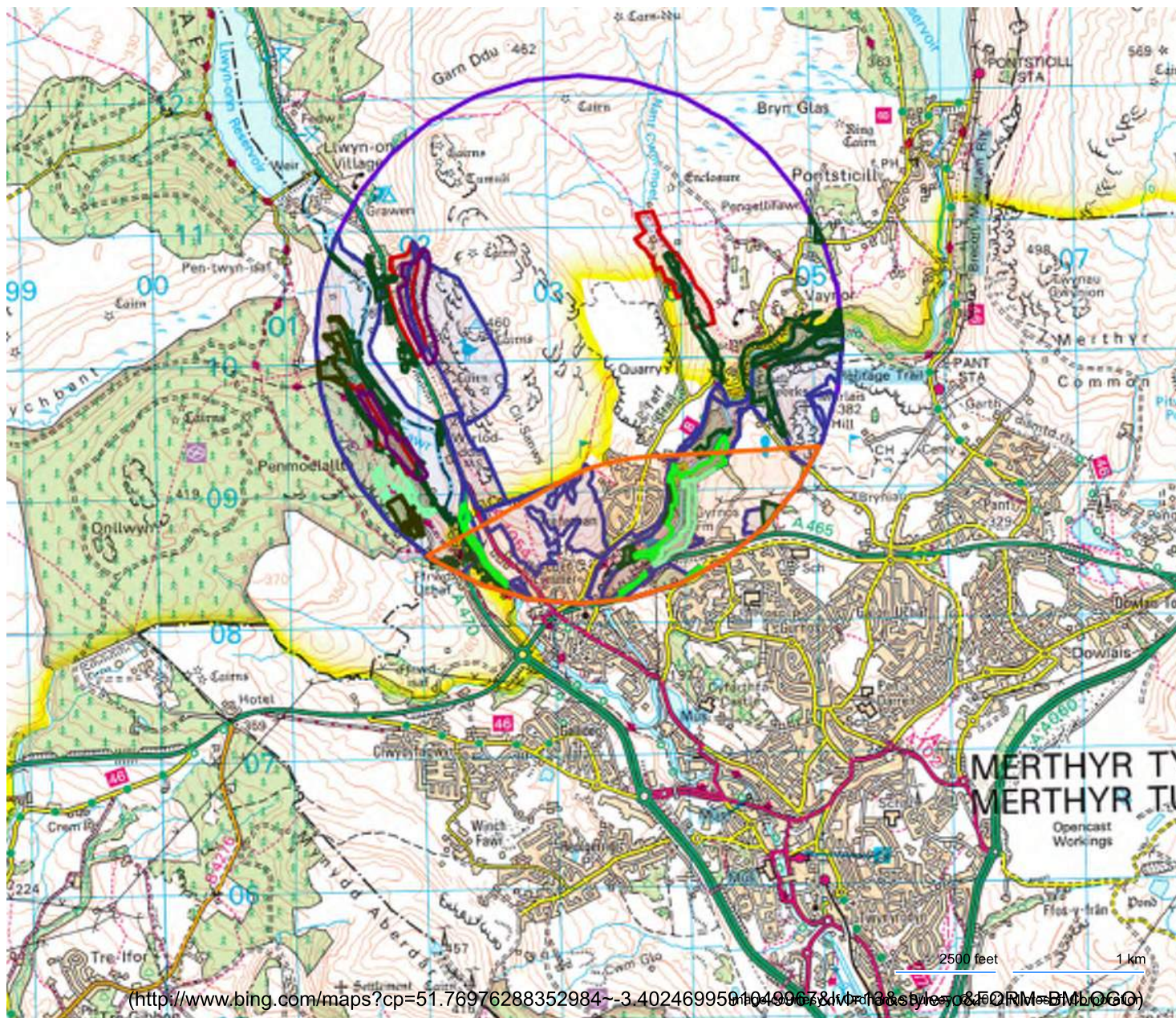
Site of Special Scientific Interest

Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands (1093 m)
Daren Fach (1166 m)
Nant Glais Caves (785 m)
Penmoelallt (1552 m)

Wildlife Trust Reserve

Taf Fechan (1088 m)
Darren Fawr (601 m)

Designated Sites Map



Col.	Name
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (875,993m ²)
	Local Nature Reserve (391,360m ²)
	Wildlife Site / SINC (Adopted) (1,600,655m ²)
	RCT Wildlife Sites / SINCs - INFO NOT HELD BY ADERYN - Contact RCT Ecologists (1,372,720m ²)
	Wildlife Trust Reserve (922,114m ²)
	Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (644,245m ²)
	Restored Ancient Woodland Site (131,552m ²)
	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (74,117m ²)
	Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category (66,583m ²)
	NRW Priority Area (Woodland - PAWS) (74,119m ²)
	Important Plant Area (199,228m ²)
	B-Lines (2,082,824m ²)

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18. Please acknowledge the relevant LERC in any publication or report produced using data it has supplied. A copy should be supplied at no charge to the relevant LERC where appropriate.

Vaynor Quarry

Ecological Report to inform Baseline Hydrological / Hydrogeological Surveys

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DRAWINGS

Drawing 1	Statutory Designations within Search Area
Drawing 2	Phase 2 Lowland Grassland Data within Search Area
Drawing 3	Phase 2 Woodland Data within Search Area
Drawing 4	Non-statutory Designations within Search Area

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Data Search Report (Citations)
Appendix B	Further consultation responses (e.g. SINC habitat maps)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) has been commissioned by Hanson to provide initial ecological advice in respect of Vaynor Quarry, hereafter referred to as the 'site'. The approximate centre of the site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 035 103 and due to its extent it occurs within both the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) administrative areas.

Vaynor Quarry is currently 'mothballed', although there is currently in the order of 40-50 million tonnes of mineral reserve that could be extracted at the site. The site benefits from an existing mineral planning permissions, although The Environment Act 1995 sets out a process whereby the planning conditions imposed on mineral planning permissions are reviewed on a 15 year cycle (Periodic Review), a process often referred to as a 'Review of Old Minerals Permissions' or 'ROMP' review.

The process is typically supplemented by the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to identify any significant environmental effects, identify appropriate mitigation measure and, ultimately, inform a schedule of updated planning conditions to ensure operations comply with current planning policy, industry standards or relevant environmental legislation.

The first Periodic Review for Vaynor Quarry is required to be submitted by January 2019, although Hanson may consider making a Consolidation Application in place of a 'periodic review' and this would still require an EIA to be undertaken.

1.1 Scope of Study

A degree of consultation has already taken place between the two planning authorities and key stakeholders when in 2010 the quarry was wrongly identified as an 'Undetermined ROMP' site. This included, but was not limited to scoping opinions being issued by MTCBC and the BBNPA, following scoping advice being issued by the Environment Agency Wales and the Countryside Council for Wales (both now Natural Resources Wales) which identified the need to consider in detail the potential hydrogeological effects of the continued operation, in particular upon ecologically designated sites.

As part of this initial consultation, one of the key environmental considerations identified for consideration in any future EIA, is the interaction between site hydrology/hydrogeology and important ecological receptors. This is due to the likelihood that the continued operation of Vaynor Quarry will eventually require de-watering during operational periods, which could have indirect effects on groundwater dependent habitats in the vicinity.

As such, this study has been commissioned to identify important ecological features (habitats) in the zone of potential influence, to ensure that the Hydrological Impact Assessment (HIA), that will form part of the EIA, is suitably designed to gather appropriate and sufficient baseline information to then enable a thorough assessment of the potential impacts upon ecological features to be completed and any necessary mitigation or compensation measure to be identified.

1.2 Limitations

At this stage, advice is given on the basis of a 'desk top' study only to ascertain the location and extent of important habitats which could be susceptible to changes in the hydrological/geological regimes that current exist. No site work or inspection of identified habitats or features has been undertaken. Given the intended purpose of the study, this is

not deemed to be a limitation or likely to prevent the objective of identifying important ecological features from being met.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The following organisations or on-line resource have provided data which has been used to prepare this report:-

- South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) for information regarding statutory ecological designations (within 5km of the site boundary), non-statutory ecological designations (within 2km of the site boundary) and habitat inventories i.e. Section 42 habitats and ancient woodland (within 2km of the site boundary);
- Biodiversity Wales website¹ for information on habitats and species of principle importance in Wales;
- Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) website² for information on the 2011 Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI);
- Consultation with the LPA ecologist for Merthyr Tydfil; and
- Consultation with NRW regarding Phase 2 vegetation survey data and Daren Fach SSSI.

A copy of all external data received for the purposes of this study have been included as Appendices A and B.

It is important to note, that following commencement of the data search, the project Hydrogeologists were able to refine the 'standard 2km and 5km' search areas to a bespoke 'study area' shown on Drawings 1 to 3. In this instance, the study area has been defined on the basis of river catchments and underlying geology as these have an influence on the potential zone of influence from the quarry itself and in this case significantly reduce the zone of potential influence.

¹ <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/en-GB/Section-42-Lists>

² <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry>

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Ecological Designations

3.1.1 Statutory Ecological Designations

Table 3-1 identifies statutory designated sites occurring within the study area, as shown, on Drawing 1. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3-1
Summary of Statutorily Designated Sites within 5km

Site name and importance	Proximity to site boundary	Habitats and additional features
Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands SSSI	Adjacent to the SE of the site and 0.3km E	Partially wooded valley of the Taf Fechan crosses the north crop Carboniferous Limestone. Mixed deciduous woodlands over steep slopes and spoil from quarries with one of the few Glamorgan stations for <i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i> . Interesting plant communities in flushes around tufa springs and luxuriant growths of bryophytes in the splash zone of the river. The SSSI is also partly designated as a Local Nature Reserve.
Nant Glais Caves SSSI	Adjacent to the NE of the site	Limestone gorge of the Nant Glais and two vadose cave systems which lie parallel to it and under each bank. Both caves are formed at the contact of the oolitic and dolomitic facies within the Carboniferous Limestone and the contrasting solutional properties of the two lithologies have spectacularly influenced the passage morphology. The caves are also important for their unusually large populations of white trout. The site is within the Brecon Beacons National Park and the citation identifies that the SSSI is, in part, a Glamorgan Trust for Nature Conservation Reserve although this has not been verified as still being the case.
Daren Fach SSSI	c. 0.2km W	Open scrub on low limestone cliffs with screes and woodland on the gentler slopes. The latter are dominated by ash inter-mixed with wych elm together with a well-developed understorey of hazel and hawthorn. Field maple is present and a group of small-leaved lime lies at the northern end. The primary interest lies in a concentration of <i>Sorbus</i> spp. on the southern end of the Darren Fach crags. This is the type locality for the rare Ley's Whitebeam <i>Sorbus leyana</i> . Several shrubs of <i>S. leyana</i> together with a specimen of <i>S. rupicola</i> grow in association with ash, yew and holly. Within the Brecon Beacons National Park

3.1.2 Non-Statutory Ecological Designations

SEWBRc identified three Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the study area as described in Table 3-2 below. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

Table 3-2
Non-Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Proximity to site boundary	Description
Cilsanws Common South SINC	0.2km SW	Area of semi-upland and upland common land. The habitats include dry heathland and acid grassland mosaics, acid flushes, wet heathlands, extensive bracken slopes with scattered trees, and small areas of calcareous grassland and scrub.

Cwm Taf Fechan SINC and Wildlife Trust Reserve	1km S	A linear site based on the valley of the Afon Taf Fechan and containing the Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands SSSI but covering adjacent habitats supplementary to those of the SSSI and includes limestone woodlands, calcareous grasslands, species-rich neutral grasslands, heathlands and limestone scrub. It is considered the single most important biodiversity resource in the county borough. The SINC additionally includes heathlands, acid and calcareous grasslands, bracken slopes, calcareous flushes and calcareous scrub woodland habitats. Many regionally rare and scarce plant species occur.
Cwm Taf Fawr SINC	1.2km SW	Section of major river tributary of the Afon Taf with SINC which includes adjacent woodlands. The upper reaches in particular are of high ecological value, comprising limestone gorge woodland dominated by oak and ash, with a rich ground flora including numerous rare plant species.

3.1.3 Other Designations

The SEWBRc report also identified the presence of Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands (ASNW) within the search area although these woodlands occur within the ecologically designated sites identified above.

The Phase 1 Habitat survey information provided by SEWBRc also identifies the presence of habitats identified as being of principle importance for conservation in Wales (i.e Section 42 habitats under the NERC Act 2006). This includes the following habitat groups which (can) support vegetation communities that are dependent on either surface or ground water: semi-natural broadleaved woodland, unimproved grassland, marshy grassland, wet heath, heath/acid grassland mosaic, blanket bog, flushes, fen, mire, standing water/marginal habitats and limestone pavement. It should be noted that some occurrences of Section 42 habitats are within the ecologically designated sites described above.

4.0 IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Following review of the data search, Table 4-1 below provides a summary of the identified important habitats or ecological designations within the study area and considers whether they have the potential to be adversely affected by changes to the current hydrological/geological regime during continued operation of Vaynor Quarry when de-watering will be required.

Where potential impacts have been identified, the need for further assessment as part of the HIA is highlighted.

It is important to note that certain species may also be indirectly affected if there are indeed impacts to these habitats that could lead to changes in habitat type or extent, for example otter is known to occur at Cwm Taf Fechan SSSI and lesser horseshoe bat at Nant Glais Caves SSSI, salmon and other fish species also occur in watercourses.

Table 4-1
Summary of Potential for Impacts/Impact Pathways

Potential Receptor	Potential impact	Further Information/scoping required as part of HIA?
Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands SSSI.	Depleted flow of flushes, tufa springs and watercourse leading to habitat loss and/or alteration of plant communities, in particular ground flora and bryophytes.	Yes
Nant Glais Caves SSSI.	Depletion in flow resulting in changes to internal conditions may impact upon aquatic species, such as trout, or terrestrial species adapted to humidity conditions within cave i.e invertebrates and bats (presence of lesser horseshoe bat raised by CCW).	Yes.
Daren Fach SSSI.	Based on citation, does not appear to contain ground water dependent ecosystems and so the potential for impacts due to changes in hydrology is low.	No – NRW confirmed assumptions made by reviewing citation.
Cilsanws Common South SINC.	Depletion of local water table leading to loss of marshy grassland (fen meadow) and flush habitats.	No – wetland interest is localised and is topographical/soligenous (wet heath/flush) rather than ground-water dependent.
Cwm Taf Fechan SINC and Wildlife Trust Reserve (outside of SSSI).	Habitat loss and/or alteration of plant communities, in particular ground flora and bryophytes.	Not in addition to consideration of SSSI features.
Cwm Taf Fawr SINC.	Depletion of ground water leading to alteration or loss of habitat through change in species composition.	No – no strong wetland interest. Localised streamside wet areas from impeded drainage.

5.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

SLR has completed a desk-top study to identify habitats, including Section 42 habitats and ecologically designated sites, in the vicinity of Vaynor Quarry which have the potential to be adversely affected by the continued operation of the site. In addition to the operational impacts i.e. though de-watering of the quarry void which could lower local ground water levels (a drawdown cone), it will also be necessary to assess whether flow regimes will be affected (during and operational and restored phases) and any longer term effects associated with restoration i.e the formation of a large water body (if proposed) may influence the local water table levels or surface water regimes.

The desk study has identified that the potential for impacts to occur does exist, as watercourses, aquatic habitats (such as flushes and tufa springs) and ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems (i.e. marshy grassland) do occur in the potential zone of influence, including within areas with statutory and non-statutory ecological designations.

Initial consultation with the hydrogeologist has identified that the majority of identified ecological sites can be scoped out of further assessment based on a combination of topographical and geological characteristics of the study area.

Whilst it is evident that further assessment is required in respect of Cwm Taf Fechan SSSI and Nant Glais Caves SSSI, Daren Fach SSSI can be scoped out of the Hydrological study.

Further details regarding the possible extent of any groundwater drawdown, and the types of vegetation communities that occur, within these sites is required to clarify if these sites can be scoped out at this stage. The Hydrological Study will also need to, in terms of ecology, identify whether any significant alteration to flow levels of water courses in the study area would occur. Such an effect may have indirect impacts on receptors such as fish.

It will be necessary to monitor the results of the hydrological study as, if it indicates an impact is possible, it is possible that ecological survey will be required at the identified receptors to identify the location and extent of features of interest which could also have lead in or timing implications to consider when undertaking the eventual EIA.

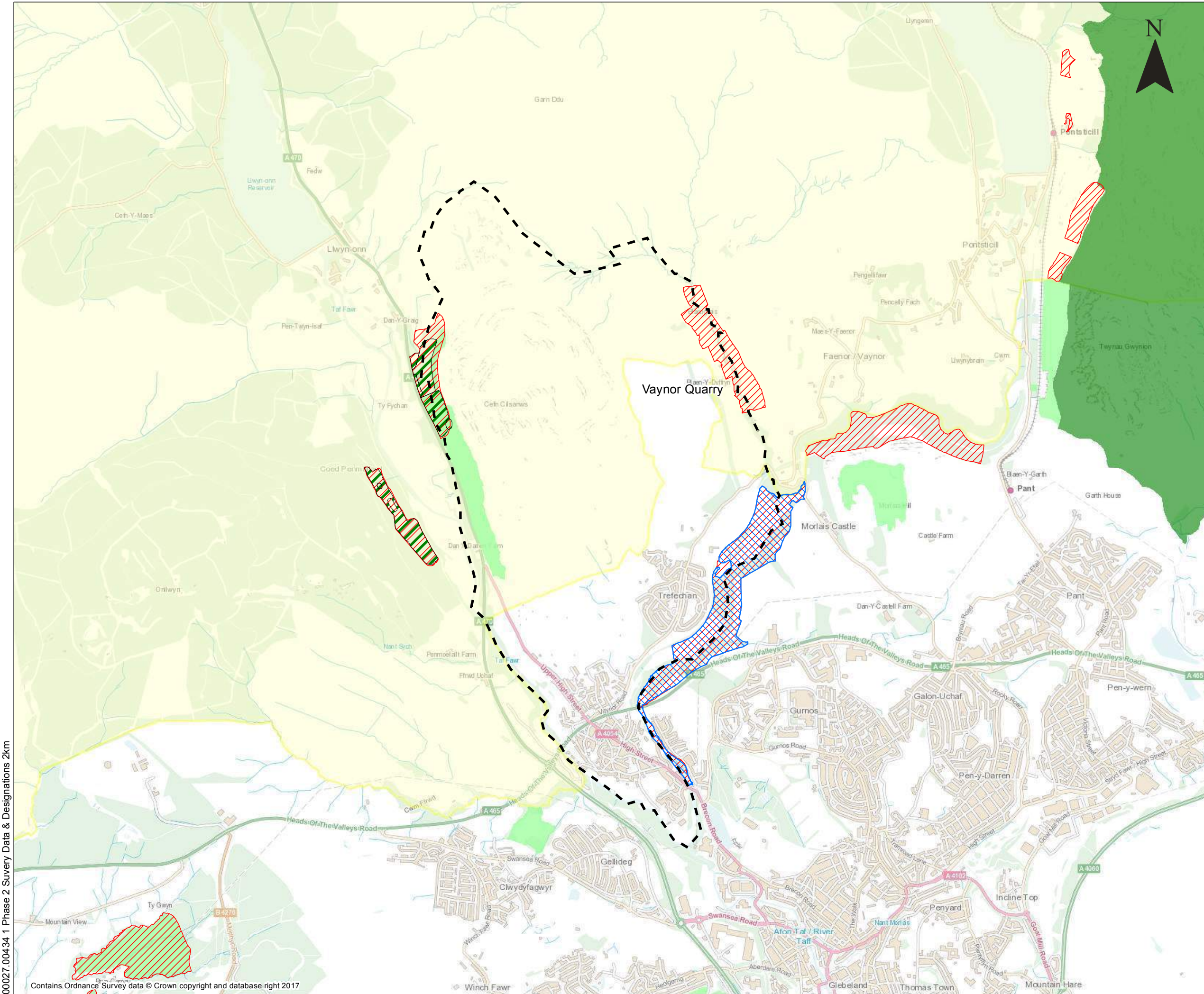
6.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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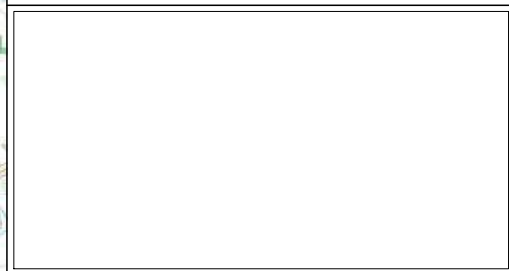
SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

00027.00434 1 Phase 2 Suvery Data & Designations 2km



LEGEND

- STUDY BOUNDARY
- WOODLAND VEGETATION
- GRASSLAND VEGETATION
- UPLAND VEGETATION
- SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
- LOCAL NATURE RESERVE
- NATIONAL PARK





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VAYNOR QUARRY

ECOLOGY

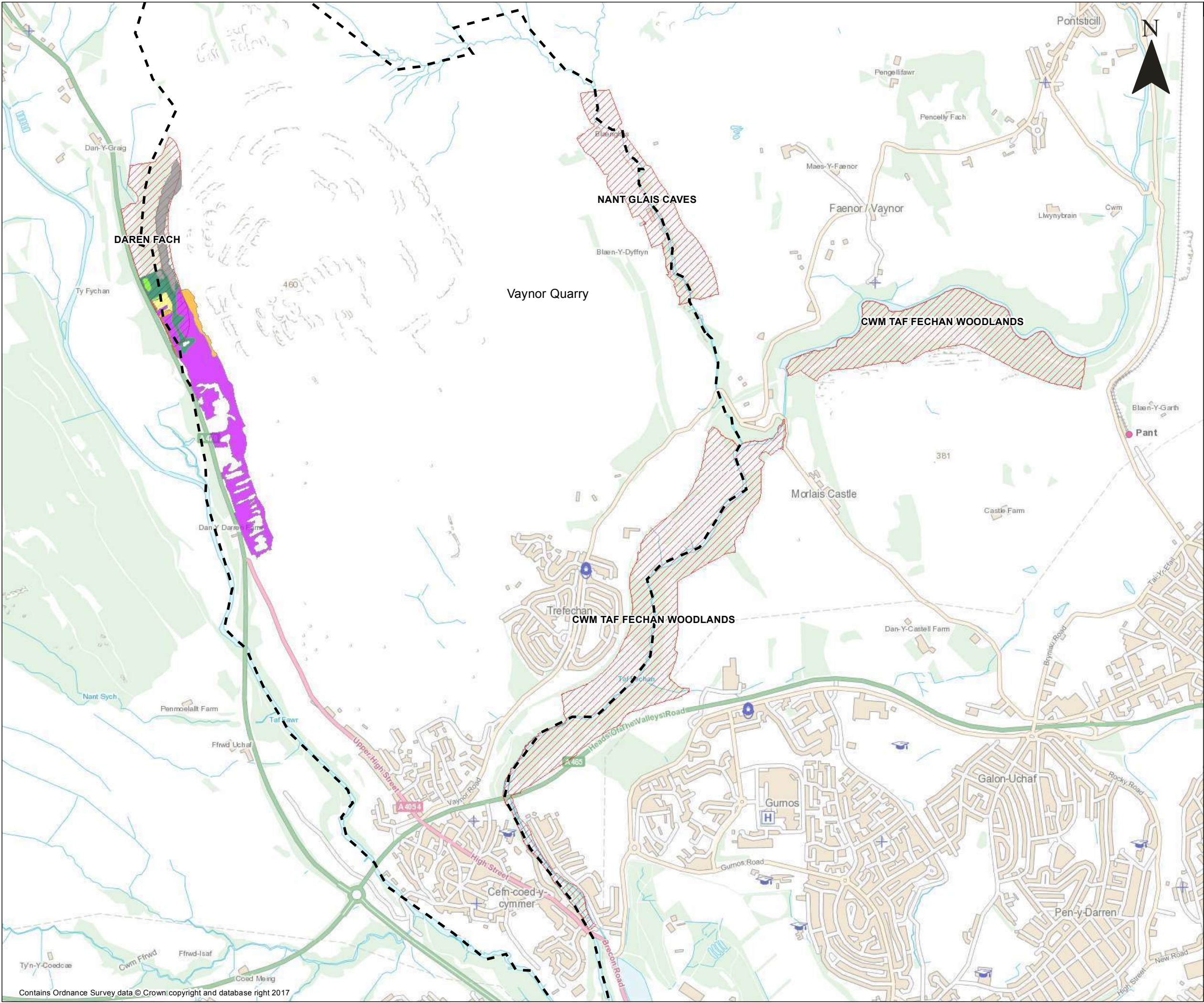
PHASE 2 SURVEY DATA & STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS WITHIN STUDY AREA

1

Scale 1:25,000 @ A3

Date FEBRUARY 2017

00027.00434 2 Phase 2 Lowland Grassland Vegetation



LEGEND

STUDY BOUNDARY

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

LOWLAND GRASSLAND VEGETATION

CG10A

CG1E

DENSE BRACKEN

DENSE SCRUB/WOODLAND

LIMESTONE SCREE INCLUDING OV38

BARE/DISTURBED GROUND

ACCESS NOT OBTAINED

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PHASE 2 SURVEY DATA

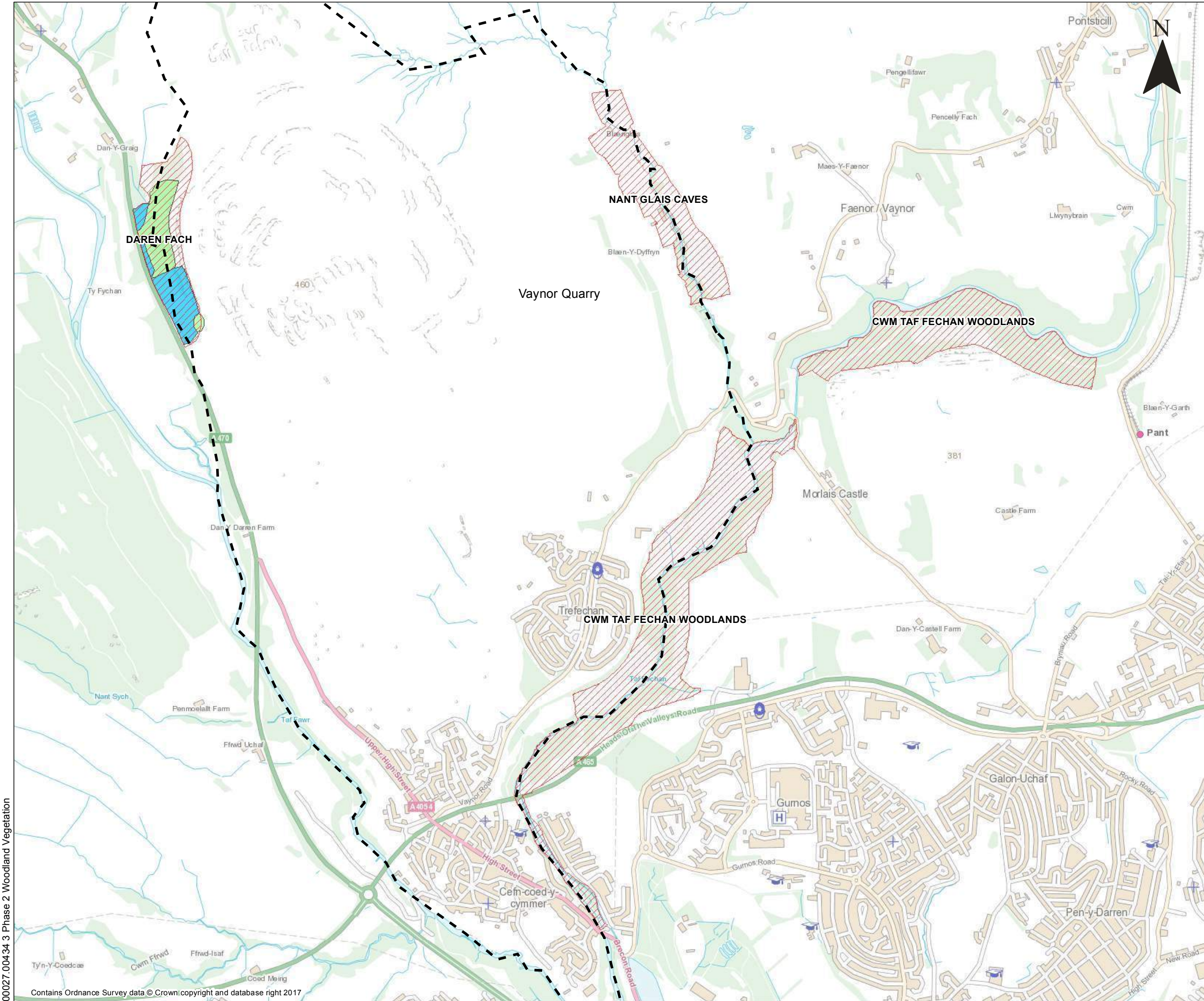
LOWLAND GRASSLAND VEGETATION

2

Scale 1:15,000 @ A3

Date FEBRUARY 2017

00027.00434 3 Phase 2 Woodland Vegetation



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LEGEND

STUDY BOUNDARY

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

WOODLAND VEGETATION

W8e

Other Vegetation

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ECOLOGY

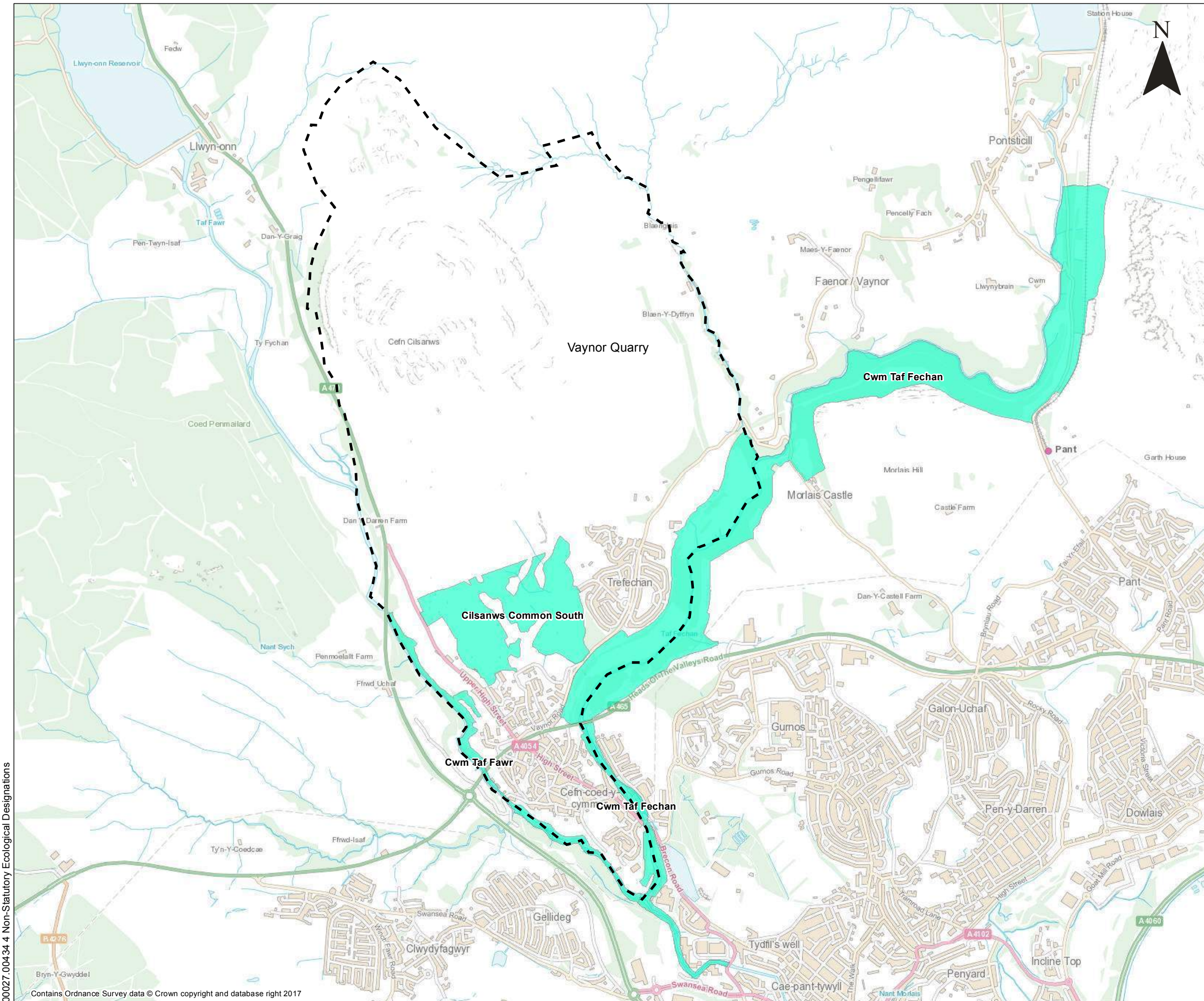
**PHASE 2 SURVEY DATA
WOODLAND VEGETATION**

3

Scale 1:15,000 @ A3

Date FEBRUARY 2017

00027.00434 4 Non-Statutory Ecological Designations



LEGEND

STUDY BOUNDARY

SITE OF IMPORTANCE TO NATURE CONSERVATION

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VAYNOR QUARRY

ECOLOGY

**NON-STATUTORY
ECOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS**

4

Scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Date MARCH 2017

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MERTHYR TYDFIL

NANT GLAIS CAVES

Date of Notification: 1963, 1985

National Grid Reference: SO 040105

O.S. Maps 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 00/10, SO 01/11

Site Area: 15.7 ha

Description:

The site covers the limestone gorge of the Nant Glais and two vadose cave systems which lie parallel to it and under each bank. Both caves are formed at the contact of the oolitic and dolomitic facies within the Carboniferous Limestone and the contrasting solutional properties of the two lithologies have spectacularly influenced the passage morphology. The caves are also important for their unusually large populations of white trout.

Remarks:

The site is within the Brecon Beacons National Park and is in part a Glamorgan Trust for Nature Conservation Reserve.

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**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MERTHYR TYDFIL

CWM TAF FECHAN WOODLANDS

Date of Notification: 1972, 1985

National Grid Reference: SO 052101

O.S. Maps 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 00, 01, 10

Site Area: 60.9 ha

Description:

Where the partially wooded valley of the Taf Fechan crosses the north crop Carboniferous Limestone. Mixed deciduous woodlands cover steep slopes and spoil from quarries with one of the few Glamorgan stations for *Gymnocarpium robertianum*. There are interesting plant communities in flushes around tufa springs and luxuriant growths of bryophytes in the splash zone of the river.

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**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MERTHYR TYDFIL

DAREN FACH

Date of notification: 1960, 1983

National Grid Reference: SO019105

O.S. Maps 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: S0 01

Site Area: 12.1 ha

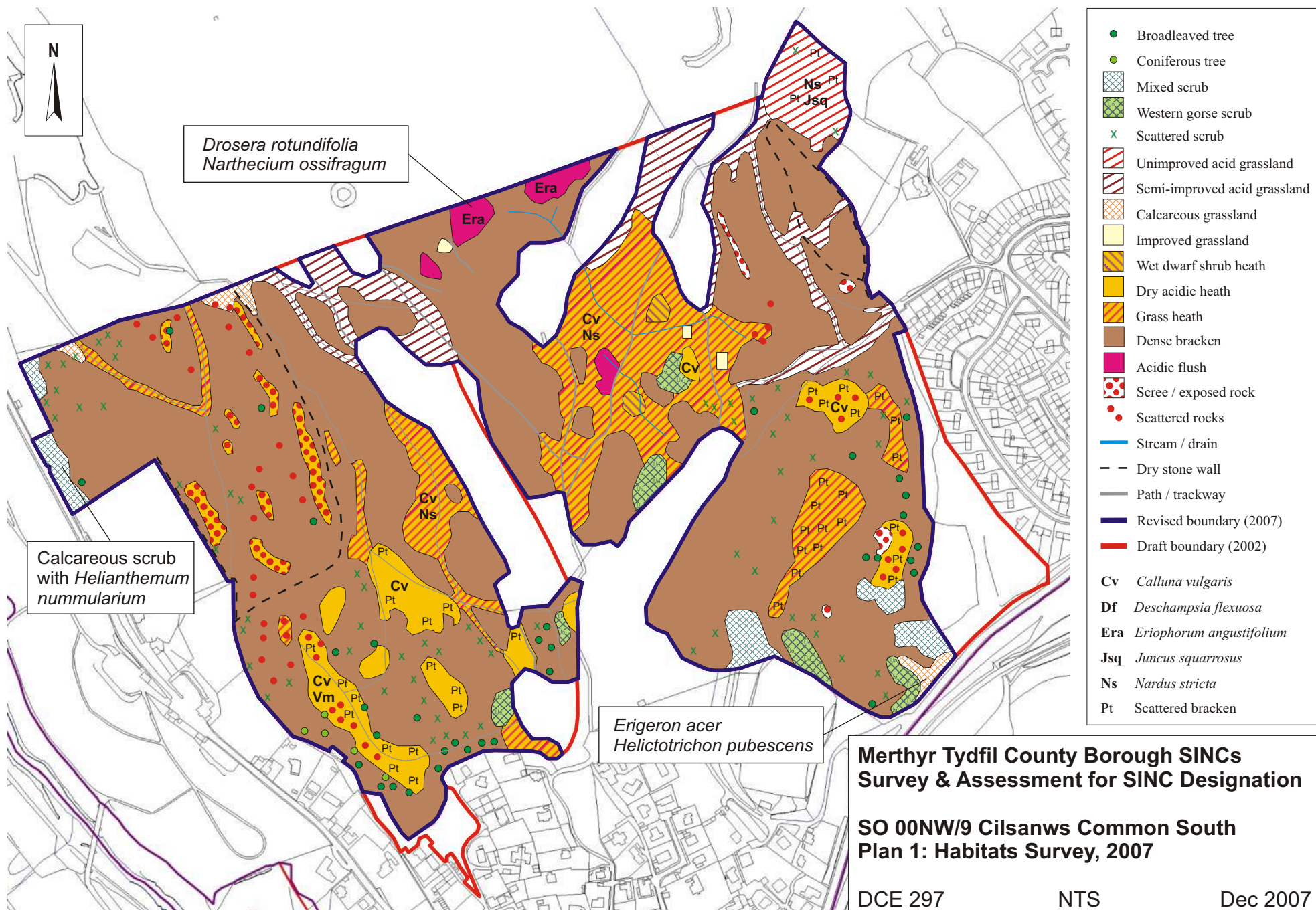
Description:

The site consists of an open scrub on low limestone cliffs with screes and woodland on the gentler slopes. The latter are dominated by ash inter-mixed with wych elm together with a well developed understorey of hazel and hawthorn. Field maple is present and a group of small-leaved lime lies at the northern end. The primary interest lies in a concentration of *Sorbus* spp. on the southern end of the Darren Fach crags. This is the type locality for the rare Ley's Whitebeam *Sorbus leyana*. Several shrubs of *S. leyana* together with a specimen of *S. rupicola* grow in association with ash, yew and holly.

Remarks:

Within the Brecon Beacons National Park

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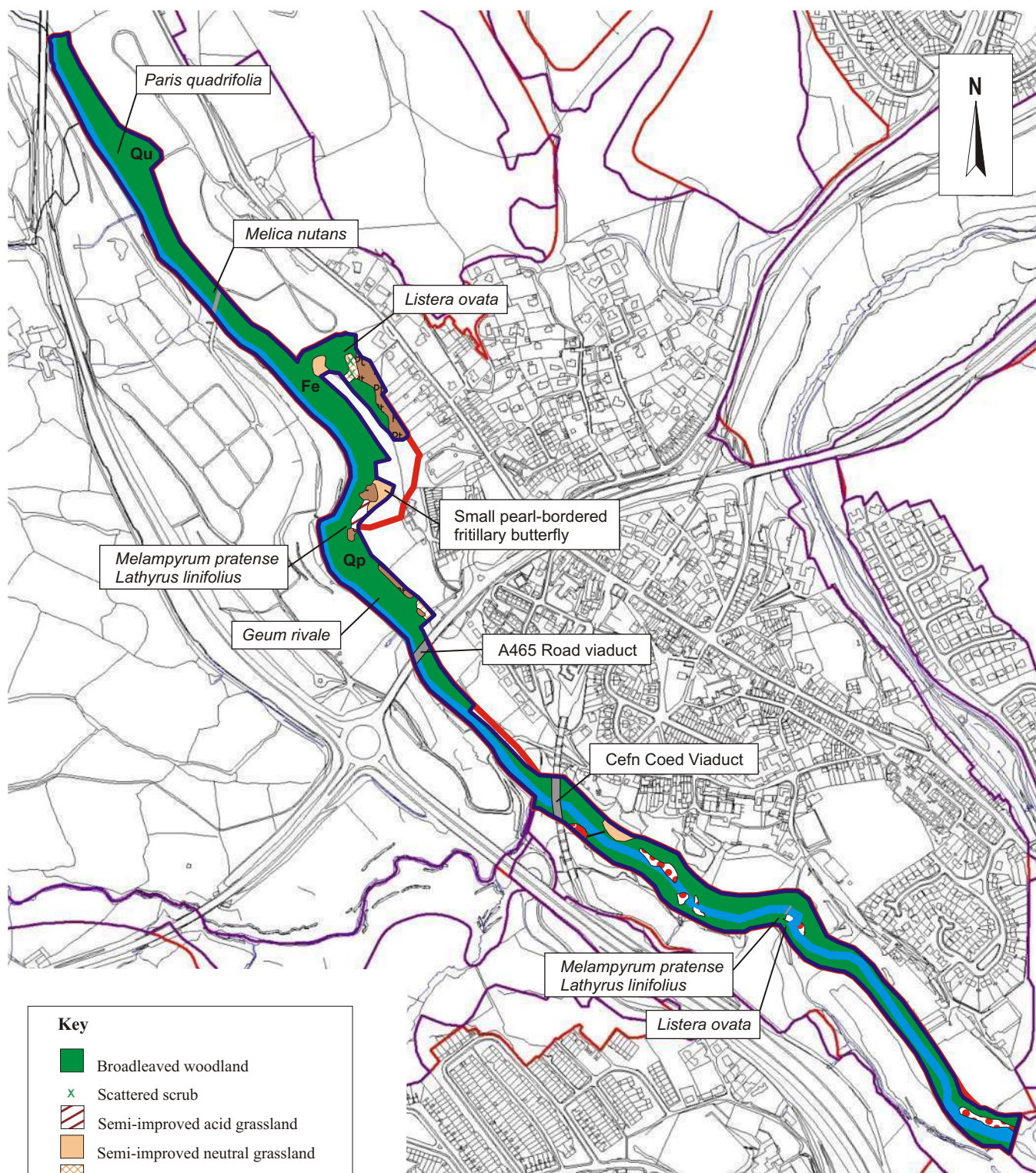
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough SINCS Survey & Assessment for SINC Designation

**SO 00NW/9 Cilsanws Common South
Plan 1: Habitats Survey, 2007**

DCE 297

NTS

Dec 2007



Key

- Broadleaved woodland
- Scattered scrub
- Semi-improved acid grassland
- Semi-improved neutral grassland
- Calcareous grassland
- Dense bracken
- Japanese knotweed (dense stand)
- Exposed Bedrock / River cobbles
- River
- Road / bridge
- Revised boundary (2008)
- Draft boundary (2002)

Dominant Species Codes

- Fe** *Fraxinus excelsior*
- Qp** *Quercus petraea*
- Qu** *Quercus* spp

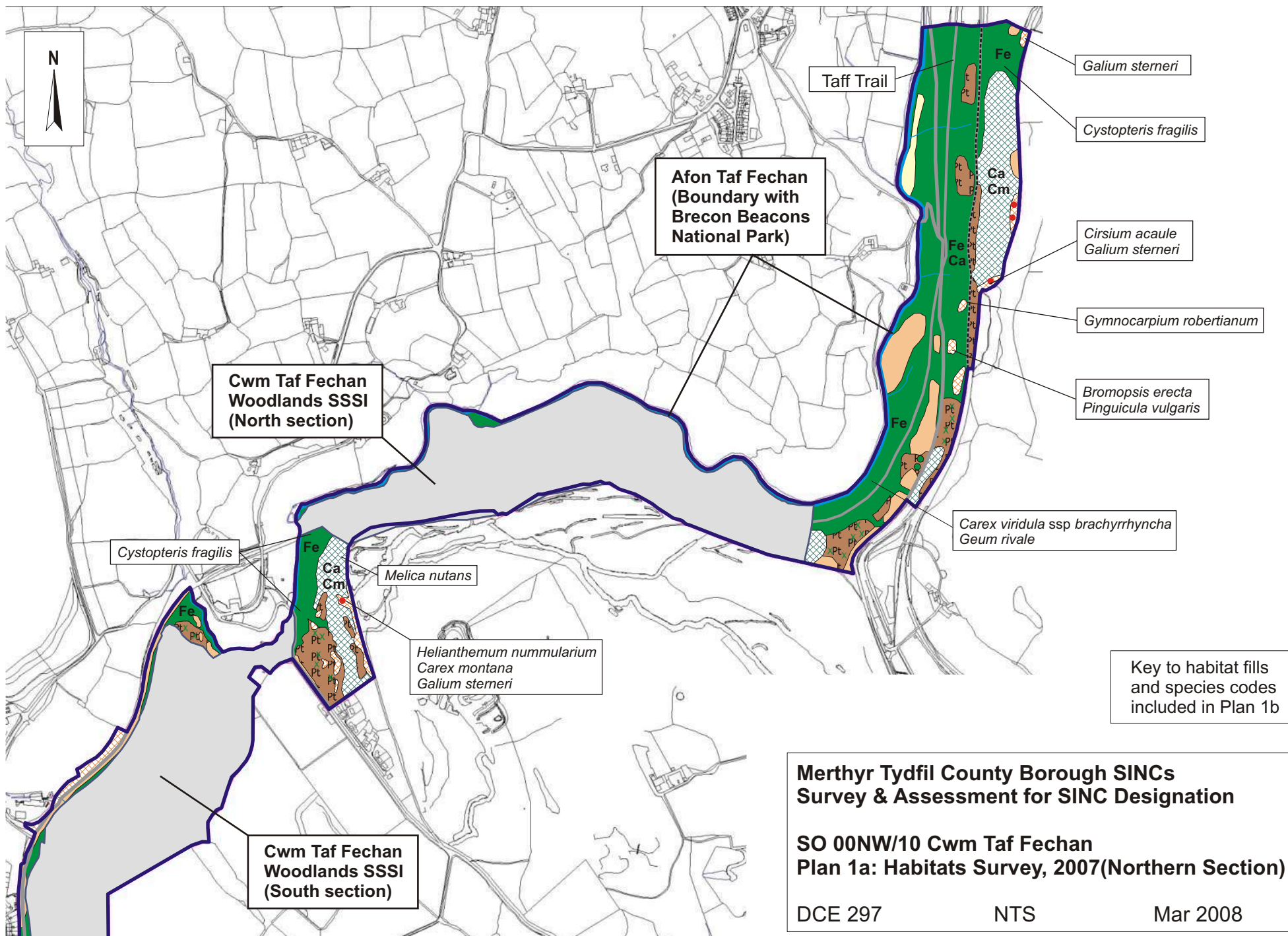
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough SINCS Survey & Assessment for SINCS Designation

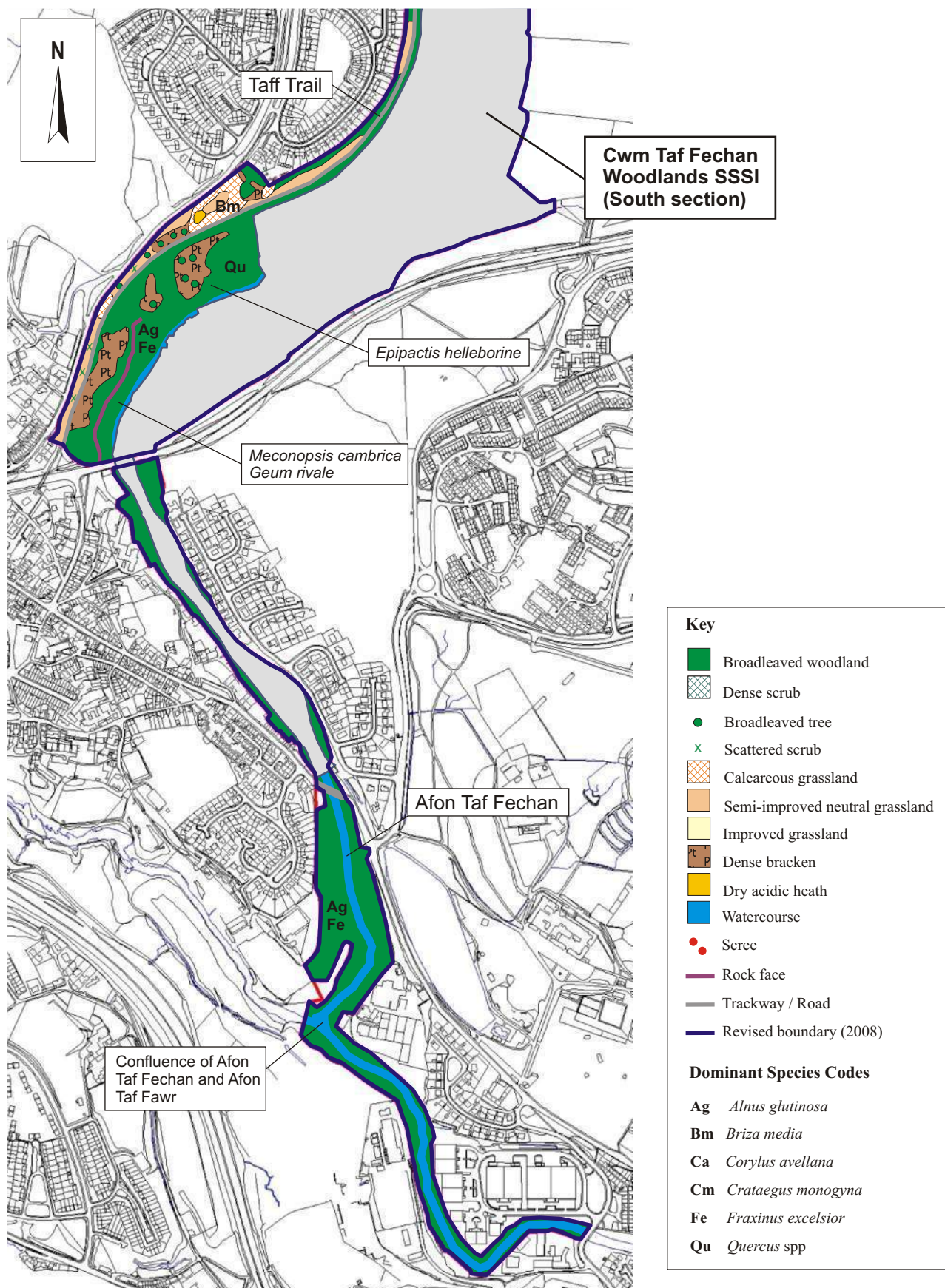
**SO 00NW/11 Cwm Taf Fawr
Plan 1: Habitats Survey, 2007**

DCE 297

NTS

Apr 2008





Merthyr Tydfil County Borough SINCs Survey & Assessment for SINC Designation

**SO 00NW/10 Cwm Taf Fechan
Plan 1b: Habitats Survey, 2007(Southern Section)**

DCE 297

NTS

Mar 2008

APPENDIX B – FURTHER CONSULTATION

Response From NRW Re: Darren Fach SSSI

From: Sharp, Nick [<mailto:Nick.Sharp@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk>]
Sent: 02 February 2017 17:05
To: Andy Law
Subject: EIA Scoping in relation to Vaynor Quarry

Hi Andy,

Good to speak to you just now. Just a quick e-mail to confirm the agreed approach regarding the scoping of SSSI relevant to the above project. I agree that Daren Fach SSSI may be scoped out of hydrological study for this application as it's distance from the quarry as well as the local topography mean that it is very unlikely to be hydrologically connected.

As you mentioned on the phone, Nant Glais Caves SSSI and Cwm Taf Fechan Woodlands SSSI will need to be considered as they are in closer proximity to the quarry and also have features of interest that could potentially be affected by the proposals.

I look forward to the opportunity to comment in more detail on the application in due course, when more information is available.

Regards,

Nick Sharp

Conservation Officer (Taf Natural Resource Management Team) / Swyddog Cadwraeth (Tîm Rheolaeth Adnoddau Naturiol y Taf)

Response From MTCBC

Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Thanks Chris,

OK well as a broad overview and brief considerationI am not aware of detailed habitat survey on site but several detailed and ongoing species surveys have been undertaken by the Wildlife Trust with most results being sent to SEWBReC.

In my opinion the greatest water dependant habitat it will impact is the most obvious, the river itself with the associated species including otter and salmon.

Anecdotally from personal experience most of the water from the quarry enters Taf Fechan SSSI through small streams which do have important contributing localised flora but changes in these will increase erosion (causing additional access problems and land management problems in addition to habitat loss) or result in more sporadic/lower water flow changing bankside flora. Erosion in these areas is currently a problem so a more regularised flow with less flash flooding is desirable.

APPENDIX B – FURTHER CONSULTATION

Changes in flow entering Afon Taf Fechan will also be important downstream for the historic extraction through Gurnos Leat (Scheduled Ancient Monument) in to Cyfarthfa Castle Pond and Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association weirs installed for salmon spawning.

The neighbouring Nant Glais Caves SSSI will also be important to consider although this is within Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and I would imagine that they have more details of that.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Rolf Brown

Swyddog Cefn Gwlad/Ecolegydd (Countryside Officer/Ecologist)

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Siriol Merthyr Tudful (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)



From: Chris Mitchell [<mailto:ChrisMitchell@slrconsulting.com>]
Sent: 09 November 2016 14:34
To: Brown, Rolf; Jess Colebrook
Cc: Carys Solman (c.solman@welshwildlife.org)
Subject: RE: Vaynor Quarry, Merthyr Tydfil: ecological info request [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Hi Rolf,

We have the 'high level' site locations and descriptions / citations gathered through an initial data search, together with the NRW Phase 1 habitat data, but we would really like to understand if there are any ground water dependant habitats or features within these designated sites to help advise the project hydrogeologists if there are such habitats/features that may require consideration in the scoping and EIA design stages of the ROMP process. So if, through personal knowledge or more detailed surveys such as NVC (?) being available, you are able to provide some further details to help us assess if any ground water dependant habitats occur and might be in need of further consideration that would be very helpful.

This isn't to say additional aspects may need consideration, just that with the lead in periods associated with Hydrological assessment that we are considering this particular aspect at a very early stage.

Many thanks in advance,

Chris

Chris Mitchell

CEcol CEnv

Associate Consultant - Ecology

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