

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol Blaenau Gwent
Local Development Plan Examination
Ymchwiliad Cynllun Datblygu Lleol

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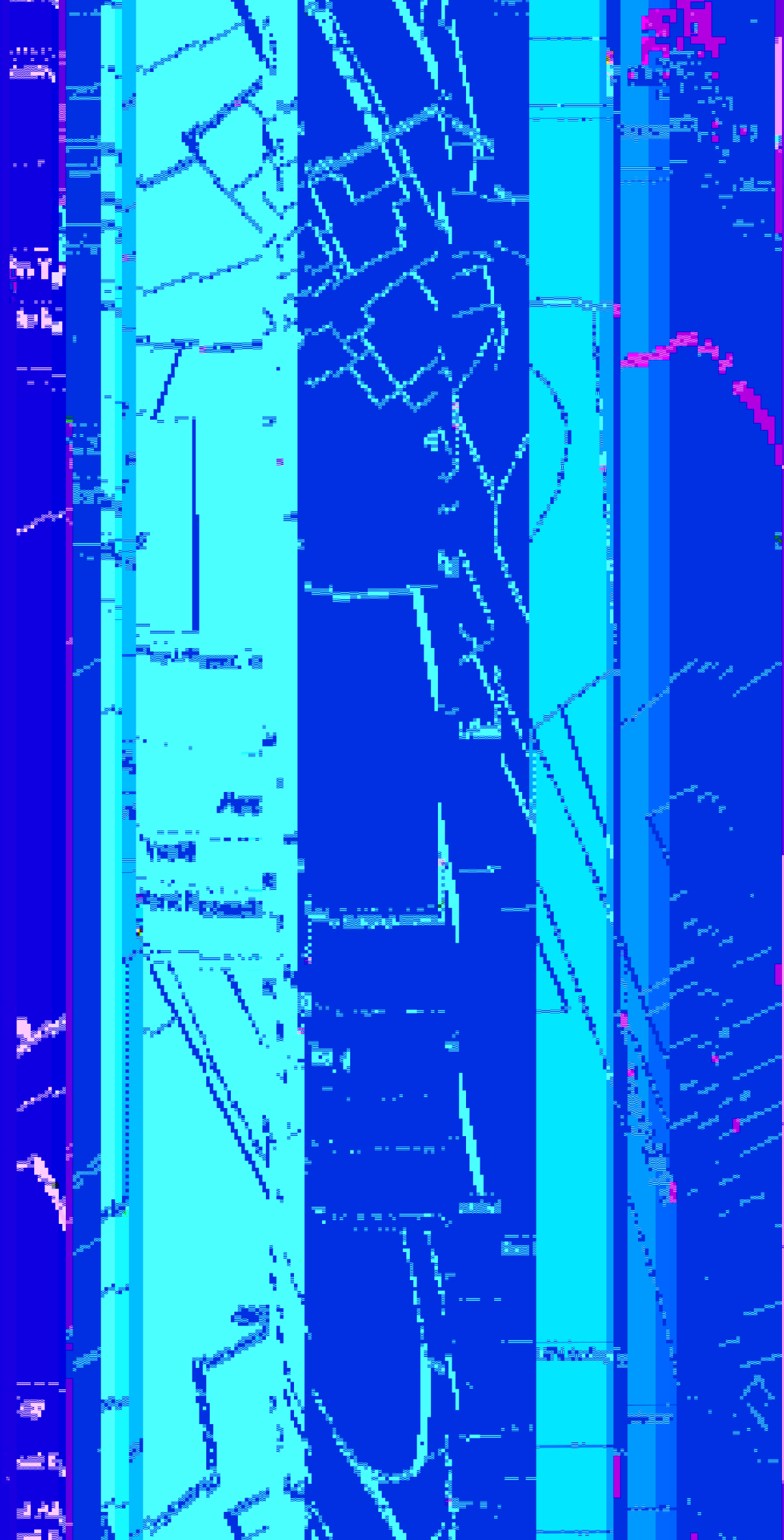
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From/Oddi wrth: Katie Partington

To/I: Hayley Spender

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Date/Dyddiad: 19th July 2012

Memorandum / Memorandwm

Gwent Wildlife Trust Survey: Ty Pwdr and Greenmeadow Housing Development Habitat Survey

The County Ecologist was requested to assess the Gwent Wildlife Trust habitat survey and associated plans presented by Mr I.Watkins/Ian Roberts Consultancy in support of their request to allocate an area of land known as Ty Pwdr for housing within the LDP.

The Gwent Wildlife Trust habitat survey is not dated but the Council is informed it was undertaken in the early 1990's. The report does not include a survey methodology nor does it state what time of year the survey was undertaken, this is vital information required when assessing the value of the results. Standard survey protocols exist for habitat surveying that involves set methodologies and undertaking surveys at an appropriate time of year. Any survey undertaken outside of the prescribed methods and timing would not be considered as part of a planning application and should not be considered as evidence.

A more recent ecological report has been produced by David Clements Ecology (2009). This report supersedes the Gwent Wildlife Trust report and supports the allocation of the site as a SINC. It should be noted that the David Clements report was undertaken as part of a planning application and the surveyors had access to the whole site. The report follows standard methodology and was undertaken at the appropriate time of year resulting in a high level of confidence in the results. The report concludes that, "the site supports high quality seminatural habitats which justify its inclusion within the Greenmeadows Farm SINC".

It should also be noted that although the Council tries to work with landowners and provides advice on management of SINC's, landownership has no bearing on SINC designation. If the habitat meets the criteria then it is included within the SINC boundary regardless of ownership.

Katie Partington
Ecologist

