

COWSLIP *PRIMULA VERIS* SPECIES ACTION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The cowslip has been identified as an important flowering plant species in Caerphilly county borough. It is not listed in the UKBAP, but is considered to be rare locally.

Relevant Legislation/Species Status	
priority (P) or species of conservation concern (S)	-
EC Habitats Directive	-
Conservation Regs 1994	-
Berne Convention 1982	-
Bonn Convention 1979	-
CITES 1975	-
WCA 1981	Part I, Section 13
Other Species Status	-



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2. CURRENT STATUS

2.1 UK and Wales

The cowslip is a native species to Britain and is quite frequent throughout England and Wales. It is mainly found in pastures and meadows, grassy habitats, scrub and open woodland, on banks and roadsides, and mainly on dry calcareous soils. It is often locally abundant and can be found cultivated in gardens.

2.2 Caerphilly County Borough

In the former Rhymney Valley district of the county borough it is found on the edges of meadows, but it has only been recorded in the south on basic soils and a railway line embankment in Maesycwmmmer, and is considered rare in the north²⁸. It is usually common in old pastures and meadows, on field banks, roadsides and railway embankments, on base-rich soils, but there are very few recent records so further survey work and public involvement is required. However, there are a few SINIC sites in the county borough where the cowslip has been noted⁸, these are listed below (see **Map 16.3**): 168: **Caerphilly Common**, 170: **Cefn Onn Ridge**, 172: **Rudry Woodlands** and 185: **Blaengwynlais Meadows**.

2.3 Links with Habitats

- **Wildlife Corridors** (hedgerows, roadside verges and railways)
- *Common Land*
- *Post-Industrial Land*
- *Urban Habitats*

3. CURRENT FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPECIES

- No recent survey work has been undertaken to identify current distribution of the cowslip.
- Wildflower picking can be a problem in some areas.

- Unfavourable management of roadside verges and other habitats, such as pastures, where they have been improved for agriculture. This has led to the loss of a large proportion of former cowslip strongholds.

4. CURRENT ACTION

- 4.1 Some countywide surveys have been undertaken by BSBI, but no recent surveys.
- 4.2 Several sites supporting cowslips have been designated as SINCs⁸.

5. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

5.1 UK Objectives and Targets

Not applicable to this species.

5.2 Caerphilly Objectives and Targets

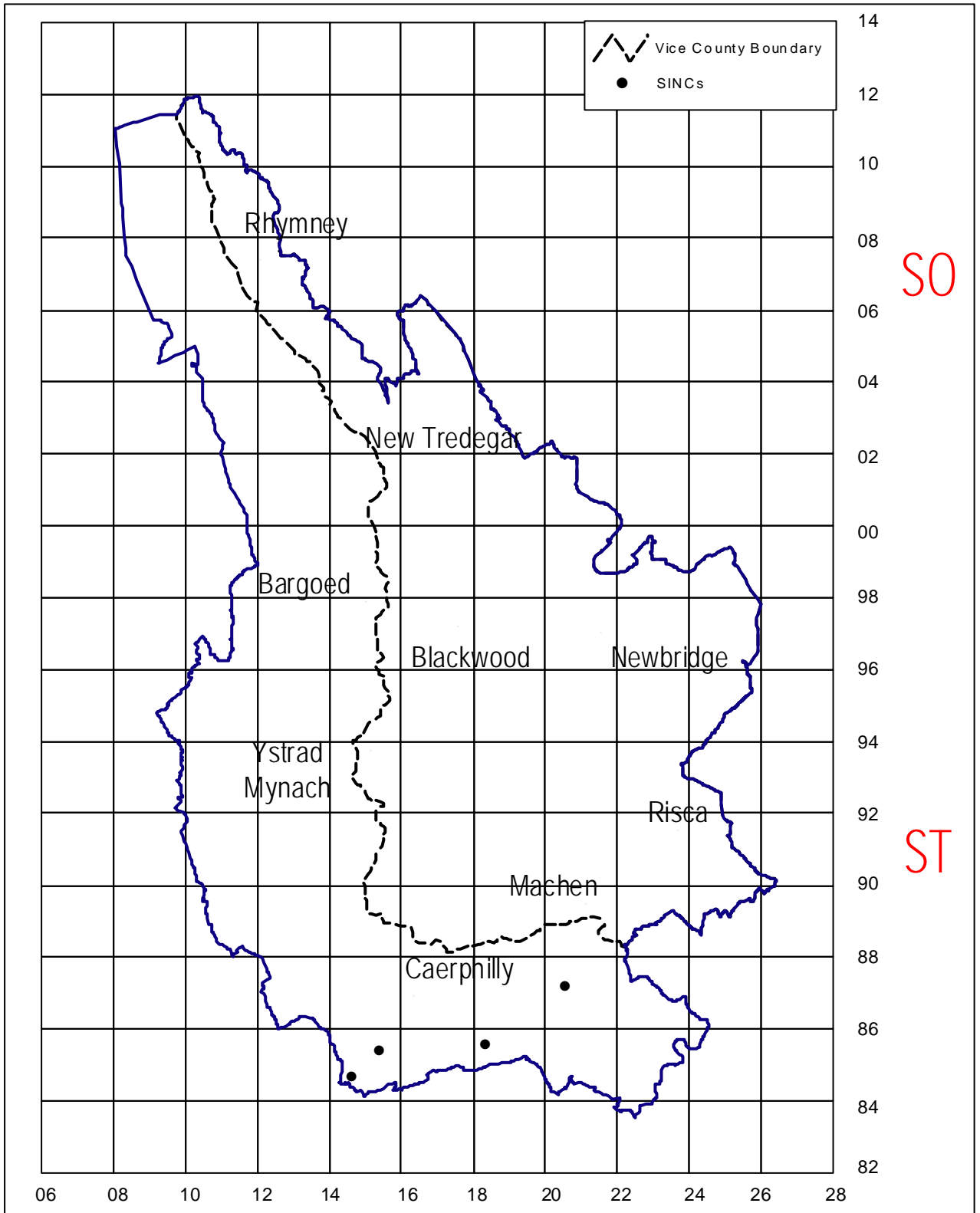
- 5.2.1 Carry out a county borough-wide survey for the species, and encourage reports of sightings from the general public (Target: 2005).
- 5.2.2 Maintain and enhance the population and distribution of the cowslip, and encourage spread into new areas (Target: ongoing).

6. ACTION AND KEY PARTNERS

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.1 Policy and Legislation											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									
6.2 Site Safeguard and Management											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									
6.3 Species Management and Protection											
6.3.1 Continue to implement wildlife legislation.	Gwent Police	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6.4 Advisory											
None proposed at this time.	-	-									
6.5 Future Research and Monitoring											
6.5.1 Survey all possible habitat to establish current status and identify important areas.	BSBI	CCBC	✓	✓	✓						
6.5.2 Monitor all established sites on a five-yearly basis.	BSBI	-	✓				✓				✓

Action	Key Partners		Year to be complete or in place by:								
	Lead	Partners	2003	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.6 Communications and Publicity											
6.6.1 Disseminate survey and monitoring information to BSBI, CCW, National Museum of Wales, CCBC, and landowners, and any other relevant information to the general public.	CBP	BSBI libraries schools	✓				✓				✓
6.6.2 Inform landowners of the biodiversity importance of cowslips.	CBP	landowners	✓				✓				✓

MAP 16.3 - COWSLIP



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 Caerphilly County Borough Council, LA09004L, 2001.

Atgynhychwyd o fapiad yr Arolwg Ordnans gyda chaniatad rheolwr Llyfrfa ei Mawrhydi hawlfraint y Goron.
 Mae atgynhychu heb awdurdod yn torri hawlfraint y Goron. Gall hyn arwain at erlyniad neu achos sfiil.
 Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili, LA09004L, 2001.