

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CABAN LAKESIDE WOODLANDS

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1988
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN914630
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 147 1:25,000 Sheet number: SN96
<u>Site Area:</u>	11.5 ha

Description:

These remnants of ancient woodland survive on the east-facing slopes above Caban Coch Reservoir and support one of the most interesting lower plant floras in Radnor. A total of 109 epiphytic species of lower plants have been recorded from the site.

On damp decaying logs and rocks in the humid gorge of Nant Gwyllt, a number of bryophytes with a western Atlantic distribution in Britain occur, eg *Dicranodontium denudatum*, *Bazzania trilobata*, *Odontoschisma denudatum*, *Plagiochila spinulosa*, *Saccogyna viticulosa* and *Scapania gracilis*. Wet dead wood supplies a habitat for a specialised lichen flora. *Ptchographa xylographa* occurs here in one of only two known sites south of the Eastern Highlands of Scotland.

Large and ancient oak trees provide the other important habitat, particularly for lichens. Scarce species typically confined to ancient woodlands which occur here include *Arthonia vinosa*, *Catillaria sphaeroides*, *Lecanactis premnae*, *Pertusaria hemisphaerica* and *Thelotrema lepadinum*. Dead and sheltered, bark-free wood is also abundant with its specialised flora. This nationally scarce habitat here supports many members of the *Caliciales*, eg *Calicium salicinum*, *Chaenotheca brunneola*, *C. chrysocephala* and *C. trichialis*. On bark the scarce *Calicium subquercinum* is abundant, with the rarer *Catillaria globulosa*. Communities of this nature are elsewhere in Britain best developed in central-northern and north-eastern Scotland.

The high rainfall of the Elan uplands favours the growth of moisture demanding species such as the lichens *Parmelia laevigata*, *Haematomma elatinum* and *Buellia pulvereae*. These species, together with others such as *Sphaerophorus globosus* and *Mycoblastis sanguinariis*, form the community called the *Parmelion laevigatae*, better developed in this area than anywhere else known in Radnor.

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