

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

COEDYDD Y BEILI, MALGWYN A CRIBIN

Date of Notification: 1985, 1985

National Grid Reference: SN 900839 & SN 908841

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 88 & SN 98

Site Area: 28.4 ha

Description:

The site is an outstanding example of sessile oak woodland with variable amounts of birch and rowan in which there is a characteristic acid ground-flora developed on freely draining soils, but with local areas of impeded drainage and seasonal waterlogging. There is a high diversity of flowering plants with more than one hundred species recorded to date, including local rarities.

This site consists of two discrete parts separated by an area of coniferous plantation. The woods are on hill slopes between 213 and 305 metres above sea level. There are several streams and waterfalls present. The aspect is predominantly north-facing, but Coed y Beili faces south-east. The western unit is lightly grazed and has a diverse range of flowering plants. Coed Cribin, on the other hand, is heavily grazed, has a restricted range of flowering plants, but has a good representation of moss carpets. The north-western area, however, is fenced out from stock and has a bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* ground-layer. Natural regeneration of oak and rowan is occurring.

Most of the site is dominated by mature sessile oak, but the woodland structure is more varied in the western unit and is locally dominated by birch. Rowan is also locally frequent in this area, but is of sparse occurrence in Coed Cribin. There is an area of derelict hazel coppice in Coed y Beili. Understorey development is varied, but is locally well developed in parts of the site. The ground layer is also varied. Open areas may support extensive areas of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and/or bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, with a fairly poor range of plant species, but an abundant representation of species such as a common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*. More shaded areas have a richer flora, with a good development of ferns in the western end of the site. Both oak fern *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* and beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis* are well represented. Other plants typical of the more herb-rich areas include enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*. One wet area supports the uncommon smooth-stalked sedge *Carex laevigata*. Both heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bilberry are widespread, although the former is generally infrequent. Diversity of moss species and

occurrence of moss carpets is better represented in Coed Cribin than in other parts of the site. Characteristic species include *Leucobryum glaucum*.

Saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, a locally uncommon plant in Montgomery, occurs on a road-verge included within this site.

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