

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**CILCENNI DINGLE**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1981, 1983, 1989
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SO176414
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 148 1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 14
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	20.2 ha

**Description:**

This site is predominantly ancient semi-natural mixed woodland and is an excellent species-rich example of such woodland developed on soils derived from Devonian rocks. In addition to a number of locally uncommon plant species, the site is of note for the occurrence of dormouse and otter. The site comprises the wooded slopes of a steep-sided dingle (whose stream flows in an east-west direction) and some areas of grassland and scrub on the dingle edge. The dingle is narrow and does not exceed 150 metres at its widest point. Most of the area is fenced out from grazing stock.

The site is varied in structure, with mixed aged oak (*Quercus petraea* and *Q. petraea/robur* hybrids) and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* being the dominant canopy species. Additionally, standing and fallen dead elm *Ulmus* spp. is frequent. Wild cherry *Prunus avium* is a widespread canopy species. The shrub layer is well developed, with locally abundant hazel *Corylus avellana*, field maple *Acer campestre* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. Other shrub species include guelder-rose *Virburnum opulus* and spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. Bramble thickets are widespread. In addition to honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, other climbers such as black bryony *Tamus communis* are well represented.

The vegetation of the woodland can be described as principally variants of the ash - field maple - dog's mercury *Fraxinus excelsior*-*Acer campestre*-*Mercurialis perennis* type of botanical community. Characteristically, it has a diverse and species-rich ground layer, including locally abundant enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, herb-robert *Geranium robertianum*, wood avens *Geum urbanum*, ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*, wood speedwell *Veronica montana* and dog's mercury. Other widespread species include opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, pendulous sedge *Carex pendula*, great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, and on rock outcrops, the locally uncommon soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum*. Other uncommon species occurring are alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*, slender St. John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*, herb-Paris *Paris quadrifolia* and wood melick *Melica uniflora*.

Otters have been recorded by the stream, and some areas of woodland, wood edge and scrub have resident dormice.

**Remarks:**

Most of the site is owned by the Woodland Trust.

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