

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

HENDRE, LLANGEDWYN

Date of Notification: 1994

National Grid Reference: SJ 187234

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 125
1:25,000 Sheet number: SJ 12

Site Area: 1.3 ha

Description:

This site is notified for its species interest, lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.

The site is located on the steep, north-facing side of the Tanat Valley, 0.5 kilometres south of the village of Llangedwyn, 12 kilometres west-south-west of the town of Oswestry. It is at an altitude of 170-210 metres above mean sea level, with the Afon Tanat 70-110 metres below in the valley bottom. The valley runs from west to east and is richly provided with hedges, tree-and-shrub-lined river and stream banks and extensive mixed woodlands, some of which are ancient woodland sites. There are numerous traditional farm buildings that are not intensively used and a few small disused mines. The valley thus affords excellent habitat for bats.

The site comprises a small cottage (the bat roost) and, on both sides of green lanes near it, tall, overgrown species-rich hedges that provide vital access for feeding and links to adjacent mixed woodland, such as Flag Plantation.

The cottage is half-timbered with cruck-frame and is believed to be medieval in origin. In the nineteenth century some stone gable-ends were added and the thatch roof replaced with slate. It shelters the tenth (1993 records) largest breeding (nursery) roost of lesser horseshoe bat in Wales, and the second largest in Clwyd, with annual counts of well in excess of 100 adults. The individuals that breed here are known to use the nearby Gartheryr mine as a winter roost (hibernaculum). Two other species of bat also use the cottage, pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*. Small numbers of all three species hibernate in the cottage.

The hedges are dominated by hazel *Corylus avellana* with locally abundant hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, field maple *Acer campestre*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, crab apple *Malus*

sylvestris and oak *Quercus sp.* The mixed woodland is co-dominated by oak and larch *Larix sp.*, with some ash, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, birch *Betula sp.*, and wych elm *Ulmus glabra* along the woodland edge. These habitats provide good feeding areas and are vitally important in allowing the breeding bats access to feeding sites elsewhere.

Remarks:

Hendre Cottage is a Grade 2 listed building and a Vincent Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve.

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