

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**COED HAFOD-FRAITH**

**Date of Notification:** 1985

**National Grid Reference:** SO 007814

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 08

**Site Area:** 11.7 ha

**Description:**

The site is a good example of sessile oak woodland with plentiful rowan and a ground layer dominated by moss carpets on freely draining soils. Wetter areas adjacent to streams increase the variety of plant species present and the occurrence of the oak fern *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* is of particular interest.

The site occupies north and north-west facing slopes between 275 and 335 metres (900 and 1100 feet) above sea level. Grazing is light to moderate and the wood is fenced out from the pasture on the upper slopes of the hill. Hazel is particularly well represented, with parts of the site forming a characteristic upland sessile oak-hazel vegetation type.

Much of the site comprises mature sessile oak woodland with a limited herb-layer and moss carpets which locally form most of the ground cover. The majority of flowering plant species are sparsely represented; typical species include creeping soft-grass *Holcus mollis*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and common dog-violet *Viola riviniana*. Wetter areas have a good representation of opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium* and occasional oak fern. A small area of more mixed deciduous woodland occurs at the eastern end of the site adjacent to the stream. Occasional ash and elm occur here, and the ground layer reflects an apparently varied base status. Great wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, an uncommon plant in Montgomery woodlands, occurs in this section of the wood together with yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*.

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