

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE

COOMBE VALLEY WOODS

Date of Notification: 1971, 1984
National Grid Reference: ST 459932
O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 49
Site Area: 32.2 ha

Description:

This complex of woods lies in a narrow steep-sided valley of the Cas Troggy brook on strongly calcareous soils overlying dolomitized Carboniferous Limestone.

The ancient semi-natural high forest and old coppice-with-standards contain important examples of calcareous woodland types with a diversity of canopy trees including beech *Fagus sylvatica*, small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, oak *Quercus robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, field maple *Acer campestre* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*.

The many subordinate tree and shrub species include whitebeams *Sorbus spp* and extensive areas of yew *Taxus baccata* and hazel *Corylus avellana*.

The rich ground flora has a number of rare and local species including lily of the valley *Convallaria majalis*, fetid hellebore *Helleborus foetidus* and birds nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*.

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