

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CAERPHILLY**

**CEFN Y BRITHDIR**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1991
<b><u>National Grid reference:</u></b>	SO134035
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 171 1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 10
<b><u>Total Area:</u></b>	48.6 ha

**Description:**

Cefn y Brithdir is a hill of Pennant grit, situated on the western side of the upper Rhymney Valley overlooking the town of New Tredegar. The steep north-eastern slopes support the best example in Mid Glamorgan of a dwarf shrub heath community in which crowberry *Empetrum Nigrum* occurs as a co-dominant species.

A range of dry heath species are found on the site. Crowberry is associated with bilberry *Vaccinium Myrtillus*. Heather *Calluna Vulgaris* grows around the crags and rocky outcrops where grazing is less intense. Grasses include wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia Flexuosa*, sheep's-fescue *Festuca Ovina* and mat-grass *Nardus Stricta*.

The diversity and relative density of the dwarf shrub species present on this site is unusual in Mid Glamorgan. Crowberry is here close to the southern edge of its range in Britain.

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