

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**COED-Y-PERSON**

**Date of Notification:** 1971, 1986  
**National Grid Reference:** SO 279134  
**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 161  
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 21  
**Site Area:** 42.6 ha

**Description:**

A large area of ancient semi-natural woodland on the steep north facing lower slopes of the Brecon mountain. The lower edge is formed mainly by the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal except that in places the canal passes through the wood cutting off a small area of the lower slopes.

The underlying rocks are principally Old Red Sandstone with occasional inclusions of Devonian Limestone. The soils are mainly infertile acidic loam with a notably less acidic band below the canal.

The site includes one of the most extensive areas of coppice beech *Fagus sylvatica* in the county. Other canopy trees include oak *Quercus petraea* and *Q. robur*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus glabra*. The ground flora is generally sparse with large areas dominated by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and *D. caespitosa* reflecting the high level of grazing.

The small area of woodland below the canal is of particular interest because it has been isolated from grazing since the construction of the canal (circa 1792). There is a greater diversity of canopy trees including lime *Tilia cordata* and alder *Alnus glutinosa*. The ground flora of this area is also rich with such species as wood melic *Melica uniflora*, moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina* and woodruff *Galium odoratum*.

**Remarks:**

Within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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