

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

COEDYDD GLANNAU A CWM COEL

Date of Notification: 1967, 1980, 1985, 1990

National Grid Reference: SN 910650, SN 900640

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 86 and SN 96

Site Area: 62.8 ha

Description:

Glannau is a particularly diverse example of a sessile oakwood *Quercus petraea* developed on Silurian strata. The central area is fairly open with mainly oak trees present; a south-east section comprises mixed deciduous woodland with frequent occurrence of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* in the ground layer and another area of dense wood occurs to the north-west in which sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* occur with the oaks. The wood has a locally well developed bryophyte flora, especially on rock outcrops where the shales are fairly calcareous. A fourth section to the wood, adjacent to the shores of Garreg Ddu Reservoir, has a well developed ground layer and epilithic flora only sparsely represented in the rest of this wood.

The Cwm Coel woodland complements the interest of Glannau in that it is a sessile oakwood with well grown oaks in which locally a herb-rich flora has developed, particularly in association with a stream that runs through it. South of the stream the woodland contains a number of species not represented elsewhere in the Cwm Coel woodland including wood horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum* and beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis*. Wilson's filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii*, a species more characteristic of oceanic areas and a very rare plant in Radnor, occurs by the stream. Local areas of base-richness in the woodland permit species such as enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* to occur. An unusual species more typical of the generally acidophilous nature of the site is royal fern *Osmunda regalis*. Old oak trees and decaying logs support an exceptionally rich epiphyte flora of lichens, mosses and liverworts. Species include the subterranean liverwort *Cryptothallus mirabilis* at one of only two known sites in mid-Wales.

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