

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

COED AFON CREWI

Date of Notification: 1988

National Grid Reference: SN 805988

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 89

Site Area: 5.4 ha

Description:

The site is a good example of a mixed deciduous dingle woodland, developed on neutral to basic soils. The soil type and often steep-sided nature of the site is reflected in the range and composition of plant species to be found there. The site is fenced in part, though much is open to grazing stock.

The composition of the wood varies along the dingle from being largely ash dominated (with much oak, birch, rowan and alder) to being oak dominated, at least in parts. Much of the oak has re-grown from stools. Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* is also present, indicating the more base-rich nature of the soil. Locally, hazel, resulting from coppice growth, forms a well-developed shrub-layer. Although the wood is generally uneven in age, there is a distinct lack of old trees, which is probably a reflection of past management. In one part, in a steep gorge, the site is interrupted by a small larch plantation with scattered broadleaved trees.

The ground layer is varied, ranging from typical wet woodland and flush species such as opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, bog stitchwort *Sterraria alsine* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*, with areas of abundant bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp., to drier and more grass-dominated vegetation *Agrostis/ Anthoxanthum/ Holcus*. Wood melick *Melica uniflora* and the rare wood fescue *Festuca altissima* are also present. Locally the ground is particularly herb-rich and includes common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*, yellow archangel *Galeobdolon luteum*, tutsan *Hypericum androseamum* and marsh hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*.

The site also has a variety of ferns, including lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes* and the rare hay-scented buckler-fern *Dryopteris aemula*, here at its only known location in Montgomeryshire.

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