

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

ABERITHON AND BEDW TURBARIES

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1980, 1986
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SO015574, SO019596
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 147 1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 05 SW
<u>Site Area:</u>	11.5 ha

Description:

These two former turbaries lie in hollows of glacial drift. Examination of plant remains in the peat deposits show these hollows to have been lakes in late glacial times with abundant remains of aquatic plants such as water lilies present in the basal peat layers. Later, reed swamp invaded the site as peat accumulated on the lake bed. This in turn was replaced by willow carr. The peat from both sites was then cut by man, but such activities ceased about 50 years ago when the turbaries became flooded with water again. Since then the vegetation has developed without major interference from man. Aberithon Turbary (known also as The Bog) is now partially covered by willow, which is invading areas previously occupied by common reed *Phragmites Australis*. The more open areas support a diverse wetland flora including such uncommon species as lesser bladderwort *Utricularia Minor* and floating club-rush *Scirpus Fluitans*. Bogbean *Menyanthes Trifoliata* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla Palustris* are common. The lichen *Cetraria Sepincola* occurs on birch trees around the edge of the mire. This species is only known from a few sites in England and Wales.

Bedw Turbary (also known as the Upper Bog) carries a similar flora to that of Aberithon. Both sites include areas of drier pasture around their edges. At Bedw the pasture is particularly species-rich with large quantities of dyer's greenweed *Genista Tinctoria* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa Pratensis*. Ant hills made by the ant species *Lasius Flavus* are abundant and carry a characteristic flora. The ivy-leaved bellflower *Wahlenbergia Hederacea* occurs in the damper parts of the pasture.

Both sites are regularly used for field studies.

Remarks:

The Aberithon Turbary is managed as a nature reserve by the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

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