

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

ILLTYD POOLS

Date of Notification: 1965

National Grid Reference: SN 965256 & SN 959264

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 92

Site Area: 93 ha

Description:

This collection of pools and peat-filled hollows on the summit ridge of Mynydd Illtyd is of great botanical and entomological interest. Some of the pools, fed by lime-rich water, support a number of rare calcicolous plant species, including the rare fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* and slender sedge *Carex lasiocarpa*, here at their only known Brecknock locality. Other pools are more acidic, with floating mats of vegetation at their edges. Peat has formed in some hollows producing hummock and hollow mires with well developed hummocks of bog mosses *Sphagnum spp.* and lichens *Cladonia impexa* predominating. A number of uncommon aquatic insects have been recorded in the pools and streams, whilst the hummocks of the mires support an unusual spider fauna. In autumn and winter the site is of ornithological interest, being frequented by waders and other waterfowl.

Remarks:

Within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

49 hectares are managed as a nature reserve by the Brecknock Wildlife Trust by agreement with the commoners and the Lord of the Manor. The reserve is known as The Traeth, Mynydd Illtyd.

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