

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

ALLT CYNHELYG

Date of Notification: 1972, 1984

National Grid Reference: SO026472

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 04

Site Area: 14.3 ha

Description:

This semi-natural sessile oak/hazel woodland is developed on a steep, free draining east-facing slope with low cliffs and screes. Most of the oak trees are of similar age, having regrown from cut stumps, but a few older maiden trees are present. Field maple, ash and wych elm (the latter now mostly killed by Dutch elm disease) occur infrequently and are mainly confined to the low cliffs of slightly calcareous shale of Silurian age (Ludlow Series).

The wood is subject to varying degrees of grazing pressure with a large part of the south-eastern section ungrazed. The ground flora here is dominated by creeping soft-grass *Olcus Mollis* and large fern *Dryopteris* species. On screes the rather scarce oak fern *Gymnocarpium Dryopteris* forms large colonies as does the most notable species of the site, Welsh poppy *Mecanopsis Cambrica*. This latter species occurs here in its largest known colonies in the whole of mid Wales.

Light grazing at the north-eastern end of the wood has produced a species-rich ground flora also favoured by the dry flushing of minerals from above. The western edge is heavily grazed and, being the highest and most exposed part of the site, supports an epiphytic flora which differs from the rest of the wood.

A typical upland oakwood avifauna is present with breeding pied flycatcher, redstart and buzzard.

Remarks:

Sometimes known as Wilson's Wood.

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