

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

LLYN MAWR

Date of notification: 1984

National grid reference: SO 008971

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 09

Site area: 20.1 ha

Description:

This site is a good example of a moderately oligotrophic upland lake in a catchment only partially modified by agricultural improvement. The lake lies at approximately 390 metres above sea level on an upland plateau on which two other lakes occur. It lies in a narrow basin bounded by a hill ridge to the north and south, and it has one principal inlet stream.

The main marginal vegetation consists of thin, scattered beds of bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, although common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* is also present in one locality. A small amount of bulrush *Typha latifolia* adjoins one of the two extensive areas of willow carr *Salix cinerea* which was formed on the northern shore of the lake and which appears to be colonising the lake-bed itself. Yellow water-lily *Nuphar lutea* occurs in discrete zones, most of which are close to the lake-shore. Quillwort *Isoetes lacustris* is also present in the lake.

The site is of considerable ornithological importance and is extensively used by waterfowl. In summer typical species are mallard, tufted duck and goosander, whilst in winter species include whooper swan. The site and surrounding area is also used by wintering Greenland white-fronted geese. Surveys of aquatic invertebrates have yielded a good range of typical species, including eleven species of caddis and four species of dragonfly. The uncommon caddis, *Molanna palpata*, has been recorded.

The immediate catchment of the lake within the site includes some bracken slopes, areas of gorse scrub, acid grassland, wet heath and mesotrophic marsh. The latter two communities are botanically the more species-rich and, at the western end of the site, form an interesting progression from soligenous to aquatic transitional mire. Bog-mosses *Sphagnum spp.*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* occur here. In other parts of the immediate catchment localised flushes rich in sedges *Carex spp.* occur.

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