

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**MONMOUTH/NEWPORT**

**PENHOW WOODLANDS**

**Date of Notification:** 1971, 1984

**National Grid Reference:** ST 425898 and ST 418901

**OS Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171  
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 48, ST 49

**Site Area:** 41.5 ha

**Description:**

These two areas of ancient semi-natural woodland are situated mainly on the steep slopes and summits of limestone hills covered with superficial deposits of a calcareous nature.

The structure is a mixture of high forest, coppice and coppice-with-standards comprising a range of woodland types, several of which have a restricted distribution in Britain. The dominant canopy tree species are lime *Tilia cordata*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, green *Prunus avium*, elm *Ulmus glabra* and hybrids, field maple *Acer campestre* and localised oak *Quercus robur*. The absence of birch *Betula spp* and oak from much of the wood and the presence of a number of fine ancient pollarded trees along a complex of parish boundaries are additional features.

The ground flora is predominately calcicolous and includes a number of nationally rare and locally distributed species, for example Tintern spurge *Euphorbia serrulata*, green hellebore *Helleborus viridis*, bird's nest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis* and wild daffodil *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*.

**Remarks**

Part of this site is subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

This site was formerly names Salisbury Wood

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