

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

COED Y CEFN

Date of Notification: 1980, 1983

National Grid Reference: SN 955677

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 197
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 96

Site Area: 27.5 ha

Description:

A sessile oakwood comprising rather stunted oak trees, probably of secondary growth, and occasional birch. The extent of canopy cover varies from completely closed to open park-like woodland. The ground layer is species-poor, consisting largely of fescue grasses and bracken.

The wood is notable for the occurrence of extremely high densities of the wood ant *Formica lugubris*. Their large mounds are frequent and worker ants are so abundant that their presence is audible to the human ear. This abundance is all the more remarkable in that this is the most southerly site in Britain where this species of ant has been recorded. The chrysolmelid beetle *Clythra*, whose larvae feed on ant pellets, has also been recorded from this site.

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