

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

BRIDGEND

BLACKMILL WOODLANDS

Date of Notification: 1972, 1983, 2001

National Grid Reference: SS 927862 and 930857

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 170
1:10,000 Sheet number: SS 98 NW

Site Area: 70.8 ha

Description:

Blackmill Woodlands is of special interest for the size and geographical position of its semi-natural woodland being the largest known stand of this Annex 1 habitat in the Mid and South Glamorgan Area of Search.

The site comprises two woodland blocks on opposing slopes of the Afon Ogwr valley, 6 kilometres north of Bridgend. The woodlands lie between 80 and 210 metres on shallow, sandy, mineral soils over Pennant Sandstones of the Coal Measures. Both woodlands are situated on Common Land and have been managed subject to common rights since the Middle Ages.

Allt y Rhiw has a north-westerly aspect and is dominated by a uniform stand of sessile oak *Quercus petraea*. The field layer is characterised by bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, with bryophytes such as *Polytrichum formosum* and *Mnium hornum*.

Craig Tal-y-fan is situated on the opposite valley side, with a south-easterly aspect. Sessile oak also dominates on this slope, with the field layer characterised by common bent grass *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, sheep=fescue *Festuca ovina* and wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is also present and forms dense stands in more open areas. Typical bryophytes of the ground layer include the mosses *Polytrichum formosum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Dicranum majus* and *Leucobryum glaucum*.

Remarks:

The site supports woodland vegetation assignable to the habitat type >Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles=, listed on Annex I of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna).

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