

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**CORS CAE'R NEUADD**

**Date of Notification:** 1992

**National Grid Reference:** SN 972750

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN87/97

**Site Area:** 8.6 ha

**Description:**

The site is located in the valley to the west of the village of Panty-y-dwry at an altitude of 290 metres. The underlying geology consists of Silurian rocks of the Llandovery series and Cambic stagnogley soils predominate in the area. The site comprises an extensive area of valley mire with an unusual diversity of both plant species and communities – making up one of the most important mire sites in Radnorshire. Such habitats are now scarce throughout Wales as a result of drainage for agricultural improvement.

The core of the mire has developed over deep peat on the valley floor, adjacent to the Nant Tawelan. This peat has been exploited in the past to leave a series of basins at various stages of re-colonisation by vegetation. The wettest hollows support a floating bog community characterised by an abundance of bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, the bog-mosses *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. palustre*, *S. recurvum* and *S. subnitens*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, with frequent bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus* and the moss *Polytrichum commune*. An unusually wide range of other species is also present, including white sedge *Carex curta*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*. Some of the more recently worked peat cuttings support a more open plant community characterised by carpets of bog-moss *Sphagnum* spp. along with common cottongrass, hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. Dry banks between the old peat cuttings support a heathy grassland community dominated by mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, with frequent sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, the lichen *Cladonia impexa* and the mosses *Hypnum jutlandicum* and *Pleurozium schreberi*.

The uncut mire surface is slightly drier and supports a wet heath community with abundant common cottongrass, the bog-mosses *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. recurvum* and *S. subnitens*, and deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, and frequent purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, star sedge *Carex echinata*, sharp-flowered rush, cranberry, the moss *Aulacomnium palustre* and the lichen *Cladonia impexa*. Other typical associates include heather, common yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*, common sedge *C. nigra*, carnation sedge *C. panicea* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

There is a series of springs and soligenous flushes situated on the gently sloping ground above the mire, these are largely dominated by sharp-flowered rush and soft rush *Juncus effusus*, along with the bog-moss *Sphagnum recurvum*, star sedge and a wide range of other species, such as cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, devil's-bit scabious and the mosses *Polytrichum commune* and *Calliergon stramineum*. Further diversity is provided by runnels and ditches, these being characterised either by the presence of marsh St. John's-wort *Hypericum elodes*, bog pondweed, the bog-moss *Sphagnum auriculatum*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and the moss *Drepanocladus exannulatus*, or by round-leaved crowfoot *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, blinks *Montia fontana*, creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis secunda* and the moss *Philonotis fontana*.

The mire is known to support breeding snipe and curlew, and attracts duck in winter.

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