## CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

## SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS CORSYDD LLANBRYNMAIR (LLANBRYNMAIR MOORS)

**Date of Notification:** 1994

**National Grid Reference:** SH 909102, SH 913117 & SH 940100

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 125

1:25,000 Sheet number: SH 91

Site Area: 35.6 ha

## **Description:**

The site consists of three notable and intact remnants of blanket bog situated on Llanbrynmair Moors, an extensive plateau rising to about 500 metres and situated a few miles north-east of the village of Llanbrynmair. The underlying geology of this upland area is composed of Silurian (Wenlock) rock. Until about 1980, the Moors supported some of the finest actively growing blanket bog in Britain – the bog plant communities to be found there being of outstanding quality. During the period 1980-85 in particular, large parts of the Moors were afforested with softwoods, leading to a gradual but dramatic change to the bog habitat and its flora and fauna. A few high quality, but relatively small areas were not planted, and have survived more or less hydrologically intact, three of them forming this SSSI, namely Cors Bwlch Trosol, Cors Mynydd Tal-y-glannau and Cors Gordderwen.

The vegetation of these three remnants is dominated by bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp. and dwarf-shrubs, providing examples of nationally recognised mire plant communities that were once much more widespread on the Moors, prior to afforestation. The bog rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* is a notable component of the higher plant flora at these sites, whilst the diverse range of lower plants present includes uncommon species such as the moss *Sphagnum magellanicum* and the nationally scarce liverwort *Cephalozia loitlesbergeri*.

The invertebrates of these upland mires have been particularly well recorded at Cors Gordderwen, where a number of uncommon species have been discovered, including the ground beetle *Trechus rivularis* known from only a handful of sites in eastern England prior to the invertebrate survey undertaken in 1988.

The special interest of each component of the site is more fully described on the attached sheets, which form part of this description.

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