

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

COEDYDD LLAWR-Y-GLYN

Date of Notification: 1985

National Grid Reference: SN 918913, SN 916906, SN 917901, SN 925906 & SN 937907

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 98 & SN 99

Site Area: 102.2ha

Description:

This site forms part of a remarkable group of acid sessile oak woodlands situated on hill slopes around the headwaters of the river Trannon. The individual woods are complementary to each other in their botanical interest and display well the range of ecological variation which occurs within these acid woodland types. Rare bryophytes and lichens occur. The woodland group is also of outstanding ornithological interest in mid-Wales.

All the woodlands are dominated by predominantly even-aged mature sessile oak, but there is a variable amount of birch, hazel and rowan throughout the site. Coed Glan-yr-afon has a typically sparse ground flora of higher plants and there is little understorey. However, there is a tall canopy of widely spaced mature oak. Birch is abundant and locally there are well developed moss carpets. Allt Wen and Coed Gwern-afon form a similar vegetation type, but with a more varied tree structure, including young oak from secondary growth, stunted trees on steep slopes and some areas of larger oaks. Moss carpets are particularly well developed in the stream valleys and on steep slopes. Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* is frequent in grassy areas dominated by wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. The other woodlands form part of a vegetation type which typically has a rather greater species diversity. Coed Pen-y-banc is additionally rather more diverse in woodland structure and has an interesting area of shrub-layer development at the tops of the slope, together with frequent ash. The Cwm Carreg-ddu block also has a locally developed shrub-layer and in a small section there is a coppice-with-standards structure. The larger trees in Coed Pen-y-banc commonly support the lichen, *Thelotrema lepodinum* and a lagg area beside the stream has the uncommon bog-moss *Sphagnum teres*. Ravines, stream banks, and rotten wood support the greatest diversity of moss and lichen species in the site as a whole, several species being uncommon. Coed Ty Newydd has an interesting dingle flora in which clumps of oak fern *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* and beech fern *Thelypteris phegopteris* are particularly well represented. Ornithologically, the woodlands contain a wide spectrum of bird species in good

population sizes. Typical species include birds of prey, woodpeckers, pied flycatcher, redstart and wood warbler.

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