

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

COED LLANDYFAN

Date of Notification: 1984

National Grid Reference: SN 641168

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 61

Site Area: 6.7 ha

Description:

This wood has developed on Lower Coal Measure shales and sandstones, partly overlaid with boulder clay. The freely draining upper slopes support western sessile oak-ash woodland whilst the ill-drained lower slopes and stream sides are clothed with fen alderwood and abundant ash. The whole wood is marked by the abundance and variety of shrub species, the varied age of the canopy species and the diverse canopy and ground layer communities.

Much of the sessile oak is of considerable age and of fine size. On its branches and trunks is a prolific, if species-poor, moss, fern and lichen flora. On the drier slopes below the oaks, a varied assemblage of plant species occurs. On acidic banks hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, buckler fern *Dryopteris austriaca*, goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea* and wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* are abundant.

In contrast, on the more nutrient-rich slopes, dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, enchanter's nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* and false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* predominate. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, nettle *Urtica dioica* and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* are the commonest species of the wet alder-ash woodland of the valley floor. Uncommon and notable lower-plant species of the damp stream sides include the moss *Hookera lucens* and the liverwort *Trichocolea tomentella*.

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