

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**DENBIGHSHIRE**

**COED NANT MAWR**

**Date of Notification:** 1985

**National Grid reference:** SJ077619

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 116  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SJ06

**Site Area:** 21.5 ha

**Description:**

A particularly good example of a woodland type largely restricted to Wales and south-west England but also found in the Midlands and north-east England. In North Wales the majority of sites are in Clwyd, the remainder being in West Gwynedd and Coed Nant Mawr is regarded as one of the best and also one of the larger examples.

The wood occupies both sides of the steeply incised valley of Nant Mawr, a tributary of the River Clywedog, on rocks of the Ludlow Series (Silurian) with, at the eastern end of the site, outcrops of rock of the Carboniferous Limestone series. The southern and eastern part of the wood is dominated by a mixture of ash *Fraxinus Excelsior*, wych elm *Ulmus Glabra* and sessile oak *Quercus Petraea* with some sycamore *Acer Pseudoplatanus*. Lack of grazing has resulted in a well-developed shrub layer, dominated by hazel *Corylus Avellana*, together with hawthorn *Crataegus Monogyna*, holly *Ilex Aquifolium* and, locally, guelder rose *Viburnum Opulus* and spindle *Euonymus Europaeus*. The herb layer is varied, with dog's mercury *Mercurialis Perennis* dominant and replaced in some areas by greater woodrush *Luzula Sylvatica*. A species of particular note is herb paris *Paris Quadrifolia*.

The north-western part of the wood has a more acidic ground flora under areas dominated by sessile oak and, occasionally, hairy birch *Betula Pubescens*. Wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia Flexuosa* occurs, together with hard-fern *Blechnum Spicant*, ling *Calluna Vulgaris* and wood sage *Teucrium Scorodonia*.

Flushed areas adjacent to the stream support a flora including great horsetail *Equisetum Telmateia*, meadow-sweet *Filipendula Ulmaria* and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*.

*This document is **NOT** a definitive legal version and has been formatted, updated and partially edited for use on the CCW Web site. This document should not be used in any legal proceedings, public enquiry or any other hearing or appeal. If you require a full legal copy of the document please contact CCW in writing.*