

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CONWY

FAIRY GLEN WOODS

Date of notification: 1986

National Grid Reference: SH 809534

O.S. Maps: 1:50000 Sheet numbers: 115, 116
1:25000 Sheet numbers: SH75, SH85

Site area: 43 ha

Description:

A biological site, Fairy Glen is a deep rocky gorge on the Afon Conwy selected for its well developed fern and lichen assemblage. Lichens include *Sticta dufourii* which is abundant on rocks and is associated with the rare *Sticta canariensis*; *Lobaria pulmonaria* is common and is associated with *L. laetevirens* and *L. amplissima*, both of which are local species. The humid conditions in the gorge are ideal for a rich fern and moss community. Soft shield fern *Polystichum setiferum*, hartstongue fern *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and the nationally rare liverwort, *Porella thuja* occur. The woodland contains a diverse vascular plant community. The gorge itself has much wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, sessile oak *Quercus petraea* ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, small leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* associated with a moderately base rich flora in places including dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, ramsons *Allium ursinum* and early purple orchid *Orchis mascula*. Large areas of more acidic woodland are dominated by sessile oak *Q. petraea* and downy birch *Betula pubescens* with a ground flora of heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. Numerous streams run into the gorge beneath alder *Alnus glutinosa* and contain herb rich flushes including such species as hemlock water dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* and globeflower *Trollius europaeus*. Parts of the wood have had beech *Fagus sylvatica* and conifers planted. Breeding birds include dipper, pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler and buzzard. Otters have been reported. Invertebrates include the very scarce alder leaf beetle *Chrysomela aenea* and pearl bordered fritillary *Clossiana euphrosyne* and snails including the local *Zenobiella subfrufescens* and *Balea perversa*.

Remarks:

Within the Snowdonia National Park. Partly owned by the National Trust and the Forestry Commission.

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