

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**CEREDIGION/POWYS**

**CWM LLYFNANT**

**Date of Notification:** 1954, 1987  
**National Grid Reference:** SN 719973  
**O.S. Maps:** 1: 50 000 Sheet number: 135  
1: 25 000 Sheet number: SN 79  
**Site Area:** 79 ha

**Description:**

This site consists of the middle section of the steep-sided valley of the Llyfnant river and contains remnants of ancient woodland displaying numerous biological features with a western oceanic element. On the upper slopes of the south side of the valley is an area of cliffs and scree of huge boulders, with several interesting ferns and mosses reflecting the extremely humid conditions.

The sessile oakwoods *Quercus petraea* have a shrub-layer of hazel *Corylus avellana* and mountain ash *Sorbus aucuparia*, whilst bands of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* are associated with localised outcrops of middle Llandoveryan mudstones and slates. The richer substrate supports calcicolous flora of dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea* and woodruff *Galium odoratum*. Wood stitchwort *Stellaria nemorum* ssp *glochidisperma*, in its only known locality in Ceredigion, occurs on wet dripping rocks in one of these patches of ashwood. A diverse snail fauna is present in these flushes and includes the ancient woodland indicator species *Acicula fusca*, *Limax cinereoniger* and *Spermodea lamellata*.

The scree slopes of Tarren Ty'n-y-maen have cavities and damp hollows under the boulders which support a rich fern and moss flora. Tunbridge filmy-fern *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense* is locally abundant with Wilson's filmy-fern *H. wilsonii* common in the less shaded hollows. The boulder scree is interspersed with marshes and flushes supporting a diverse flora. Near the summit there is a small cave containing the luminous moss *Schistostega pennata*. The summit itself, at 350 metres, has an outcrop of overhanging friable rock with bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and broad buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*.

**Remarks:**

Most of the site is owned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

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