

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

RADNOR FOREST

Date of Notification: 1982

National Grid Reference: SO 190630

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 148
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 16, SO 26

Site Area: 836 ha

Description:

Radnor Forest lies on the highest hill block in Radnor, built of Silurian shale and rising to 661 metres. Over 405 hectares of the rounded summit ridges lie above 610 metres and support well developed submontane heath communities over thin blanket peat.

The vegetation of the summit ridges is fairly uniform, and is dominated by a mixture of dwarf shrubs, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and, a feature that distinguishes it from other moorland in Radnor, cowberry *V. vitis-idaea*. Mixed with these dwarf shrubs are hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, sedges (e.g. *Carex binervis*) and a number of mosses (e.g. *Rhacomitrium lanuginosum*) and lichens (e.g. *Cladonia impexa*). The dwarf shrubs are very well grown and suggest the area has suffered little from fires in the recent past and that grazing pressures are light. Purple moor-grass is but thinly scattered and does not form the extensive stands so familiar only a few miles west.

Peat pools support common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, the bog moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, and occasionally cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

The steep-sided dingles and rock outcrops of the Forest's edge support rich plant communities, since these eastern Silurian shales are slightly calcareous. Mossy saxifrage *Saxifraga hypnoides* and rock stonecrop *Sedum forsteranum* are common on some cliff faces, with marjoram *Origanum vulgare* and a number of interesting mosses and liverworts – *Brachyodon trichodes*, *Anomobryum filiforme*, *Encalypta ciliata*, *Seligeria recurvifolia*, *Anthoceros laevis* and *Porella cordeana* also occurring.

Remarks:

Part owned by the Forestry Commission, who lease 27 hectares to the Herefordshire and Radnorshire Nature Trust. This is managed as a nature reserve, known as Mynydd Ffoesidoes. Part registered as common land.

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