

CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARDIFF

FFORESTGANOL A CHWM NOFYDD

Date of Notification: 1985, 2001

National Grid Reference: ST 147835

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171
1:25,000 Sheet number: ST18

Site Area: 110.6 ha

Description:

Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd is of special interest for its semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

The site lies 2km north of Rhiwbina on the outskirts of Cardiff and includes the areas of Fforestganol, Coed-y-Wenallt, Fforest-fach and Graig-goch. The woodlands lie in the valleys of the Nant Cwm Nofydd and Nant y Fforest, on steep slopes between 100 and 200m. The underlying geology ranges from the Carboniferous Dolomitic Limestone and Mudstone, forming red clay/mineral soils, to Old Red Sandstone with stony and sandy mineral soils. This variation is reflected in the range of woodland communities found across the site.

Fforestganol is dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and hornbeam *Carpinus betulus* with an understorey of hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and field maple *Acer campestre*. The field layer includes abundant wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and occasional dogs mercury *Mercurialis perennis*. Stream-side areas support alder *Alnus glutinosa* with a field layer of wild garlic *Allium ursinum*. Fforestganol supports a number of notable species including herb paris *Paris quadrifolia*, birdsnest orchid *Neottia nidus-avis*, solomon's seal *Polygonatum multiflorum*, twayblade *Listera ovata* and goldilocks buttercup *Ranunculus auricomus*.

Coed-y-Wenallt includes areas dominated by beech with occasional oak *Quercus robur*. The understorey is sparse, consisting of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and holly *Ilex aquifolium* and the field layer is dominated by bluebell. Other areas of Coed-y-Wenallt have a tree canopy of ash, oak and birch *Betula pendula* with a distinct understorey of hazel, patchy bramble and holly. The field layer is dominated by bluebell, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and more locally by creeping soft grass *Holcus mollis*.

Fforest-fach supports woodland dominated by ash and field maple. The understorey is composed of hazel and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, with a ground flora of wild garlic, scaly male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* and lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*.

Graig-goch is dominated by beech and ash with a sparse understorey of hazel. The field layer

is co-dominated by wood anemone, bluebell and wild garlic.

Immediately adjacent to the Nant Cwm Nofydd is an area of wet woodland consisting of alder and ash. The field layer is dominated by meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* with occasional broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata* and a high cover of the moss *Brachythecium rutabulum*.

Other habitats exist in close association with the woodland communities, such as species-poor, semi-improved grassland, scrub and bracken; small, base-rich flushes support the regionally rare broad-leaved cotton-grass *Eriophorum latifolium*. These habitats add to the ecological and structural diversity of the site.

Remarks:

The site supports woodland vegetation assignable to the habitat types 'Asperulo - Fagetum beech forests' and 'Tilio - Acerion ravine forests' listed on Annex I of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna). The Cardiff Beech Woods cSAC is included within the SSSI.

The site includes Fforest Ganol and Cwm Nofydd Local Nature Reserve.

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