

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

RHONDDA CYNON TAFF

MYNYDD TY-ISAF

Date of Notification: 1972, 1986

National Grid Reference: SS929968

O.S. Maps 1:50,000 Sheet number: 170
1:25,000 Sheet number: SS 99

Site Area: 322 ha

Description:

The cliffs and crags of the glacial corries at the head of the Rhondda Fawr Valley reach a height of 558 metres and dominate the landscape within the boundary of the Mynydd Ty Isaf Site of Special Scientific Interest. The three cliff systems formed during the erosion of the corries include Tarren Saerbren, Graig Fawr and Graig Fach. The Pennant Sandstone strata exposed in the corrie cliff systems, and also underlying the rest of the Mid Glamorgan uplands, supports a range of vegetation types including *Calluna* dominated heath, *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath, a range of species poor grasslands, bracken-dominated slopes and fern-rich screes and rock outcrops. Recently planted coniferous trees occupy much of Cwm Saerbren and some cliff top land.

The Pennant Sandstone crags are of particular interest as they support a number of arctic-alpine and other plant species of local distribution in Wales. The parsley fern *Cryptogramma crispa* occurs here at what is thought to be one of its most southerly British stations. Other ferns growing on crags within the SSSI include beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis*, mountain fern *Oreopteris limbosperma*, broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and brittle bladder fern *Cystopteris fragilis*.

In addition to supporting an interesting pteridophyte flora, the higher crags within the SSSI provide nesting sites for a Schedule 1 raptor.

*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.*