

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**CONWY**

**COED NANT-Y-MERDDIN-UCHAF**

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| <b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>    | 1985   |
| <b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b> | SH921609   |
| <b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>               | 1:50,000 Sheet number: 116<br>1:25,000 Sheet number: SH 96 |
| <b><u>Site Area:</u></b>               | 8.2 ha   |

**Description:**

An area of mixed deciduous woodland developed on the steep western valley side of the Afon Aled and representing the best Clwyd example of a woodland-type occurring mainly in Scotland, Wales and Northern England at medium altitudes and under medium rainfall conditions.

The southern part of the wood is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus petraea* with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* on the lower slopes adjacent to the river. North of this hairy birch *Betula pubescens* is dominant, the remainder of the wood being largely composed of *Fraxinus excelsior* with wych elm *Ulmus glabra* on the steeper gorge sections and alder *Alnus glutinosa* in flush areas or along streams draining into the Afon Aled.

Hazel *Corylus avellana* is the typical understorey shrub, together with hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, seedling regeneration being somewhat reduced by grazing in parts of the site. The ground flora varies from that typical of more acidic conditions at the southern end of the wood to a more base-rich community at the northern end and along tributary streams. The former includes wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, many-headed woodrush *Luzula multiflora*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and hard-fern *Blechnum spicant*. The base-rich community includes wood sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, wild strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*.

Flush areas and streamsides support an interesting flora including the uncommon globe flower *Trollius europaeus*, together with marsh hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*, water avens *Geum rivale* and wood horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum*. Cliffs and rock outcrops support a range of ferns including the rare green spleenwort *Asplenium viride* and the uncommon beech fern *Phegopteris connectilis* and brittle bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis*. The rare grass mountain melick *Melica nutans* occurs on cliffs in part of the site.

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