

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

GWYNEDD

COEDYDD AFON MENAI

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1957, 1971, 1986
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SH536707 to SH553712; SH562717 to SH582731
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 115 1:25,000 Sheet number: SH 57
<u>Site Area:</u>	22.3 ha

Description:

Coedydd Afon Menai is a representative example of an ivy-oak/ash *Hedera Helix* - *Quercus/Fraxinus* type woodland.

It consists of narrow strips of broadleaved woodland along sections of the southern shore of the Menai Strait. The woodland largely occurs on steep, sometimes rocky slopes although flatter sections of interesting woodland above the slope are included.

The most northerly section of woodland (Coed Siliwen) is dominated by sessile oak *Quercus Petraea* in the canopy and great wood-rush *Luzula Sylvatica* in the ground flora. Wild service tree *Sorbus Torminalis*, a rarity in Gwynedd, occurs here. Around Nantporth the woodland is associated with Carboniferous Limestone. Here ash *Fraxinus Excelsior* with wych elm *Ulmus Glabra* and sessile oak dominate the canopy and hazel *Corylus Avellana* the understorey. Dog's mercury *Mercurialis Perennis*, woodruff *Galium Odoratum* and enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea Lutetiana* are abundant in the ground flora.

Various whitebeams are present, including the nationally rare *Sorbus Porrigentiformis*. Other locally uncommon species present include yellow-wort *Blackstonia Perfoliata*, wild madder *Rubia Peregrina* and spindle *Euonymus Europaeus*. The western section of woodland, including Coed Mair, Coed y Mor and Coed Crawley, typically supports sessile oak and ash dominated woodland with hazel, ash, guelder-rose *Viburnum Opulus* and crab apple *Malus Sylvestris* in the understorey and a basiphilous ground flora, which occurs on the heavy calcareous soils present, particularly on the flatter sections. Great woodrush occasionally dominates the ground flora on the steeper slopes. The local reed wood-grass *Calamagrostis Epigeos* occurs above the shoreline. Herons breed in this section of wood.

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