

## 53. Cwm Clettwr

Tre'r-ddôl, Ceredigion

|                                  |   |
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| <b>Grid References</b>           | O.S. Explorer map OL23 Cadair Idris & Llyn Tegid.<br>Main entrance: SN666922, Site centre: SN666921   |
| <b>Status</b>                    | Part of the reserve is notified SSSI.   |
| <b>Tenure</b>                    | The current area is managed in agreement with the Forestry Commission under a 21 year lease dated 1998.   |
| <b>Size</b>                      | 16.4 ha (40.50 acres).  |
| <b>Location and Access Notes</b> | 16 km northeast of Aberystwyth, 13 km southwest of Machynlleth. Heading north through Tre'r-ddôl, take the small road on the right just after Soar Chapel (SN659922). Off road parking on the right near the top of the hill. Public and permissive footpaths traverse the reserve. |
| <b>Public transport</b>          | Bus service 28, Aberystwyth/Machynlleth runs every 2 hours and stops in Tre'r-ddôl.   |

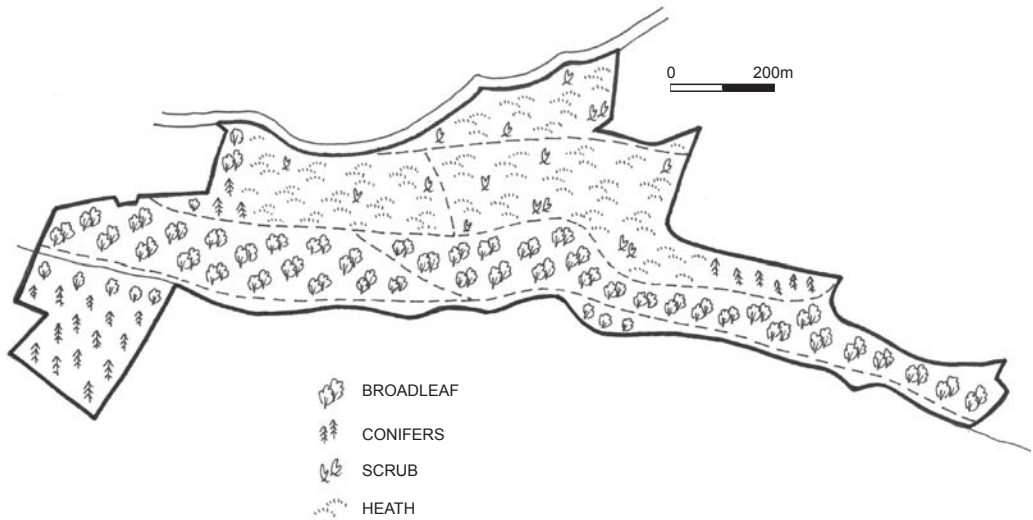
**Description:** The reserve can be divided into two principal areas, a large area of regenerating heath, and the section of broadleaf woodland that is notified SSSI. The heathy area was previously Hemlock plantation, which was clearfelled in 2000. This is now dominated by Heather and Gorse with significant Birch regeneration. Some broadleaf species have also been planted to encourage the regeneration process.

In the mature broadleaf compartment, the canopy is dominated by Sessile Oak, which show signs of being old coppice, the bark probably being used in tanning. The herb layer is a typically poor calcifuge flora.

A proportion of the wood is almost pure Ash on the more base rich soils and the ground flora is much more diverse including such plants as Dog's Mercury (2-4), Toothwort (3-5), Smooth-stalked Sedge (6), Sweet Woodruff (5-6), and Yellow Archangel (4-6).

Due to the locally humid atmosphere, Polypody Fern (7-8) grows on many of the trees, and although the reserve is rich in flowering plants, ferns such as Oak Fern (7-8), and Beech Fern (6-8) occur. It is also particularly rich in bryophytes and lichens.

The breeding bird assemblage, typical of these sorts of habitats, includes Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Nuthatch, Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Sparrowhawk and Wood Warbler.



**Management Objectives:** The SSSI section is managed with low intervention. Small areas are felled on rotation to break up the even aged structure and closed canopy resulting from the historic coppicing. The heathy area is being managed for broadleaf regeneration, with areas cleared periodically to maintain a mosaic of heath and woodland.

**Good times to visit**

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Mar - Jul | Woodland flowers     |
| May - Jul | Breeding birds       |
| Jun - Oct | Ferns and bryophytes |

