

68. Llannerch Alder Carr

Gwaun Valley, Pembrokeshire

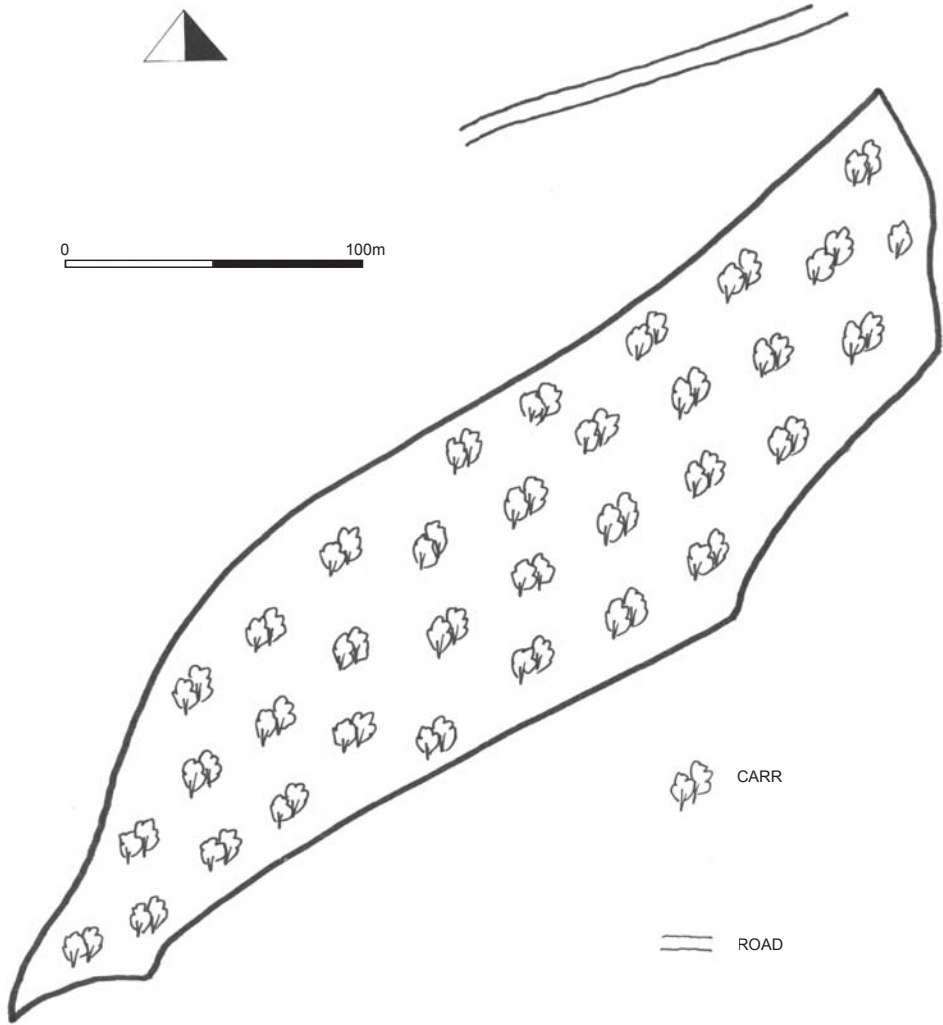
Grid References	O.S. Explorer map OL35 North Pembrokeshire. Main entrance: SN058352, Site centre: SN055350
Status	Notified SSSI, part the north Pembrokeshire SAC.
Tenure	Owned since 1993.
Size	2 ha (4.9 acres).
Location and Access Notes	The reserve is situated at the eastern end of the Gwaun Valley, south of Llannerch Farm. No easy footpaths. Access restricted. Contact the Pembrokeshire Wildlife Trust Officer for more details.
Public transport	During summer the Presseli Green Dragon bus runs through the Gwaun valley between Crymych and Newport. Contact Pembrokeshire Coast National Park for timetable (01239) 820912.

Description: This Alder carr remnant has developed over the deep, poorly drained peaty soils of the valley floor and is a good example of a once much more widespread woodland type, that existed on poorly drained sites. The Alder carr is particularly old, supporting a rich epiphytic flora of lichens, bryophytes and polypods. The lichen interest was subject to a survey in 1985 (Wolsley). The more notable lichen species recorded were *Cetrelia olivetorum*, *Menegazzia terebrata*, *Nephroma parile* and *Ochrolechia inversa*.

Tree species include Alder, Hazel, Willow and Sessile Oak with an understorey of Guelder Rose and Hawthorn. Ground flora includes Tussock Sedge as a dominant species, with Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage (4-5), Marsh-marigold (3-5) and Hemlock Water-dropwort (6-7). Other species present include Common Marsh-bedstraw (6-8), Meadowsweet (6-9), Wild Angelica (6-9) and Bladder Sedge – found here at one of its few Pembrokeshire locations.

Birds present on site include Great, Blue, Coal, Marsh and Long-tailed Tits, Goldcrests, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch and Treecreeper, with Pied Flycatchers also nesting. These species are augmented in winter by visiting Water Rail and Woodcock.

Invertebrate groups well represented include true flies, longhorn beetles and harvestmen. Mammals that use the reserve include Shrews, Bank Voles and Badgers. Frogs are also plentiful.



Management Objectives: Little management is needed on this undisturbed site.