

41. Nant Melin

Llandovery, Carmarthenshire

Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 187 Llandovery. Main entrance: SN729466, Site centre: SN728467
Status	The reserve forms part of the Cwm Doethie-Mynydd Mallaen Oakwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
Tenure	The site was leased from 1969 by the Trust and subsequently purchased in 1973.
Size	2.9 ha (7 acres).
Location and Access Notes	Situated between Cwrt-y-Cadno and Rhandirmwyn. Access can be obtained by walking about 100 m up the road from the bridge (SN730465) between Rhandirmwyn and Cwrt-y-Cadno. A footpath may then be followed through the woodland belonging to our neighbour until the southern boundary of the reserve is reached.
Public transport	Not easily accessible by public transport.

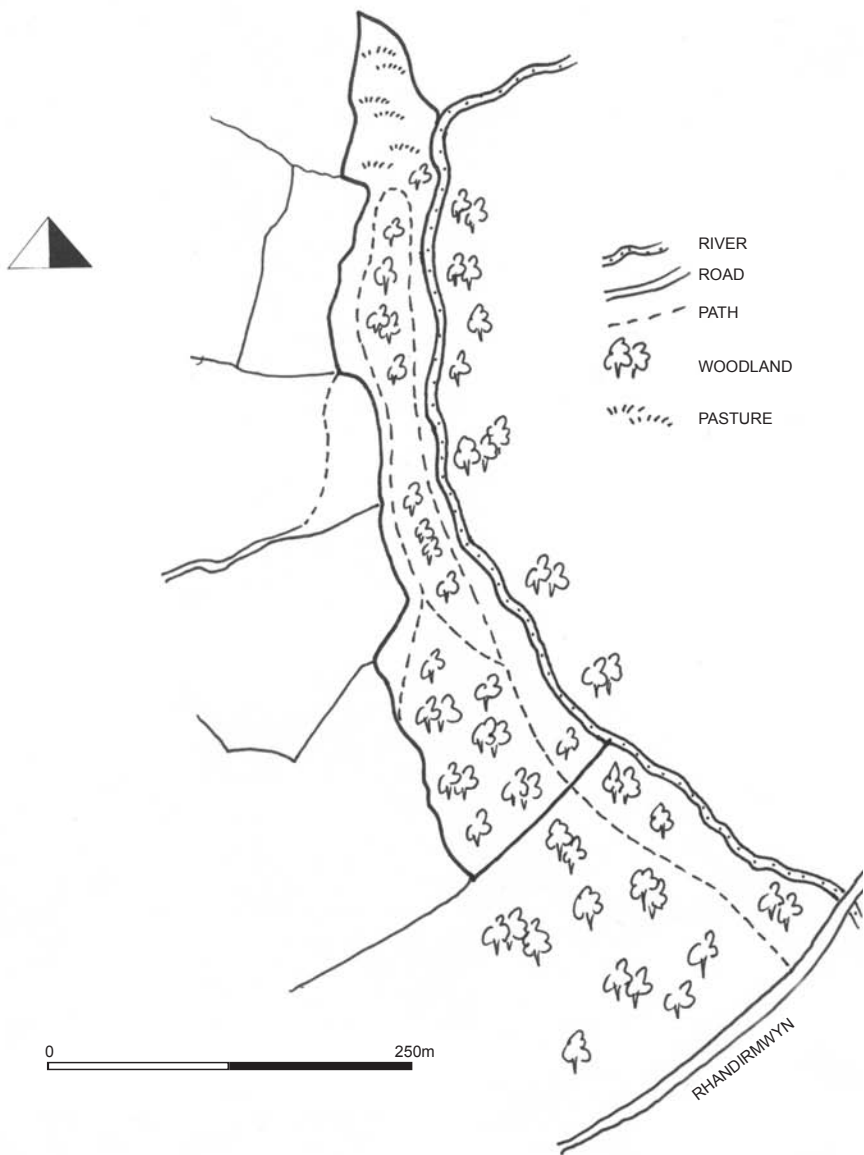
Description: Ancient upland Oak woodland and waterfalls.

The reserve is made up of 2.4 ha of deciduous woodland and about 0.5 ha of rough pasture in the upper Tywi catchment. The woodland lies on the steep Nant Melin valley side, the wet pasture above lying on a much gentler slope. The Nant Melin stream forms the eastern boundary flowing over a series of small but impressive waterfalls. Above the fence at the western end, the slope lessens, and the habitat changes to pasture, while a small stream marks the northern boundary, with two small fields beyond. Several wet flushes arise in these fields, and flow down to meet other springs which emerge in the woodland.

The canopy consists of Oak, Ash, Birch, Alder, Rowan, and Sycamore, with an understorey of Hazel. There are many rock outcrops in the wood, which are rich with ferns and bryophytes.

Several plants of local distribution are found on this site, including Globeflower (6-8), Wood Horsetail, and Royal Fern.

The breeding birds include Blue Tit, Buzzard, Cuckoo, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Tawny Owl and Wood Warbler.



Management Objectives: To manage the semi-natural woodland by allowing natural regeneration of native trees, and avoiding grazing by maintaining boundary fencing, whilst grazing the pasture.

Good times to visit

- Mar - Jul Woodland & pasture flowers
- May to Jul Breeding birds
- Jun - Oct Ferns
- Sept - Nov Fungi
- Oct - Mar Waterfalls (particularly after rain)