

Allt Crug Garn

Between Pennant and Cilcennen, Ceredigion

Grid References	O.S. Explorer Map 199 Lampeter. Main entrance: SN517617, Site centre: SN518617
Status	None
Tenure	Leased from the Forestry Commission in 1965, the site was subsequently purchased in 1986.
Size	0.38 ha (0.94 acres)
Location and Access Notes	Take B4337 from Llanrhystud, turn west on unsigned road at SN541625. First right after 4.5km and 400m takes you to Grug Garn farm gate. Access is opposite Grug Garn Farm entry, where there is space for one car and one opposite, but take care on the soft verge. Follow the track to the left to the wire fence surrounding the reserve. No access for wheelchairs.
Public Transport	No buses to the reserve

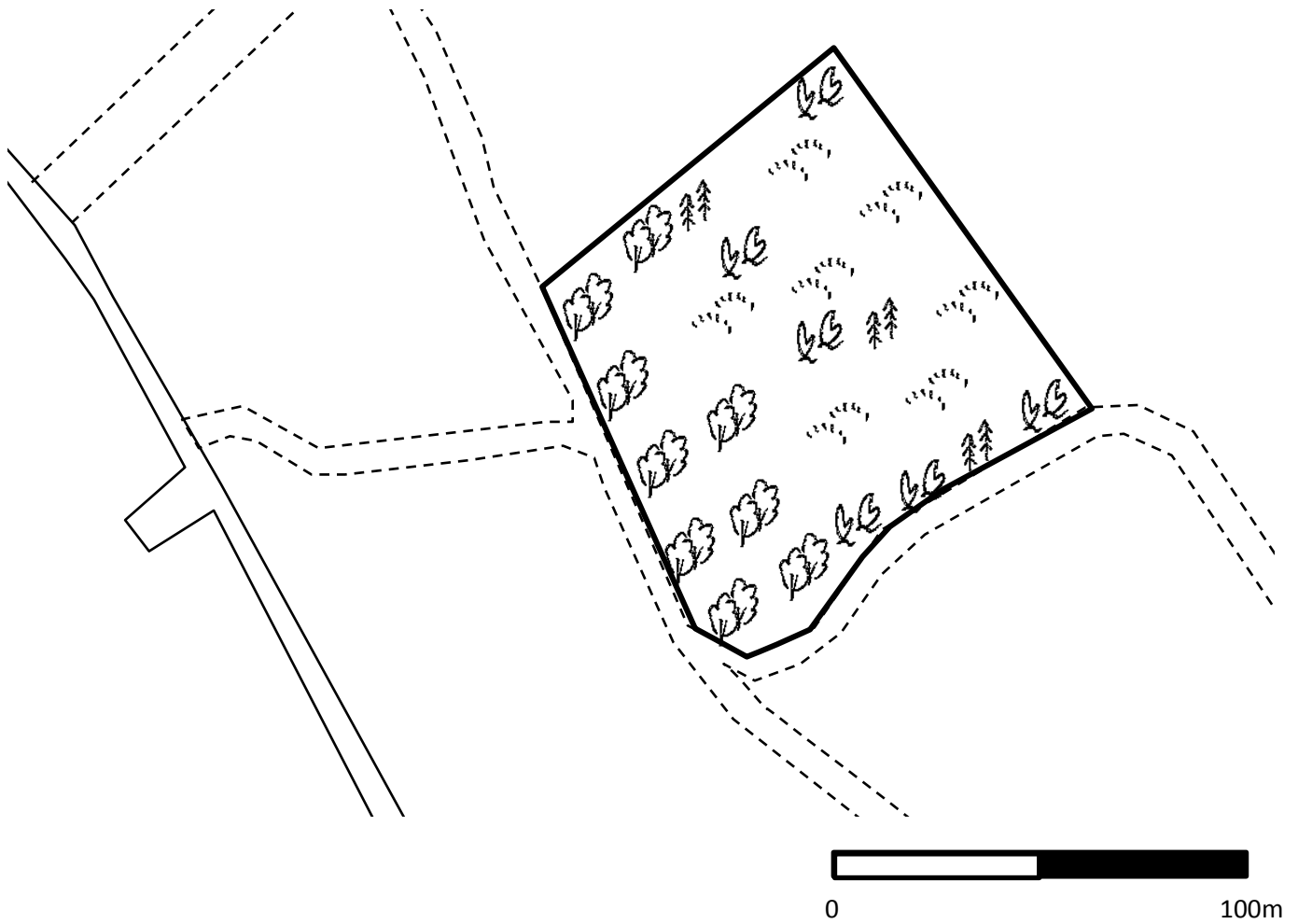
Description: Relic lowland heathland with oak and birch invasion.





The site is made up of the remains of an old plantation, mature and regenerating broadleaf and some areas of tall old heathland growing on 80cm of peat.

Heather should show a cyclical succession where pioneer, building, senescent, and degenerating stages give way to one another over a 30-50 year period. Studies on this site, since 1976, indicate that there is very little heather regeneration, but instead a considerable successional pressure. Western Gorse (7-11) has invaded the site followed by Birch, Rowan (5-6) and Willow with a further threat from Beech.

The senescent Heather (8-10) bushes show a classic sequence of lichens and bryophytes around their bases, including 7 species of *Parmelia*, 2 *Ramalina*, and *Unsea florida*, the latter indicating particularly clean air quality. Narrow buckler fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*) is also present.

There is also an unusual fungi association to be found. False Truffle *Elaphomyces muricatus* occur in the leaf litter amongst the Birch, together with their fungal parasite the Club fungus *Cordiceps ophioglossoides*, whose striking fruiting bodies show up amongst the carpet of green moss, *Dicranum scoparium*. Invertebrates include the Emperor moth.



-  MATURE BROADLEAF
-  CONIFER
-  BROADLEAF REGENERATION
-  HEATH

Management objectives: Management has tried to arrest succession by removing all the birch seedlings, but has largely failed, and the reserve will almost certainly become secondary oak/birch woodland within 25 years.

Good times to visit	
Mar-Aug	Woodland flowers
Sept-Nov	Fungi