

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/SO21/02	Grove Farm	SO292126	5.74 ha	Neutral Grassland (SI Poor) MG6 Marshy Grassland M23	Species Rich Grasslands (HAP)	<p>Collection of horse grazed rather SI poor fields with moderate north east slope. Interest lies with the areas of marshy grassland lying on lower ground and extending north and south wards from the ditch system which is located approximately centrally in the site. This marshy grassland is most extensive and richest in Field 2 where typical species include <i>Mentha aquatica</i>, <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>, <i>Senecio aquaticus</i>, <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> together with local <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>, <i>Succisa pratensis</i> and <i>Carex spp.</i></p> <p>Towards the south a calcareous tone is evident with <i>Briza media</i> and <i>Galium uliginosum</i> both locally frequent. Field 4 is fenced off and unmanaged and the rich sward recorded by G.Bode in 2002 is now heavily dominated by (<i>Himalayan Balsam</i>) <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> and encroaching bramble, although Rushes and <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> appear present in places. To the north the marshy community at the southern edge of Field 5 supports frequent <i>Potentilla erecta</i>, <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>, <i>Succisa pratensis</i> and <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>. The ditch system supports additional species including Water fig-wort and is flanked by mixed hedgerows/scrub. The B4269 (to Llanfoist) lies to the west of the site and a golf course to the south.</p> <p>This site lies adjacent to the B4269 to Llanfoist. It has a mixture of habitats that include dry species-poor grassland and much richer areas of marshy grassland. The site has a hedge separating it into two areas but the wetter richer area lies adjacent with the hedge through the middle. The field has a gradual north easterly facing slope and is horse grazed with temporary fencing in one area. The marshy grassland area that is not fenced has <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>, <i>Caltha palustris</i> and <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>. To the south the other half of the wetter area is fenced off and <i>Valeriana dioica</i>, <i>Juncus articulatus</i>, <i>Carex panicea</i> and <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> can be found. The drier grassland to the west of the wetter area is relatively poor but <i>Centaurea nigra</i> and <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> can be found throughout with similarities to MG6 NVC community.</p>	H7 Marshy Grasslands S7 Vascular Plants (Contributing species <i>Galium uliginosum</i>)