

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/SO30/09	Berthin Brook Wet Meadow	SO357017	5.63 ha	Marshy Grassland (M23) Semi improved poor Grassland (MG6) Scattered Alder	Species Rich Grassland (HAP)	<p>A large, damp semi-improved field lying between the Berthin Brook (to the south) and dismantled railway (to the north). Enclosed by mature trees/woodland to the north, south & east, with a fence at the west. Interest is focussed on an area of species-rich marshy grassland roughly midway across the site. This is centred on a ditch which feeds a pond (created as part of a habitat creation project) lined with <i>Phragmites</i> and <i>Typha latifolia</i>. The ditch widens to create a small flooded area dominated by <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> at the south. The grassland supports a rich variety of flora, though often with very local distribution. <i>Juncus articulatus</i> is frequent with more open areas of <i>Carex</i>, <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>, <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>, <i>Ranunculus flammula</i> & <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>. Local herbs within the rushy zones include <i>Mentha aquatica</i>, <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>, <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>, <i>Lotus uliginosus</i>, <i>Galium palustre</i> & <i>Lycopus europaeus</i>. A cluster of Alder trees exist north of the pond where greater tussock sedge & meadowsweet are locally frequent. Remainder (and majority) of field is rather poorer with scattered clumps of hard, soft & jointed rush, and in the west, nettles & thistles are abundant. To the east, <i>Carex hirta</i> & <i>Ranunculus repens</i> are locally frequent, with nettles & thistles again frequent at the margins. Veteran oaks in west.</p>	H7 Marshy Grassland Note: Contributory Species <i>Carex disticha</i>