

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/SO40/42	Hill Farm Fields	SO468057	21.63 ha	Neutral Grassland - Species Rich MG5	Lowland Species-Rich Grassland (HAP)	<p>Large farm including 5 species-rich fields and a number of other semi-improved species-poor fields, not WS quality. The whole farm is under Tir-Gofal. Fields 3, 4 and 5 are steeply sloping, south-facing fields, with both acid and calcium influences. The steepest, upper sections of each field were the most diverse. In field 3 <i>Genista tinctoria</i> was locally abundant. Field 5 included occasional unusual species such as <i>Linum catharticum</i>, <i>Pilosella officinarum</i>, <i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i> and <i>Veronica officinalis</i>. Field 7 a large field on the south western edge of the farm was borderline but comprised locally frequent <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, <i>Luzula campestris</i>, <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> and <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>. Field 8 would have been marshy grassland originally but a large pond has been created, leaving remnant marshy species such as <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> and <i>Carex flava</i> agg. <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> was locally frequent at the pond edge. The pond is fenced off from the rest of the field which is neglected and beginning to be invaded by bramble and willow scrub. All other fields are short-grazed. (Field 6 although slightly fewer indicators are present is also included to make a continuous block for management.)</p>	H4 Neutral Grassland