

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS SO51/11	Dixton Embankment	SO527 149	1.5 ha	Species-rich calcareous Grassland	Species-rich grassland	Dixton Embankment is a nature reserve that is owned by the Welsh Office, Transport and Highways Group and managed by Gwent Wildlife Trust. The site lies two miles north of Monmouth on the eastern side of the A40 dual carriageway, just above the River Wye. Previously a flat, limestone terrace that was built to reinforcement an embankment off the A40 the spoil now supports a wide range of wildlife including unusual calcareous grassland plants and a young woodland. Dixton Embankment is partly level and partly on an east facing slope along the wye valley. The site supports calcareous grassland with trees and shrubs encroaching along the bank. It is bounded to the west by a concrete drainage ditch at the foot of a high bank which is part of the A40. To the east is a footpath along the banks of the River Wye and to the south a post and rail fence which on the other side is access to adjoining pastures. The northern boundary is not physically defined and is a continuation of grass plain and embankment. Due to its man made nature the grassland is difficult to classify, although it does fall well into the CG2a <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland referable to the more mesotrophic <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Trifolium repens</i> sub-community, but without the <i>Avenula pratensis</i> and a high frequency of <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> .	H5 Calcareous Grassland, S6 Invertebrates: White-legged Damselfly (<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>), S3 Reptiles: Adder (<i>Vipera berus</i>)