

## Monmouthshire County Council SIN

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/ST48/19	Blue House Farm	ST419867	1.71ha	Marshy grassland (rush pasture) (M23) Marshy grassland (fen meadow) (M24b/c) Scattered trees Scrub Semi-improved damp grassland (MG6) Swamp & iris dominated Vegetation (S7)	Species-rich grassland	<p>The site consists of two fields units which are partially divided by a ditch but are otherwise physically continuous with each other and thus form a single management unit.</p> <p>The site comprises a botanically interesting tall mosaic of damp and dry grassland habitats, lying on fairly level ground and enclosed by ditches and reens (which support important aquatic flora including <i>Wolfia arrhiza</i> and form part of the Gwent Levels Magor &amp; Undy SSSI). These ditches are accompanied along north, west much of the eastern boundary) by bramble scrub and grown up hedges/tall tree lines. A potential native black poplar tree (coppiced) is located at the western edge of the northern most field.</p> <p>The site was recently acquired at auction by the owners who live adjacent to the site at Bluehouse Farm, and was surveyed as part of CCW's Lowland Peatland Survey in May 2009. The CCW survey records the northern part as M23a marshy grassland centrally, together with areas of damp SI grassland, swamp and bramble scrub and trees towards the edges. The southern part of the site supports M23 marshy grassland in a mosaic with M24. Strips of swamp and scrub reside along the edges of the field. This still remains the case although a lack of grazing (or some other factor) appears to have resulted in a reduction of the main marker; <i>Cirsium dissectum</i> (CCW survey notes 300+ plants, whereas despite a number of visits only limited plants were recorded this year) and an apparent increase in ruderal species. Other forbs observed included <i>Succisa pratensis</i>, <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> and <i>Lotus uliginosus</i>.</p> <p>Other species of particular note observed during the June 2012 visit include <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>, <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> and potential <i>Carex pseudocyperus</i></p>	H4 Neutral grassland H7 Marshy grassland indicators S7 Vascular Plants – Contributory Species – tubular water drop wort & cyperus sedge