

# Gwent Wildlife Site/SINC Notification Form WS/ST49/53

## SITE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: Prospect House

GRID REF: S O 4 5 7 9 7 6

SURVEYOR(S): Dr Stephanie Tvler

SIZE (approx.): c.0.84ha

DATE OF SURVEY: 23/8/12

LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA: Monmouthshire

WARD: Devauden

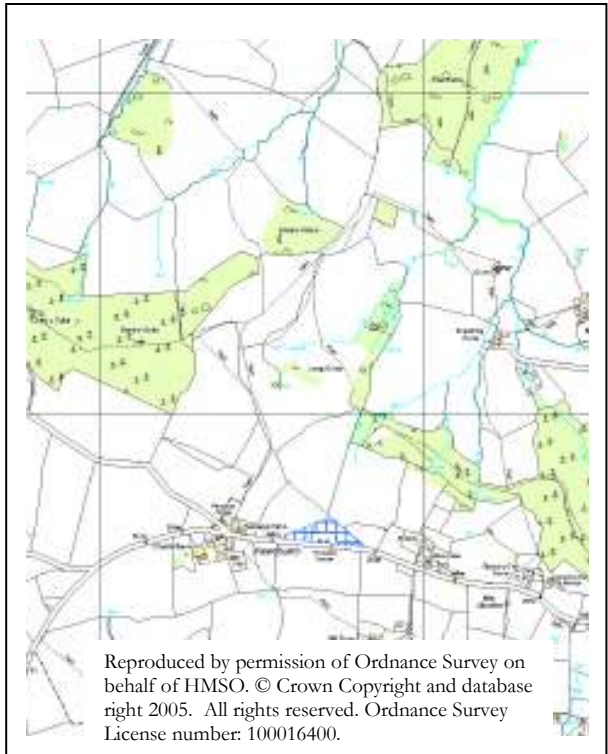
**MAIN HABITAT TYPES PRESENT:**

Habitat types	NVC type	Area (ha)
SI neutral grassland	MG5	-
Marshy grassland	-	-

**LBAP PRIORITY HABITATS/SPECIES PRESENT?**

Species-rich grassland

**SKETCH MAP OF SITES LOCATION:**



**FULL DESCRIPTION OF SITE (including topography, adjacent land use, access and boundaries etc.):**

The land slopes gradually to the north and lies at c. 250m. It comprises a large lower field that had been grazed by sheep and another smaller field alongside the road, known as the meadow. In 2011 haylage was made from the field. Sheep usually graze this field in the winter but in 2011/2012 were left on by a local farmer until late May, so growth has been slow and no hay has been cut yet.

The meadow, separated by a planted hedge and wire fence, has had several trees (Silver Birch, Rowan and Whitebeam) planted in it. At the south-eastern top corner there is a wet area that often floods and rushes and Oval Sedge, Meadowsweet and Cuckoo Flower occur here. Where the water runs down the field another rushy area has developed and in the field below there is another damp patch where Marsh Woundwort is common.

Because of the late grazing this year, growth in the large field (field 1 on map below) has been slow. However, a range of meadow grasses were seen in both the field and meadow. Red Clover, Cat's Ear and Yarrow were widespread; Bird's-foot Trefoil was well distributed in both fields and locally abundant. Of note were Harebells in the hedgerow edge, where Lesser Stitchwort was also frequent. A feature of field 1 was the amount of Eyebright scattered throughout. Tufted Vetch, Knapweed and Hay rattle were quite scarce but the late grazing may partly explain this.

In all at least 12 indicator species of neutral species-rich grassland and damp marshy grassland were seen, although not all were widespread. In addition the landowner had seen a Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* in the field for the first time this summer and Cowslips *Primula veris* in the meadow. She also recalled having seen Quaking Grass *Briza media*. No doubt a spring visit would reveal species such as Bulbous Buttercup and other early-flowering species.

Adjacent to the garden where some tipping had occurred there were ruderal species including Feverfew *Tanacetum parthenium* and Prickly Sowthistle *Sonchus asper*.

The hedges of Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, Rowan, Holly, Sallow and planted Beech, had an occasional Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea* in the hedge bottom and some Bracken and a Male Fern. Sprawling over the hedges were Goosegrass *Galium aparine*, Hedge Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* and one plant of Black Bryony *Tamus communis*.

**Official Use Only:** Site selected as a Wildlife Site/SINC? YES  NO  Date: 3/10/12

# DETAILED SITE INFORMATION

SITE OWNERSHIP: Including names of any tenants/graziers Name(s)

Name(s)			
Addresses			
Tel.no.		Mobile:	

Please log all landowner/tenant contact starting from the initial permission for access to survey

Date	Contact	Discussion subjects/decisions made
23/08/12		Visit at request of MMG member to survey

- Is/are the owner(s)
- i) aware of the site's nature conservation value? **Yes**
  - ii) managing the land sympathetically? **Yes**
  - iii) willing to manage the land sympathetically? **Yes**

Describe the access to the site:

Are there any public rights of way on the site?

**No**

If so please describe their location:

What is the current management at the site?

Sheep grazed and smaller field used for haylage.

Are there any threats to the site?

No

Are there any invasive species present?

No

Are there any protected species present?

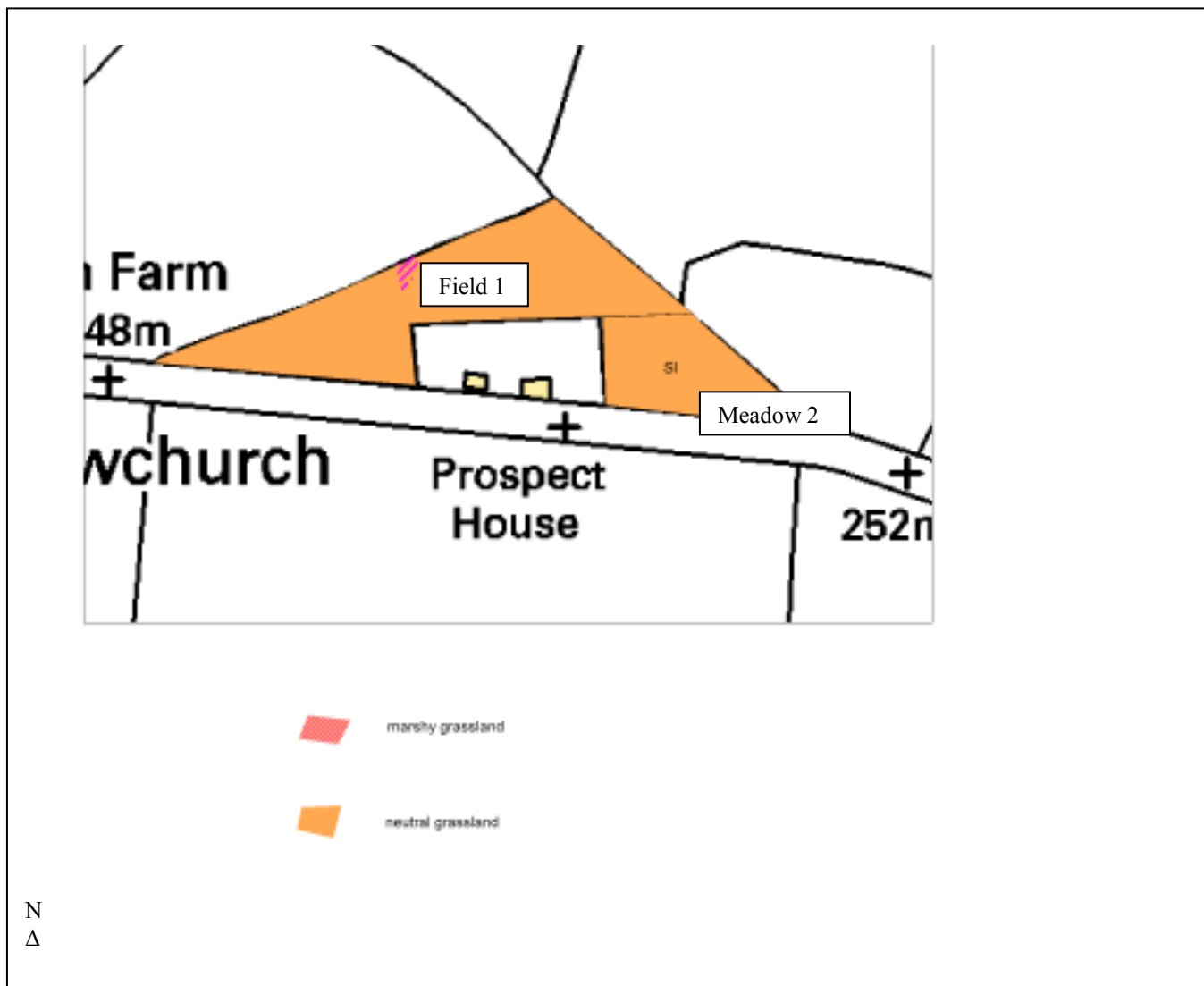
Please state the section(s) of the Wildlife Sites Guidance that this site qualifies under:

**H4) Neutral Grassland** - with over 8 indicator species.

Is the site part of any grant schemes? Yes  No  Grant Scheme:.....End date:.....

Does the site already have any designations? Yes  No  Designation:.....

Sketch map of site (including northpoint, scale and areas of the site of particular note):



Please list all additional survey information both past and present that relates to this site:

CCW Phase 1 survey 1991; Improved grassland.

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Site no.:

Please note: The data on this form may be held in accordance with the Gwent Wildlife Trust's registration under the Data Protection Act 1996

## Species List, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011

		Field	Meadow	Comments
<b>Grasses</b>				
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaries</i>	A	A	Tiny florets; lower stem bent
Meadow Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>		R	
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	F	F	
False Oat Grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	O	LF	Edges
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	O	O	
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	R	O	Coarse grass
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	F	F	Very fine needle-like leaves
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	F-A	A	Soft blue grey stems
Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	R	R	
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>		R	
Annual Meadow Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	R		
<b>Rushes and sedges</b>				
Compact Rush	<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>		LF	In wet corner and lower down
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>		O	In wet corner of meadow
Sharp-flowered Rush	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>		O	In wet corner and lower down; septae in leaves
Oval Sedge	<i>Carex ovalis</i>		R	One plant in wet corner
<b>Other plants</b>				
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	F	F	
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	O	O	
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	O	O	Edges
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	O	O	Small white flowers, hairy leaves
<b>Lesser Stitchwort</b>	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	O	O	Mainly at edges; white star like flowers and linear leaves
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	O	O	
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	F	F	
Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>		O	In wet top corner
<b>Meadowsweet</b>	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>		O	Many plants in wet top corner
<b>Trailing Tormentil</b>	<i>Potentilla anglica</i>		R	4-5 yellow petals
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	R	O	
<b>Tufted Vetch</b>	<i>Vicia cracca</i>		LF	Top wet corner; planted triangle
<b>Meadow Vetchling</b>	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	R	O	Yellow pea flowers; straggles
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	O-LF	F-LA	
Lesser Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	R		
<b>Red Clover</b>	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	F	F	
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	R		
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	LF	O	Patch in bottom corner
Common Hemp Nettle	<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	R	R	Odd plants scattered at edges
<b>Marsh Woundwort</b>	<i>Stachys palustris</i>	LF		Damp bottom patch; pink flowers
Self Heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>			On lawn, not seen in fields
<b>Eyebright</b>	<i>Euphrasia officinalis agg.</i>	O-F		
<b>Hay rattle</b>	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	R	R	
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	O	O	Small plant + 4 sky blue petals
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	F	F	
<b>Harebell</b>	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	O		Along hedgerow edge
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	O	O	
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>		R	
<b>Cat's-Ear</b>	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	F	F	Yellow dandelion like flowers with branched stems
Smooth Hawksbeard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	R		Much-branched; small yellow composite flowers
<b>Knapweed</b>	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	R	O-R	Purple thistle-like flowers
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	O	LF	