

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
WS/ST4 9/47	Birches Meadow	ST469 978	1.01 ha	Grassland (MG5) (MG1)	Species- Rich Grassland (HAP)	<p>2006 - The site comprises two fields approximately 1.5km south-west of Devauden and supports neutral grassland that shows signs of lack of management. Both fields are enclosed by tall overgrown hedgerow with trees. The field to the west of the public footpath gently slopes to the north and is mainly MG1 grassland habitat with localised areas of bracken and tall ruderal species along the edges. The grassland is characterized by coarse grasses <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, <i>Holcus lanatus</i>, <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> and <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> with <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> and <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>. The field east of the footpath contains rank vegetation with frequent <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>. The site has no gradient and was due to be cut by late August. The owner plans to graze both fields with horses. 2007 - During panel 3 of wildlife sites selection panel the fields were discussed as borderline. Following a site re-visit in June 2007 field 1 was removed from the CWS. Only field 2 has sufficient indicators to warrant WS status. Field 1 was grazed so short by horses that it was not possible to identify sufficient diversity to justify inclusion in WS boundary. Field 2 had a grassy sward but with herbs scattered through understorey. Plantain, red clover & bird's-foot trefoil relatively constant. Yellow rattle & lesser stitchwort frequent at north.</p>	H4 Neutral Grassland