

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 9/48	Bluebell Farm	ST423 960	3.26 ha	Neutral Grassland, Species-Rich MG5, MG6 Marshy Grassland M23	Species-Rich Grassland (HAP)	<p>2006 - The site is adjacent to Wentwood, 3km north-east of Pen y Cae-mawr. There are three fields on a gentle north facing slope. The grassland is dry with localised damper grassland to the eastern most field. All the fields have been recently topped. All the fields have MG5 type grassland characterised by frequent <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> and <i>Centaurea nigra</i>. Field B has an area of grassland (which the owner said was ploughed post-WWI.) with <i>Polygonum sp</i>, <i>Holcus mollis</i>, and <i>Ranunculus repens</i>. Of particular importance is field C which has locally frequent <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> and <i>Genista tinctoria</i> with <i>Galium saxatile</i>, <i>Danthonia decumbens</i>, <i>Potentilla erecta</i> and <i>Veronica officinalis</i>. A large wet flush dominates field B and C with <i>Juncus effusus</i>, <i>Juncus articulatus</i> and <i>Lotus sp</i>. There is bracken encroachment in fields A and C. There are signs of ridge and furrow in all three fields as well as old banks. N.B. Species list provided in 2006 suggested fields A and B borderline. Resurveying in June 2007 suggests all fields warrant WS status as a single management unit. 2007 - Lovely group of fields managed as meadows supporting mixture of dry MG5 and M23 (in fields B and C). Field C is particularly rich supporting at the east: <i>Genista tinctoria</i>, <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>, <i>Potentilla erecta</i>, <i>Pedicularis sylvetica</i> and <i>Succisa pratensis</i>. The sward in A and C is tall, but drier areas are typified by <i>Potentilla erecta</i>, <i>Stellaria graminea</i>, <i>Galium saxatile</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> and <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>, together with some <i>C.nigra</i> and <i>H.radicata</i>. Field B becomes rank towards the west. Bracken is invading at some margins. Field B is just below the indicator threshold for neutral grassland but still contains sufficient interest to warrant inclusion in the WS.</p>	H4 Neutral Grasslands H7 Marshy Grasslands