

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 9/55	Gwemddu Orchard	ST400978	0.91 ha		Veteran tree & traditional orchards	<p>A grassy, sometimes Sheep grazed, stock-proof field that slopes downwards to the north. It is largely surrounded by overgrown hedges of which Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) are a chief component, with Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) frequent along the lower lying wetter ground along the northern boundary.</p> <p>The grass was lush and largely improved but towards the western end Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>) was locally frequent and significant patches of Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) are developing. The fruit trees that remain in this remnant orchard are largely around the perimeter of the site (leaving a large area in the middle open) and are mostly Pear (also two Apple) The pears are clearly a number of varieties and are trees of considerable age and in some cases size. These trees appear to be in generally good health although dead branches are apparent and one tree is half dead and two are fallen (but still thriving). These trees have many veteran tree features. There is no recent planting of fruit trees so all trees are old.</p>	H2) Parklands, Orchards and Veteran Trees – (Orchards)