

Monmouthshire County Council SINC

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
	Gaer Fawr	ST442988	0.49ha	Species Rich Grassland	Species-rich grassland	<p>This is hay meadow that slopes gently downwards to the east. It is surrounded by tree-lines on all sides. The field was ploughed and seeded in 1986 followed by grazing. In 1993 grazing ceased and it was cut for hay 1993-1997. Since 1997 it has been managed just for the wildlife value with a late cut but no grazing. The field is generally quite "flowery" although there are some areas with ranker grass that are less "flowery". The grass composition is dominated by Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) and generally lacks the finer species which are ideal for a very high quality grassland although Sweet Vernal Grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) is locally frequent. Yellow Rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>) is a notable component over considerable parts of the field and is apparently spreading year-on-year. Another notable feature are the orchids with the spikes of both Common Spotted (<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>) and Southern Marsh (<i>Dactylorhiza praeterisisma</i>) numbering in the 100's. A number of other indicator species are present including Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>), Ox-eye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>) and Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>) but it is only Meadow Vetchling (<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>) that could be said to be particularly abundant.</p> <p><i>Neutral Grassland: 12 indicator species</i></p>	H4) Neutral Grasslands - over 8 indicator species. (12 species recorded)