

Site Code	Site Name	Grid Reference	Size	Main Habitats	LBAP Priority Habitats / Species	Full description	Wildlife Site Qualifying Features
	Llanmelin Hillfort	ST461926	12.19ha	Mixed woodland, calcareous grassland, tall herb, scrub		<p>This is a wooded hill with an open area in the middle at the top of the hill. The woodland entirely encircles the hill but part of this (to the north west) is not included in the LWS boundary as it is already SSSI. The woodland within the SSSI is largely broad-leaved whereas that within the LWS is better described as mixed. The woodland ground flora is dominated in considerable parts by Dogs Mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) but there is still the presence of many other ancient woodland indicators including Bluebells (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>), Wood Anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>), together with some notable species such as Herb Paris (<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>), Spurge Laurel (<i>Daphne laureola</i>) and Wood Spurge (<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>). Early Purple Orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>) and Common Twayblade (<i>Neottia ovata</i>) can also be found within the woodland. The canopy is complete and there is a good variety of woody species present without any one species dominating. There appears to be a lack of any very old veteran trees however. The presence of the relatively scarce Small-leaved Lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>) should be noted. The open area within the centre of the site denotes where the Hillfort is present. The central raised part of this is grassland in which a number of interesting species are present, most notably a considerable patch of Wood Small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis epijecos</i>). Large parts of the grassland have however been overtaken by Rosebay Willowherb (<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>). Surrounding the grassland and bordering the woodland are the banks of the Hillfort, these are scrubbing over with a mix of scrub (most noticeably Spindle (<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>)), Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), tall-herbs, ferns and a variety of more typically woodland plants such as Dogs Mercury and Wood Spurge. The southern Annex is also scrubbing over, this area and the strip of habitat adjoining it to the main hillfort have the most noticeably diverse and calcareous flora including Ploughman's Spikenard (<i>Inula conzya</i>), Wild Basil (<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>), Wild Marjoram (<i>Origanum vulgare</i>) and Crosswort (<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>). It is also here that a solitary Wild Liquorice (<i>Astragalus glycyphylus</i>) plant occurs at possibly its only Monmouthshire site. The presence of Tor Grass (<i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>) is also of particular significance in a South Wales context. The presence of a good number of invertebrates is also significant including impressive numbers of Scarlet Tiger moths (<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>), the locally scarce Grizzled Skipper (<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>) and the best Monmouthshire population of the Nationally Scarce Drab Looper moth (<i>Minoa minuata</i>).</p> <p>Woodland: 29 indicator species Neutral Grassland: 21 indicator species (although a small number were actually in woodland rather than grassland). Calcareous Grassland: 21 indicator species (although a small number were actually in woodland rather than grassland).</p>	<p>H1) Woodlands – more than 14 indicator species. H4) Neutral Grassland – more than 8 indicator species. H5) Calcareous Grassland – more than 8 indicator species. S1) Mammals – Presence of Dormice. S7) Invertebrates – Presence of Grizzled Skipper a “High Priority Species (in Britain or Wales) in Butterfly Conservation’s National Action Plan for Wales (1998)”; also Drab Looper (the best Monmouthshire population of this nationally scarce species) .</p>