

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CAE ABER-GLANHIRIN

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SN888723

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN87

Site Area: 2.5a

Description:

This site is a good example of a type of upland, species-rich hay-meadow that is now rare and restricted to a few localities in mid-Wales. It lies adjacent to the headwaters of the River Elan at over 350 metres (1000 feet) above sea level.

The majority of the sward is dominated by grasses such as the common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dogs-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Frequent associates include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, devils-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*. Pignut *Conopodium majus*, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* are locally prominent within this community. Drier banks support a shorter sward dominated by bents *Agrostis spp.*, sweet vernal-grass and sheeps fescue *Festuca ovina*. Characteristic associates here include harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, mountain pansy *Viola lutea* and the uncommon greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chloranther*. Additional variety to the site is provided by wet hollows supporting species such as marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, greater birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosis* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*.

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