

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CAERPHILLY**

**MEMORIAL PARK MEADOWS,  
PONTLLANFRAITH**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1987
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	ST 177963
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 171 1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 19
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	3.84 ha

**Description:**

A large area of unimproved grassland made up of four fields which are the remnants of a traditionally managed farm unit now completely surrounded by urban development.

Soils are slowly permeable loams of the Brickfield Series overlying Coal Measure Sandstones, low lying areas are subject to seasonal waterlogging.

The site supports extensive areas of the *Lathyrus pratensis* sub community of the *Centaurea nigra* – *Cynosurus cristatus* mesotrophic grassland type with a diverse range of both grass and herb species. Many of these are characteristic of the ‘old meadow’ type of grassland including meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, yellow rattle *Rhianthus minor* and bird’s foot- trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*. Lower lying areas with impeded drainage are characterised by the abundance of species such as meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*.

There are local areas of a grassland community which can be referred to most closely to the *Alopecurus pratensis* variant of *Lolium perenne* – *Cynosurus cristatus* type.

The site also supports large populations of a number of locally rare species, including greater burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, lady’s mantle *Alchemilla xanthochlora* and bistort *Polygonum bistorta*.

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