

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

RHOS HEN-GLYN-ISAF

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SN 787125

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 71

Site Area: 5.1 ha

Description:

This site comprises an extensive and varied area of damp/wet heathy pasture above the valley of the River Giedd, near Ystradgynlais. It is noted for its wide variety of plant species, including several that are uncommon in Brecknock.

A large part of the site supports a sward dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, sedges *Carex* spp. and common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. Sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* is locally prominent and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* is common throughout this plant community. A wide range of associated species are present, including quaking-grass *Briza media*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, globeflower *Troillius europaeus* and a large colony of marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, an orchid that is rare in this part of Wales. There are extensive areas of flush associated with this community. These are dominated by small sedges (star sedge *Carex echinata*, glaucous sedge *C. flacca*, tawny sedge *C. hostiana*, carnation sedge *C. panicea* and flea sedge *C. pulicaris*). Other species include quaking-grass, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, eyebright *Euphrasia* agg., few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, common butter-wort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, devil's-bit scabious and marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*.

The western part of the site is dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus*. Associates here include Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, sedges, whorled caraway, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*. There are also small patches of drier grassland characterised by an abundance of purple moor-grass, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and bents

Agrostis spp.. Additional interest is provided by stands of alder *Alnus glutinosa* and by ditches which support species such as hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and the locally uncommon fern *Osmunda regalis*.

Remarks:

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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