

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

RHOS DWFNANT

Date of Notification: 1985

National Grid Reference: SO 021601

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 06

Site Area: 11.2 ha

Description:

The site is an excellent example of diverse herb-rich pasture on generally acidic soils. It comprises three fields with no stock-proof boundaries between them and occupies gently sloping land with a predominantly southern aspect. There are extensive patches of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* with a scattering of hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* scrub, and downy birch *Betula pubescens* occurs around the field boundaries. The sward is generally herb-rich and additional habitats are provided by the occurrence of dry banks, rock outcrops and a small pool with marginal wetland.

The grassland is generally dominated by bents and fescues *Agrostis-Festuca* with abundant sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. Dependent on drainage conditions, mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and heath-grass *Sieglingia decumbens* are also well represented. Both early hair-grass *Aira praecox* and silver hair-grass *A. caryophyllea* occur on rock outcrops. Crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* occurs locally. Herb species characteristic of the drier areas of sward are tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and occasionally dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* and petty whin *G. anglica*. Moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* has also been recorded. Damper ground tends to be rather more variable in composition and more species-rich. Six species of sedge *Carex* spp. have been recorded and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* are all present.

The pond and surrounding wetland are particularly interesting, with a fringe of bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and bulrush *Typha latifolia* and beds of marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*. Other species present in this area include wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*.

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