

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**CAEAU CNWCH A TY'N-Y-GRAIG**

**Date of Notification:** 1972, 1980, 1983 and 1991

**National Grid Reference:** SN933644/SN934637

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN96

**Site Area:** 5.4 ha

**Description:**

The site comprises four traditionally managed fields lying in a small valley below Craig Cnwch, near Elan village. They provide an outstanding example of a type of herb-rich grassland that is characteristic of the upland fringe of central Wales, although it has strong affinities with the meadows of the Pennine Dales. Such fields are now rare as a result of agricultural intensification.

Two of the three fields at Ty'n-y-graig are managed as traditional hay meadows. The sward here is dominated by great burnet *Sanguisorba Officinalis*, along with sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum Odorum*, crested dogs-tail *Cynosurus Cristatus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago Lanceolata* and clovers *Trifolium spp.* common bent *Agrostis Capillaris*, red fescue *Festuca Rubra*, common knapweed *Centaurea Nigra*, eyebright *Euphrasia Officinalis*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon Hispidus*, cats-ear *Hypochoeris Radicata*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus Minor*, common sorrel *Rumex Acetosa* and the nationally scarce wood bitter-vetch *Vicia Orobus* are frequent throughout, and a wide range of other species is present, inhawk's-beard *Crepis Capillaris*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus Pratensis*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus Corniculatus*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus Acris*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus Bulbosus* and the locally uncommon greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera Chlorantha*.

The upper field is steeper and is not mown. Here the sward is grass-dominated, but common knapweed, eyebright, rough hawkbit, common bird's-foot-trefoil, ribwort plantain, yellow-rattle and clovers remain frequent, along with tormentil *Potentilla Erecta*. Other characteristic associates include pignut *Conopodium Majus*, bitter-vetch *Lathyrus Montanus*, fairy flax *Linum Catharticum*, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella Saxifraga*, greater butterfly-orchid and heath milkwort *Polygala Serpyllifolia*. The lower field contains small areas of mire dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia Caerulea*, these supporting species such as sweet vernal-grass, wood horsetail *Equisetum*

*Sylvaticum*, red fescue, heath wood-rush *Luzula Multiflora*, tormentil and marsh violet *Viola Palustris*. The drier parts of Cnwch meadow support a sward dominated by great burnet that is very similar to that described for Ty'n-y-graig. Elsewhere there are extensive areas dominated by mixtures of purple moor-grass, common bent, sweet vernal-grass, red fescue and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus Lanatus*, with frequent mat-grass *Nardus Stricta*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus Uliginosus*, tormentil and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa Pratensis*. Other associated species include heath-grass *Danthonia Decumbens*, glaucous sedge *Carex Flacca*, sneezewort *Achillea Ptarmica*, quaking-grass *Briza Media*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza Maculata* subsp. *Ericetorum*, wood horsetail, bitter-vetch and lousewort *Pedicularis Sylvatica*.

Wetter flushes within this community are characterised by the presence of species such as marsh-marigold *Caltha Palustris*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus Acutiflorus*, star sedge *Carex Echinata*, common sedge *Carex Nigra*, carnation sedge *Carex Panicea*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium Palustre*, ragged-robin *Lychnis Flos-cuculi* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus Flammula*. An area of marsh across the eastern edge of the field is dominated by tussocks of purple moor-grass. Characteristic associates here include wild angelica *Angelica Sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium Palustre*, meadowsweet *Filipendula Ulmaria*, bog asphodel *Narthecium Ossifragum*, tormentil and the locally uncommon globeflower *Trollius Europaeus*.

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