

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: CITATION

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

THE PARISH FIELD, CAE'R RHEDYN

Date of Notification: 24 February 2011

National Grid Reference: SS 979776

OS Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 170
1:10,000 Sheet number: SS 97 NE

Site Area: 1.3 ha

Description:

The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn SSSI is of special interest for its species-rich neutral grassland. Some of this habitat has a particularly calcicolous nature.

This is one of the rarest types of grassland in Wales, now mainly confined to a small number of sites in the Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouthshire and north-east Wales. By contrast, in other parts of this site, the soils are more acidic, and it is a particular characteristic of The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn SSSI that calcicolous and acidic grasslands occur in an intricate mosaic. Associated habitats include small areas of scrub and overgrown hedgerows.

The site consists of a single field above the village of Graig Penllyn, approximately 3 km north-west of Cowbridge, at an altitude of between 60 and 90m. The field has a south-westerly aspect, sloping towards a minor road that forms part of the SSSI boundary. The soils are free draining brown earths over Carboniferous limestone.

The principal habitat at The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn SSSI is the neutral grassland. This is characterised by grasses, such as common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Typical herb species include yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Where the soil is lime-rich, these grassland plants are joined by lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba*, quaking grass *Briza media*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and downy oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*. In other areas, where the ground is steepest, the soil has become leached, and plants preferring more acid soils occur, including devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, betony *Betonica officinalis*, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*.

Scarce or local species that have been recorded at The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn SSSI include common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*.

Remarks:

The site supports the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority 'lowland meadow' habitat. The Parish Field, Cae'r Rhedyn SSSI is owned by the charity Allotments for the Labouring Poor, of which Penllyn Community Council is the official custodian.

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