

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE

**BLAENTROTHY MEADOWS
(CAEAU BLAENTRODDI)**

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1992
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SJ 372218
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 126 1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 32
<u>Site Area:</u>	26.1 ha

Description:

Blaentrophy Meadows lie mid-way between the villages of Pandy and Grosmont in the north of Gwent at an altitude of approximately 175 metres. The site straddles the steep east and west facing slopes of the headwaters of the River Trothy. Soils are clayey brown earths of the Bromyard Association which have developed on the underlying Devonian rocks.

The meadows support one of the largest remaining areas of unimproved neutral grassland in Gwent. At least two grassland sub-communities and a number of plant species with a restricted distribution in Gwent are present.

Two sub-communities of the *Centaurea Nigra* - *Cynosurus Cristatus* (common knapweed - crested dog's-tail) type of neutral grassland occur. The most westerly field supports a species-rich example of the *Danthonia Decumbens* (heath-grass) sub-community. The most frequent grasses are common bent *Agrostis Capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum Odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca Rubra*, heath-grass, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus Lanatus* and crested dog's-tail. Glaucous sedge *Carex Flacca* is occasional. Herbs include common knapweed, dyer's greenweed *Genista Tinctoria*, fairy flax *Linum Catharticum* and betony *Stachys Officinalis*. Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella Saxifraga*, and pepper-saxifrage *Silaum Silaus* also occur and have a restricted distribution in Gwent.

The remaining area is dominated by a less species-rich example of the *Lathyrus Pratensis* (meadow vetchling) sub-community and perennial rye-grass *Lolium Perenne* is more common here.

Both sub-communities are characterised by plants typical of more flushed conditions such as sharp-flowered rush *Juncus Acutiflorus*, sneezewort *Achillea Ptarmica* and common fleabane *Pulicaria Dysenterica* which give the vegetation affinities to wetter mire communities. A plant

characteristic of more calcaerous conditions that occurs occasionally on the site is common centaury *Centaurium Erythraea*.

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