

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**DROSTRE BANK**

**Date of Notification:** 1972, 1980, 1983, 2000

**National Grid Reference:** SO 097312

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 161  
1:10,000 Sheet number: SO 03 SE

**Site Area:** 12.6 ha

**Description:**

Drostre Bank is of special interest for its fen-meadow and wet woodland, and the association of these with rush pasture and other woodland.

The site is situated on gently sloping ground at an altitude of 220-230 m, approximately 6 km north east of Brecon. The underlying geology consists of Old Red Sandstone. The soils are typical brown earths, but within the site, the ground is poorly drained.

The fen-meadow vegetation is characterised by the prominence of purple-moor grass *Molinia caerulea*, abundant meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, and frequent tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*. Associated species include sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. A base-rich flush associated with this vegetation supports locally dominant common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, with a luxuriant carpet of mosses, including *Campylium stellatum* and *Ctenidium molluscum*. Scattered throughout the fen meadow are small stands of rush-pasture, associated with wetter drains and depressions. These are dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* or soft-rush *Juncus effusus*, with frequent meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and angelica *Angelica sylvestris*.

The wet woodland has an open canopy consisting of alder *Alnus glutinosa*, downy birch *Betula pubescens*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and rusty willow *Salix cinerea* ssp. *oleifolia*. The shrub layer is generally dense and mainly composed of hazel *Corylus avellana*, with locally frequent ash and rusty willow saplings. The field layer is species-rich and typified by frequent meadowsweet, tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* and remote sedge *Carex remota*. The remaining woodland is drier and largely dominated by downy birch or oak hybrids *Quercus* spp., with a shrub layer of hazel, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and locally abundant holly *Ilex aquifolium*. The field layer is a patchy mix of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and creeping soft grass *Holcus mollis* with frequent broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata* and enchanters-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana* among other species.

Bay willow *Salix pentandra* occurs in the western field; Drostre Bank represents the extreme south eastern edge of its range in Britain. Other uncommon plants recorded from the site include early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*, petty whin *Genista anglica* and pepper saxifrage *Silaum silaus*.

**Remarks:**

This site contains vegetation assignable to the “Molinia meadows on chalk and clay (Eu-Molinion)” habitat type listed in Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna, for which the site has been listed as a candidate Special Area of Conservation.

*This document is **NOT** a definitive legal version and has been formatted, updated and partially edited for use on the CCW Web site. This document should not be used in any legal proceedings, public enquiry or any other hearing or appeal. If you require a full legal copy of the document please contact CCW in writing.*