

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**COBBLERS PLAIN MEADOWS, DEVAUDEN**

**Date of Notification:** 1991, 1992

**National Grid Reference:** SO469015, SO475013

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 40

**Site Area:** 3.32 ha

**Description:**

Cobbler's Plain Meadows are situated to the north of the village of Devauden at an altitude of between 120-190 metres. The underlying geology is lower Old Red Sandstone and the soils are classified as brown earths of the Milford and Eardiston 1 associations. The meadows are located on a steep western facing slope and are generally freely drained with local minor flushing. The site supports the largest areas in Gwent of a particular unimproved neutral grassland community type as well as plant species which are becoming scarce in the county and nationally.

The western meadow supports relatively unimproved neutral grassland of the common knapweed - crested dog's tail *Centaurea Nigra* - *Cynosurus Cristatus* community. The site is unusual in that both these species are sparse here, but another key plant of this community, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus Corniculatus*, is abundant. The grassland is best referred to the *Lathyrus Pratensis* (meadow vetchling) sub-community.

The eastern meadow supports a wider range of communities including some grassland in the north west corner similar to the above. The upper part of the field, however, is more typical of an acidic community, the *Festuca Ovina* - *Agrostis Capillaris* - *Galium Saxatile* (sheep's-fescue - common bent - heath bedstraw) grassland. Again, this is an unusual example of the community as sheep's-fescue and heath bedstraw are missing. Grassland in the lower part of the meadow has affinities with both communities and flushes with abundant small sedges are also present.

The most frequent grasses throughout are common bent, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum Odorum*, red fescue *Festuca Rubra* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus Lanatus*. Carnation sedge *Carex Panicea*, glaucous sedge *Carex Flacca* and flea sedge *Carex Pulicaris* occur only in the flushes. Adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum Vulgatum* is present in both meadows.

Herbs which are characteristic of unimproved grassland are well represented and include common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza Fuchsii*, dyer's greenweed *Genista Tinctoria*, fairy flax *Linum Catharticum*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus Minor* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa Pratensis*.

Also present in the eastern meadow are common twayblade *Listera Ovata*, green-winged orchid *Orchis Morio* and hairy lady's-mantle *Alchemilla Filicaulis*.

**Remarks:**

Adjoins Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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