

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**POWYS**

**LLYMWYNT BROOK PASTURES**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1999
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SO 105770
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 148 1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 17 NW
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	7.2 ha

**Description:**

Llymwynt Brook Pastures is of special interest for its areas of fen meadow and swamp, and associated mire, flush and fen vegetation. The site comprises of a series of fields on either side of the Llymwynt Brook near Llanbadarn Ffynydd, at an altitude of approximately 300m. The geology of this area is comprised of sedimentary rocks of Silurian age. The underlying clay soils have impeded drainage and some peat is accumulating in pockets next to the brook. A number of springs rise in the sloping fields on the south side of the valley.

The westerly field south of the brook contains fen-meadow vegetation with purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, tawny sedge *C. hostiana*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, quaking-grass *Briza media*, and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. This vegetation grades into areas in which soft-rush *Juncus effusus* or sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* is abundant, growing with Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*. Some prominent springheads occur along the top of the site, where small sedges such as carnation sedge, tawny sedge, common sedge *Carex nigra* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris* and mosses such as *Cratoneuron commutatum*, *Drepanocladus revolvens* and the uncommon *Trichocolea tomentella* grow. Associated plants include marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and fairy flax *Linum catharticum*.

To the north of the brook is an area of swamp occupied by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*. Plants associated with the sedge are typically sparse but include wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Small pockets of this vegetation also occur in the fields south of the brook. Springs in the valley bottom support tall fen vegetation variously dominated by meadowsweet, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* and wood club-rush *Scirpus sylvaticus*.

The easterly field south of the brook supports mire vegetation consisting of purple moor-grass with tall herbs such as common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, wild angelica and marsh willowherb *Epilobium palustre*. Elsewhere, meadowsweet is locally abundant. On better-drained soils there are small patches of acidic grassland with sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, betony *Stachys officinalis*, mouse-ear hawkweed *Pilosella officinarum* and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*.

Along the length of the brook, broad-leaved woodland dominated by oak *Quercus spp*, with occasional downy birch *Betula pubescens* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, occurs. There are also small pockets of woodland dominated by grey willow *Salix cinerea* or alder *Alnus glutinosa*.

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