

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CRABTREE GREEN MEADOW

Date of Notification: 1998

National Grid Reference: SO 056625

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:10,000 Sheet number: SO 06 SE

Site Area: 2.7 ha

Description:

Crabtree Green Meadow is of special interest for its neutral grassland vegetation, in particular, a scarce form of grassland associated with river flood-plains. The site is part of a highly disjunct chain of flood-plain meadows which extend from Clwyd to Gwent down the Marcher fringes of Wales.

The fields are situated on alluvial soil, overlying Silurian shales, in the floodplain of the River Ithon, on the outskirts of Llandrindod Wells. They comprise a large traditionally managed hay field and a smaller area of adjoining pasture. The area is subject to occasional flooding by the river and contains damp hollows which may be the remains of former river channels.

The scarce floodplain grassland type is distinguished by the high frequency of plants such as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata* and intermediate lady's-mantle *Alchemilla xanthochlora*. A wet hollow in this field is characterised by abundant meadow foxtail, meadowsweet and meadow cranesbill *Geranium pratense*, a scarce plant in Radnorshire.

The rest of the site is occupied by a more widespread grassland type, which shares several similarities with the flood-meadow grassland type described above. Prominent in this vegetation are plants such as common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, along with intermediate lady's mantle, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus* and great burnet.

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