

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

GYFARTHA

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1999
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN 992243
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 160 1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 92 SE
<u>Site Area:</u>	2 ha

Description:

Gyfartha is of special interest for its unimproved fen-meadow which occurs in close association with stands of acidic grassland, alder woodland and bracken.

The site is situated approximately 1 km south of the village of Libanus, near Brecon. It occupies gently sloping ground with a north-westerly aspect at an altitude of 245-270 m. The underlying bedrock is Old Red Sandstone which is overlain by brown earths.

The fen-meadow vegetation is characterised by the prominence of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. Characteristic associates include sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devils'-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and quaking-grass *Briza media*.

Knolls within the fen-meadow support drier acidic grassland. This vegetation is characterised by species such as sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, tormentil, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, devil's-bit scabious, betony *Stachys officinalis* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

Other vegetation includes small stands of alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland and bracken which add to the overall ecological diversity of the site.

Remarks:

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park

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