

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**POWYS**

**NEUADD AND TYLELO MIRES**

**Date of Notification:** 1999

**National Grid Reference:** SO 033557, SO 039556

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147  
1:10,000 Sheet number: SO 05 NW

**Site Area:** 6.9 ha

**Description:**

Neuadd and Tylelo Mires are of special interest for their mixtures of marshy grassland and wet woodland, combined with smaller areas of dry grassland, swamp and mire. The site, which forms two distinct blocks, is situated approximately 4 km north of Builth Wells, at an altitude of 180-200 m. Neuadd Mire is bordered along its western edge by the Heart of Wales railway line. Tylelo Mire is located approximately 0.5 km to the east. Both areas are on gently sloping ground, at the base of much steeper slopes. The clay soils are predominantly wet throughout the year. The impeded drainage has given rise to localised peat development. Both sections of the site support similar vegetation communities.

Neuadd Mire forms part of two enclosures. The majority of the area consists of marshy grassland of a variety of types. Sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* is dominant, and the range of associated plant species is unusually large, including marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and the locally rare northern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella*.

Other areas are dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. In places this is accompanied by sharp-flowered rush and a range of herbaceous plants including meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* subsp. *ericetorum*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and marsh valerian. Elsewhere, the vegetation is more grassy in character.

The wettest part of Neuadd Mire supports vegetation dominated by bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and sharp-flowered rush with abundant marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and the moss *Calliargon cuspidatum*.

Wet woodland borders the railway line and appears to be fairly recent in origin. Alder *Alnus glutinosa* is the most common tree and is mainly present as young trees although there are some scattered old coppice stools. The ground flora is more typical of fen than woodland, including such species as meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, marsh bedstraw, soft-rush *Juncus effusus* and marsh valerian.

In contrast to the rest of this site, an area of dry grassland occurs on the dry, rising ground above Rhyd-galed Bridge and is characterised by species such as sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, creeping bent grass *Agrostis stolonifera*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and tormentil.

Tylelo Mire supports similar vegetation types to Neuadd Mire; rush pasture mixed with small patches of fen meadow and an area of alder-dominated wet woodland.

The rush pasture at this site is characterised by sharp-flowered rush with a wide range of associated species including ragged robin, greater birds-foot-trefoil, marsh valerian, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, tufted forget-me-not *Myosotis laxa* and, locally, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* and marsh cinquefoil. Mixed within this is a grassier vegetation type with species such as purple moor-grass, meadow thistle, carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* and tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*. Northern marsh orchid and the locally rare long-stalked yellow-sedge *Carex lepidocarpa* have also been recorded from this part of the site.

Bordering the adjacent woodland, a small patch of greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata* dominated swamp occurs. Associated species include hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, wood club-rush *Scirpus sylvaticus* and common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*. A small area of wet woodland is also present which is similar in character to that found at Neuadd Mire.

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