

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

GRANLLYN

Date of Notification: 2001

National Grid Reference: SJ 224115

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 126
1:10,000 Sheet number: SJ21 SW

Site Area: 20.9 ha

Description:

Granllyn is situated close to the village of Guilsfield which lies to the north-east of Welshpool, in eastern Montgomeryshire. The site consists of two nutrient-rich water bodies and pasture land. The larger of the two water bodies has developed in a shallow depression, the other is a small historic moat. Granllyn is of special interest for the largest known population of great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* in Montgomeryshire. This is an uncommon species in mid Wales, and is declining and rare elsewhere in Europe.

The hollow in which Granllyn Pool was formed lies on the local Ordovician bedrock, Dicranograptus Shales, and was formed through the melting of a detached block of ice stranded on the spur between the valleys of the Guilsfield Brook and Nant Rhyd-y-moch. The resultant water-filled hollow is a typical landform called a kettle hole. The soils are brown earths and alluvial gley.

Granllyn Pool is fed by a small stream but there is no apparent outflow. It is shallow, and has been largely colonised by white willow *Salix alba* and goat willow *Salix cinerea*. The swamp and marginal vegetation here is dominated by rushes *Juncus spp.*, but stands of flag iris *Iris pseudacorus*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, and greater reed mace *Typha latifolia* also occur. Notable plant species include tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and bladder sedge *Carex vesicaria*.

Great crested newts use the waterbodies within the site as breeding pools. The remaining pasture and associated habitat are considered to be vitally important forage areas and provide safe dispersal routes for the population. Suitable habitat has therefore been included within the SSSI up to 250 m away from the breeding pools, the distance within which research has shown that most individual newts will forage and hibernate.

The site is partly bordered by housing, and includes Guilsfield Cemetery. The field immediately surrounding the pool has been planted with broadleaved trees. Much of the remaining pasture land has been agriculturally improved and is grazed by cattle or horses, forming an important foraging and dispersal habitat for the newts.

Remarks:

The great crested newt is listed on Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. It is a Schedule 5 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and it is on Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations 1994.

The Pool and immediately adjacent pasture is owned by the Woodland Trust.

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