

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

UPPER NANTSERTH PASTURE

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1990
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN 976702
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 147 1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 97
<u>Site Area:</u>	1.4 ha

Description:

This site comprises a single sloping field of mainly boggy land on either side of a small tributary of the Nant Serth. The pasture is of special interest because it supports a good range of mire and grassland plant communities within a small area. It has a high species diversity which includes locally and nationally uncommon plants.

Much of the field comprises damp pasture dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with frequent sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and occasional heath wood-rush *Luzula multiflora*, marsh violet *Viola palustris*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*. Peaty runnels within this community support a different type of purple moor-grass community that is characterised by the presence of cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* subsp. *ericetorum*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp.. Scattered acidic flushes are dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, with frequent purple moor-grass along with the bog-moss *Sphagnum recurvum*, velvet bent *Agrostis canina*, star sedge *Carex echinata*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and marsh violet. Slightly raised banks support a dry grassland community dominated by sheep's-fescue and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, with frequent heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, sweet vernal-grass, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and tormentil. Locally prominent species include harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, bitter-vetch *Lathyrus montanus*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, along with more unusual associates such as dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and the nationally scarce wood bitter-vetch *Vicia orobus*. More base-rich areas associated with the stream support vegetation dominated by sharp-flowered rush, with additional wetland plants such as bugle *Ajuga reptans*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*.

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