

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**POWYS**

**MYNYDD EPYNT**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	2002
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SN858351, SN883400, SN920400, SN996437, SO009444, SO 015440
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number:160 1:10,000 Sheet number:SN83 NE, SN84 SE, SN94 SW, SN94 SE and SO04 SW
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	43.3 ha

**Description:**

Mynydd Epynt is of special interest for its population of the rare slender green feather-moss *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*, and its diverse assemblage of grassland fungi, including more than 20 species of waxcap *Hygrocybe* spp.

The site comprises six separate blocks of land situated on the ridge of Mynydd Epynt at an altitude of 300 – 400m, between Halfway Forest and Cwm Owen. The underlying bedrock consists of sandstone and shale of the Silurian age. The soils on the hilltops and slopes are generally thin, well drained and acidic but the hollows are poorly drained with waterlogged soils and small accumulations of peat. The site includes many springs, which supply water of varying nutrient status.

Spring-fed wetlands occur throughout the site. These are largely dominated by rushes *Juncus* spp. and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with patches of willow *Salix* spp. scrub and alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland in places. However, the areas closest to the springs support more open vegetation. Acidic springs are characterised by plants such as common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, star sedge *Carex echinata* and the bog moss *Sphagnum recurvum*, whilst more nutrient-rich springs support a variety of small sedges and ‘brown mosses’. The slender green feather-moss occurs in association with springs of intermediate nutrient status. Typical associated plants here include carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, star sedge *C. echinata*, common sedge *C. nigra*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, purple moor-grass, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, greater bird’s-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, the mosses *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Calliergon cuspidatum*, *Philonotis fontana* and the bog moss *Sphagnum subsecundum*.

Dry grassland dominated by sheep’s fescue *Festuca ovina* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris* with frequent heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* is found throughout the site. At Disgwylfa, this grassland supports a diverse fungal flora including the fairy club *Clavaria zolingeri*, the earth tongue *Geoglossum umbratile* and the waxcaps *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens*, *H. calytriformis*, *H. fornicata*, *H. ingrata*, *H. intermedia*, *H. irrigata*, *H. ovina*, *H. punicea*, *H. quieta* and *H.*

*splendidissima.*

**Remarks:**

The land belongs to the Ministry of Defence and is used for military training.

*Hamatocaulis vernicosus* is listed in Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended) and Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of wild Flora and Fauna).

The majority of Mynydd Epynt SSSI comprises the Mynydd Epynt Special Area of Conservation (cSAC).

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