

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

BURFA BOGLANDS

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SO275612

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 148
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO26

Site Area: 9.5 ha

Description:

This site is an excellent example of rough grassland and streamside alder woodland forming an interesting mosaic of vegetation types which is uncommon in Radnor. Grazing by sheep and cattle is at a relatively low level. The dominant feature of the site is the streamside woodland by the three principle watercourses, the Knobley Brook and two minor tributaries. It forms two types - open, wet coppiced alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland spreading from the streams into diffuse marshy areas, and more mature alder which has a mainly closed canopy. In both types grey willow *Salix cinerea* occasionally occurs in the shrub layer, and scattered hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and hazel *Corylus avellana* are also present. Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus* is a component of these types, though of very sparse occurrence. The ground flora varies from mesotrophic marsh, with marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, to fen communities dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*. Local base enrichment also provides a habitat for both alternate-leaved and opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* and *C. oppositifolium*. Locally, drier areas support bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, bugle *Ajuga reptans* and dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*.

The rough grasslands include a mixture of acidic types, varying from moderately herb-rich marsh grassland to swards dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiformis* or purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. These varied conditions give rise to the high species diversity for the site with, for example, eleven species of sedge *Carex spp.* having been recorded. Neutral grassland also occurs. Although locally modified by past agricultural improvements this vegetation is of interest because of its slightly basic nature. Characteristic species include common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*. A Radnor rarity, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, has also been recorded.

Remarks:

The site is owned by the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and managed as a nature reserve.

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