

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

RHOS RHYD-Y-CEIR

Date of Notification: 1989

National Grid Reference: SN 984645

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 96

Site Area: 7.8 ha

Description:

This is one of the finest and most extensive areas of botanically rich damp-wet heathy pasture in Radnor. This type of varied grassland habitat has become known as 'rhos', and used to be much more extensive in parts of Wales. The site slopes gently to the Rhyd-y-ceir Brook, which forms its north-western boundary.

The damp pasture which comprises most of the site is dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and soft-rush *J. effusus*. The most acidic areas are characterised by frequent cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and star sedge *Carex echinata*, along with carnation sedge *C. panicea*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, petty whin *Genista anglica*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. More base-rich areas are characterised by an abundance of rushes, together with species such as sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. A series of wet ditches and hollows at the northern end of the site is of particular interest. They support species such as common cottongrass, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*. Several areas of alder *Alnus glutinosa* woodland and grey willow *Salix cinerea* scrub add to the diversity of the site, as do the patches of dry acidic bent/fescue *Agrostis/Festuca* grassland and western gorse *Ulex gallii* scrub.

The uncommon marsh fritillary butterfly *Eurodryas aurinia* has been recorded in some numbers at this site.

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