

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**LLWYN Y CELYN WETLAND**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1989
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	ST 480946
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 171 1:25,000 Sheet number: ST 49
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	10.4 ha

**Description:**

This site, which occurs alongside the Mounton Brook, supports examples of fairly calcareous spring mire and swamp plant communities which are uncommon in Gwent.

The underlying geology consists of Brownstones of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. Soils alongside the Mounton Brook are alluvial in origin with peaty surface horizons on the wetter areas. A complex network of springs issuing from the base of the slopes helps to maintain high water levels on land adjoining the stream.

An unusual form of species-rich mire vegetation which occurs alongside much of the Brook is probably best described as the *Festuca rubra* – *Juncus acutiflorus* sub-community of the *Schoenus nigricans* – *Juncus subnodulosus* type. Black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus* do not appear to be present, although other constant species associated with this community type such as carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta* are widespread. Lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* is unusually common.

Eight other species of sedge have been recorded including common yellow-sedge *Carex demissa*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*. Flowering plants are well represented with common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella* and marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*. Bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* occurs in the wettest areas. Natural transitions to greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata* and alder *Alnus glutinosa* fen are also present in areas along the stream.

This species-rich vegetation grades into species-poor *Carex acutiformis* swamp towards the south eastern part of the site. This community is dominated by lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, with rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and

water mint *Mentha aquatica* also present. Monk's-hood *Aconitum napellus* occurs along the streambank in one of its few Gwent locations.

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