

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

TYNCOED PASTURE

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1996
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN 965522
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 147 1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 95 SE
<u>Site Area:</u>	4.2 ha

Description:

Tyncoed Pasture is of special interest for its extensive area of fen-meadow, with associated rush-pasture and mire communities, which form a mosaic determined by soil moisture, drainage and base status.

The site comprises a single enclosure bounded by tree-lined ditches, situated 7.5 kilometres north-west of Builth Wells. A sinuous drainage channel traverses the pasture, and its marshy surrounds support a rich variety of plant communities. The land slopes gently in a south-easterly direction and is approximately 210 metres above sea level. Drainage is impeded, with brown podzolic soils overlying Silurian sediments.

The central part of Tyncoed Pasture consists of a large area of fen-meadow, dominated by tussocky purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Associated species include meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, velvet bent *Agrostis canina*, flea sedge *Carex pulicaris* and tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*. Whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum* is a notable feature of this community. This is a scarce and declining species which is restricted to oceanic areas of Europe. The character of the fen-meadow varies according to soil drainage; drier areas have a grassy nature, harbouring sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, whilst damper patches support marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, conglomerate rush *Juncus conglomeratus* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*. The area adjacent to the drainage ditch has a more marshy element, characterised by marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*. A patch of fen-meadow to the west of the drainage ditch has a heathy character, containing frequent cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and locally prominent sphagnum moss *Sphagnum papillosum*. Other species found within this area include heather *Calluna vulgaris*, deergrass *Scirpus cespitosus*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* and petty whin *Genista anglica*.

The north-eastern part of the enclosure consists of rush-pasture, in which sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* is the dominant component. Associated species include greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, velvet bent *Agrostis canina*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*.

Small areas of mire are interspersed with the fen-meadow. These are dominated by purple moor-grass and also contain tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, velvet bent and sheep's fescue.

A small patch of wet heath occurs where the central drainage channel meets the southern boundary ditch. This is characterised by frequent heather, deergrass, cross-leaved heath and *Sphagnum papillosum*. Adjacent to this area, a small swamp is found, dominated by lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis* and shaded by alder *Alnus glutinosa*.

Drier areas on the south-western periphery of the enclosure support mature sessile oak *Quercus petraea* and areas of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

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