

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

GWAUN LLWYN-GWYN

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SN 904797

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 136
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 97

Site Area: 1.8 ha

Description:

The site is an excellent example of unimproved pasture associated with a series of old terraces formed by the River Wye. There is an interesting gradation of vegetation types, from wet-rush pasture at the riverside, through damp acidic grassland, mesotrophic grassland and a springline flush to a mosaic of acidic grassland and heath on dry banks along the southern boundary.

The riverside fringe is dominated by soft-rush *Juncus effusus*, with frequent slender tufted-sedge *Carex acuta*, common sedge *C. nigra*, marsh horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*. Drier hummocks support purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, lemon-scented fern *Oreopteris limbosperma* and ivy-leaved bellflower *Wahlenbergia hederacea*.

Acid grassland on the old river terraces is dominated by bents *Agrostis spp.*, and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* are all locally frequent. Patches of western gorse *Ulex gallii* occur on the drier ridges, and less common species such as petty whin *Genista anglica*, dyer's greenweed *G. tinctoria*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* and mountain pansy *Viola lutea* are also found here.

The more mesotrophic grassland is characterised by an abundance of common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, with frequent yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and white clover *Trifolium repens*. The springline flush is dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, and marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus* are locally abundant here. The dry banks along the southern edge of the field support a

sward dominated by sheep's-fescue, bents and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, and heather *Calluna vulgaris*, green-ribbed sedge *Carex binervis* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* are all locally prominent. Other typical species found here include hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, sheep's-bit *Jasione montana*, heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia* and betony *Stachys officinalis*.

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