

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CAE CWM-BACH

Date of Notification: 1980, 1983

National Grid Reference: SN952700

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN97

Site Area: 1.5 ha

Description:

The site consists of a single meadow normally grazed by sheep in the spring and then put up for hay and cut in late July or August. It is one of a nationally important series displaying the range of seminatural neutral grasslands occurring in Britain.

The meadow lies on a gentle north-east facing slope above the River Wye. The grassland of fescues, bent and vernal-grass *Festuca/Agrostis/Anthoxanthum* is very herb-rich with eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*, bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and bluebell *Endymion non-scriptus* abundant. Typical western hay meadow species such as globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and twayblade *Listera ovata* are also present. Towards the south-western and southern sides are small mounds of somewhat different botanical composition, with fewer grass species but an abundance of herbs such as pignut *Conopodium majus*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and betony *Betonica officinalis*. Also present are, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, common bistort *Polygonum bistorta*, and the very characteristic regional plant, wood bitter-vetch *Vicia orobus*, in some quantity.

This site is an excellent example of the mid-wales hay meadows of the wood bitter-vetch/globeflower type, but appears to lack a few of the species such as greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera cholorantha* and quaking-grass *Briza media*, which occur in other examples of this grassland type in this part of mid-Wales.

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