

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

NANT Y RHOS

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1999
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN 791078
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 160 1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 70 NE
<u>Site Area:</u>	2.5 ha

Description:

The site consists of a single, gently sloping enclosure on the west side of the Nant y Rhos, 2.5 km south-east of Ystalyfera, at an altitude of 140m above sea level. The geology of this area comprises Middle Coal Measure shales, overlain for the most part by boulder clay. The site is drained by two ditches which run into the Nant y Rhos. The site is of special interest for its species-rich fen meadow vegetation, which includes large populations of meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* and whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*.

Most of the site supports vegetation that is dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, accompanied by a range of characteristic associates including meadow thistle, flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*, whorled caraway, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, greater birds-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, and lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*. In areas of superficial flushing and along the margins of small runnels, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* is prominent, producing vegetation that is transitional to rush pasture, but which overall retains a high species richness.

Along the southern field margin and around the drainage channel which traverses the centre of the enclosure the vegetation is characterised by tussocky purple moor grass with a thick accumulation of litter. Tall herbs are prominent including wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, common valerian *Valeriana officinalis* and marsh willowherb *Epilobium palustre*.

*This document is **NOT** a definitive legal version and has been formatted, updated and partially edited for use on the CCW Web site. This document should not be used in any legal proceedings, public enquiry or any other hearing or appeal. If you require a full legal copy of the document please contact CCW in writing.*