

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CAE LLWYN

Date of Notification: 1990
National Grid Reference: SO098634
O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO06
Site Area: 3.4 ha

Description:

This site comprises a single, gently sloping field with a southerly aspect. It is an excellent example of a traditionally managed herb-rich meadow supporting both "wet" and "dry" plant communities.

The top part of the meadow supports a rather impoverished community dominated by perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, but this soon gives way to a more typical unimproved grassland community on the slopes below. Common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, crested dog's-tail and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* are dominant here, along with frequent sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* and clovers *Trifolium spp.* Other typical associates include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*.

The lower part of the field supports a rich fen-meadow community dominated by mixtures of sweet vernal-grass, crested dog's-tail, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire-fog and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with frequent carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, ribwort plantain, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, yellow-rattle, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and clovers. Other associated species include quaking-grass *Briza media*, bugle *Ajuga reptans*, common knapweed, heath-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata subsp. ericetorum*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, bitter-vetch *Lathyrus montanus*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and the locally uncommon dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*. Wet hollows dominated by sharp-flowered rush support additional species such as sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

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