

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS **CAE CWM-RHOCAS (CWM ROCHES MEADOW)**

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SO110638

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 148
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO16

Site Area: 5ha

Description:

This site comprises a single large hay meadow situated on gently sloping ground in the valley of the River Ithon at Penybont. It supports an unusual plant community that has strong affinities with those found in certain flood-meadows in central and southern England.

The sward is characterised by an abundance of common bent *Agrostis Capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum Odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca Rubra*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus Lanatus* and clovers *Trifolium spp.*, with frequent meadowsweet *Filipendula Ulmaria*, ribwort plantain *Plantago Lanceolata*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus Acris*, yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus Minor*, common sorrel *Rumex Acetosa* and great burnet *Sanguisorba Officinalis*. There is a wide range of associated plants, including meadow foxtail *Alopecurus Pratensis*, soft-brome *Bromus Hordeaceus subsp.Hordeaceus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum Flavescens*, common knapweed *Centaurea Nigra*, common mouse-ear *Cerastium Fontanum*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus Pratensis*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon Autumnalis*, rough hawkbit *Leontodon Hispidus*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum Vulgare*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus Corniculatus*, adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum Vulgatum*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus Repens*, common dandelion *Taraxacum Officinale* and tufted vetch *Vicia Cracca*. Species indicative of meadows in more upland situations are also present. These include smooth lady's-mantle *Alchemilla Glabra*, intermediate lady's-mantle *Alchemilla Xanthochlora*, pignut *Conopodium Majus* and bitter-vetch *Lathyrus Montanus*.

On its western side the meadow grades into alder *Alnus Glutinosa* carr at the edges of a small lake. A stand of planted broadleaves here supports a small heronry. Further interest is added by the presence of ancient oak trees *Quercus spp.* within the meadow.

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