CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS CAEAU CWM-FFRWD

Date of Notification: 1990

National Grid Reference: SO042877

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

1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 08

Site Area: 1.7 ha

Description:

This site comprises a series of small fields situated on gently sloping ground at the head of a west-facing valley near Llandinam. They support a type of species-rich plant community typical of traditionally managed hay meadows associated with the free draining neutral soils of the upland fringe. Such meadows are now rare in mid-Wales as a result of agricultural intensification.

Much of the sward is dominated by common bent Agrostis Capillaris, sweet vernal-grass Anthoxanthum Odoratum, crested dogs-tail Cynosurus Cristatus and red fescue Festuca Rubra, with frequent common knapweed Centaurea Nigra, eyebright Euphrasia Officinalis, autumn hawkbit Leontodon Autumnalis, common birds-foot-trefoil Lotus Corniculatus, ribwort plantain Plantago Lanceolata, meadow buttercup Ranunculus Acris, bulbous buttercup Ranunculus Bulbosus, common sorrel Rumex Acetosa and red clover Trifolium Pratense. Other associated species include perennial rye-grass Lolium Perenne, pignut Conopodium Majus, heath spotted-orchid Dactylorhiza Maculata subsp. Ericetorum, oxeye daisy Leucanthemum Vulgare, rough hawkbit Leontodon Hispidus, yellow-rattle Rhinanthus Minor and tufted vetch Vicia Cracca. Near the farm buildings nutrient enrichment and poaching has occurred. The sward here is characterised by an abundance of perennial rye-grass and crested dogs-tail, along with species such as creeping buttercup Ranunculus Repens and white clover Trifolium Repens.

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