

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

NANT CLYDACH PASTURES

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1996
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SN 891310
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 160 1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 83 SE
<u>Site Area:</u>	11 ha

Description:

Nant Clydach pastures is of special interest for its flush, fen-meadow, neutral grassland and rush-pasture communities.

The site is located three kilometres north-west of Sennybridge. It comprises a discontinuous chain of eight pastures, at 280-310 metres altitude, running along the eastern bank of the Nant Clydach, a minor tributary of the River Usk. The land slopes gently in a westerly direction, and drainage is impeded over most of the site.

The predominant vegetation type on the site is rush-pasture, characterised by abundant sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and frequent marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. It is a base-rich variant, characterised by the prominence of marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*.

Associated with this rush-pasture are areas of fen meadow characterised by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, quaking grass *Briza media*, marsh valerian, fen bedstraw, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*. This community has a highly fragmentary distribution in lowland Wales, and surviving examples are of high conservation value.

Several base-rich flushes occur on the site, fragmented among rush and *Molinia* pasture. The flushes have a well-developed brown moss layer comprised of species such as *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Calliargon cuspidatum*, *Campylium stellatum* and *Drepanocladus revolvens*. Common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* are frequent, together with sedges such as *Carex hostiana*, *C. panicea*, *C. pulicaris*, *C. echinata* and common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*. Other notable plants in this species-rich community include few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, and the moss *Climacium dendroides*. The locally uncommon broad-leaved cottongrass *Eriophorum latifolium* and marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris* are also present. This community is uncommon in lowland Wales.

In the most northerly field there is an area of drier neutral grassland characterised by red-fescue *Festuca rubra*, crested dog-s-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

Several stands of tall-sedge swamp occur across the site, and are dominated either by *Carex acutiformis* or *Carex paniculata*, with the former type predominating.

Adding to the diversity of the site are small areas of alder woodland and treelines, and small patches of acidic grassland.

*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.*