

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

**POWYS**

**MOORLANDS PASTURES**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1988
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SO 047632, SO 045635
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1:50, 000 Sheet number: 147 1:25, 000 Sheet number: SO 06
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	5.7ha

**Description:**

The site comprises three separate fields on gently sloping south-facing hillside. It is a good example of herb-rich acid grassland and it also contains some mesotrophic grassland with uncommon species. The nationally uncommon species, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, is well represented throughout the site. This umbelliferous plant occurs mainly in the unimproved grasslands of the Carmarthen Coalfield, but also in out-lying sites like this one, which is at the northern limit of that part of the plant's range centred on the Coalfield.

The acid grassland is dominated by bents, fescues and sweet vernal-grass *Agrostis/Festuca/Anthoxanthum odoratum*, but mat-grass *Nardus stricta* is a significant component and heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* also occurs. In addition to whorled caraway, herbs which occur frequently in the sward include tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*. Damp patches throughout the fields support additional species such as sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica* and lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*.

The mesotrophic grassland has a rather similar mix of grasses, but with the addition of crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*. Herb species include devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, and damper areas have sedges such as common sedge *Carex nigra*, carnation sedge *C. panicea* and the locally uncommon pale sedge *C. pallescens*. Meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* and butterfly-orchid *Platanthera* sp. have also been recorded here.

Further diversity is added to the site by the occurrence of a small rush-dominated marsh in the acid grassland. Additional wetland species here include ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*.

*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.*