

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**                      **CAEAU CLOCHFAEN-ISAF (CLOCHFAEN-ISAF FIELDS)**

**Date of Notification:**                      1989

**National Grid Reference:**                      SN911783

**O.S. Maps:**                                      1:50,000 Sheet number: 136  
    1:25,000 Sheet number: SN97

**Site Area:**                                      3.4 ha

**Description:**

An excellent series of unimproved grasslands supporting a range of plant communities that reflect differences in soil moisture, acidity and past management. The site comprises three separate fields and a small unimproved portion of a much larger hay-field.

The northern-most field is cattle-grazed and occupies level ground adjacent to the River Wye. The drier ground nearest the river supports acidic grassland dominated by bents *Agrostis spp* and fescues *Festuca spp*, with frequent heath wood-rush *Luzula multiflora*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*. Old banks and ant hills support species such as dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, sheep's sorrel *Rumex acetosella* and mountain pansy *Viola lutea*. Damper grassland away from the river supports a more mesotrophic community characterised by sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, wood horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. The marshy hollows associated with former river channels are dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and support a wide range of sedges and herbs, including white sedge *Carex curta*, star sedge *C. echinata*, common sedge *C. nigra*, bottle sedge *C. rostrata*, cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and marsh speedwell *Veronica scutellata*. The small area of unimproved meadow adjacent to the northern field supports a damp mesotrophic plant community characterised by an abundance of great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*; this is indicative of a long continuity of traditional hay management.

The southern part of the site consists of two fields separated from each other by a small lane. The eastern field slopes gently down to the Wye and supports a community dominated by common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and fescues. Common associates include pignut *Conopodium majus* dyer's greenweed, tormentil, betony and devil's-bit scabious. The western field appears to be more heavily sheep-grazed, but the drier ground supports a community similar to that found in the eastern field, although calcifuges such as heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* are more prominent here. Wetter flushes are dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, star sedge and carnation sedge *C. panicea*.

This field is bisected by a small stream fringed by alder *Alnus glutinosa*, and there are a number of associated wet hollows that are dominated by sharp-flowered rush.

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