

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

**GWEUNYDD PENSTROWED
(PENSTROWED PASTURES)**

Date of Notification: 1984

National Grid Reference: SO 067906

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 136
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 09

Site Area: 1.7 ha

Description:

The site consists of two discrete steeply sloping fields on either side of a dingle. Their aspects are predominantly north-facing and south-facing respectively. Much of the site is poorly drained, with wet flushes occurring particularly in the north-facing field, but steep banks provide drier habitat in places. The site is used as rough pasture for cattle.

The sward is of bents and fescues (*Agrostis/Festuca*), but with a range of other grass species including cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. Quaking-grass *Briza media* is particularly well represented in the southern (north-facing) field.

The plant communities represented here differ according to variations in drainage and in the base-status of the soil. They vary from the more acid types of sward, typified by tormentil/mat-grass *Potentilla erecta/Nardus stricta* with eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis* or devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, to more neutral components typified by zones dominated by common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* in which both primrose *Primula vulgaris* and cowslip *P. veris* are well represented. Rush-dominated flushes with tall-herbs and sedges add further diversity. Orchid species recorded from the site include the uncommon lesser butterfly-orchid *Platanthera bifolia*.

Butterfly species recorded from the site include the small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* and common blue *Polyommatus icarus*.

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