

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

LOWER GARTH MEADOWS

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1984
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SJ 217103
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 126 1:25,000 Sheet number: SJ 21
<u>Site Area:</u>	2.4 ha

Description:

This site is a good example of an unimproved, herb-rich grassland on a more base-rich soil than is typical of most of Montgomery. Since the agricultural potential is high, such sites are rare in the District. It consists of two damp fields on fairly level ground, containing a number of ditches and the remains of an old pond. The soil is a neutral loam. The larger field is used for summer grazing and the smaller one is more lightly grazed. Grazing stock may include sheep, cattle, ducks and geese.

The grassland is of bents, fescues and sweet vernal-grass (*Agrostis/Festuca/Anthoxanthum odoratum*), but with a good representation of crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and some perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. Tufted hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* is found in some damper areas and locally quaking-grass *Briza media* occurs.

In less well grazed areas a varied tall-herb vegetation has developed, with common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* prominent components. Sedges *Carex* spp. are an important constituent of the vegetation, with six species having been recorded. Betony *Betonica officinalis* occurs in the drier areas. There is a good representation of marsh orchids *Dactylorhiza* spp., and autumn lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*, a rare orchid in Montgomery, has been recorded from the site.

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