

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

**GWEUNYDD DYFNANT
(DYFNANT PASTURES)**

Date of notification: 1984

National grid reference: SH 998157

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 125
1:25,000 Sheet number: SH 91

Site area: 4.9 ha

Description:

This site is a good example of a type of unimproved acid pasture intermediate in character between the more intensively managed lowland grasslands and the unenclosed upland grasslands.

It consists of three fields with no stock-proof boundaries between them. It is steeply sloping, with a southerly aspect. The present use is rough grazing, but it is evident that the land has been more intensively managed in the past. Part of one field demonstrates woodland succession of derelict pasture and has been included for this reason.

The grassland is of bents, fescues and sweet vernal-grass *Agrostis/Festuca/Anthoxanthum odoratum* with many boggy flushes dominated by rushes *Juncus acutiflorus*, *J. articulatus* and *J. effusus* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

The dry grassland is typically species-poor, with abundant tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, but with good representation of species such as eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*. Ox-eye daisy *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* and burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga* occur less frequently. There are sizeable areas of dry grassland which have been invaded by bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Damper areas support devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* whilst the flushes are particularly species-rich, with ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, and a good variety of sedges, including tawny sedge *Carex hostiana*. Other areas are more heathy, with cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and occasionally bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*.

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