

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE

LOWER GROUND, PENRHOS

Date of Notification: 1989, 1992

National Grid Reference: SO 411126

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 161
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 41

Site Area: 4.93 ha

Description:

This unimproved meadow located 4 miles to the north of Raglan slopes gently to the north and is crossed by a stream. Soils are clayey brown earths of the Bromyard Association which have developed on the underlying alluvium and Raglan Marsh sandstone. There is some seasonal waterlogging.

Lower Ground supports a neutral unimproved grassland community and an unimproved mire community.

The drier areas support extensive areas of the *Danthonia decumbens* sub-community of the *Centaurea nigra* – *Cynosurus cristatus* mesotrophic grassland type. The most common grasses are sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*. Herbs include common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, betony *Stachys officinalis* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*.

The wetter areas of the site bordering the stream support the *Juncus acutiflorus* sub-community of the *Juncus effusus/acutiflorus* – *Galium palustre* mire type. Sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* dominates with a variety of grasses which include Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. Marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* are also present.

The site supports a number of locally rare species including petty whin *Genista anglica*, southern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*.

Additional diversity is provided by small areas of alder carr, dense and scattered scrub, dense bracken and bank-side vegetation.

*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.*