

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**PENLLWYN-YR-HENDY**

**Date of Notification:** 1990

**National Grid Reference:** SN 929227

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 92

**Site Area:** 2.7 ha

**Description:**

At least seven different types of grassland and fen communities are present in this small site, grading into each other and into scrub woodland, to produce one of the most diverse grassland sites in Brecknock.

The site is divided into two by a fence. The southern field supports extensive areas of the now scarce small-sedge mire, dominated by carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, tawny sedge *C. hostiana* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Characteristic associates include dioecious sedge *Carex dioica*, star sedge *C. echinata*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, bulbous rush *Juncus bulbosus*, common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*. A variant of this community dominated by few-flowered spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora* and common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* occupies some of the wetter hollows, whilst other channels and soakaways support species such as bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*. Drier hummocks support a community dominated by purple moor-grass, carnation sedge, sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina* and bents *Agrostis* spp., with frequent heather *Calluna vulgaris*, deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, petty whin *Genista anglica* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Around the fringes of the small-sedge mire there are stands of taller vegetation dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and purple moor-grass. Associated species here include common marsh-bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, marsh violet *Viola palustris* and marsh speedwell *Veronica scutellata*. These stands grade into a community dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* along the eastern edge of the field. The western side of the field is much wetter and comprises patches of alder *Alnus glutinosa* interspersed with tall-fen vegetation. Lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, sharp-flowered rush and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* are prominent here with a wide range of associates, including water horsetail, bogbean, common sedge, fen bedstraw

*Galium uliginosum*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, water mint *Mentha aquatica*, common valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, creeping-Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia* and marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*.

In the northern part of the site drier grassland types are more frequent, with common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, but even here wetter hollows support uncommon tall-sedge communities dominated by lesser pond-sedge and branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, with other areas supporting purple moor-grass and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris* and common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*.

**Remarks:**

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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