

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

CAE BRYN-TYWARCH

Date of Notification: 1991

National Grid Reference: SN851270

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN82

Site Area: 5.7 ha

Description:

These small, but diverse pastures support a wide range of vegetation types once probably widespread in the Upper Usk Valley, but now very scarce. The site is, in addition, notable on account of the nationally and locally scarce plant species it supports.

The drainage is impeded over large parts of the site and vegetation types in which purple moor-grass *Molinia Caerulea* dominates characterize this area. Communities range from a wet heath type of purple moor-grass - tormentil *Potentilla Erecta* mire, with an abundance of cross-leaved heath *Erica Tetralix* and rarely lesser butterfly-orchid *Platanthera Bifolia*, to a herb-rich type with wild angelica *Angelica Sylvestris*, common marsh-bedstraw *Galium Palustre* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus Acutiflorus*. Purple moor-grass and meadow thistle *Cirsium Dissectum* mire is also well represented, with a particularly species-rich variant, including an abundance of devil's-bit scabious *Succisa Pratensis* on which marsh fritillary butterflies *Eurodryas Aurinia* feed, this being one of their most important sites in the Brecon Beacons National Park. On the drier slopes this community grades into a species-rich variant of sheep's-fescue - common bent - heath bedstraw *Festuca Ovina* - *Agrostis Capillaris* - *Galium Saxatile* grassland, with large patches of the nationally scarce soft-leaved sedge *Carex Montana* and wood bitter-vetch *Vicia Orobus*, together with other regionally and locally scarce species such as dyer's greenweed *Genista Tinctoria* and petty whin *Genista Anglica*. Within the northern field there is a large flush in which purple moor-grass is scarce, and instead small sedges such as tawny sedge *Carex Hostiana*, star sedge *Carex Echinata* and carnation sedge *Carex Panicea* amongst brown mosses such as *Campyllum Stellatum* and *Drepanocladus Revolvens* become the dominant vegetation.

A small area of woodland dominated by downy birch *Betula Pubescens* with hazel *Corylus Avellana* and hawthorn *Crataegus Monogyna* and patches of rusty willow *Salix Cinerea subsp. Oleifolia* add further diversity to the site.

Remarks:

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

*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.*