

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**POWYS**

**WAUN TON-Y-SPYDDADEN**

**Date of Notification:** 1980, 1983

**National Grid Reference:** SN 864122

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160  
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 81

**Site Area:** 4 ha

**Description:**

A series of small, unimproved, herb-rich hay meadows lying on a very gentle slope. The site demonstrates well the effects of traditional management on the moorland vegetation to be found on the better soils in this part of Wales.

A vivid gradation in plant communities can be seen as the slope descends from north to south. At the top end is a typical moorland community of mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*, deergrass *Scirpus cespitosus* and sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*. This changes into grass heath communities of brown bent *Agrostis canina*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* and heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata* spp. *ericetorum*, which in turn grade into purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*/sedge associations. The latter are characterised by red fescue, quaking-grass *Briza media*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, carnation sedge *C. panicea*, star sedge *C. echinata* and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*.

The southern end of the site has a good assemblage of western hay meadow plants, in particular whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*. Northern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, a mainly northern species, is also present in small numbers.

**Remarks:**

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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