

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

GUNGROG FLASH

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1988
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SJ 234084
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 126 1:25,000 Sheet number: SJ 20
<u>Site Area:</u>	2.7 ha

Description:

The site, situated on the outskirts of Welshpool and close to the Montgomery Canal, is a fine example of a transitional fen community containing species associated with both open water and marsh habitats. Consisting of a small lake surrounded by a species-rich marsh, the site is fed by both spring and ground water, so retaining a sufficiently high water table to allow the development of species-rich marginal and fen plant communities.

The wet perimeter of the site contains a diverse range of plant species, which in part shows features of natural succession. Species include bladder-sedge *Carex vesicaria*, common sedge *C. nigra*, marsh stitchwort *Stellaria palustris*, reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*, crack willow *Salix fragilis* and grey willow *Salix cinerea*. This association of plants gently merges into a more emergent community around the lake edge, containing species such as bulrush *Typha latifolia*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, soft rush *Juncus effusus* and water mint *Mentha aquatica*. Amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and the rare water-violet *Hottonia palustris* are also found here.

Although not as botanically rich as its margins, the lake itself does contain such species as water-starworts *Callitriche agg* and common duckweed *Lemna minor*. It also supports a range of insects, including several odonata species such as the banded agrion *Agrion splendens*, large red damselfly *Pyrhosoma nymphula* and azure damselfly *Coenagrion puella*. Several kinds of birds are often to be found here, including coot, ruddy duck and mallard, as well as a colony of black-headed gulls.

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