

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

WREXHAM

OLD PULFORD BROOK MEADOWS

Date of Notification: 1979, 1983, 1999

National Grid Reference: SJ 404581

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 117
1:10,000 Sheet number: SJ45NW

Site Area: 9.6 ha

Description:

This site is of special interest for its unimproved lowland grassland vegetation. The site is located close to the boundary with England, in the flood plain of the River Dee, approximately 3 km east of Pulford village. It comprises two enclosures on flat ground each bounded by ditches, at an altitude of about 5 m. The soils are clay river alluvium overlying Lower Mottled Sandstone.

The site is notable for its unimproved flood-meadow vegetation. Over a long period of time, agricultural management has consisted of a mid-summer hay crop followed by cattle grazing in the autumn. This, coupled with winter flooding has resulted in a rich, alluvial flora. The semi-natural vegetation communities found are nationally uncommon and are particularly rare in Wales. The most prominent grass species are Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis* with a range of associated forbs including yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, autumn hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*. Several uncommon species have been found including common meadow-rue *Thalictrum flavum*, slender spike-rush *Eleocharis uniglumis*, smooth brome *Bromus racemosus* and mouse-tail *Myosurus minimus*.

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