CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARDIFF TY-DU MOOR

Date of Notification: 1999

National Grid Reference: ST 108793

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 171

1:10,000 Sheet number: ST17NW

Site Area: 15.3 ha

Description:

This site is of special interest for its base enriched fen meadow vegetation, which is associated with a range of marshy grassland, flush, swamp and carr communities. Also of special interest is the population of broad leaved cotton grass *Eriophorum latifolium*.

Ty-du Moor is situated two kilometres north-west of St Fagans, near Cardiff and consists of a series of fields adjacent to the Nant Dowlais. The fields are low-lying (25-30 metres above sea level), with poorly drained peaty soils resting on glaciofluvial deposits.

Ty-du Moor supports a range of fen and fen-related communities. Of particular interest is the fen meadow vegetation dominated by blunt-flowered rush *Juncus subnodulosus*, associated with devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica*, fen bedstraw *Galium uliginosum* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Other small patches of fen meadow are dominated by purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* often with meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. Associated base rich flushes contain an abundance of moss and sedge species, including flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and the moss *Campylium stellatum*.

Rush pasture forms a band between the wetter fen vegetation and the drier, semi-improved grassland on the raised ground at the periphery of the site. The rush pasture is characterised by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, lesser marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*. A few associated patches of vegetation are dominated by meadowsweet. In addition, stands of swamp vegetation are present and are typically dominated by lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*. There is also a small stand of alder *Alnus glutinosa* dominated wet woodland.

Ty-du Moor supports populations of several species which are rare or uncommon in Glamorgan, including marsh helleborine *Epipactis palustris*, fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* and yellow sedge *Carex virudula* sub-species *brachyrrhyncha*. The population of broad leaved cotton grass *Eriophorum latifolium* associated with the base-rich flushes is also of special interest.

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