

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

GWYNEDD

BROADWATER

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1958, 1982, 1983
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SH 582027
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 135 1:25,000 Sheet number: SH50, SH60
<u>Site Area:</u>	263 ha

Description:

The tidal lagoon of the Broadwater and lower part of the Afon Dysynni provide a coastal habitat of considerable biological interest. Saltmarsh, a shingle spit, mudflats, pools, reedbeds, ditches and the river itself are important components of this interest. The saltmarsh is dominated by Sea Rush *Juncus maritimus* but has a number of nationally or locally uncommon species such as Wild Celery *Apium graveolens*, Lesser Centaury *Centaureum pulchellum* and Sharp Sea Rush *Juncus acutus*. The shingle spit has one of the few Welsh breeding colonies of Little Terns with 16 pairs breeding in 1980. Only sparsely vegetated with species such as Sea Campion *Silene maritima*, the shingle also has less common plants including Yellow Horned Poppy *Glaucium flavum*.

Good stands of Common Reed *Phragmites communis* occur on river islands and on the shore of the lagoon and these have breeding birds such as Coot and Sedge Warbler. Ditches, pools and stretches of river shallows have a rich flora with small stands of Bulrush *Typha latifolia* and Glaucous Club-rush *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani* with the local Beaked Pondweed *Ruppia maritima*. Welsh Mudwort *Limosella australis* occurs here at one of only three European locations. The mudflats and saltings of the Broadwater lagoon support good numbers of wintering duck, especially Mallard, Teal and Wigeon with lesser numbers of Pintail, Red Breasted Mergansers and Long tailed Duck. Little Grebe occur regularly and waders such as Curlew and Oystercatchers are common. There is a large gull roost comprised mainly of Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls.

Remarks:

Within the Snowdonia National Park.

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