

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**WREXHAM**

**GATEWEN MARSH**

**Date of Notification:** 1986

**National Grid Reference:** SJ317515

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50000 Sheet number: 117  
1:25000 Sheet number: SJ35

**Site Area:** 4.5 ha

**Description:**

**Botanical interest:**

One of only three significant examples in the former county of Clwyd of the “southern mesotrophic mires” wetland type. This type is more characteristic of south-west Wales and, in North Wales, is largely restricted to Ynys Môn and Dwyfor.

The site occupies the flat valley bottom of a tributary of the River Gwenfro, the stream running through the eastern side of the marsh. At its northern end the marsh is bounded by the spoil banks of the former Gatewen Colliery, and mining subsidence, following closure of the colliery, has been a major factor in creating suitable conditions for the development of wetland vegetation.

The marsh is unusual in containing substantial stands of Great Reedmace *Typha latifolia* in shallow water with Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, Water Plantain *Alisma plantago-aguatica* and Bottle Sedge *Carex strata*. The fringes of these areas support stands of Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* with Water Mint *Mentha aguatica*, Gipsy-wort *Lycopus europaeus*, Narrow-leaved Water-parsnip *Berula erecta* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*. Further north are stands of Great Pond-sedge *Carex riparia* and Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* with Reed-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* on the fringes and Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans* in open channels. Willows *Salix spp.* are establishing in part of the site and the area adjacent to the colliery spoil banks is dominated by Great Hairy Willow-herb *Epilobium hirsutum* suggesting past disturbance.

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