

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

FLINTSHIRE

PARC BODLONDEB AND GWENALLT-PARC, LIXWM

Date of Notification:

1996

National Grid Reference:

SJ175710

O.S. Maps:

1:50,000 Sheet number: 116

1:10,000 Sheet number: SJ17SE

Site area:

17.5 ha

Description:

Parc Bodlondeb is an area of enclosed pasture located close to the village of Lixwm, approximately 4km south of Holywell, on shallow glacial drift over Carboniferous Limestone. The site supports a mosaic of unimproved calcareous, acid and neutral grasslands together with limestone heath and stands of bracken, scrub and broadleaved woodland.

Parc Bodlondeb is of special interest for its unimproved calcareous grassland, limestone heath and species-rich acid grassland. All these types have highly localised national distributions. Additional interest is provided by the neutral grassland, scrub and woodland communities.

The calcareous grassland comprises a species-rich sward with frequent to abundant sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, quaking-grass *Briza media* and crested hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*. Associates include common rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor* and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. Grasses such as common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, brown bent *Agrostis vinealis* and heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* characterise the areas of acid grassland, with a variety of other species including devils'-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. The areas of heath are characterised by western gorse *Ulex gallii* with low growing heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bell heather *Erica cinerea*, and frequent salad burnet.

Several uncommon species are present, including fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*, green-winged orchid *Orchis morio*, frog orchid *Coeloglossum viride*, lesser butterfly orchid *Platanthera bifolia*, moonwort *Botrychium lunaria* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria* in the grassland and heath, and spurge-laurel *Daphne laureola* in the scrub and woodland.

Gorse *Ulex europaeus*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* scrub occurs throughout the site and forms dense stands in places. Oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland occurs on the edges of the site.

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