

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

CAE GWYNFRYN

Date of Notification: 1988

National Grid Reference: SN 581109

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 51

Site Area: 1.1 ha

Description:

In Britain unimproved grasslands containing an abundance of the white umbelliferous plant, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, appear to be most frequent in the Carmarthen Coalfield and its environs, with lesser concentrations in south-western Scotland, the Lake District and south-western England. The Carmarthen Coalfield grasslands show a continuum of vegetation variation, ranging from heathy swards with a somewhat restricted flora to more species-rich types on less acidic soils. The heathy variants are often characterised by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and the species-rich by Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, but a good deal of floristic intergradation occurs between these two basic groups.

Cae Gwynfryn is a notable example of a moderately species-rich type of caraway pasture, of particular interest for its abundance of meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. The principal grasses are sweet-vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, marsh foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, together with quaking-grass *Briza media* in smaller quantity. The sward is not rich in sedges, but contains a good variety of other flowering plants, notably sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*, marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*.

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