

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**RHÔS CRUGLAS**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1988
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SN 683240
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159 1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 62
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	4.5 ha

**Description:**

An area of unimproved, semi-natural pasture displaying a remarkable and complex pattern of vegetation, including grassland, flush, bog and fen-like communities. A notable feature is the widespread occurrence of whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, a scarce umbelliferous plant found mainly in the unimproved grasslands of the Carmarthen Coalfield, but also in out-lying sites like this one and in others as far afield as Ceredigion and Radnor. This site displays well the range of conditions in which whorled caraway will grow - here it can be seen growing in both moderately damp grassland and in very wet flush and bog areas, where it occurs on raised hummocks within a carpet of bog-mosses *Sphagnum spp.*

The centre of the site is very wet and has swamp communities dominated by branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* or common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*; small sedge mires with carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common yellow-sedge *C demissa*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*; flushes containing bog-mosses and sedges, and others with bog-mosses, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*; and stream lines lined with hemlock water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* and greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*. Other notable plants growing in this wet central area include marsh St. John's-wort *Hypericum elodes*, white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, ivy-leaved bellflower *Wahlenbergia hederacea*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, marsh violet *Viola palustris*, lesser skullcap *Scutellaria minor*, early marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* and bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*. This wet area grades into drier herb-rich pasture which is varied in nature and contains such species as meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, petty whin *Genista anglica*, dyer's greenweed *G. tinctoria*, saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and heath spotted-orchid *D. maculata* sub species *ericetorum*.

The fauna of the site has yet to be studied in any detail, but some uncommon insects are known to be present. Two scarce dragonflies, mainly restricted to south-west Britain, have been recorded in the flushed areas, namely the keeled skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens* and the blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio*. Also recorded are two notable butterflies, the

marsh fritillary *Eurodryas aurinia* and the small pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria selene*, and also the day-flying scarlet tiger moth *Callimorpha dominula*.

**Remarks:**

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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