

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**ANGLESEY**

**MALLTRAETH MARSH/  
CORS DDYGA**

**Date of Notification:** 1957, 1992

**National Grid reference:** SH440710

**O.S. Maps:** 1:50000 Sheet numbers: 114  
1:25000 Sheet numbers: SH46 and SH47

**Site Area:** 1,366.5 ha

**Description:**

This site has been selected for its biological interest. It is especially important for its breeding bird community of lowland damp grassland, as a threatened habitat of wet meadows, and for its botanical interest of its ditches and watercourses.

Malltraeth Marsh has developed on marine alluvium within the low-lying valley of the River Cefni. In 1810 the erection of an embankment to exclude the sea, and measures to reduce flooding through a network of ditches and the canalisation of the River Cefni, enabled its reclamation for agriculture.

The botanical interest of the marsh lies in the freshwater and brackish ditches, relict meanders of the old River Cefni, ponds and lakes. Emergent species such as reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*, water-plantain *Alisma plantago-acruatica* and branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* are frequent dominants. Amongst the species of importance in wales are reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*, horned pondweed *Zannichellia palustris*, flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus*, water-violet *Hottonia palustris*, mare's tail *Hippuris vulgaris* and marsh stitchwort *Stellaria palustris*. Two nationally scarce species, Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* and autumnal starwort *Callitriche hermaphroditica* occur.

The breeding bird community of lowland damp grasslands on the marsh include mute swan, shelduck, shoveler lapwing, curlew, redshank, snipe, sedge warbler, and reed bunting. Other breeding species include buzzard, kestrel, reed warbler and tufted duck. There is a small heronry on the site. Bittern have been heard booming in recent years and marsh harrier, black-tailed godwit and ruff, all potential breeders, have been recorded in the spring or early summer. The marsh provides feeding grounds for migrating and wintering waders and wildfowl including at times the important pintail population present in the Cefni sanctuary.

Amongst the eleven species of dragonfly recorded, three are nationally scarce: the hairy dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*, the variable damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum* and the

scarce blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura pumilio*. Some notable water beetles occur such as *Laccobius sinuatus* and *Rhantus grapii*.

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