

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**MANDINAM A COED DERI**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1986
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SN 745280, SN 738281 and SN 739281
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1: 50,000 Sheet number: 160 1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 72
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	10.9 ha

**Description:**

This site is a complex of semi-natural woodland and herb-rich pasture supporting a wide range of plants and animals.

The greater part of the site, Coed Deri, is a fine example of a gorge woodland on Old Red Sandstone, its wide range of soil types reflected in its varied flora. Lime-rich areas support ash woodland with early-purple orchid *Orchis mascula*, woodruff *Galium odoratum* and lime-loving mosses such as *Neckera crispa*. In contrast, areas of more acid soil support sessile oak *Quercus petraea* over bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, associated with species such as common cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*. The more level, lower slopes are poorly drained, with alder and ash replacing the oak, and a rich herb-layer present which includes marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and alternate-leaved golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium alternifolium*. The lower slopes extend into an area of wet pasture, formerly cut for hay, on the banks of the Afon Brân. Tall herb-rich vegetation such as occurs here is now scarce in Dinefwr.

The remainder of the interesting grassland occurs on a ridge east of Man-dinam and in a damp area a bit further east again. The ridge, with its thin, acidic, summer-droughted soils supports a community of spring annual plants which includes upright chickweed *Moenchia erecta* and bird's-foot *Ornithopus perpusillus*, here better developed than anywhere else known in Dinefwr. The area of damp species-rich pasture, unploughed in recent years and unaffected by inorganic fertilisers, supports over 50 species of flowering plants. Notable amongst them are three species of marsh orchid, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

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