

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

MYNYDD LLANGYNDEYRN

Date of Notification: 1992

National Grid Reference: SN 486134

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 41

Site Area: 85.2 ha

Description:

An extensive area of common land lying at an altitude of about 250 metres (820 feet) on a ridge of Namurian Quartzite, situated near the village of Crwbin. The site exhibits a mosaic of semi-natural grassland, dry heath, mire and rock outcrops, and is notable as one of the larger upland semi-natural areas left in south-west Wales which, unlike most others, remains lightly grazed.

The structure of the ridge, which delineates the edge of the South Wales Coalfield, is dominated by the alternate succession of hard resistant beds of very pure ortho-quartzite, which form large expanses of dip-slopes dipping southwards. Softer strata of other sedimentary rocks have eroded to form elongate depressions in which, because of poor drainage, mire vegetation has developed over the predominantly acid soils.

The quartzite slopes and outcrops are sparsely clad by heathy vegetation with bell heather *Erica cinerea*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and the uncommon upland ecotype of tormentil *Potentilla erecta* sub sp. *strictissima*. The wetter depressions are dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, jointed rush *J. articulatus* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, with devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and other species amongst mats of mosses and low vegetation. The devil's-bit scabious supports small colonies of the marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia*, particularly on the bog in the south-east of the site. The forester moth *Adscita statices* also occurs.

One large topographical depression holds an extensive mire with a good range of plant species which includes deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, marsh St. John's-wort *Hypericum elodes*, royal fern *Osmunda regalis*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and cross-leaved heath.

The site as a whole provides breeding habitat for a variety of birds, notably curlew, stonechat and grasshopper warbler.

Carreg-eidon, lying at the north-east end of Mynydd Llangyndeyrn, is by contrast a small area of Carboniferous Limestone dip-slope pavement, clad by grassland communities dominated by sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, with colourful species such as mouse-ear hawkbit *Hieracium pilosella*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and wild thyme

Thymus praecox. The lime-loving plant communities here contrast strongly with the vegetation of the remainder of Mynydd Llangyndeyrn. The area is particularly notable for its uncommon invertebrates, including a strong population of the snail, *Helicella itala*, a declining large species of calcareous grassland habitats; the uncommon woodlouse, *Armadillidium pulchellum* and the local ant, *Myrmica lobicornis*.

Remarks:

Most of the site is registered as common land.

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