

**MYNYDD LLANGYNDERYN  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**



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**YOUR SPECIAL SITE AND ITS FUTURE**

‘Your Special Site and its Future’ is part of our commitment to improve the way we work with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owners and occupiers. In it, we explain what is special about the wildlife on your site, and what care is needed to look after its wildlife into the future.

All SSSIs are considered to be of national importance and we recognise the crucial role that owners and occupiers play in their management and protection. We need you to share your views and knowledge of this site with us, to help safeguard it.

We hope that you will find ‘Your Special Site and its Future’ interesting and helpful. Please contact us if there is anything about the site and its management that you would like to discuss.

## **What is ‘special’ about the wildlife at Mynydd Llangynderyn SSSI?**

This site has 3 special features.

- Marshy grassland
- Wet heath
- Dry heath

As well as the features listed above, Mynydd Llangyndeyrn has other habitats that contribute to the special wildlife interest. These include acid grassland, semi-natural broadleaved woodland, bracken and scrub. This diversity of habitats is important for a wide range of species including marsh fritillary butterflies and these too are a key component of the special interest of the site. Except where it is specified below, management of this site should aim to look after these habitats as well as the listed features of interest.

## **What do we want Mynydd Llangynderyn SSSI to look like?**

The following is a description of how we would like to see the features at this site.

*The features shall remain present and cover approximately the same area as present (marshy grassland 23%, wet heath 21%, dry heath 8% of the SSSI). The population of the nationally scarce marsh fritillary butterfly shall remain present.*

*The dry heath shall include plants like bell heather, western gorse, bilberry and tormentil. On the marshy grassland, purple moor-grass, sharp-flowered / jointed rush and cross-leaved heath shall be present alongside devil’s-bit scabious and wild angelica. Areas of carboniferous limestone will be dominated by sheep’s fescue with mouse-ear hawkbit, common bird’s-foot trefoil, and wild thyme present. The wet heath shall include species such as deergrass, common cottongrass, bogbean, marsh St. John’s wort, royal fern, marsh cinquefoil, bog asphodel, cranberry and cross-leaved heath. Alien invasive plants such as rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed will be absent from the SSSI.*

*Marsh fritillaries depend on devil’s-bit scabious for food, a sward height of about 8 to 25 cm, and on some presence of scrub for shelter; the site shall contain sufficient suitable habitat for these insects.*

## **What management is needed on Mynydd Llangynderyn SSSI and why?**

Although this site is an excellent place for wildlife it will only remain so if the necessary management continues. CCW’s priority is to work with you to ensure that this management is carried out.

## **What does this mean in practice?**

There are a number of different factors that could damage the special features at this site if they are not properly managed. These are the ones we regard as most important:

### Grazing

The site needs to be grazed primarily by cattle, with some horses. Cattle are the most suitable stock for maintaining devil's-bit scabious, and sheep grazing should be avoided. Hand-cutting should only be considered if grazing does not produce the desired sward height, and burning should be avoided as it would damage the butterfly population. Over-grazing should be avoided as this leads to poaching, and stock should not receive supplementary feed on the site. The site is currently undergrazed, and an increase in grazing levels can be achieved by installing cattlegrids in the roads that cross the site, thereby encouraging commoners to place stock on site.

### Scrub control

Scrub should be kept from encroaching further into the grass- and heathland, but some scrub is required for shelter for the marsh fritillaries. If scrub control by grazing is not adequate, and burning does not occur, active control may become necessary. It is envisaged that some active scrub control is needed initially to bring levels down to those experienced when the site was notified (about 4%).

### Fertilizer

Fertilizer, including farmyard manure, is not currently used, and should be avoided in the future.

### Drainage

Any change in the drainage would severely influence the nature of the site and should, thus, be avoided.

### **Finally**

Our knowledge and understanding of wildlife is continually improving. It is possible that new issues may arise in the future, whilst other issues may disappear. This statement is written with the best information we have now, but may have to change in the future as our understanding improves. Any information you can provide on the wildlife of your site, its management and its conservation would be much appreciated.

**If you would like to discuss any aspect of your SSSI, or have any concerns about your SSSI, please contact your local CCW office.**

**Your local office is:**

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