

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

CAEAU HEOL Y LLIDIART-COCH

Date of Notification: 11 March 2010

National Grid Reference: SN715213

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 160
1:10,000 Sheet number: SN 72 SW

Site Area: 8.75 ha

Description:

Caeau Heol y Lldiart-coch is of special interest for its marshy grassland, particularly its extensive area of fen-meadow. In addition, there are also smaller areas of flush, species-rich neutral grassland, and wet heath. The site consists of several enclosures situated at an altitude of 200m over the Old Red Sandstone, approximately 1km south-west of the village of Capel Gwynfe.

Fen-meadow occurs across the site, where typical species include meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, together with a range of fine-leaved grasses and sedges including sweet-venal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and carnation sedge *Carex panicea*. The base-rich nature of this vegetation is indicated by such species as tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and quaking grass *Briza media*. In places this grades into wetter marshy grassland, with abundant sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*. In other areas, the vegetation assumes a more heathy nature, with heather *Calluna vulgaris* and lustrous bog-moss *Sphagnum subnitens*.

In part of the site, fen-meadow grades into base-rich flush vegetation around a small spring-head. The vegetation here is composed of a carpet of intermediate hook-moss *Scorpidium cossonii* and yellow starry feather-moss, together with sedges such as flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, star sedge *C. echinata* and tawny sedge. Other species here include common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and bog pimpinell *Anagallis tenella*.

Other valuable habitats at Caeau Heol y Lldiart-coch include species-rich grassland, dominated by common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, with bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, devil's-bit scabious, tormentil and heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens*. There is also a small area of wet heath, with deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, heather and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*. There are also areas of wet woodland and scrub, as well as hedgerows.

Amongst the notable plants at Caeau Heol y Lldiart-coch are whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, a species characteristic of marshy grasslands in south-west Wales, dioecious sedge

Carex dioica and broad-leaved cotton-grass *Eriophorum latifolium*, both local species of base-rich flushes, petty whin *Genista anglica* and dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*.

Remarks:

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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