

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

LLETY-WEN

Date of Notification: 1989

National Grid Reference: SN 628305

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 146
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 63

Site Area: 21.6 ha

Description:

Llety-wen is a small stock farm which has been managed in a traditional manner. The fifteen fields which make up the holding can all be described as unimproved, in that they have not been subjected to modern grassland husbandry, although a few fields were ploughed during the last war. The management of the farm has resulted in the maintenance of a remarkable suite of herb-rich grasslands ranging from wet acidic types to drier mesotrophic swards cut for hay. The survival of a traditional holding of this kind is very unusual and offers considerable scope for monitoring and studying the effects of low-intensity farming on the flora and fauna. The fields vary from being very herb-rich to moderately herb-rich. The ploughed fields, for example, are distinctly poorer in species than others. It is the display of such a range of interesting grasslands in such a compact area that is one of the special features of the site.

The highlights of Llety-wen are the hay meadows, which are particularly herb-rich and colourful. A noteworthy feature is the abundance of greater butterfly-orchid *Plantanthera chlorantha* in a sward consisting mainly of sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and common bent *Agrostis capillaris*. Other species include ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* and, on drier slopes, burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella saxifraga*.

Other fields in the northern parts of the farm have wet sedge-rich grassland dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*.

In the north-west of the farm there is a pasture with a notable wet flush containing such plants as water mint *Mentha aquatica*, common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*, square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapterum*, ragged-robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and greater bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* growing amongst sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and soft rush *Juncus effusus*. Two notable invertebrates occur in this flushed area - the tortoise-beetle *Cassida murraea* (the larvae and adults of which occur in common fleabane) and the scarlet

tiger moth *Callimorpha dominula*, a brightly-coloured diurnal species. Both are of a markedly south-western distribution in Britain.

*This document is **NOT** a definitive legal version and has been formatted, updated and partially edited for use on the CCW Web site. This document should not be used in any legal proceedings, public enquiry or any other hearing or appeal. If you require a full legal copy of the document please contact CCW in writing.*