

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

CAE CWM-TYWYLL

Date of Notification: 1984

National Grid Reference: SN 481239

O.S. Maps: 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 42

Site Area: 1.6 ha

Description:

An unimproved hay meadow with diverse grassland vegetation ranging from neutral grassland on dry slopes to acid marshy grassland in the hollows and flushed areas. Greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* is abundant in the neutral grassland.

Neutral grassland with much common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, common bent *Agrostis tenuis*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* occurs on the freely draining slopes. Patches of more acidic grassland with mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and heath-grass *Sieglingia decumbens* add to the diversity.

The wetter areas support acidic grassland in which grow most of the eleven species of sedge recorded from the meadow. Wet areas on the slopes have sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, whilst tussocks of purple moor-grass also fill a poorly-drained hollow at the highest part of the field. This hollow is the source of a minor stream which flows through the field in winter.

Common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and heath spotted-orchid *D. maculata* are as abundant as the greater butterfly-orchid. Other interesting species amongst the ninety or so plant species recorded are pale sedge *Carex pallescens* and lady's-mantle *Alchemilla vulgaris*. There is also a colony of the marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia*.

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