

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

NEATH PORT TALBOT

CRYMLYN BURROWS

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1987
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SS 712927
<u>O.S. Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 170 1:25,000 Sheet number: SS 69, SS 79
<u>Site Area:</u>	243.5 ha

Description:

One of the last remaining sections of the Swansea Bay Coastline which has remained substantially unmodified by industrial development. Over the past one hundred and fifty years, parallel sand dune ridges have developed at right angles to the River Neath and these are continuing to accumulate at the present time. Salt water is able to gain access to the system at high tide via the river channel, with the result that the dunes are interspersed by tongues of saltmarsh. These grade westwards into wet dune slacks and carr woodland.

Several plant species with local distribution occur within the site including rock sea lavender *Limonium binervosum*, dittander *Lepidium latifolium*, rock hutchinsia *Hornungia petraea*, round leaved wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia*, dutch rush *Equisetum hyemale* and the variegated horsetail *Equisetum variegatum*. The rare fen orchid *Liparis loeselii* is found occasionally within the slacks, whilst the sea stock *Matthiola sinuata* which was re-recorded in 1964 following its earlier disappearance, is widespread along the strandline and in the dunes.

The rare strandline beetle *Eurynebria complanata* has been recorded from the site.

This part of the Neath estuary is also used by part of the population of small waders overwintering in Swansea Bay.