

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**CAEAU PANT-Y-BRYN**

**Date of Notification:** 1990

**National Grid Reference:** SN 657146

**O.S. Maps:** 1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159  
1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 61

**Site Area:** 8.2 ha

**Description:**

The site consists of a group of five unimproved, pony-grazed enclosures situated at an altitude of about 215 metres on the south-western flank of Mynydd Isaf, overlooking the Amman Valley. The geology of the site comprises hard acidic Namurian sandstones and quartzites overlain by superficial and variable deposits of Pleistocene boulder clay. The herb-rich grasslands to be found here are typical of those which were once fairly widespread throughout the Carmarthen Coalfield, prior to losses caused by land improvements, opencast coal extraction and development of one kind or another. Much of the site supports the white umbelliferous plant, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum* which in Britain appears to be most frequent in the Carmarthen Coalfield.

The main feature of special interest is a large stand of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*-meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow, which is extensively represented in most of the enclosures. This vegetation is characterised by a short purple moor-grass turf with a variety of associated small sedges, including carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*; rushes, mostly compact rush *Juncus conglomeratus* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*; and flowering plants such as meadow thistle, whorled caraway, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Variable amounts of ericaceous shrubs such as cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* are present, with petty whin *Genista anglica* occurring rarely.

A substantial area of short purple moor-grass - tormentil mire occurs in two enclosures: here cross-leaved heath and heather *Calluna vulgaris* are frequent throughout the vegetation at variable cover, and in places the sward takes on quite a heathy appearance.

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