

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

CAEAU BRYN IFOR

Date of Notification: 11 March 2011

National Grid Reference: SN595267 SN596263

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 146
1:10,000 Sheet number: SN52NE

Site Area: 5.49 ha

Description:

Caeau Bryn Ifor is of special interest for its marshy grassland vegetation. The site, which consists of three adjoining fields at Dolauhirion and one separate field at Bryn Ifor, is approximately 1 km east of Cape Isaac, near Llandeilo, at an altitude of 150-160 metres, on Lower Palaeozoic rocks of the Ordovician system. The terrain slopes gently to the south-west in one parcel and to the south in the other, with poorly draining soils throughout.

Most of the vegetation at Dolauhirion, the larger parcel, is characterised by abundant meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* within a matrix of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, velvet bent *Agrostis canina*, mat grass *Nardus stricta*, common sedge *Carex nigra* and carnation sedge *C. panicea*. Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* and whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum* are also present in the sward. Quaking grass *Briza media* is frequent and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris* is occasional in part of the central field. A drier knoll next to this supports a tiny stand of neutral grassland with abundant common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and devil's-bit scabious. A wet area in this central field has a high cover of lesser cow-horn bog-moss *Sphagnum inundatum* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*. Marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* is abundant here, and in some of the wet runnels.

Rush-pasture occurs around the field margins. These areas are dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* with associates such as common marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, greater bird's-foot trefoil, velvet bent, whorled caraway, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*.

Finally, the bulk of the southern field, together with a small area of the northern field, is dominated by velvet bent and mat grass alongside various small sedges including common yellow sedge *Carex viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa*, star sedge *C. echinata* and carnation sedge. Whorled caraway, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and devil's-bit scabious are other significant associates.

“Church field”, at Bryn Ifor, has similar vegetation. Wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* is frequent to abundant, bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi* and compact rush

Juncus conglomeratus are also frequent. Meadow thistle occurs in patches and here compact rush and sharp-flowered rush, as well as whorled caraway, devil's-bit scabious, carnation sedge, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, heather *Calluna vulgaris* and mosses such as bud-headed groove-moss *Aulacomnium androgynum*, springy turf-moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, lesser cow-horn bog-moss and lustrous bog-moss *Sphagnum subnitens*, can all be frequent.

The marsh fritillary butterfly *Eurodryas aurinia* is regularly seen at both Dolauhirion fields and Church field - at the latter in good numbers in some years. At Dolauhirion, the hoverfly *Mycrodon myrmicae* has been recorded. At Church field, the narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth *Hemaris tityus* may have been recorded on one occasion.

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