

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

**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION**

**CARMARTHENSHIRE**

**PINE LODGE MEADOW**

<b><u>Date of Notification:</u></b>	1999
<b><u>National Grid Reference:</u></b>	SN 460269
<b><u>O.S. Maps:</u></b>	1: 50,000 Sheet number: 146 1: 10,000 Sheet number: SN 42 NE
<b><u>Site Area:</u></b>	1 ha

**Description:**

Pine Lodge Meadow is of special interest for its stand of species-rich neutral grassland. Such grassland has declined markedly in recent times, principally through widespread agricultural intensification.

The site consists of a single small hay-meadow situated on a moderate north-west facing slope, approximately 2km east of the village of Rhydargaeau to the north of Carmarthen. The underlying geology comprises rocks of Silurian age, overlain by freely draining brown earth soil. Altitude ranges from 225-235 metres.

Common grasses in the sward include common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. These are accompanied by a high cover and rich diversity of forbs, including common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, cat's-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, eyebright *Euphrasia officinalis* agg., yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. In the west of the site, where the soil becomes more acidic, the sward is characterised by a higher frequency of tormentil, together with a scattering of heath-grass *Danthonia decumbens* and sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*.

Pine Lodge Meadow also holds some uncommon species interest in the form of greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and moonwort *Botrychium lunaria*.

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