

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

FELIN FACH MEADOWS, CWMGWILI

Date of Notification: 1986, 1989

National Grid Reference: SN 574102

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 159
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN51

Site Area: 10.9 ha

Description:

Unimproved pasture varies in species composition and structure according to geographical position, geology and land use. Whorled Caraway *Carum verticillatum* has a restricted distribution nationally, its major strongholds being the unimproved pastures of South Wales and South West Scotland. These pastures may contain a range of vegetation types from *Molinia* and ericaceous heath through to *Juncus* dominated communities and eutrophic fen.

The Felin Fach meadows contain good examples of this range. Plots, 1, 4 and 7 bear *Molinia* and *Agrostis* species with frequent rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and *J articulatus* grading into more species-rich communities with *Salix repens*, *Succisa pratensis* and *Pedicularis sylvatica*.

Plot 2, by contrast, represents the more eutrophic end of the range with *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Angelica sylvestris*, *Valeriana officinalis* and *Molinia caerulea*.

Plots 3, 5 and 6, while also relatively wet, are dominated by *Juncus effusus* although with interesting local species such as *Cirsium dissectum* and *Anagallis tenella*.

All plots contain locally abundant *Carum verticillatum*, with several hosting the marbled white butterfly on the northern edge of its geographical range.

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