

**CYFOETH NATURIOL CYMRU
NATURAL RESOURCES WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST: CITATION

CAMARTHESHIRE

CAE CWRTBRYNBEIRDD

Date of Notification:

National Grid Reference: SN 658 181

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 159
1:25,000 Sheet number: 186

Site Area: 3.11 ha

Description:

Cae Cwrtbrynbeirdd is of special interest for its marshy grassland and a large marsh fritillary butterfly population.

Cae Cwrtbrynbeirdd is a single field situated 1.05 km southeast of the village of Trapp, Carmarthenshire, overlooking the valley of the Afon Cennen. The altitude ranges from 190m to 215m, with the field gently sloping to the north. Associated habitats include a small stream, flushes, hedgerows and areas of scrub.

The bedrock beneath Cae Cwrtbrynbeirdd consists of sandstones formed during the Lower Devonian, between 419.2 million and 393.3 million years ago. This is overlain by a reddish fine loamy brown earth soil of the Milford association.

Marshy grassland is present across the site. Much of this habitat has a distinctly base-rich character, with typical marshy grassland plants such as purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, and devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* joined by species such as meadow thistle, *Cirsium dissectum*, flea sedge *Carex pulicaris* and tawny sedge *C. hostiana*.

In places where rushes predominate, the grassland can be notably species-rich. Here typical rush-pasture species such as sharp-flowered rush *Juncus* cf. *acutiflorus*, marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*, star sedge *C. echinata*, ragged robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*, and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* can be found, in association with basiphilous plants such as marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and quaking grass *Briza media*. Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* both occur where the soils are particularly waterlogged.

The marshy grassland at Cae Cwrtbrynbeirdd supports a number of scarce or local species. These include whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, northern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, early marsh-orchid *D. incarnata* ssp. *incarnata*, Dyer's greenweed *Genista tinctoria*, water avens *Geum rivale* and marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*.

The nationally vulnerable marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia* is present on site and is associated with areas of the site supporting the larval foodplant devil's-bit scabious.

Remarks:

The M24 *Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow habitat is listed in Annex I of European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Marsh fritillary is listed in Annex II of European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora and is also listed under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended. It is also a Section 7 priority species as listed in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The site supports the following Section 7 priority habitat as listed in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: Purple moorgrass and rush pastures.