

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

CARREG CENNEN

Date of Notification: 1973, 1983

National Grid Reference: SN 670191

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

Site Area: 19.5 ha

Description:

This outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone surrounding by Devonian Sandstone supports a range of contrasting vegetation communities. On limestone scree, below the castle, woodlands dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior* have developed, with an abundant growth of shrubs including hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. This contrasts strongly with the oakwood of Coed y Castell on sandstones to the east. This wood has a sparse shrub layer developed over extensive stands of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

The limestone cliffs are noted for their rare plant species, including chives *Allium schoenoprasum* and spiked speedwell *Veronica spicata*. A small area of limestone pavement occurs within the site.

Remarks:

Within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Most of the site is declared a Local Nature Reserve.

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