

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

CARMARTHENSHIRE

BROAD OAK AND THORNHILL MEADOWS

Date of Notification:

1984, 1987

National Grid Reference:

SN 580122, SN 581120 and SN 580118

O.S. Maps:

1: 50,000 Sheet number: 159

1: 25,000 Sheet number: SN 51

Site Area:

6.4 ha

Description:

In Britain unimproved grasslands containing an abundance of the umbelliferous plant, whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, appear to be concentrated on the Carmarthen Coalfield and its environs. These grasslands vary from wet species-rich types to dry, heathy examples with a somewhat restricted flora.

This site is a good example of an intermediate between these two extremes. In all the three fields, whorled caraway is frequent or abundant within a sward which tends to be dominated by sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and compact rush *J. conglomeratus*. The damp pasture represented in the largest field contains a good mixture of grasses and sedges - sweet vernal-grass. *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, brown bent *Agrostis canina*, common bent *A. capillaris*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta* and carnation sedge *Carex paincea* being the most abundant species. Other characteristic and notable plants are devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. The other two fields are generally of a similar nature, but parts of them are drier, and one contains a sedge-rich flush.

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