

47. Caeau Llety Cybi

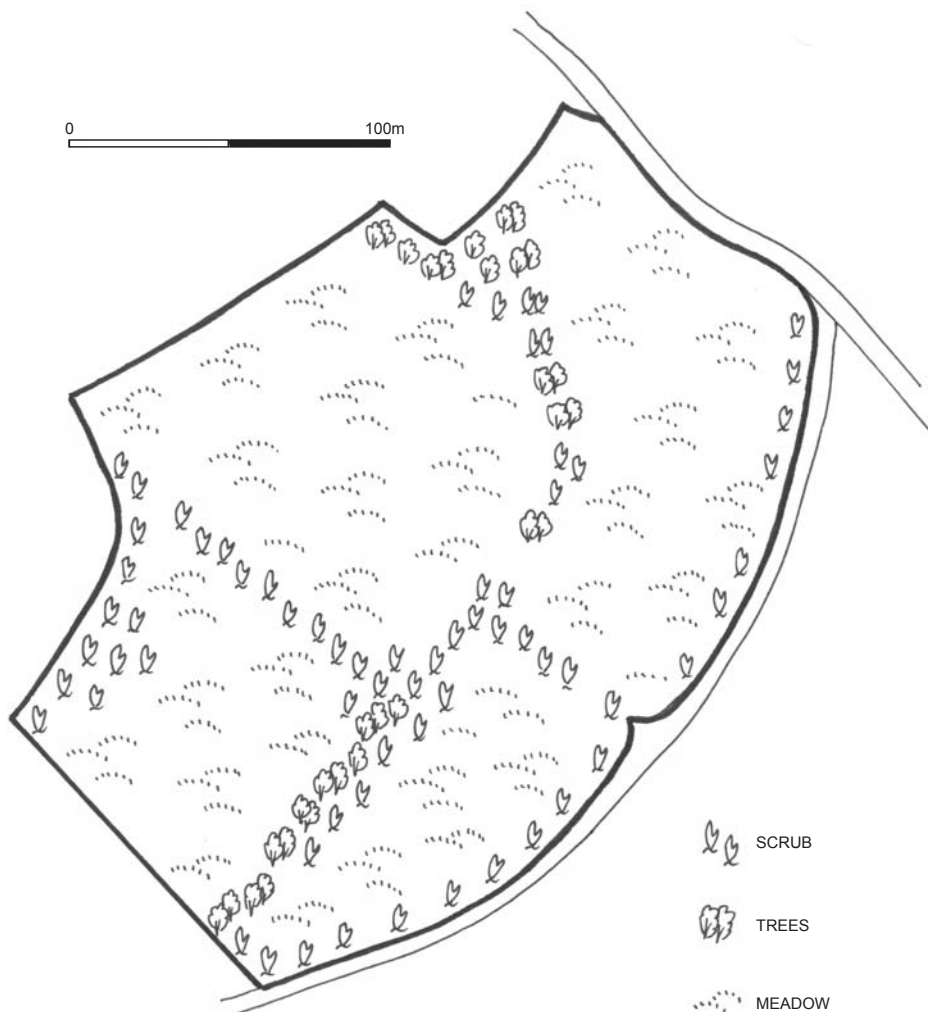
Llangybi, Ceredigion

Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 199 Lampeter. Main entrance: SN603534, Site centre: SN603535
Status	Notified SSSI.
Tenure	Purchased in 1981 with funds from the Trust's Orchid Appeal, and grant aid from NCC and WWF.
Size	3.1 ha (7.6 acres).
Location and Access Notes	1 km north-west of Llangybi. Approach along unclassified road to Llwyn-y-groes from the A485 at Llangybi. Parking by arrangement at Cilgwyn Golf Course. Reserve access gate 200 m along private lane to Llety-cybi Cottage. Not accessible to wheelchairs. No formal footpaths, but open access.
Public transport	Limited buses: the 588 runs from Lampeter to Llangybi but there is no return bus that day.

Description: Steep neutral lowland meadows, enclosed and divided by ancient and species rich hedgerows.

The reserve consists of four small herb-rich fields of neutral grassland showing some acidic characteristics. It is likely that the relatively steep gradient saved this site from the plough, and thus it has retained botanical interest. The sward is made up of Sweet Vernal Grass, Common Bent, and Heath-grass with a wealth of flowers, such as Bird's-foot Trefoil (4-9), Black Knapweed (6-9), Burnet Saxifrage (5-10), Cat's Ear (6-10), Ivy-leaved Bellflower (7-10), Pignut (5-7), Red Clover (4-10), Tormentil (4-9), Betony (6-9) and Greater Butterfly Orchid (5-7), the latter a rarity in Ceredigion. In 2005, 298 spikes of the Orchid were counted.

The fields are surrounded by rich hedgerows, which contain young standard trees. The site is also rich in waxcap fungi, probably a result of the historic lack of ploughing and fertilisation.



Management Objectives: To maintain the species rich sward by light grazing with beef cattle during the summer months, becoming more intensive in the autumn to reduce the year's top growth, but being absent in the winter. The hedgerows are managed by laying.

Good times to visit

- Apr - Sept Woodland flowers
- Jun - Jul Greater Butterfly Orchids
- May - Sept Butterflies & other insects
- Sept - Nov Waxcap fungi