

# 63. Rhos-y-Fforest

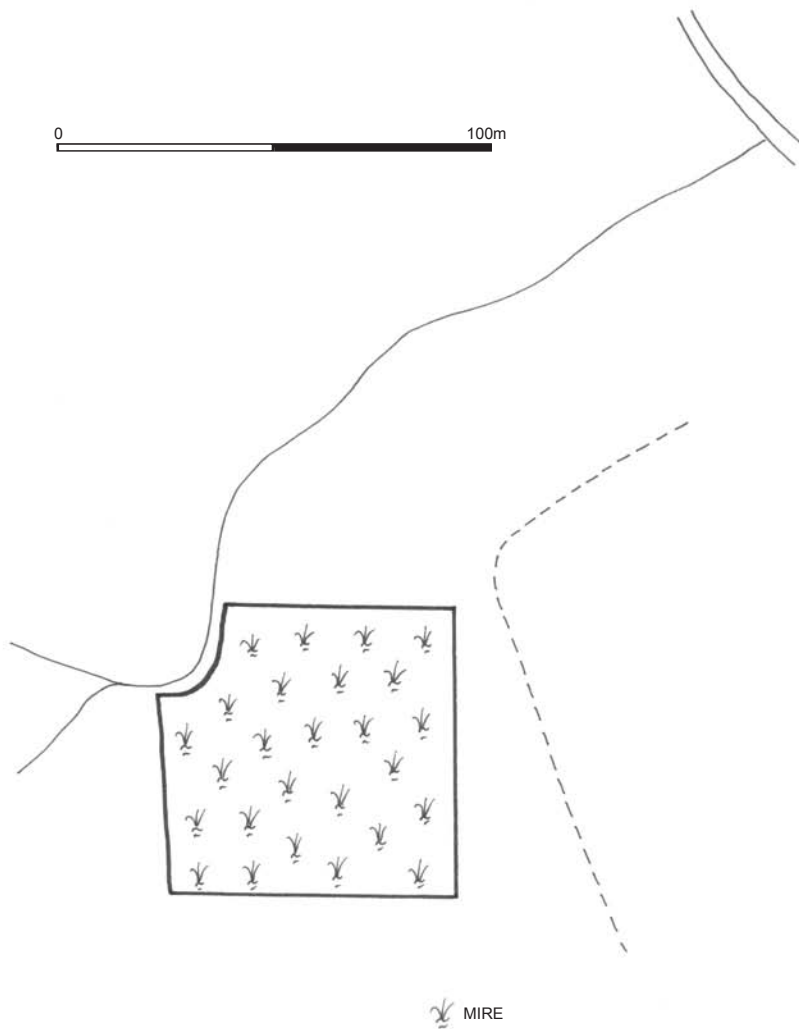
Llanilar, Ceredigion

<b>Grid References</b>	O.S. Explorer map 213 Aberystwyth & Cwm Rheidol. Main entrance: SN619730, Site centre: SN618729
<b>Status</b>	Notified SSSI.
<b>Tenure</b>	Established as a nature reserve by agreement with Mr W.J. Davies in 1966, although there had been an informal agreement for some years before that. The present reserve, with revised boundaries, is held by agreement with his wife and son.
<b>Size</b>	0.75 ha (1.8 acres).
<b>Location and Access Notes</b>	2 km south of Llanilar. Leave the A485 south on the B4576 to Llangwryfyon at Glanmad. Turn sharp left at the first junction where the B4576 bears sharply to the right and after a short stretch turn right. Follow the lane south east for some 3 km. Park in the layby by the small quarry on the west side of the road. At SN619730 cross the stile to the reserve. Paths can be wet with deep mud in places. Inaccessible for wheelchairs.
<b>Public transport</b>	Nearest bus stop is 3 km away in Llanilar, which is on the 585 route from Aberystwyth to Tregaron (runs every two hours).

**Description:** Remnants of valley mire with associated wet flushes, and acid grassland surrounded by improved pasture.

At only 150 m above sea level and 7 km from the coast, it is one of the very few remaining wet hollows of this type which have not been improved. Much of the reserve lies on peat, overlying boulder clay and Silurian shales. The centre is highly acidic, the flushes are rather more base rich, with some areas of drier acid grassland about the periphery. The site supports some Gorse scrub with some Willow and Alder carr, and mature trees alongside a stream.

The sward supports a rich and diverse flora for such as small site, with 177 species having been recorded to date, although these are now in decline, possibly because of nutrient run-off from surrounding pasture and alterations to the surrounding hydrology. Species of interest include Bog Pimpernel (6-9), Dyer's Greenweed (6-10), Heath-spotted Orchid (5-7), Wavy-leaved St. John's-wort (7-8), Whorled Caraway (6-8), Lesser Skullcap (7-10), Sneezewort (7-8) and Saw-wort (7-9). The colony of Wavy St. John's-wort (7-9) in the wetter areas is at its northern limit here in Britain, except for a colony at Arthog in Merioneth.



**Management Objectives:** Autumn and winter informal grazing to retain the mosaic of vegetation types.

**Good times to visit**

Apr - Jul Breeding birds  
 May - Sept Grassland flowers