

38. Cors Goch

Llanllwch, Carmarthenshire

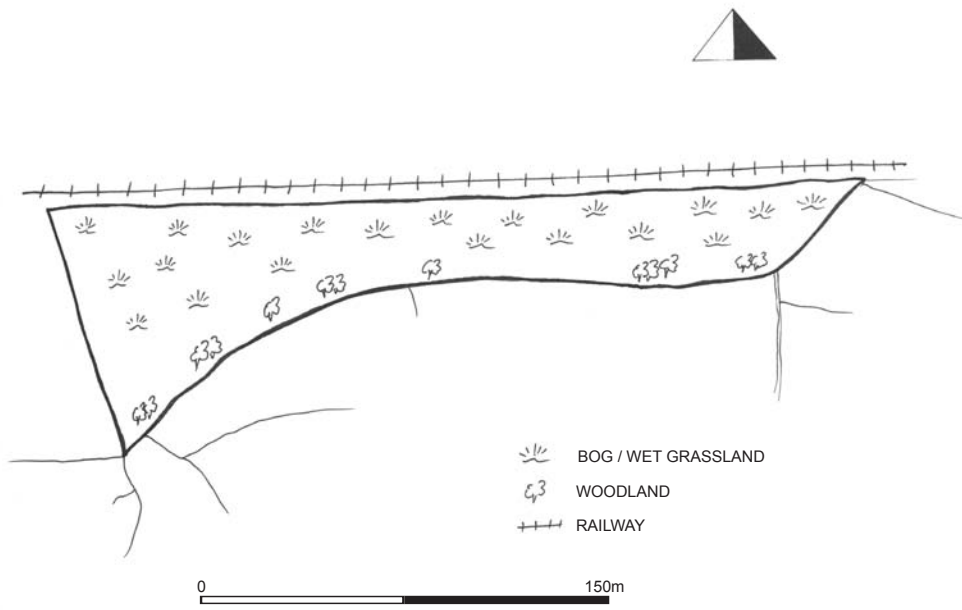
Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 177 Carmarthen and Kidwelly. Main entrances: SN370187 & SN363185. Site centre: SN365186
Status	A notified SSSI and part of the Cors Goch Llanllwch NNR.
Tenure	Parts of the site were purchased in 1980 and 1983 with grant aid from the NHMF, NCC, and WWF.
Size	11.2 ha (27.6 acres).
Location and Access Notes	5.5 km south west of Carmarthen. Access is obtained by way of a track from the A40 Carmarthen to St Clears road some 6 km west of Carmarthen near the guesthouse. The track crosses the railway line, where great care should be taken. Some cars may be parked at Cwm Coch Farm, with the owner's permission. At the eastern end there is also access via the Showground.
Public transport	Bus numbers 244, 322, 222 & 224 from Carmarthen stop near the Showground.

Description: Cors Goch is part of a lowland raised mire and is one of the last six large raised bogs in Wales. The bog originated as a lake amongst clays, sands and gravels, deposited by the ice sheet and now forms the typical dome shape of raised bogs. The mire has a depth of up to 5 m of peat, which contains evidence of an uninterrupted environmental record of over 8000 years, Carmarthenshire's most complete record of past vegetation history.

The western section has former drainage channels cut across it from east to west linking with the main ditch on the western boundary. These channels contain areas of *Sphagnum* moss, with Bog Asphodel (7-9), Cranberry (5-7), Round-leaved Sundew (6-8), Marsh Cinquefoil (6-7), Narrow Buckler-fern, and Royal Fern. Heather (8-10) and Cross-leaved Heath (6-9) dominate large areas of the reserve, while Bog Myrtle (4-5) makes impressive stands in a Purple Moor Grass sward in the southern and western parts of the site. Other notable plants include Oblong-leaved Sundew and White Beak Sedge.

Alder carr and Downy Birch make up most of the southern boundary.

Marsh Fritillary (6-7) has been recorded, together with Bog Bush-cricket (5-11) and Black Darter (7-9), and the site contains up to 300 colonies of the national biodiversity priority species, the Black Bog Ant. This species was discovered in 1991 and is known from only one other site in Wales (Rhossili Down SSSI, Gower).



Management Objectives: To maintain the lowland raised bog in favourable condition through judicious clearance of scrub, management of heather through a cutting or grazing regime, and protecting the habitat features required by those species of particular nature conservation interest.

Good times to visit	
Mar - Aug	Bog plants
May to Jul	Breeding birds
Jun - Oct	Insects
Sept - Nov	Fungi