

23. Llanrhidian Hill

Llanrhidian, Gower, Swansea

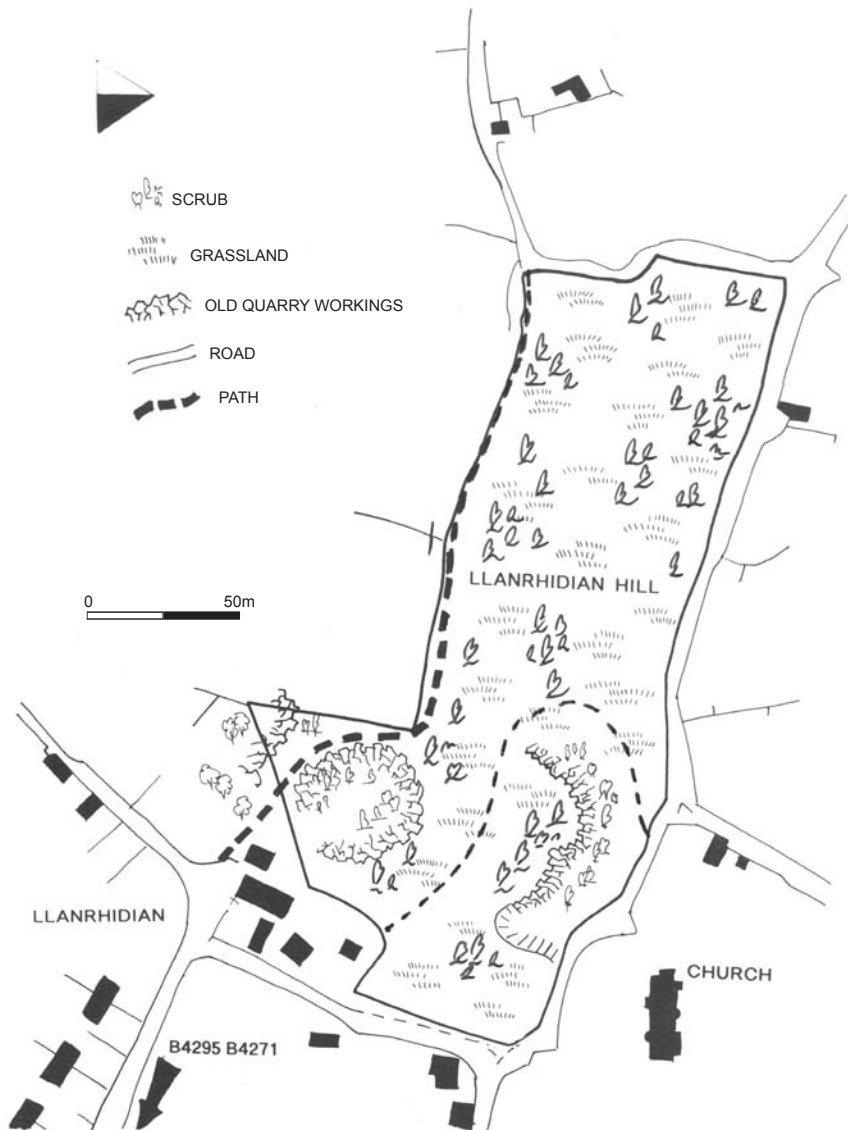
Grid References	O.S. Explorer map 164 Gower. Main entrance: SS496921, Site centre: SS495922
Status	The site is registered common land, and has been declared open public access.
Tenure	The freehold of this reserve was given to the Trust in April 1966 by the late Mr. C.P.M. Methuen-Campbell.
Size	Area 3.09 ha (7.6 acres).
Location and Access Notes	Adjacent to Llanrhidian village, on the west side behind the church. Main access from opposite the village / church hall. Not accessible to wheelchairs.
Public Transport	Bus numbers 115, 116 and 119 from Swansea Quadrant Bus Station.

Description: Limestone grassland, scrub, and quarries.

Much of the site occupies a steep north-facing slope on Carboniferous limestone, giving fine views overlooking the Burry Estuary.

It is composed mainly of species-rich limestone grassland with Common Rock-rose (5-9), Wild Thyme (5-8) and Milkwort (4-7) abundant, with patches of Elder, Hawthorn and Ash scrub which grades into mature Ash woodland to the west. At the eastern end there are two limestone quarry sites with the remains of a limestone kiln by the southern entrance. The smaller quarry is scrub-filled. The larger quarry is shallow with a grassland-covered floor, its rocky sides supporting a slightly different assemblage of lime-loving plants.

This is a site to see the locally rare Marble White butterfly (6-8).



Management Objectives: To maintain an area of limestone grassland, whilst allowing the natural succession of the western end of the site to develop into Ash woodland. To allow natural colonisation of the larger quarry site, preserving the quarry face in an open state.

Good times to visit

- Apr - Jun Spring and summer flowers
- May - Jul Breeding birds
- May - Aug Butterflies and other insects