

# 40. Ffrwd Farm Mire

Pembrey, Carmarthenshire

<b>Grid References</b>	O.S. Explorer map 178 Llanelli & Ammanford. Main entrance: SN418021, Site centre: SN420026
<b>Status</b>	Notified as part of the Gwernedd Pembre SSSI.
<b>Tenure</b>	The site was purchased in 1983 with grant aid from the Llanelli Naturalists' Society, NHMF, NCC, and WWF. A further area was subsequently leased from the Coal Authority, and the Llanelli Naturalists' Society have owned a further 1.2 ha (3 acres) since 1979.
<b>Size</b>	19 ha (47 acres).
<b>Location and Access Notes</b>	0.5 km north of Pembrey, 3 km south of Kidwelly. Access or views can be obtained from three locations: the gate near the southern corner adjoining the B4317 road, the northern corner off a minor road near the level crossing of a disused railway near Ty Mawr farm, and the right of way on the towpath of the disused Ashburnham canal.
<b>Public transport</b>	Bus number X11 from Llanelli or Carmarthen stops at the end of the B4317 on the Penybedd Road.

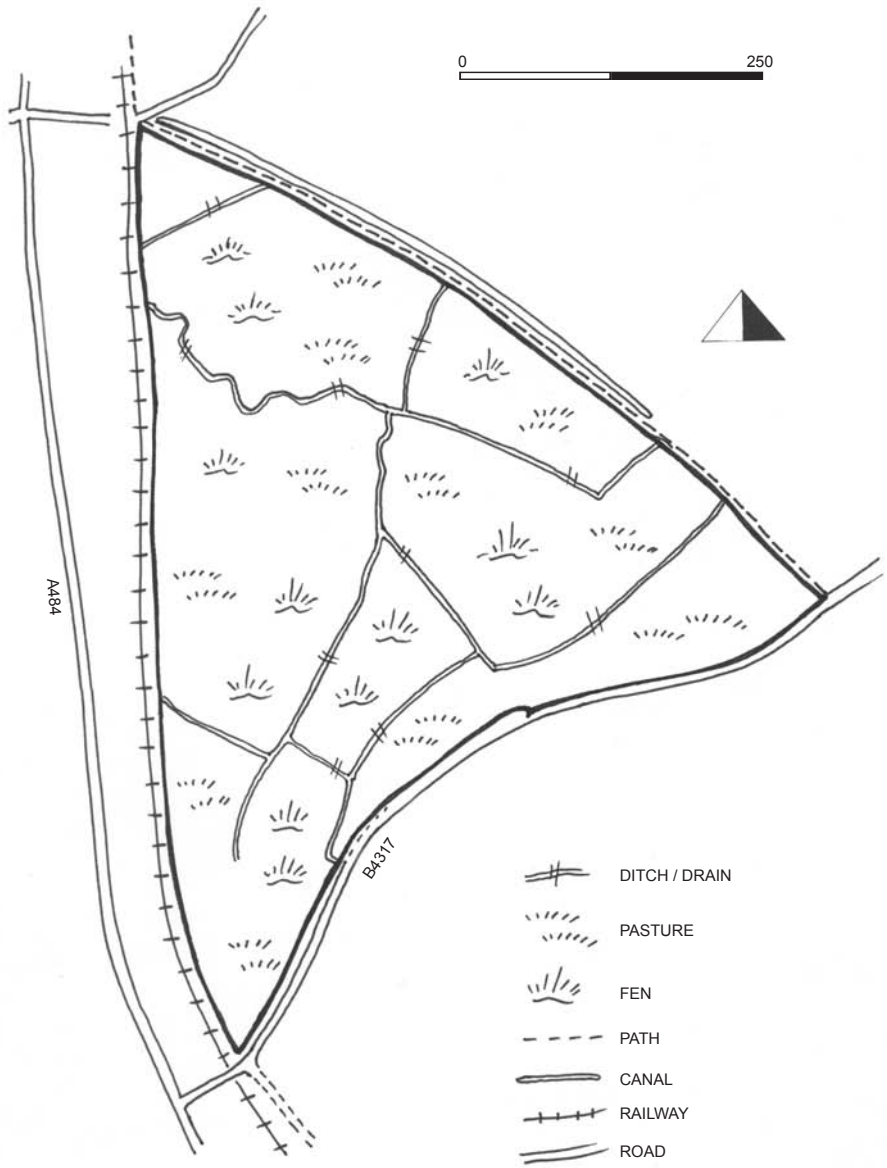
**Description:** Fen, reedbed, relict sand dune, and rough pasture.

Ffrwd Farm Mire lies 4 m above sea level inland from the extensive Tywyn and Pembrey sand dune complex. It is the least disturbed remnant of the fenland, which once stretched from Kidwelly to Burry Port.

There is a transition across this site from relict sand dune and rough pasture through species rich fen to reedbed and open water. The wetland habitats support Marsh Marigold (3-6), Bog Bean (4-6), and Marsh Orchids (6-7), with a variety of scarcer plants such as Bird's-foot (5-6), Floating Club-rush, Tubular Water Dropwort (7-9) and Water Dock, as well as RDB plants such as the near threatened Marsh Pea (6-8), and vulnerable Frogbit (7-8).

The open water habitats support a varied dragonfly population including the Hairy Dragonfly (5-6) and Variable Damselfly (6-7). The Slender Ground Hopper (8-7) and Short Winged Conehead (5-8) occur in the drier habitats, and a handsome black and orange fenland hoverfly *Tropidia scita* (5-10, peak 6-7) can be seen feeding on the profusion of nectar rich wetland flowers.

The reedbed supports breeding Cetti's Warbler, Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Willow Warbler, with Mallard, Moorhen and Water Rail. Winter brings Snipe and Teal, with occasional visits from Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Peregrine. Water Vole has also been seen here.



**Management Objectives:** To maintain the mosaic of habitats in a favourable condition through appropriate management and control of water levels, to ensure the best habitat for the species present.

**Good times to visit**

Mar - Jul	Wetland flowering plants
May - Jul	Breeding birds
Jun - Oct	Dragonflies & other insects
Nov - Feb	Wintering birds