

## CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY PLAN – BUTTERFLIES






### Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 7 - Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity






The species listed in this table have been identified by Welsh Government as part of a list of species and types of habitat found in Wales that they consider are of key significance to maintain and enhance biodiversity in this country. This list (S7 list) is currently under review by WG and Natural Resources Wales.

Public authorities (e.g. WG, councils) must take reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the species and types of habitat included in Section 7, and encourage others to take such steps. By safeguarding these species and habitats, improving their management and raising awareness about them it is hoped that a resilient natural environment in Wales will be sustained into the future.

Please refer to the [Butterfly Conservation website](#) for more detailed species description information

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SPECIES		HABITAT/ CARMARTHENSHIRE SITES	ISSUES/ACTIONS
<p><b><i>Boloria selene</i></b> <b>Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary</b></p> <p>© Jim Asher Butterfly Conservation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland Grassland and Heathland/open Woodland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a marked decline in the county due to loss of damp, flower-rich grassland to agricultural intensification.</li> <li>• To a lesser extent, the cessation of woodland management (which previously created sunny, flowery glades) has also had a negative impact.</li> <li>• Conservation of remaining diverse grassland areas is a priority for this butterfly and associated wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i></b> <b>Small Heath</b></p> <p>© Maggie James</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland Grassland/Heathland/Coastal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still relatively frequent throughout the county, but doubtless local losses have occurred due to agricultural intensification.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Cupido minimus</i></b> <b>Small Blue</b></p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield (and, now rarely, Lowland Grassland).</li> <li>• There are strong populations at the major dune systems at Pembrey and Laugharne/Pendine, as well as lesser numbers at the smaller dune areas such as North Dock Dunes Local Nature Reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing management such as sea buckthorn removal and re-introduction of grazing will create open, flower-rich dune grassland to benefit this butterfly.</li> <li>• It only occurs very rarely on brownfield/grassland sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Erynnis tages</i></b> <b>Dingy Skipper</b></p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield/Lowland Grassland</li> <li>• Main areas are the hinterland dune grasslands at Pembrey and Laugharne/Pendine, but populations occur elsewhere, with a particular affinity with flower-rich brownfield sites such as the former open-cast site at Ffos-las near Trimsaran.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with other species that depend on such open conditions, the need to resist inappropriate tree planting and the management of natural succession may be needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Eurodryas aurinia</i></b> <b>Marsh Fritillary</b></p> <p>© Richard Pryce</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland Grassland and Heathland. In Wales the butterfly's habitat is usually damp neutral/acidic grassland with the larval host plant, devil's-bit scabious.</li> <li>• South-west Wales is now one of its strongholds. Most of Carmarthenshire's colonies are aggregated to the south-east of the county, with recently discovered colonies around Brechfa, Amman Valley and Pumsaint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main factor in its decline is inappropriate levels of grazing; in particular a lack of grazing which has allowed pastures to become rank with associated scrub encroachment and loss of habitat and connectivity due to development.</li> <li>• Recent survey work and habitat assessment has shown that, whilst the size of many colonies may be small, collectively they make a significant contribution to the national population.</li> <li>• A landscape-scale project formed to secure and manage marshy grassland habitat for MF around Cross Hands now has 22 sites in management, a total area of 125 ha (2018).</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Hipparchia semele</i> <b>Grayling</b></p> <p>© P. Gadsby</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield Sites/Lowland Grassland and Heathland</li> <li>• Favouring more arid grasslands with requisite areas of open, bare ground, the main populations are to be found at the main (and smaller) dune systems along the coast. It also occurs on similarly open early-stage brownfield sites and around rocky areas on inland heathland/upland such as parts of Mynydd Du and Mynydd Llangyndeyrn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inland populations have declined in recent summers (perhaps due to some rainy seasons?).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Lasiommata megera</i> <b>Wall</b></p> <p>© Maggie James</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield Sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another species that favours quite open, sunny conditions such S or SW-facing flower-rich hedgebanks, rocky heathland, brownfield sites and the like.</li> <li>• Also declined in the last decade.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Pyrgus malvae</i> <b>Grizzled Skipper</b></p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Lowland Grassland and Heathland</li> <li>• Almost exclusively limited to stable grasslands on the dune systems of the coast, where its caterpillars depend on wild strawberry plants. Smaller populations are occasionally found inland, on brownfield sites or where the food-plant occurs in reasonable quantity such as on remaining open quarries on the Carboniferous Limestone outcrop.</li> <li>• A very rare species in Wales; the Carmarthenshire colonies are a significant part of the national population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with many butterflies, the prevention of succession to scrub or woodland will be a key management need.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Satyrrium w-album</i> <b>White Letter Hairstreak</b></p> <p>© Jim Asher Butterfly Conservation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland/Farmland/Parkland. The white-letter hairstreak is a local species in Carmarthenshire, this reflecting the distribution of elms in the county.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly coastal and the Tywi Valley, but unless dedicated searches are made, this usually tree-top butterfly is rarely encountered. It is probably badly under-recorded and it will occur at elm-rich hedgerows and woodland throughout the county.</li> <li>• It requires no particular management and it survived the Dutch Elm Disease of the 1970s (with local elms recovering well).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Thecla betulae</i> <b>Brown Hairstreak</b></p> <p>© Richard Smith</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carmarthenshire has roughly 60% of the recently (since 1995) recorded sites in Wales. Its known range runs roughly north of the line of the main A40 road, with a handful of sites marginally to the south, mostly in Tywi valley.</li> <li>• The best-known concentrations are in the Tywi and Teifi valleys and their tributaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal factor thought to be affecting the species is the annual flailing of hedges and trimming of young and sucker growth inside field boundaries, changes in woodland management, including loss of woodland edge habitat.</li> <li>• The Tywi valley population has diminished significantly – likely due to loss of egg laying habitat because of hedge flailing.</li> <li>• Butterfly Conservation volunteers have undertaken annual egg surveys for more than 10 years and work with landowners on management of sites for this butterfly.</li> </ul>
