

CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY PLAN – VASCULAR PLANTS





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






The plant 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.




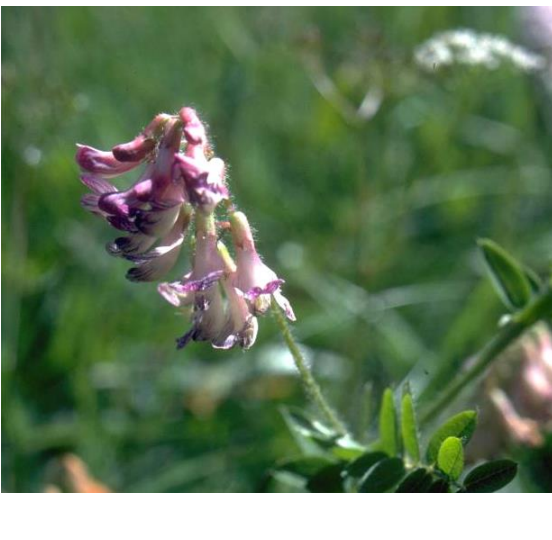
Please refer to www.brc.ac.uk/plantatlas/ for more detailed information about the species listed below. We hope we have included all the S7 species found in the county but errors may occur!


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SPECIES		HABITAT/CARMARTHENSHIRE RECORDS	ISSUES/ACTION REQUIRED
<p><i>Gentianella uliginosa</i> Dune Gentian</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual of coastal dunes and dune-slacks, usually in open ground or short vegetation maintained by grazing, disturbance or winter flooding. • Until the 1980s, known at both Laugharne and Tywyn Burrows but confined in recent years to the old helipad at Tywyn Burrows. • In 2012 several plants were also seen by the RAF targets where they'd never been seen previously but no plants have been seen since 2013 • Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act • Conservation status: vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual survey at Tywyn Burrows will continue.
<p><i>Silene gallica</i> Small-flowered Catchfly</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual of cultivated and disturbed ground, mainly in arable fields on (often acidic) sandy or gravelly soils, and on old walls and waste ground. • Its only Carmarthenshire site, is at Burry Port Harbour. • In 2015 33 plants were in flower on the dock wall in Burry Port. However in 2017 only three small plants seen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual management of harbour walls to expose substrate is required.
<p><i>Dianthus armeria</i> Deptford Pink</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual or short-lived perennial plant of open, disturbed sites, occurring in short grassland in pastures, roadsides, and field margins, and as a casual on waste ground. • The only extant population at Bryndias, Pined, seems to be steadily declining due to the habitat slowly becoming overgrown and the grass-dominated vegetation closing over the once more open substrate. • Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act • Conservation status: vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management to disturb ground at Bryndias farm – liaise with owners to resurvey the site. • In Sept 2013, a small amount of seed was collected under licence and given to NBGW for <i>ex situ</i> propagation, which has been successful. A site has been identified for a potential reintroduction project
<p><i>Euphrasia rivularis</i> Eyebright</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual of upland rocky flushes, seepage areas and wet rock ledges. • Previous record was for Old Red Sandstone on Mynydd Du eastwards to the slopes north of Carmarthen Fan within the Brecon Beacons NP are of the county. • There was new discovery at the NW edge of Mynydd Llanllwni by the county plant recorders in 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to survey on potential new sites and monitor current sites.

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<p><i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i> subsp. <i>montana</i></p> <p>Mountain Eyebright</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual of upland hay meadows. • Quite widespread and locally frequent in unimproved acid grassland in the eastern two-thirds of the county. • Not threatened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action required
<p><i>Gymnadenia densiflora</i></p> <p>Marsh Fragrant Orchid</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small populations at both Laugharne and Tywyn Burrows as well as in base-rich unimproved grassland inland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to conserve inland sites in collaboration with land-owners. • Probably not threatened at its coastal duneland sites but loss of inland grassland habitats is probably a severe threat.
<p><i>Gymnadenia borealis</i></p> <p>Heath Fragrant Orchid</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some inland <i>Gymnadenia</i> populations may be this species which has only recently been given full species status. In the past, the three sub-species (of which <i>G. borealis</i> was one) made up the aggregate species and were not separated by field observers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further recording required. • Seek to conserve inland sites in collaboration with land-owners. • Loss of inland grassland habitats is probably a severe threat.
<p><i>Hypopitys monotropa</i> subsp. <i>hypophegea</i></p> <p>Yellow Bird's-nest</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A saprophytic perennial plant of leaf litter in shaded woodlands. • Small populations in the MCP between Pwll and Burry Port and in Pembrey Forest which naturally build-up and decline over a period of c.5–10 years or less whilst new sites appear to be colonised. • Last seen In 2013 (both in Pembrey Forest and Pwll Lagoon LNR) but will probably reappear in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan written by MCP ranger with management recommendations. • Annual monitoring
<p><i>Lycopodium clavatum</i></p> <p>Stag's-horn Clubmoss</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly confined to Mynydd Mallaen. • Additional records from Brechfa Forest (2014) and Mynydd Du (2012) but still very vulnerable to sheep grazing/trampling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further recording. • Its fortunes seem to depend on the intensity of sheep grazing as plants are easily dislodged by sheep trampling on them. However, they appear to be doing better on Mynydd Mallaen since sheep numbers seem to be reduced. • Ensure sheep grazing intensity is kept at an appropriate level.

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<p><i>Matthiola sinuate</i> Sea Stock</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A biennial or short-lived perennial plant of sand dunes and sea-cliffs. • Discovered new to Carmarths at Ginst Point in 2006 and along the dune front of Pendine Sands in 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further recording.
<p><i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> Bastard Balm</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong-smelling perennial herb of woodland, wood-borders, hedge banks. • One site on a roadside bank in the Cych valley. • Very vulnerable to inappropriate road bank management or reduction of tree canopy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site recorded as Roadside Nature Reserve. • Site needs to be regularly monitored. • Speak to Highways again about management.
<p><i>Mentha pulegium</i> Pennyroyal</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native populations recorded from 'goose-grazed pastures' at Brynamman in the 1940s but all recent records are of casual plants of the non-native upright form which does not attract the same high conservation status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action required.
<p><i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> Tubular Water-dropwort</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perennial plant of damp or wet habitats, usually in areas of winter flooding. • Several small populations in coastal levels marshes, e.g. Laugharne Marshes, Ffrwd fen and the lower Tywi valley below Carmarthen. • Probably not too threatened. • The inland population at Ynys Uchaf Porthyrhyd has not been seen since 1986. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey.
<p><i>Platanthera bifolia</i> Lesser Butterfly-orchid</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A perennial plant of heathy pastures, grassland, open scrub, woodland edges and rides, and on moorland. • Main populations at Whitehill Down, Laugharne and Cae Blaen Dyffryn nature reserve, both consisting of hundreds of plants • Populations probably doing OK although they naturally fluctuate in numbers from year to year. • About 16 smaller populations identified but most not seen since the 1980s or early 1990s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparent severe decline but there is a need for a concerted monitoring effort to determine which populations may be extant. • Continue surveys/monitoring. • Seek to conserve extant sites in collaboration with land-owners.

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<p><i>Salsola kali</i> subsp. <i>kali</i> Prickly Saltwort</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent along strand-lines and dune fronts of all the county's dune systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action required.
<p><i>Scleranthus annuus</i> Annual Knawel</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely encountered in disturbed, gravelly substrates. • A new large population was discovered at Hugden Hill, Laugharne in July 2017. • Previously records are from Telpyn Farm (2007) and nr. Myddfai (1996). Probably other populations never come to light. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey/monitoring required.
<p><i>Trollius europaeus</i> Globeflower</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other than the relatively large no. of plants which grow on the rocky river banks in the Sawdde Gorge, it appears that only two other populations now remain (in the NE of the county) and these are of just one or two plants. Last recorded in 2015. • The severe decline in the populations of <i>Trollius</i> is mainly due to agricultural improvement of the pastures in which they once grew. • The Sawdde plants are currently threatened by overshadowing Cherry Laurel and conservation efforts need to be directed at cutting-back this threat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate Sawdde population – land owner and grant funding to manage cherry laurel.
<p><i>Vicia orobus</i> Wood Bitter-vetch</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although several populations remain in Carms, this species has suffered a severe decline over the past 30-or-so years. • Of the total of 25 tetrad records in the county, only five refer to plants seen since 2000. • Most records are in the north and north-east of the county and, in addition to its classic, traditionally-managed, upland hay-meadow sites, several plants have been recorded on acid, grassy roadside banks, the annual cut of which could mimic hay-meadow management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey/monitoring. • Ensure that sites where it grows which are SSSIs are managed appropriately. • Seek to conserve extant sites in collaboration with land-owners.
<p><i>S7 species previously recorded in the county but now considered extinct</i></p>			
<p><i>Dactylorhiza viridis</i> Frog Orchid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last seen in the county at Laugharne Burrows c.2002 		
<p><i>Liparis loeselii</i> Fen Orchid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last seen in Carms at Laugharne Burrows in 2002 and at Tywyn Burrows in 1971, <i>Liparis</i> has now disappeared from all its South Wales sites except Kenfig. • Loss of suitable dune slack habitat (hollows between the dunes where water lies close to the surface) caused of decline due to succession when the hollows dried out and became covered in vegetation. • European Protected Species • <u>This species is now regarded as extinct in the county.</u> • New scrapes were made at Laugharne Burrows by CCW in 2005 but no plants have been seen to date. • Further scrapes were made more recently as opportunities have arisen - these may develop to provide suitable habitat in due course. • Discussion is ongoing whether to introduce Kenfig seed to Carms sites as has recently been done at Whiteford Burrows on Gower. 		
<p><i>Juniperus communis</i> subsp.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last seen in Carmarthenshire in the wild in 1972. 		

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<i>communis</i> Common Juniper			
<i>Galeopsis segetum</i> Downey Hemp-nettle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual weed of arable and waste ground • Only one Carmarthenshire record in 1912. 		
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i> Large-flowered Hemp-nettle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual weed of cultivated, marginal and waste ground. • Three Carmarthenshire records, most recent in 1952 it could conceivably be recorded again. 		
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i> Red Hemp-nettle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual of arable land, waste places and open ground on calcareous substrates. • Six records in Carmarthenshire but none since 1963 		
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>			