

Take a closer look at... FUNGI

Nature's recyclers, fungi help ensure that nutrients from dead plants and animals can be reused by plants growing in the soil. Usually hidden in soil or wood, a fungus is made up of a web of tiny threads that absorb food from the surroundings.

From these threads the fruiting bodies, such as mushrooms, emerge. These come in an amazing variety of colours, shapes and sizes, each helping to disperse millions of spores. Woods and meadows are the best places to see fungi - why not see how many you can spot?

- Fungi are extraordinary organisms that are neither plants nor animals. They are in a Kingdom all of their own.
- The spores, which are the equivalent of a plant's seeds, are so small that you could fit between 500 and 1000 on the head of a pin!
- Some fungi live as partners with plants. They extract food (sugars) from the plants, but in return supply the plants with nutrients and water.
- Yeast is a single-celled fungus, and is used to make bread rise, and to produce alcohol by fermentation in beer, wine and cider.
- Penicillin, an antibiotic (a drug that kills bacteria) is made from a fungus.

Visit the [British Mycological Society](#) for more on fungi and the [Council's website](#) for more on Carmarthenshire's amazing wildlife.



Waxcap fungi



Birch bolete



Partneriaeth Bioamrywiaeth Sir Gaerfyrddin
Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership

 Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales

 Cyngor
Sir Gâr
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