



The **Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership** has produced this profile to highlight some of the wildlife, habitats, and important sites in your local area.

Carmarthenshire is justly celebrated for the variety within its natural environment, from the uplands in the north-east of the county to our magnificent coastline.

Every ward contributes to the rich and varied network of wildlife habitats that make up the county, whether that be woodlands, grasslands hedgerows, rivers or gardens.

There are still gaps in our knowledge about Carmarthenshire's natural environment and the wildlife it supports. Despite having a wealth of data, some species and pockets of special habitats remain unrecorded and

unmapped. There is always more to find out.

Wildlife and our natural environment reflect local culture and past human activity. We see this in the field and hedgerow patterns in our agricultural landscapes, and in areas previously dominated by industry where, today, new habitats develop on abandoned land. And our farm, house and street names provide clues to the history of our natural environment.

The mosaic of habitats in Pembrey & Burry Port make up an **ecological network**. If these habitats are well managed, are well connected and are sufficiently extensive, they will support a diversity of species and help to make a **resilient** natural environment.

A **resilient** natural environment supports wildlife and provides a range of **ecosystem services**, e.g. agricultural products, pollinators, timber, drinking water, regulation of floods and soil erosion, carbon storage and recreation and inspiration. Find out more at:

<https://bit.ly/3U12Nvp>

We hope it you will find this profile interesting and that it might encourage you to explore your local area and record what you see. There are links in the profile that will help you to find out more and take action locally.

Thank you to all those in Pembrey and Burry Port who have already sent information and photos. These profiles can be updated so please continue to send us information about the 'Wildlife in your Ward'.

Funded by Welsh Government through the Local Nature Partnership Cymru project.

Produced by Carmarthenshire County Council for the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

For further information please contact: Biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Pembrey and Burry Port Ward

Pembrey and Burry Port wards rise from the sea up to coastal hills. Scrub and woodland flank the hillsides, opening out into more intensively farmed grassland and well-managed hedgerows. Mynydd Pembrey offers excellent views of the coastal habitats below.

Although much changed over the years the wards still have a comparatively good diversity of wildlife. The coastline is dominated by the Millennium Coastal Park (created on former industrial land, now with areas rich in biodiversity) and Pembrey Peninsular. Pembrey Forest was planted on sand dunes to compensate for timber supplied for the two World Wars and is now recreational site managed for wildlife.

The Gwendraeth estuary to the north has saltmarsh and sand dunes and the coastal floodplain between the forest and the railway, crossed by ditches (including 'Swan Pool drain' – the 'pool' now lost under the airfield), was reclaimed from the sea as grazing land. Across the road and railway, Ffrwd Fen is an important wetland area - a remnant of the reedbeds that once stretched from Kidwelly to Burry Port.

Pembrey Burrows has extensive sand dunes and saltmarsh and is important for its plants, insects, and bird life. This coastline is notable for overwintering wildfowl and waders. On the beach the strandline habitat provides important shelter from the wind and sun.

Special species in your ward



All the species in your ward are important in some way and help make your natural environment special. Some of the species recorded in Pembrey and Burry Port are listed by Welsh Government as being of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales – so your area is important. Here are some species highlights from your ward.



The strandline beetle is a fast-moving, endangered ground beetle with distinctive markings. It is associated with strandlines on sandy beaches backed by dunes. Adults are nocturnal. It is now only found on a few beaches in Carmarthen Bay in Wales.



Small-flowered catchfly is an annual of cultivated and disturbed ground, mainly in arable fields and on old walls and waste ground. It's only Carmarthenshire site, is at Burry Port Harbour where its population fluctuates each year.



The rare 'ginger' brown-banded carder-bee has been recorded locally. They prefer open, flower-rich habitats on drier sites, so the coastal habitats suit them here. They were once widespread, but the loss of flower-rich areas has caused their decline.



The harvest mouse nests in tall grass and spends much of its life off the ground. Affected by lack of rough grass and scrub, changes to cereal production, and trend of increasingly wet summers. It has been recorded in wetlands in your ward.



It is estimated that some 50,000 waders and wildfowl overwinter in the Burry Inlet - this makes it an internationally important site for these birds – look out for shelduck, wigeon, teal and pintail (wildfowl) and waders such as oystercatcher, knot and sanderling along the coast.

How can you help?

If we want to protect the wildlife in Pembrey and Burry Port, help from people who live here can make a real difference.

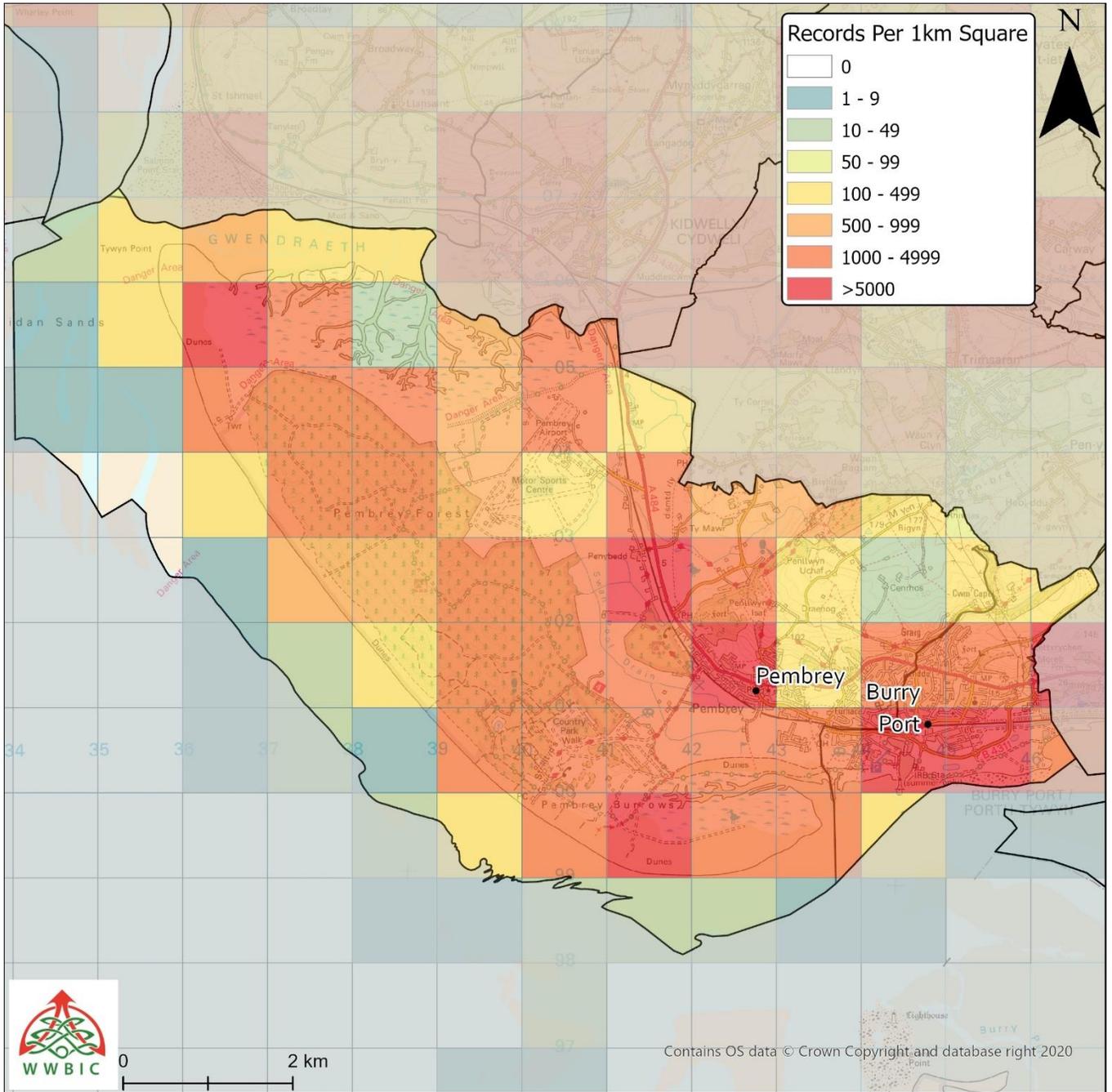
- Your ward has one of the highest numbers of individual records in the county – with over 1000 flowering plant species alone.
- Why not visit the Council's biodiversity web pages and the section on priority habitats and species in the county: <https://bit.ly/3gsZgyP>
- Discover what is in your area – take a closer look at what is around you – let us know. It's amazing!
- Manage areas in your local school, village and gardens for wildlife – make space for Nature.
- Get involved with a local conservation group – volunteer some of your time for Nature.
- For a range of ideas visit: <https://bit.ly/2EENrZ6>

Useful links:

- Carmarthenshire biodiversity web pages: <https://bit.ly/3jb2Krl>
- Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan: <https://bit.ly/2QqmfOe>
- Wales Biodiversity Partnership: <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Home>



Species records in this ward held by the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre - Dec 2020



Help record the species in your area

West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC) is a valuable source of information about the county's wildlife, and anyone can contribute. Common species are often under-recorded, so you don't need to be an expert.

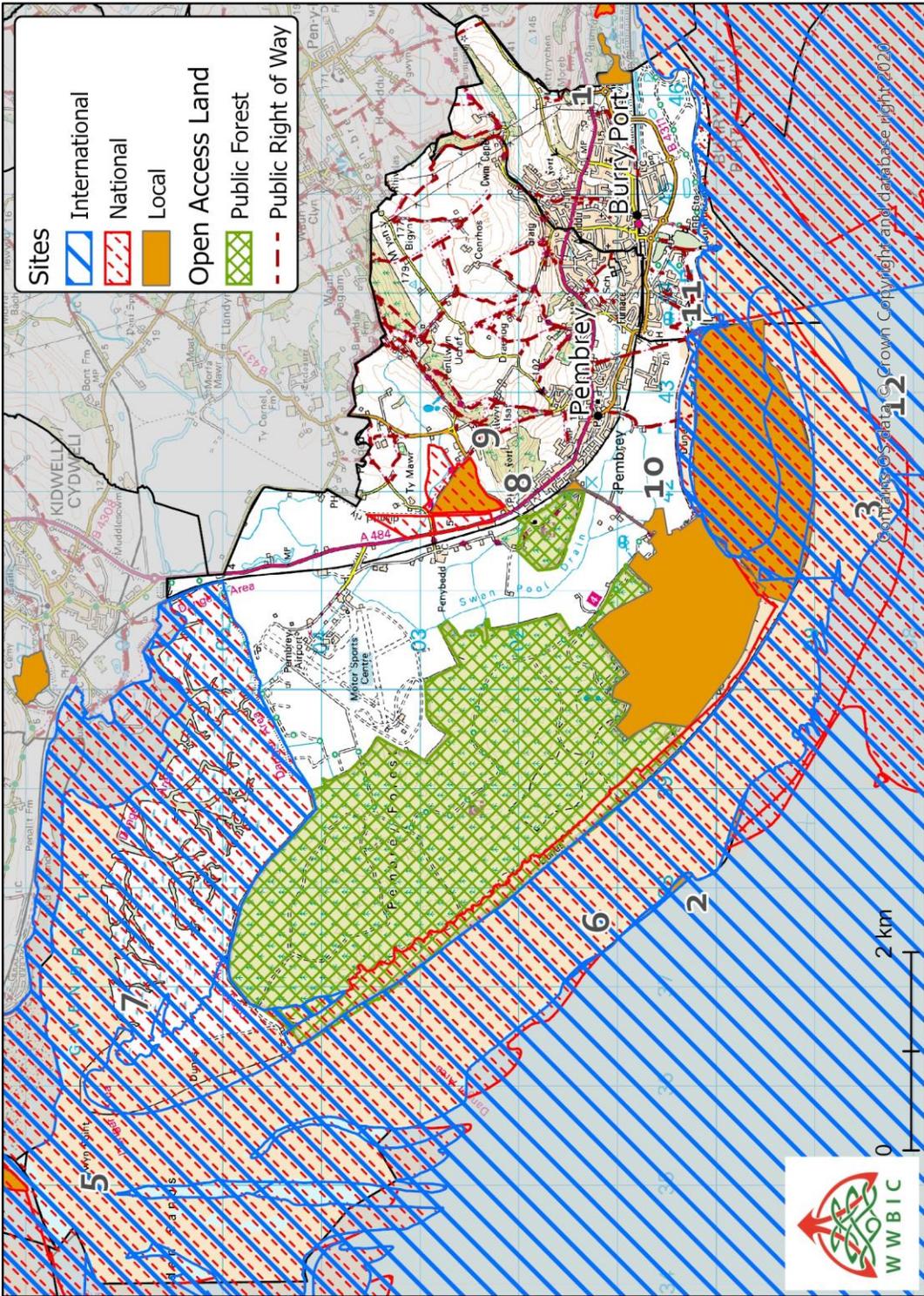
WWBIC holds a lot of biological records for Pembrey & Burry Port (see the map above).

Why not record the species that you see in your garden or when you are out and about? There are several ways you can record with WWBIC, by email, on the WWBIC website or using the LERC Wales App. More information can be found here: <https://www.wwbic.org.uk/wildlife-recording/>

There are many websites that can help with species identification. If you are on social media why not join West Wales Biological Recording (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/westwalesbiorecording/>)



Special sites in your area



1	Ashpits Pond - Pwll Lagoon	Local Nature Reserve	4	Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary	Site of Special Scientific Interest	8	Ffrwd Farm Mire	Wildlife Trust Reserve
2	Bristol Channel Approaches	Candidate Special Conservation Area	5	Carmarthen Bay	Special Protection Area	9	Gwernydd Pembre	Site of Special Scientific Interest
3	Burry Inlet	Ramsar Site	6	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	Special Area of Conservation	10	Pembrey	Country Park
		Special Protection Area	7	Carmarthen Bay Dunes	Special Area of Conservation	11	Pembrey Burrows and Saltings	Local Nature Reserve
						12	Pembrey Coast	Site of Special Scientific Interest

In Carmarthenshire we have a network of 'designated' sites, protected at a national or international level – these are the best examples of particular habitats in Carmarthenshire or even the UK and/or places where important species live. They are the cornerstones of conservation work, protecting the core of our natural heritage.

Want to find out more? Visit the Natural Resources Wales website - <https://bit.ly/2YwEybo>.

NB. These protected sites do not necessarily have public access unless they have a Public Right of Way passing through them or are Open Access Land (see next page).

➡ Locally we also have nature reserves with important habitats and species which are managed by a range of organisations. Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/2LcLJKM>



➔ Your ward has a network of Public Rights of Way (PROW). These footpaths are open to everyone to enjoy and a great way for you to explore your local area and the habitats and wildlife within it. The county also has areas of 'Open Access land'.



➔ Open Access land', under the CRow Act (2000), consists of open country (mountain, moor and heath land) and 'registered common land. It also includes areas of 'dedicated land' where owners, such as Natural Resources Wales, allow free access.. In these areas you can walk wherever you like, and in the NRW managed forests you can also ride a horse or a bike on the forest tracks, but please be considerate of other users.

Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/3n2tahp>



➔ PROWs include Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic. There are over 2400 km of PROW across Carmarthenshire providing different levels of off road public access from walking to horse riding and cycling, each has its own unique character, you may already have your own favourite. Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/2K7k9VK>



➔ The maps in this profile are Ordnance Survey maps (OS) – they are a great way to help you find local Public Right of Way and Open Access Land either through paper maps or through their phone App. Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/2Wi52Mo>



➔ The County also boasts numerous designated cycle paths, many of which make up part of the National Cycle network and Carmarthenshire's Active Travel network. There is over 100 km of designated cycle path in the county. Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/3gQopVC> and <https://bit.ly/3gPcck8>



➔ When you are out and about - always follow the Countryside Code: <https://bit.ly/37hFjJS>

Local walks/sites to explore

You may already have your own favourite walk in your patch, where you experience the seasonal changes throughout the year. You may walk the same route regularly, but wildlife will not. So, keep your eyes peeled there is always something new to see/experience. But why not try walking another way? You might see something different but also the same sights – just in a different way.

Please tell us about your favourite walk or place to visit - here are some ideas.

General

➔ There are four local **Ramblers** groups in Carmarthenshire that explore the county. Find out more about the Ramblers' groups in Carmarthenshire: <https://bit.ly/3r6xZZn>

➔ **Walking Well Carmarthenshire** is an initiative which aims to encourage people of all ages and abilities to take advantage of the physical, social and mental health benefits offered by walking in groups of like-minded people. It does this by setting up walking groups around the County. Find out more: <https://bit.ly/2J48FCc>

➔ The **Discover Carmarthenshire** website promotes local walk and cycle routes: <https://bit.ly/3r35xYi>

Some local suggestions:

Pembrey Country Park

Pembrey Forest

Penybedd Woods

Ffrwd Farm mire SSSI/NR

Coastal Path

Pembrey Canal

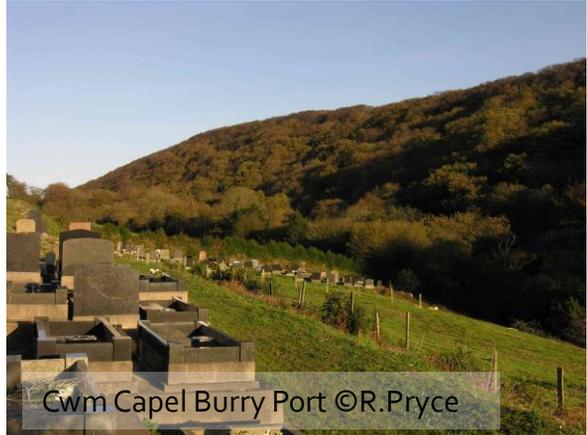
Pembrey Burrows LNR

Your Ward

These are some of the photos we have received from you.



Pembrey Forest



Cwm Capel Burry Port ©R.Pryce



Great Crested Grebes ©K.Bailey



Emperor moth ©A. Dare



Jellyfish © G. Houghton



Common lizard ©K.Bailey