

Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership - 2015 Achievements

The Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership is a partnership of organisations concerned with the conservation of the county's species and habitats and is facilitated by the Council's Biodiversity Officer.

The natural environment of Wales supports an amazing variety the wildlife. In Carmarthenshire the range of habitats, from coast to mountains and woodlands to meadows, all contribute to our experience of living here and also to economy of the county, the health and well being of our citizens, the provision of food, clean water and air and to our local culture.

In 2013 the [State of Nature Report](#) highlighted that 60% of UK species studied had declined in recent decades. The [response](#) to this report from conservation organisations highlighted the importance of the Welsh Government working with partners and stakeholders to deliver actions that support, enhance and restore nature in Wales.

A healthy natural environment is a vital part of a sustainable, resilient and distinct Carmarthenshire. The work of the partners, and the projects they undertake, help deliver outcomes that contribute to objectives and outcomes of a number of strategies and plans in the county with goals for the natural environment. These include:

- [Carmarthenshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan](#)
- Carmarthenshire's [Integrated Community Strategy 2011–16](#)
- Carmarthenshire County Council's [Corporate Strategy](#)

The action of public bodies within the Partnership can contribute to the delivery of key legislation and strategies emerging from Welsh Government that legislates for the sustainable use of natural resources to secure the long-term well-being of Wales.

- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales
- The [Environment \(Wales\) Bill](#), when it receives assent (spring 2016), will put into place a process to plan and manage our natural resources. This includes a duty to require all public bodies, when carrying out their functions to seek to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity' where it is within the proper exercise of their functions and seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems'.
- The [Nature Recovery Plan](#) will be the national biodiversity strategy and action plan for Wales working to reverse the decline in biodiversity in Wales and build the resilience of our ecosystems.

Local Biodiversity Partnerships are a key delivery mechanism that can help provide local focus and delivery of all these objectives.

Local people can make a difference as well and it is a role of all the partners to raise awareness and work with communities on projects that benefit biodiversity – and the people involved!

This is a summary of some of the achievements of the partners in 2015, often working together, to conserve and enhance Carmarthenshire's diverse range of habitats and species.



Clwb Adar Sir Gaerfyrddin Carmarthenshire Bird Club



Partner/s	Activity	Contributing to:	Species	Habitats	Volunteers	CCC strategies	W/G Policy/legislation
CCC/NBGW/ Ecologists	The Carmarthenshire Meadows Group was established in 2015. Its aim is to inspire the establishment of a county-wide community that supports each other to conserve and enhance our wildlife-rich meadows, large or small, across Carmarthenshire. Walks, talks, site visits took place this year and a group website was established.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CCC/NRW/ ARC/Buglife/ Vols	Morfa Berwig, Bynea – NRW-funded management is underway on this wildlife-rich council-owned site on to improve some of the brownfield habitats for invertebrates , reptiles and amphibians, manage ditches for water voles, and scrub management and fencing to maintain open grassland. We hope to make this site a Local Nature Reserve.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plantlife/CCC/ NRW/BSBI/ MoD	This WREN-funded project on the sand dunes of Pembrey and Pendine Burrows will continue work to increase the proportion of open dunes in these important Welsh dune systems. Through the clearance of sea buckthorn the project will help the vulnerable species of plants, fungi and invertebrates that use these pioneer dunes.		✓	✓		✓	✓
CCC/Vols	CCC regularly works with Mencap Cymru volunteers on beach cleans to help reduce marine litter – helping the protected beach habitats and helping the volunteers! Many of the partner organisations work with volunteers whose contribution to projects is invaluable.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NRW/WTSWW/ CCC/ Vols/BASC	About 450 water voles have been released in the Pembrey area over the last 2 years as part of NRW's Water Vole Strategy for south Wales. Through returning water voles to suitable habitat in the Kidwelly/Pembrey area it is hoped that they will form a link between other important populations in Llanelli and Laugharne. Along with habitat management and mink control, this should significantly improve the future viability of this endangered species .		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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CCC/BC/NRW WTSWW	Work continues on a project developed to offset the impacts of development in the Cross Hands area on the habitat of the protected marsh fritillary butterfly. Contributions from planning applications are used to purchase or manage land within the butterfly's range. This year grazing has been established at sites and vital fencing and water supplies installed. At other sites habitat management has taken place so that grazing can start next year.	✓	✓		✓	✓
Coed Cymru	Coed Cymru (CC) officers continue to give help and advice at a wide range of woodland sites including Glastir Woodlands schemes and sites with <i>Chalara</i> ash disease or <i>Phytophthora</i> larch disease. The WG's Nature Fund provided over £62,000 for work on 30 Soil and Water Management schemes across Carmarthenshire. CC officers created plans for this work, including for shelterbelts, hedgerow restoration, fencing riparian zones and improvement to farm buildings and yards to prevent dirty water polluting watercourses.		✓		✓	✓
NBGW	Wales Wildflower Day and Wales Fungus Day brought hundreds of visitors to visit the Garden's lowland meadows. Guided walks on wildflowers, bumblebees, butterflies and fungi, as well as family activities, scientific and art displays and demonstrations helped audiences engage with, and learn about the biodiversity of the meadows.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CCC/local communities/LBAP partners	Working closely with communities an NRW-funded pilot project will develop the concept of local natural resource management plans. Through community engagement the project will identify and map natural resources and the green infrastructure within and close to settlements. With communities it will also aim to develop a sustainable approach to the safeguarding and management of these areas.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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WWBIC/Recorders/public/LBAP partners/BSBI	To date this year, 1038 plant species have been recorded from 2170 separate locations within the county by the BSBI. These records will contribute to the production of the new BSBI plant atlas and to the Carmarthenshire Flora. There are lots of people and organisations recording wildlife in the county and this data is invaluable. For example, through raising awareness in the past 5 years, there has been a considerable increase number of new records for the rare Sausage beard lichen in the county. The Local Record Centre (WWBIC) is the repository for these records.	✓		✓	✓	✓
CRT/Coed Cymru/Vols	The Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust has worked with Coed Cymru on projects to plant trees along the Doethie and other tributaries of the Tywi. In time these will help shade the water and in addition the trees will help stabilize the banks, provide habitat for species and provide food for fish via the leaf litter.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodland Trust/Vols	A Woodland Trust project at Ffos Las is part of the their WWI Centenary Woods Project. Here 50 Ha will be planted up with trees over a period of 20 years, along with hedges, meadows, pond creation and footpaths. The site offers opportunities to improve local biodiversity, engage with local people, and work with local contractors.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WTSWW/Mid Wales Red Squirrel Partnership/Vols	The MWRSP officer is working with partners across three counties to try and ensure that forestry activities do not contribute to, or result in, a reduction in the range and distribution of the red squirrel or its habitat in mid Wales. Remote cameras recorded reds in the forests and established a web site was created for the project. Local volunteers are helping with grey squirrel control.	✓		✓	✓	✓



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CCC/NBGW/ Swansea Uni/ Dyfed Archaeological Trust	A CCC-led partnership has received £43,00 from HLF for a project that continues work on five bogs on commons near Brechfa and Llanfynydd. It will seek to explore the botanical history of the peat bogs, raise awareness of the important bog habitats and species, look at how humans used the sites in the past and take action to conserve these important habitats for the future.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CCC/WWBIC	Working with the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre the Council is developing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, which are wildlife-rich areas, identified and selected for their local biodiversity value. This will inform future projects and are recognised by Local Authority and taken into account when considering planning applications.	✓	✓		✓	✓
Butterfly Conservation/ Vols	Work by Butterfly Conservation and volunteers in the Amman valley has identified new sites for marsh fritillary (MF) butterflies and lots more suitable habitat. This means that it is likely that the Carmarthenshire population can be linked to that in RCT! Carmarthenshire has a greater proportion of MF sites than anywhere else in Wales and so conservation work here is vital for its survival in Wales.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NRW/Menter Cwm Gwendraeth	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth are working with local children to collect wild flower seeds around the Mynydd Mawr area for growing on at the NBGW. The children will then help plant the propagated seedlings back into suitable habitat. The project focuses on pollinator plants which will support the marsh fritillary butterfly.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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CCC/NRW/ecologists	The Council, working with local ecologists, has run or contributed to a series of training sessions on protected species. Officers and contractors had a session on the value of roadside verges habitats. Officers working on housing projects learnt about bats, and bridge engineers learnt about otters and bats in sessions that discussed developing new protocols for working. A local ecologist ran a session on dormice for other ecologists and land managers and in 2016 the council and NRW will arrange a session on water voles for council officers.	✓	✓		✓	✓
WWT	At Penclacwydd 800m of ditch restoration work was carried out in 2015 for the benefit of water voles and other wildlife. WWT is a National Key Site for water voles and annual monitoring was undertaken. Long-term tree and scrub control management to restore areas for breeding lapwing and other wetland birds continues. A hot water spray machine for the treatment of invasive aquatic plant species is being trialled it on the reserve. The reserve continues to be an important site for overwintering and passage wetland birds.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Partneriaeth Bioamrywiaeth Sir Gaerfyrddin
Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership

The [Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership](#) (CBP) is made up of the following organisations: [Carmarthenshire County Council](#) (CCC), [Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales](#) (WTSWW), [Natural Resources Wales](#) (NRW), [RSPB, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust](#) (WWT), [Carmarthenshire Bird Club](#) (CBC), [National Botanic Gardens Wales](#) (NBGW), [Butterfly Conservation](#) (BC), [Carmarthenshire Rivers Trust](#) (CRT), [National Trust](#) (NT), [Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland](#) (BSBI), [Llanelli Naturalists](#) (LN), [Bat Conservation Trust](#) (BAT), [West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre](#) (WWBIC), [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#) (ARC), [Woodland Trust](#) (WT)