

CARMARTHENSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY PLAN – AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES (HERPETOFAUNA)





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 www.arguk.org for more detailed species description information

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SPECIES		HABITAT/ CARMARTHENSIRE SITES	ISSUES/ACTION REQUIRED
<p><i>Anguis fragilis</i> Slow-worm</p> <p>© W. Glam ARG</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost any open or semi-open habitat - often found in gardens and is widespread. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most common reptile in British Isles but has suffered declines due to loss of suitable habitat.
<p><i>Bufo bufo</i> Common toad</p> <p>© Sivi Sivanesan</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The common toad is a widespread – they prefer deeper water bodies in which to breed. They have a strong migratory instinct and will follow the same route back to ancestral breeding ponds each spring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widely distributed but showing decline in numbers. Reasons not firmly identified but fragmentation of habitat and intensification of farming are likely to have contributed. • Some mortality from toads crossing roads to breeding sites. New road schemes should survey for migration routes and avoid soakaways here. Consideration should be given to wildlife tunnels and the use of dropped curbs. Also, when improving old roads consider retrofitting of suitable features at migration routes. Care should be taken with drain ladders as they not fixing the problem. • Some migration crossings in Carmarthenshire have Toad signs and volunteers have 'crossing patrols' in the spring. • ARC has created ponds in the county under grant-funded projects, more large ponds are needed.
<p><i>Lacerta vivipara</i> Common lizard</p> <p>© Isabel Macho</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most frequently seen on commons, heaths, moorland, dry stone walls, embankments and sea cliffs around the British Isles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declines in recent decades due to habitat loss.
<p><i>Natrix natrix</i> Grass snake</p> <p>© W. Glam ARG</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield /Farmland /Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Wetland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of systematic monitoring has meant it is difficult to determine the conservation status. • Loss of egg laying and foraging sites has led to local declines. • Grass cuttings could to be used to create oviposition sites at suitable sites • Careful use of manure (mainly horse)

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			if on site to create egg laying sites also • Pond creation will help this species.
<i>Vipera berus</i> Adder © W. Glam ARG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open habitats such as heathland, moorland, open woodland and sea cliffs, and rarely stray into gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has suffered declines due to loss of habitat and persecution • ARC hopes to have a project that focuses on adders which might include sites in Carmarthenshire. • Adder hibernation sites need to be found and protected • Landscape scale work and on site connectivity of suitable features (hedges, gorse, bracken, heather, bramble) are important.
