



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 Glanymor 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/3rYhHSI>

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 Glanymor ward 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](mailto:Biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## Glanymor Ward

Glanymor ward's coastal landscape has been strongly modified by our activities. In the 1880s Machynys was a maze of industrial activity – including brick, iron and tin works - with its own dock and rail head. Today, the landscape is much changed again - business and industrial units and housing have all replaced the landscapes formerly associated with this area's heavy industrial past. Machynys golf course was developed on former coastal grazing levels - an area reclaimed from coastal saltmarsh for agriculture that remained undeveloped. This was protected from the sea by the sea wall along which now runs the Wales Coastal Path providing access to the coast itself, and views of the estuary and Gower. From here you can also see Penrhynwyn spit, a small area of coastal vegetated shingle – rare in the county with specialised communities of plants and invertebrates. Inland, within and adjacent to the golf course, important wetland habitats exist – ditches, reedbeds, wet grassland and ponds (including Machynys Ponds SSSI), which support a rich array of wildlife including water vole, otter, reptiles, warblers and dragon and damselflies.

Further east North Dock Dunes and the adjacent saltmarsh and mudflats are remnants of previously much more extensive coastal habitats – reminders of how this area has changed.



### 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 Glanymor 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 Llanelli levels has an important population of water vole in Wales – the UK's fastest declining mammal. Listen for the distinctive 'plop' along slow-flowing ditches with dense bankside vegetation. Watch out also for mink – their main predator.



Seven species of warbler have been recorded here. Insect feeders of wetlands and scrub, they each have a distinctive song. Usually summer migrants, some are increasingly recorded during winter now. A likely result of climate change.



Swifts spend most of their lives flying – even sleeping, eating and drinking – only ever landing to nest. They like to nest in buildings in small holes in roof spaces. Watch for them in summer wheeling over roofs and calling to each other with high-pitched screams.



Prickly saltwort is frequent along strand-lines and dune fronts of all the county's dune systems. The greenish flowers are small and inconspicuous and can be seen from July to September. The leaves are fleshy, ending in a spike.



You have to have the plant kidney vetch to have the small blue butterfly - the smallest UK butterfly. This plant is the only food plant of the caterpillars. Small blues are largely confined to the coast now. 28 butterfly species have been recorded in Glanymor.

## How can you help?

If we want to protect the wildlife in Glanymor, help from people who live here can make a real difference. There are many groups and individuals recording their local wildlife and managing areas for Nature in the county.

➡ For a small ward it is one of the best recorded in the county but very few amphibians have been recorded.

➡ Want to find out more about the county's special species and habitats? 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.

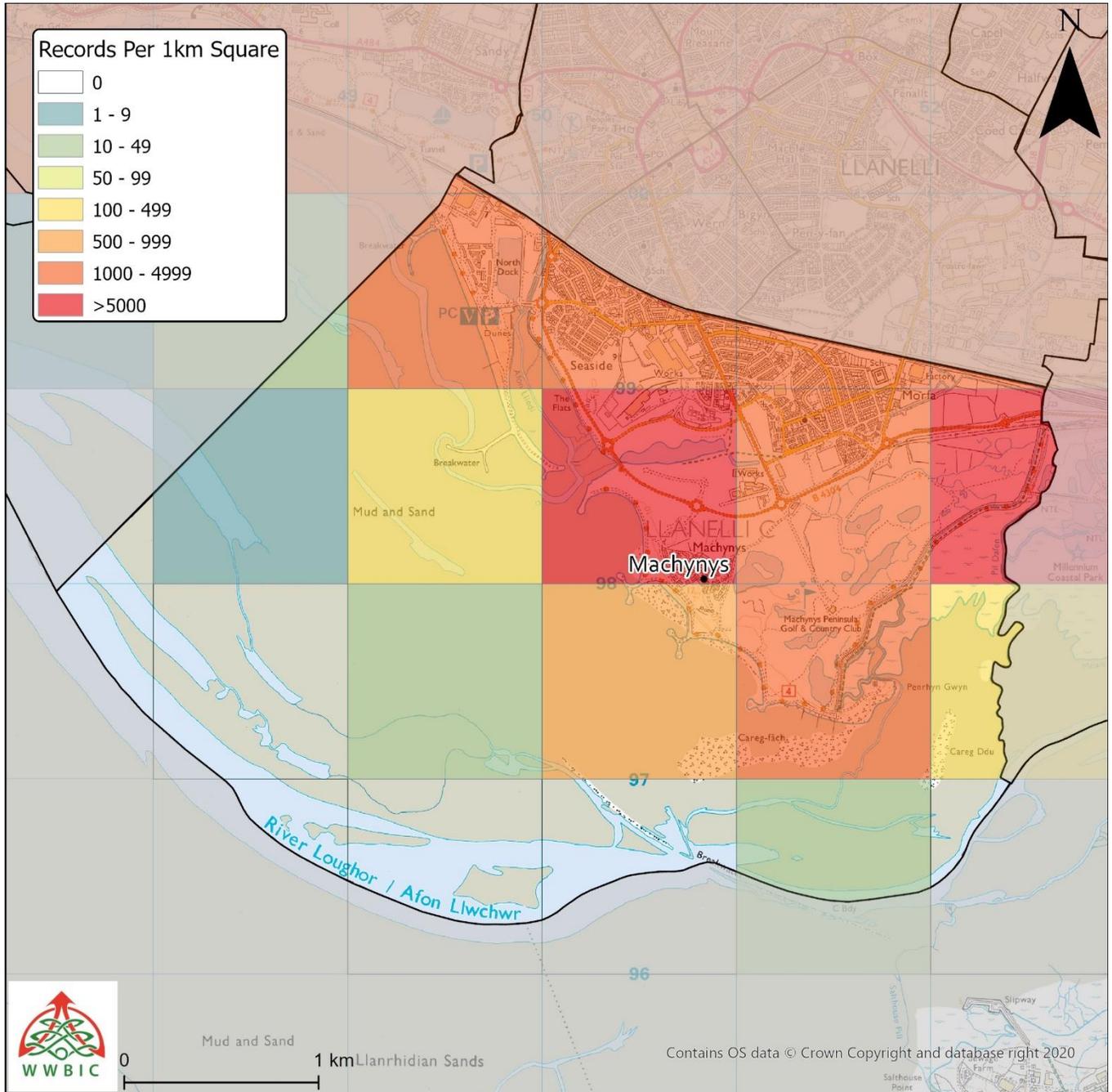
For a range of ideas visit: <https://bit.ly/2EENrZ6>

### Useful links:

- Carmarthenshire biodiversity web pages: <https://bit.ly/3jb2Krl>
- Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan: <https://bit.ly/2QqmfQe>
- 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.

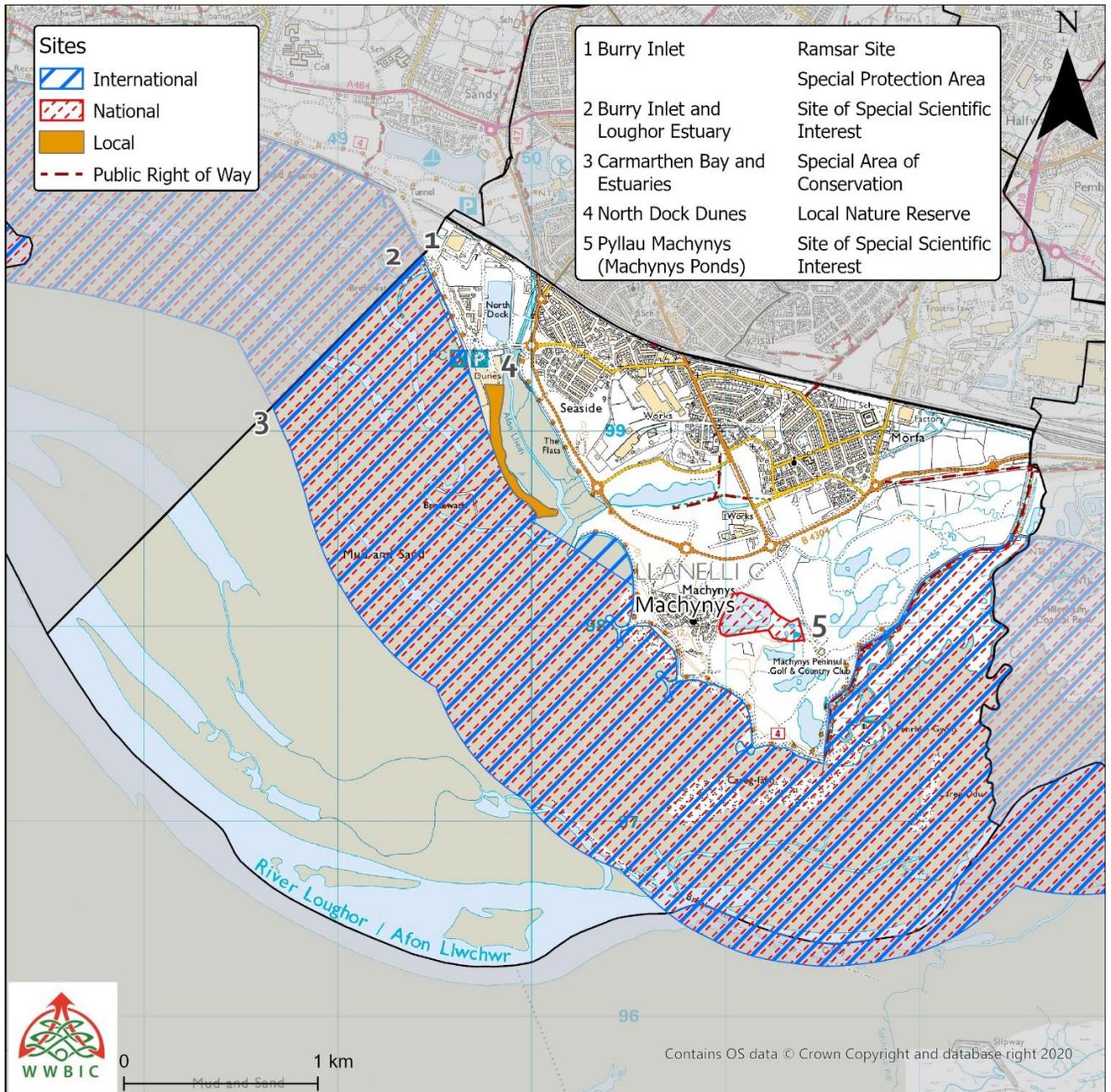
WWBIC holds a lot of biological records for Glanymor (see the map above) showing urban areas can still be rich in wildlife.

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



➡ Urban areas may not have extensive Public Rights of Way nor any protected sites but they can still be great places to walk and see wildlife. Buildings, cemeteries, parks and even cracks and crevices can provide homes for some fascinating wildlife, including swifts and swallows, hedgehogs, bats and an array of interesting plants and insects. We also know that gardens are increasing important for wildlife so there might be plenty to see from you backdoor. Why not take a closer look?

➡ 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>

➡ All these are numbered on the map above.



➔ Carmarthenshire 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

- Millennium Coastal Path
- North Dock Dunes

## Your Wards

These are some of the photos we have received from you

