











**CYNLLUN GWEITHREDU BIOAMRYWIAETH LLEOL SIR GAERFYRDDIN - GLOÏNNOD BYW  
CARMARTHENSHIRE S42/BAP – BUTTERFLIES**

Please refer to the [Butterfly Conservation website](#) for more detailed species description information  
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**OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

- To identify new sites for survey in the county.
- Encourage volunteer interest in butterflies.
- To use key species as a focus for public/school engagement.
- To raise awareness of these species and the issues affecting them.

SPECIES	PHOTO	HABITAT/CARMS SITES	ISSUES/ACTIONS
<p><i>Boloria selene</i> Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Britheg berlog</p> <p>© Jim Asher Butterfly Conservation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland Grassland and Heathland/ open Woodland</li> </ul> <p>[Does it occur in any woodland sites in Carms?]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a marked decline in the county due to loss of damp, flower-rich grassland to agricultural intensification.</li> <li>• To a lesser extent, the cessation of woodland management (which previously created sunny, floriferous glades) has also negatively impacted.</li> <li>• Conservation of remaining diverse grassland areas is a priority for this butterfly and associated wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> Small Heath Gweirlöyn bach y Waun</p> <p>© Maggie James</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland Grassland/Heathland/Coastal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still relatively frequent throughout the county, but doubtless local losses have occurred due to agricultural intensification.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Cupido minimus</i> Small Blue Glesyn bach</p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield (and, now rarely, Lowland Grassland).</li> <li>• There are strong populations at the major dune systems at Pembrey and Laugharne/Pendine, as well as lesser numbers at the smaller dune areas such as North Dock Dunes Local Nature Reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing management such as sea buckthorn removal and re-introduction of grazing will create open, flower-rich dune grassland to benefit this butterfly.</li> <li>• It only occurs very rarely on brownfield/grassland sites.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Erynnis tages</i> Dingy Skipper Y gwibiwr llwyd</p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield/Lowland Grassland</li> <li>• Main areas are the hinterland dune grasslands at Pembrey and Laugharne/Pendine, but populations occur elsewhere, with a particular affinity with flower-rich brownfield sites such as the former open-cast site at Ffos-las near Trimsaran.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with other species that depend on such open conditions, the need to resist inappropriate tree planting and the management of natural succession may be needed.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Eurodryas aurinia</i> Marsh Fritillary Britheg y gor</p> <p>© Richard Pryce</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland Grassland and Heathland. In Wales the butterfly's habitat is usually damp neutral/acidic grassland with the larval host plant, devil's-bit scabious.</li> <li>• South-west Wales is now one of its strongholds. Most of Carmarthenshire's colonies are aggregated to the south-east of the county, with scattered colonies elsewhere. The size of many colonies is unknown, and whilst many may be small, collectively they make a significant contribution to the national population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main factor in its decline is inappropriate levels of grazing; in particular a lack of grazing which has allowed pastures to become rank with associated scrub encroachment and loss of habitat and connectivity due to development.</li> <li>• Landscape-scale project formed to secure and manage marshy grassland habitat for MF around Cross Hands; project officer employed.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">marsh fritillary action plan</a> on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Hipparchia semele</i> Grayling Gweirlöyn llwyd</p> <p>© P. Gadsby</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield Sites/Lowland Grassland and Heathland</li> <li>• Favouring more arid grasslands with requisite areas of open, bare ground, the main populations are to be found at the main (and smaller) dune systems along the coast. It also occurs on similarly open early-stage brownfield sites and around rocky areas on inland heathland/upland such as parts of Mynydd Du and Mynydd Llangydeyrn,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inland populations have declined in recent summers (perhaps due to some rainy seasons?).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Lasiommata megera</i> Wall Gweirlöyn y cloddiau</p> <p>© Maggie James</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Brownfield Sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another species that favours quite open, sunny conditions such S or SW-facing flower-rich hedgebanks, rocky heathland, brownfield sites and the like.</li> <li>• Also declined in the last decade.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Pyrgus malvae</i> Grizzled Skipper Gwibiwr brith</p> <p>© George Tordorff</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal/Lowland Grassland and Heathland</li> <li>• Almost exclusively limited to stable grasslands on the dune systems of the coast, where its caterpillars depend on wild strawberry plants. Smaller populations are occasionally found inland, on brownfield sites or where the food-plant occurs in reasonable quantity such as on remaining open quarries on the Carboniferous Limestone outcrop.</li> <li>• A very rare species in Wales; the Carmarthenshire colonies are a significant part of the national population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with many butterflies, the prevention of succession to scrub or woodland will be a key management need.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Satyrrium w-album</i> White Letter Hairstreak Brithribin wen</p> <p>© Jim Asher Butterfly Conservation</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland/Farmland/Parkland. The white-letter hairstreak is a local species in Carmarthenshire, this reflecting the distribution of elms in the county.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly coastal and the Tywi Valley, but unless dedicated searches are made, this usually tree-top butterfly is rarely encountered. It is probably badly under-recorded and it will occur at elm-rich hedgerows and woodland throughout the county.</li> <li>• It requires no particular management and it survived the Dutch Elm Disease of the 1970s (with local elms recovering well).</li> </ul>
<p><i>Thecla betulae</i> Brown Hairstreak Brithribin brown</p> <p>© Richard Smith</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carmarthenshire has roughly 60% of the recently (since 1995) recorded sites in Wales. Its known range runs roughly north of the line of the main A40 road, with a handful of sites marginally to the south, mostly in Tywi valley.</li> <li>• The best-known concentrations are in the Tywi and Teifi valleys and their tributaries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principal factor thought to be affecting the species is the annual flailing of hedges and trimming of young and sucker growth inside field boundaries, changes in woodland management, including loss of woodland edge habitat.</li> <li>• Butterfly Conservation volunteers have undertaken annual egg surveys for more than 10 years and work with landowners on management of sites for this butterfly.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">brown hairstreak action plan</a> on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>