










## CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN LBAP/S42 MAMMALS

Please refer to [www.mammal.org.uk/species\\_hub](http://www.mammal.org.uk/species_hub) for more detailed species description information







### OVERALL OBJECTIVES


- To identify new sites for survey in the county.
- Encourage volunteer interest in mammals.
- 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/ACTION REQUIRED
<p><i>Arvicola terrestris</i> Water vole Llygoden bengron y dŵr</p> <p>© Dyfrig Jones</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater/Wetland</li> <li>• Once much more widely distributed now the main populations are on the Llanelli levels and the Laugharne–Pendine area.</li> <li>• There a few records from upland areas but water vole are probably under recorded in these areas of the county.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss/fragmentation and degradation, mink predation and development have all caused declines in this animal in the county.</li> <li>• Llanelli is a national Key site for water vole in the UK.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">water vole action plan</a> on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> <li>• Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW) has employed a water vole project officer for Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> Barbastelle bat Ystlum du</p> <p>© Hugh Clark/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland</li> <li>• Probably occurs in the larger and more mature and diverse steep-sided valley woods but no confirmed records.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> European hedgehog Draenog</p> <p>© R. Burkmar</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat varies from hedge bottoms, back gardens and the grassy fringes of fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little is known of their numbers or distribution in the county but, along with the rest of the country, there seems to be a decline in their numbers.</li> <li>• The biggest threat to hedgehogs is probably habitat loss, with decline of mixed farming, and increasing field size with the removal of hedgerows.</li> <li>• The use of chemicals in gardens and for intensive farming kills the prey hedgehogs need for food and may also poison them directly. Many are also killed on the roads.</li> <li>• WTSWW are collecting hedgehog records in the county.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">Hedgehog</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Lepus europaeus</i> Brown hare Ysgyfarnog</p> <p>© Mark Newton</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland Grassland and Heathland/Coastal/Brownfield /Woodland/Upland</li> <li>• Once much more widely distributed now the main populations are in the in hilly, less intensively farmed areas in the north and east of the county. Also the Pembrey peninsula is also important in the county for hares.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of habitat diversity in the agricultural landscape, changes in cropping and planting regimes, such as a move from hay to silage, and autumn sowing of cereals are causes for the decline.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">Brown Hare</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> <li>• Postcard campaign for records has been in place for some time.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Lutra lutra</i> Otter Dyfrgi</p> <p>© Mark Newton</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freshwater/Wetlands/Coastal</li> <li>• Otters are widely distributed on water courses and associated habitats throughout the county. They are occasionally seen in more urban areas such as Llanelli and along the Tywi below Carmarthen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After populations recovering nationally, today road traffic accidents are one of the principal causes of death and populations may be limited by a lack of suitable isolated breeding sites and a lack of prey species, especially freshwater eel.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">Otter</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Martes martes</i> Pine marten Bele'r coed</p> <p>© Tony Braithewaite</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pine martens are solitary mammals, living at low densities in deciduous and conifer woodlands as well as more open country such as rocky and craggy areas.</li> <li>• There is likely to be a relict population in the county with records from the north and east, the most recent being in Allt Rhyd y Groes in 2013 in the upper Tywi Valley.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of reasons why pine marten populations are unable to recover: forest cover is fragmented and in the larger upland plantations prey density is low; suitable trees with cavities are scarce, rocky uplands offering an alternative refuge are heavily grazed and prey poor.</li> <li>• The Vincent Wildlife Trust have a Wales Pine Marten officer and a project to consider potential re-introduction options.</li> <li>• Scat surveys have been undertaken.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Micromys minutus</i> Harvest mouse Llygoden yr yd</p> <p>© Vaughan Matthews</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland/Farmland - lives in long tussocky grassland, reedbeds, hedgerows and around woodland edges.</li> <li>• Only confirmed site in the county is at Ffrwd Fen, Pembrey thought it is thought that they must be present elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very little is known about this elusive mammal in the county.</li> <li>• Mammals in a Sustainable Environment project are surveying for Harvest Mice in the county in 2014.</li> <li>• There is a National Harvest Mouse Survey (2013–14)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i> Dormouse Pathew</p> <p>© Jacqueline Hartley</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmland /Woodland. Woods with well-developed understories are good habitat and hedgerows, scrub and bramble habitat is important. Dormice seem to use <i>Molinia</i> tussocks for their hibernation nests.</li> <li>• The main stronghold for dormice in the county is the triangle formed by Carmarthen, Llandeilo and Llanelli although there are records elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss/fragmentation of habitat is a major cause of decline in the county as it causes isolation of populations.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">Dormouse</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> <li>• There are a number of sites with dormouse boxes that are monitored in the county and an informal dormouse group and a Facebook page.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Mustela putorius</i> Polecat Ffwlbart</p> <p>© K. Williamson</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polecats are found in a variety of habitats including farmland, woodland, marsh, riverbanks hedge banks, sea cliffs and sand dunes</li> <li>• Polecat populations are recovering in the UK following a dramatic decline during the 19th century when mid Wales remained a stronghold for them.</li> <li>• There are records of them throughout the county, but they remain somewhat elusive. Most often sighted as road kill.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a general lack of understanding on the status and behaviour of polecats.</li> <li>• Recent surveys have shown few records for west Wales – it is not known if this is because of a decline in animals or just that this species is under recorded.</li> <li>• Mammals in a Sustainable Environment want records of polecats.</li> <li>• The Vincent Wildlife Trust are keen to receive any current records and carcasses (collected during 2014-2015) of wild-living polecats or feral ferrets.</li> </ul>



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<p><i>Nyctalus noctula</i> Noctule Ystlum mawr</p> <p>© R.E. Stebbings/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common and widespread species in the county. One of our largest bats, it eats small flies and beetles and moths. Associated with wooded areas and parkland areas where mature trees provide good roost sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> Soprano pipistrelle Ystlum lleiaf meinlais</p> <p>© Hugh Clark/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common and widespread species in the county. It is a small bat which is usually found in wetland habitats, for example around rivers and lakes. It often roosts in crevices around the outside of houses and buildings. It mainly eats small flies, particularly midges and mosquitos associated with water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Plecotus auritus</i> Brown long-eared bat Ystlum hirglust</p> <p>© John Altringham/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common and widespread species in the county. They fly close to vegetation or in woodland, often using their large ears to listen for prey sounds and gleaning insects from the surface of foliage. It eats mainly moths, beetles, flies earwigs and spiders. It normally roosts in small colonies in older buildings, barns, churches and trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i> Greater horseshoe bat Ystlum pedol mwyaf</p> <p>© Tom McOwat</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater horseshoes are probably widespread but in low numbers, being mainly restricted to the southern half of the county but they are also occur all the way up the Tywi valley to at least Llandovery and at Dolaucothi.</li> <li>• Most records are from wintering individuals in caves and mines.</li> <li>• It eats mainly larger insects such as chafers, dung beetles, moths and caddis flies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> Lesser horseshoe bat Ystlum pedol lleiaf</p> <p>© Conor Kelleher/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesser horseshoes have a more restricted distribution but they are also the most secretive and most easily overlooked. The cave systems especially those associated with the limestone ridge are important hibernation sites as are some of the old mineral workings.</li> <li>• There are an increasing number of records of this species in recent years.</li> <li>• It eats a variety of smaller insects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> Red squirrel Gwiwer goch</p> <p>© Lizzie Wilberforce</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Carmarthenshire the red squirrel is now mainly confined to of large conifer plantations in the north of the county. There are occasional sightings in deciduous woodland surrounding these forests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mid Wales Red Squirrel project is working to conserve and enhance red squirrels.</li> <li>• Grey squirrels are an ongoing threat to reds through the domination of habitat and as carriers of the deadly squirrelpox virus.</li> <li>• A project officer has been employed to work with volunteers/community groups for the next 5 years.</li> <li>• See <a href="#">Red Squirrel</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> Common Pipistrelle* Ystlum lleiaf</p> <p>©Hugh Clark/ <a href="http://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common and widespread species in the county. It is a small bat which is found in a wide range of habitats including farmland, woodlands and suburban and urban habitats. It often roosts in crevices around the outside of houses and buildings. It mainly eats small flies.</li> </ul>	<p>See <a href="#">Group Bat Species</a> action plan on Carmarthenshire County Council website.</p>

\* S42 Species not UK BAP