

CARMARTHENSHIRE LBAP AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE ACTION PLAN

Introduction

Amphibians and reptiles (together known as herpetofauna) are ancient groups of animals and representative species of both groups occur in Carmarthenshire. Priority BAP species that occur in the county are common lizard, slow worm, grass snake, adder and common toad.



They live in a variety of habitats from ponds and damp grassland to heathland, sand dunes and hedge banks, roadside verges, woodland rides and edges, allotments, gardens and brownfield sites.

Amphibians and reptiles in south Wales have suffered through loss and fragmentation of habitat. Habitat has been lost to development, gardens have been paved or decked, parks ‘tidied up’ and agricultural practices changed, which has all impacted on the amphibian and reptile species that use these habitats.

Loss of these habitats has also resulted in fragmentation and isolation of populations, which can result in decline and local extinction of species.

In Wales an [Online Atlas](#) has been developed by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation where records can be submitted. It identifies gaps for future surveying effort.

The local planning authority requires that surveys are undertaken as part of the planning process for applications that have the potential to affect reptiles as part of their statutory/policy responsibilities.

Vision statement and objectives

We would like to have a more complete picture about the range and distribution of our herpetofauna populations and to ensure they remain viable through the conservation, creation and enhancement of interconnected habitat for them, including feeding, breeding and hibernation sites. Any action would seek to meet one or more of the following objectives:

- HERP1** To maintain and increase the populations of Carmarthenshire’s herpetofauna
- HERP2** To gather data on the distribution and status of Carmarthenshire’s herpetofauna
- HERP3** To raise awareness of the status and requirements of herpetofauna in Carmarthenshire and provide advice on habitat management.

Summary of action achieved by LBAP Partners (for more information contact the biodiversity officer – Biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) or visit the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System - <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk>:

2010–12

- Toads on roads signs – signs erected at 3 sites in county – CCC HERP1
- [ARC project](#) – habitat creation for amphibians and reptiles, ponds created HERP1
- Carmel NNR – survey for reptiles; large pop’n of slow worms found – G’land Trust HERP2
- Distribution of amphibian/reptile booklet to all schools/libraries – CCC HERP3

2013

- 2-day training for vols at Llyn Llech Owain CP – ARC/CCC HERP3
- ? ponds created by ARC HERP1

2014

- Toad signs erected on the roads around Pant-y-Llyn turlough - CCC HERP1

2015

- Ponds/scrapes/habitat piles created at Morfa Berwig, Bynea – CCC/ARC HERP1
- Via WG Nature Fund Pond Connections project five ponds created at Pembrey CP and two farms over Llandeusan HERP1
- NBGW's volunteer wildlife recorders monitored herpetofauna of Gardens using refugia HERP2

Future proposed action

- School project – create and monitor amphibian/reptile habitat with pupils – Saron School HERP2
- Raise awareness about slow worms to allotment groups – CCC HERP3
- Promote National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme HERP2
- Organise a session for CCC grounds maintenance officers on herpetile ecology – CCC HERP3
- Survey/monitoring of MCP by trained vol – ARC HERP2

Legislation for widespread reptiles and amphibians

(i.e. reptiles (adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm) and amphibians (common frog, common toad, smooth newt, palmate newt).

Reptiles only (adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm) are protected via part of Section 9(1) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) against:

(a) intentional killing and injuring (note the provision in Section 9(1) of Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 prohibiting “taking” does not apply to reptiles).

Both reptiles (adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm) and amphibians (common frog, common toad, smooth newt, palmate newt) are protected via part of Section 9(5) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) against:

(b) (i) selling, offering or exposing for sale, or having in possession or transporting for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild animal or any part of, or anything derived from, such an animal;

or (ii) publishing or causing to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying buying or selling, or intending to buy or sell, any of those things.

Useful links:

- How to identify [amphibian and reptiles](#)
- [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#)
- [Froglife](#)
- [Wales Online Amphibian & Reptile Atlas](#)



Partneriaeth **Bioamrywiaeth** Sir Gaerfyrddin
Carmarthenshire **Biodiversity** Partnership

www.carmarthenshirebiodiversity.co.uk

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 the British Isles](#) (BSBI), [Llanelli Naturalists](#) (LN), [Bat Conservation Trust](#) (BCT), [West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre](#) (WWBIC), [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation](#) (ARC), [Woodland Trust](#) (WT)