

CARMARTHENSHIRE

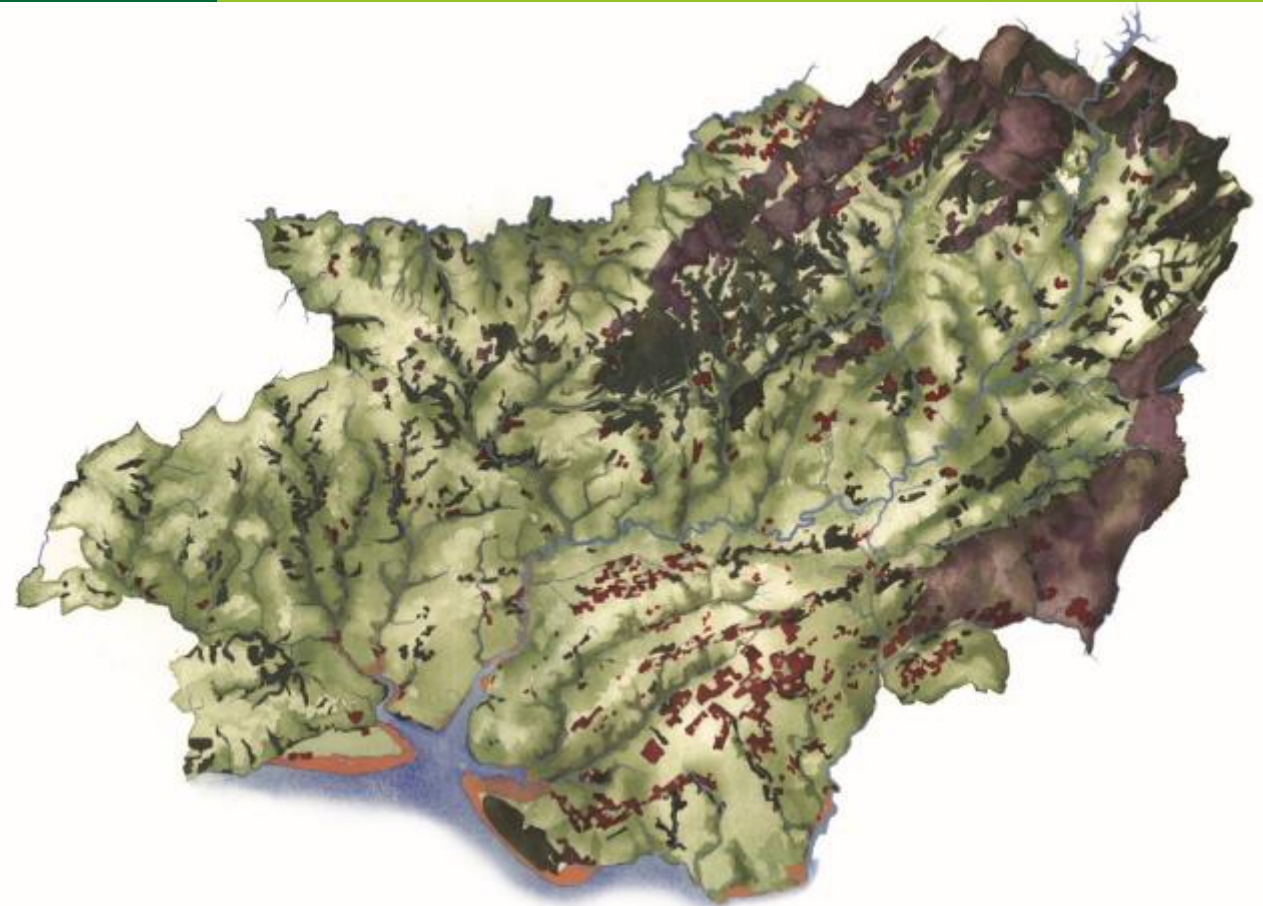
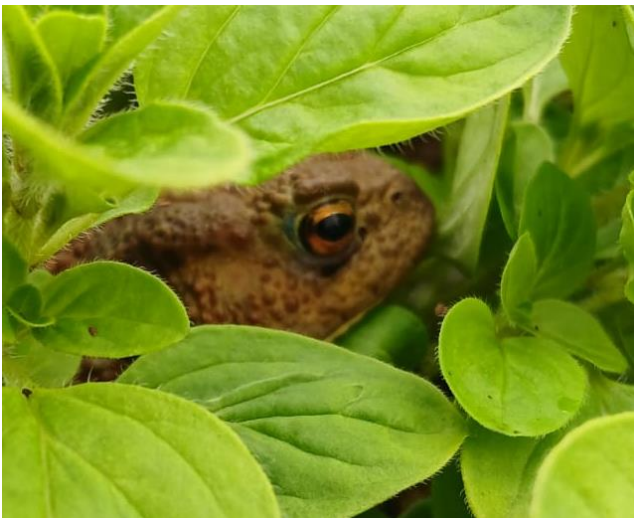
Nature Notes

Partneriaeth Natur
SIR GŶR • CARMARTHENSHIRE
Nature Partnership



APRIL-JUNE 2026

Carmarthenshire has some wonderful wildlife. These 'Nature Notes' are some highlights to encourage us all to take a closer look around us – even the common is special. Seen anything interesting – then why not send us a photo?



For more information about nature in the county-
read our Nature Recovery Plan:
carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity

Send your photos to: Biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk



Sanicle

Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) has glossy, deeply divided leaves and compact umbels of tiny greenish-white flowers appearing in spring and early summer. It prefers semi-shaded sites and is an indicator of ancient woodland.

It was used in herbal medicine for wound healing and as a general tonic.

Sanicle supports pollinators—especially small flies and solitary bees—while its seeds are adapted for short-distance dispersal.



Laburnum

Laburnum (*Laburnum* spp.) is native to central and southern Europe but was introduced into Britain from the 16th century and became a popular ornamental in gardens, parks and estate plantings. Planted widely in West Wales from the 18th–19th centuries as part of Georgian and Victorian landscape fashions, it was valued for dramatic late-spring displays of pendulous yellow flowers. In north-west Carmarthenshire especially it has becoming part of local cultural planting traditions and appears in old estate plant lists.



Rose Rust

Rose rust (*Phragmidium mucronatum*) is a gall-causing rust that affects some wild *Rosa* species, including Dog-rose and Field-rose. In spring bright orange cuplike fruiting structures (aecia) appear on the leafstalks, branches, leaf underside and any remaining hips. During summer yellow-orange spore-containing structures (uredinia) then develop on the undersides of leaves. It usually overwinters in fallen leaves. As you can see it has a complicated life - it completes its entire five-spore life cycle on a single host without needing an alternate plant species during this time.



Lackey moth caterpillars

Lackey moth caterpillars (*Malacosoma neustria*) are larvae that like hanging out together - forming communal silk tents in trees and shrubs. The caterpillars are hairy, and feed on broadleaf species such as Blackthorn and Cherry. Outbreaks can defoliate trees locally, though healthy trees typically recover. Their webs provide communal protection. Natural controls include parasitoid wasps, birds, and fungal pathogens – ensuring that populations are kept in balance.



Cucumber Green Orb spider

The Cucumber green orb spider (*Araniella cucurbitina*) is a small, bright green orb-weaver. Females build webs in shrubs, trees, and garden plants, often near the undersides of leaves (in this case a Nettle leaf where their green colour provides camouflage. Their prey consists mainly of small flying insects-flies and aphids-captured on the sticky spiral. Adults show sexual dimorphism: females are larger and more vividly coloured.



Glanville Fritillary butterfly

This Glanville Fritillary butterfly (*Melitaea cinxia*) was a surprise to the recorders who spotted it at Pembrey in June. Notable for its distinctive orange, black, and creamy checkered wings it is virtually restricted to the southern half of the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands along with a few coastal locations on the mainland UK. Warm southern winds likely blew it to South Wales along with thousands of Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow Butterflies and Silver Y moths. A bonanza for lepidopterists!



Striped Hawkmoth

This Striped Hawkmoth (*Hyles livornica*) was spotted in Rhandirmwyn. This is quite far north in the county for a record of this migratory moth that occasionally appears in Carmarthenshire during the spring and autumn. Because it cannot survive UK winters, it relies on warm, open habitats. The June heat spike will have helped this moth. It is fast-flying moth and doesn't stop for long. They fly at dusk and again at dawn and are frequently drawn to nectar-rich flowers. In your area, you can find them feeding on blossoms like Red Valerian.



Thigmomorphogenesis

This Hawthorn is striking quite a pose!
Thigmomorphogenesis (physiological and developmental changes triggered here by stimuli such as wind) has created altered growth patterns: a shorter thicker, stem and dramatic tapering and elongation of the branches. These modifications help the stability of the tree and survival in exposed sites.



Early spring woodlands

By now this woodland will have changed, with the canopy causing more shade and the flowering plants reflecting this decrease in light, but in early spring before the canopy is completely covered some of our woodlands come alive with the scent of Wild Garlic and the soft blue haze of Bluebells, attracting pollinators and walkers alike in an enchanting seasonal display.



Pleated Inkcap

The Pleated Inkcap (*Parasola plicatilis*) is a delicate, short-lived mushroom often found in grassy places after rain. Its thin, pale cap is marked with distinctive fragile looking 'pleats'.

Unlike some inkcaps, it does not turn to black "ink" as it ages. Instead, it quickly dries and disappears, sometimes within a single day. Like all fungi, it plays an important role in breaking down organic matter in soil, helping to recycle nutrients.



Lousewort

Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) is a distinctive wildflower often found in grasslands, moorlands and upland areas. Its pinkish flowers stand out among grasses, attracting bees and other insects. Despite its unusual name, it does not harm animals; the name comes from an old belief that it caused livestock to become infested with lice. Lousewort is a semi-parasitic plant, meaning it connects to the roots of neighbouring plants to draw some nutrients while still carrying out photosynthesis.



Birch Leafroller

The Birch Leafroller (*Deporaus betulae*) is a small, metallic-green weevil with a fascinating behaviour. In spring, females carefully cut and roll birch or hazel leaves into neat tubes, creating a protective nursery for their eggs. The developing larvae feed safely on the leaf tissue.

This is a great example of the intricate relationships that evolve between species. Look closely on birch or hazel, and you may spot these distinctive rolled leaves in early summer.



Going wild

Allowing a small area of your garden to grow wild over summer can bring big benefits for nature. Longer grass and wildflowers provide food and shelter for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies, which are vital for healthy ecosystems. Seed heads and stems also support insects, which in turn feed birds and small mammals. A wilder patch retains moisture during dry spells and frees you up from weeding. Even a small corner left undisturbed helps boost biodiversity, turning your garden into a valuable refuge for local wildlife.

Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

amphibian and reptile
conservation




Butterfly Conservation **Wales**
Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw **Cymru**


Botanical
Society of the
British
Isles


buglife


Bumblebee
Conservation
Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth
Cadwraeth
Cacwn


The
carbon
community


Clwb Adar Sir Gaerfyrddin
Carmarthenshire Bird Club


Cyngor Sir Gâr
Carmarthenshire
County Council


Carmarthenshire
Meadows
Group


Grŵp
Dolydd Sir
Gaerfyrddin


CoedLleol
SmallWoods


Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water


Floodplain
Meadows
Partnership


CYMRU WYLLT
WILD CYMRU

LLANELLI NATURALISTS
NATURIAETHWYR LLANELLI




Mid Wales
Red Squirrel Partnership
Canolbarth Cymru
Partneriaeth Gwiwerod Coch


National Botanic
Garden of Wales
Gardd Fotaneg
Genedlaethol Cymru


Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales


Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust

Rhwydwaith
Ffermio
er Lles
Natur



Nature
Friendly
Farming
Network


PROJECT SEAGRASS


Plantlife


RSPB


Asiant Celffydd De Cymru
South Wales Trunk Road Agency


W W B I C

WEST WALES
BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE
CANOLFAN WYBODAETH BIOAMRWIAETH
GORLLEWIN CYMRU


WEST WALES
RIVERS TRUST
YMDDIRIEDOLAETH AFONYDD
GORLLEWIN CYMRU


WWT


Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
De a Gorllewin Cymru
Wildlife Trust of
South & West Wales


COED CADW
WOODLAND
TRUST


WWT Vincent
Wildlife Trust

