



**Carmarthenshire Nature
Partnership Report on Action
January – December 2024**



Introduction

Carmarthenshire has a long history of collaboration in the natural environment sector. The Carmarthenshire Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) is a network of organisations including the Council, NRW, wildlife charities, county biodiversity recorders and voluntary groups - all working together to conserve and enhance Carmarthenshire's biodiversity. The CLNP also includes links to communities and individuals, and this has been strengthened in recent years through the Welsh Government (WG)-funded Local Places for Nature project.

The CLNP exists to promote nature recovery and undertake action that meets the national objectives for nature recovery, helping to make Carmarthenshire a county where people and nature thrive. Facilitated by the Council's Biodiversity Officer, the CLNP meets three times a year. The partners' work includes conservation action that seeks to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the county through the management of land, and action to help specific species. Local involvement is crucial, and partners work to raise awareness and implement projects that benefit biodiversity and community wellbeing. By providing a platform to share experience, knowledge and best practice, the CLNP facilitates communication and joint working. The group is also a valuable source of knowledge and expertise that helps to inform the implementation of national legislation and policy at a local level.

This report gives an overview of work undertaken by partners within the CLNP in 2024. Of particular note, is the completion and publication of the first [Carmarthenshire State of Nature Report](#), providing a stock check of the county's biodiversity and baseline for future work.

Nationally, nature is rising up the agenda for a number of reasons, including:

- increased understanding of the role of nature in supporting climate resilience (both mitigation and adaptation) and a healthy economy,
- growing recognition of the positive impact nature has on human health and wellbeing and,
- growing support from the public and appreciation of nature, especially since the Covid pandemic.

Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Action Plan set out how Wales will deliver the commitments of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy to halt and reverse the decline in our biodiversity. In line with this, [Carmarthenshire's Nature Recovery Plan](#) addresses biodiversity decline, and support for recovery, with the following objectives:

- 1 Engage and support participation and understanding, embedding biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels;
- 2 Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management;
- 3 Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation;
- 4 Tackle key pressures on species and habitats;
- 5 Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring;
- 6 Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.

Biodiversity in Carmarthenshire continues to experience the pressures and negative impacts of climate change, increased development and both land use and land management changes. The CLNP is robust and individual partners have successfully leveraged project funding from a number of sources. However, long-term funding is needed to ensure continued functioning of the CLNP in order to support nature's recovery in Carmarthenshire.

The Local Authority allows for facilitation/secretariat of the CLNP and links to the nationwide Local Nature Partnerships Cymru scheme, via the Biodiversity Officer. Financial support through Local Authority officers' time has been crucial in allowing CLNP to continue. This has also allowed for the

employment of a Local Places for Nature Officer, funded by WG, to deliver the statutory programme of works within the county.

The CLNP has hugely benefited from significant support from most of the partner organisations. Meetings are attended voluntarily by officers from partner organisations, county recorders and statutory agency representatives. The Steering Group is made up of partners who have volunteered for the role:

National Botanic Garden of Wales,

Natural Resources Wales,

Wales Biodiversity Partnership,

Carmarthenshire County Council,

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust,

Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

One Voice Wales

West Wales Biodiversity information Centre,

...contributing time as individuals or from their organisations.

The role of Local Nature Partnerships in delivering national targets is likely to become more important in the future.

In 2024 WG published their White Paper consultation, “Securing a Sustainable Future Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity targets for a Greener Wales”. The White Paper contained proposals for:

- embedding environmental principles into Welsh law;
- establishing a new governance body to oversee the implementation of, and compliance with, environmental law in Wales by Welsh public authorities;
- introducing a strategic nature recovery framework, which will include biodiversity targets.

As part of their [response to the consultation](#), WG emphasised delivery of nature recovery at a local level and highlighted the role of Local Nature Partnerships.

Ahead of another busy year in 2025, this report provides a summary of just some of the achievements of the partners in 2024. It provides examples of joint working and collaboration, often facilitated by the CLNP, to conserve and enhance Carmarthenshire's diverse range of habitats and species.

The Steering Group of the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

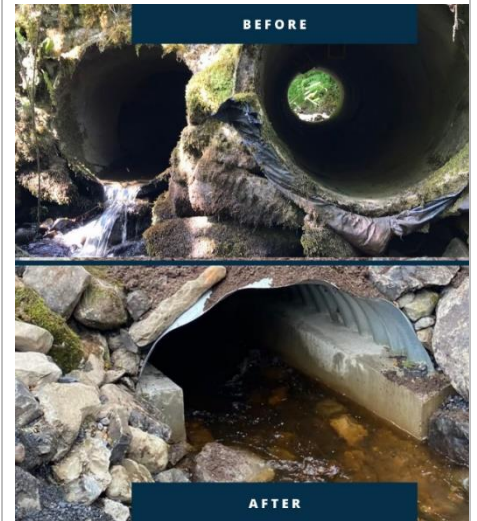


Abbreviations cited in the text

British Association for Shooting and Conservation	BASC	Natural Resources Wales	NRW
Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland	BSBI	Pembrey Conservation Trust	PCT
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	BBCT	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Butterfly Conservation	BC	South Wales Trunk Roads Agency	SWTRA
Carmarthenshire County Council	CCC	The Woodland Improvement Grant	TWIG
Carmarthenshire Meadows Group	CMG	Vincent Wildlife Trust	VWT
Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru	INCC	Wales Biodiversity Partnership	WBP
Invasive Non-Native Species	INNS	Welsh Government	WG
Local Places for Nature	LPfN	West Wales Rivers Trust	WWRT
Mid Wales Red Squirrel Partnership	MWRSP	Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	WTSWW
National Botanic Garden of Wales	NBGW	Wildfowl and Wetland Trust	WWT
National Trust	NT		

The [West Wales Rivers Trust](#) have had a very busy year in Carmarthenshire, including the following:

1. Continuation ongoing liming works to address acidification issues as a result of forestry in the upper Tywi.
2. Delivery of free and confidential farm infrastructure advice to a number of farms in Carmarthenshire. This advice focuses on the separation of clean and dirty water to reduce slurry volumes.
3. Extensive data collection on rural overland runoff to identify sediment and nutrient pollution sources, in partnership with the [West Wales Nutrient Management Board](#).
4. Continuation of the [Adopt a Tributary](#) project to engage people with their local river environments, including over 1600 people attending events, 210 volunteers, 15 invasive non-native species removal events and 1.3 tonnes of litter removed.
5. The delivery of fish passage schemes including a ‘bottomless culvert’ which allows the river to flow freely and for the passage of fish, substrate and river materials.
6. Multiple kilometres of riparian fencing delivered to prevent livestock access to watercourses and allow marginal vegetation to grow.



A ‘bottomless culvert’ which allows the river to flow freely and for the passage of fish, substrate and river materials.

WWRT has received funding from:

- WG Local Places for Nature – Carmarthenshire
- Fisheries Habitat Restoration funding – Natural Resources Wales
- Adopt a Tributary – UK Government

Collaboration:

CCC, NRW, West Wales Nutrient Management Board, farmers.

Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)

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We work with volunteers

Much of [Plantlife Cymru](#)’s work in Carmarthenshire this year has been through our [Glaswelltiroedd Gwydn](#) project. The project is funding work on our nature reserve, Cae Blaen-dyffryn, just south of Lampeter. This has included installing an alpha sampler to understand the impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on the SSSI, and NoFence GIS collars for the grazing cattle to help understand their grazing behaviour better.

Plantlife have also undertaken further scrub control and their annual Butterfly Orchid count. Now in ‘waxcap season’, Plantlife have run one waxcap identification training session in the county (at Pal y Cwrt) and are now encouraging Carmarthenshire residents to record their own grassland fungi using the Waxcap App.

Plantlife have also been working with private landowners on grassland surveys and management advice.



Plantlife volunteers at the annual orchid count at Cae Blaen Dyffryn Nature Reserve

Plantlife has received funding from:

WG HLF Nature Networks fund - [Glaswelltiroedd Gwydn Project](#)

Collaboration: private landowners

Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives? (see intro text)

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We work with volunteers

[Saving Brechfa’s Bumblebees](#) is a collaborative initiative between the [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) (BBCT) and RWE Renewables UK Ltd and community engagement project. It aims to catalogue bumblebee and other key pollinator/invertebrate species within the Brechfa Forest area.

Community engagement activities include talks, bumblebee and plant identification, bumblebee safaris, training in monitoring and meadow management techniques, e.g. scything and conservation grazing. By equipping volunteers and groups with these skills, the project aims to create and maintain pollinator-friendly habitats within the Brechfa project area and in community gardens/green spaces.

BBCT's [Connecting the Carmarthenshire Coast](#) project is working to improve connectivity for bumblebees and other priority invertebrate species in an area roughly from Llanelli west to Pembrey Forest. Surveys are being conducted across key sites to assess populations and habitats of target species. The project's key objectives are to enhance the condition of habitats for target species, improve connectivity for invertebrates across the project area, increase knowledge and understanding of the target species and engage with the community. Project work will develop wildflower habitats along Millennium Coastal Path and provide training and equipment for volunteers, including from PCT to enhance pollinator friendly habitat with Pembrey forest. Crucially the project has also commissioned a community engagement consultant to identify the obstacles that prevent marginalised communities, those with low Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation scores for example, from actively taking part in the project and how our target species and work can serve as a catalyst for engaging these communities with the local coastline, its unique habitats and wildlife.



Brown-banded Carder bee (*Bombus humilis*)



An invertebrate walk with Buglife

BBCT has received funding from:

Saving Brechfa's Bees – Brechfa Forest West Windfarm – Community Fund

Connecting the Carmarthenshire Coast Project - WG HLF Nature Networks Fund

Collaboration:

Saving Brechfa's Bees – RWE (windfarm operators), NRW, local volunteers, local schools)

Connecting the Carmarthenshire Coast – Buglife, BC, CCC, NRW, Pembrey Conservation Trust, Llanelli Town Council, other local charity groups and organisations.

Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objective (see intro text)?

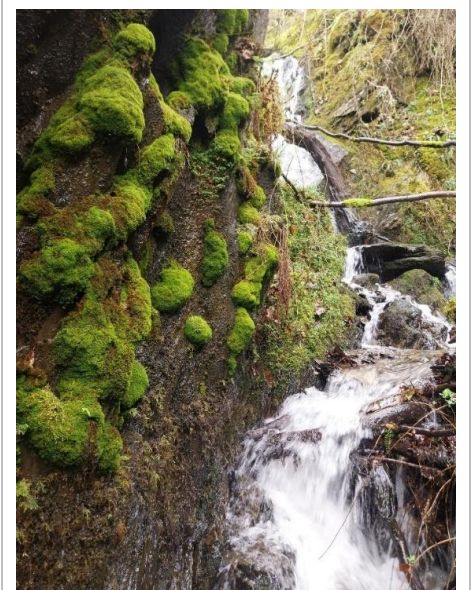
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- 5 ✓
- 6 ✓

We work with volunteers

The [RSPB](#)-managed Gwenffrwd Dinas is part of the ongoing [Celtic Rainforests LIFE project](#), which aims to safeguard and improve this rare and threatened habitat. The reserve hosts both control and study areas, looking at the effects of restoring appropriate grazing to the woodland and improving woodland structure. The aim is to maintain an open woodland structure, appropriate for the important assemblages of lower plants as well as woodland bird species such as Wood Warbler and Pied Flycatcher.

This year, a generous donation has allowed us to buy NoFence cattle collars, opening up great possibilities for controlled grazing in woodlands throughout the reserve.

As part of the project, Gwenffrwd Dinas hosted a grazing demonstration day, well attended by local residents and landowners, farmers, and other conservation organisations, with presentations on rainforest management and a site visit to see the impacts of grazing.



Bryophyte survey area at Gwenffrwd Dinas

The Fledgemore volunteer group have put in another year of hard work monitoring Pied Flycatcher breeding at Gwenffrwd Dinas. Of the 537 boxes monitored, Pied Flycatchers attempted nests in 208, with 114 of these being successful, and 625 birds fledged. These numbers are all higher than in 2023, although the average fledgelings per box declined slightly this year.

Hedgerow project

In 2024 the hedgerows across Gwenffrwd Dinas were surveyed by INCC. They were mapped and species composition recorded. A management plan will be produced for them to ensure improvement and continuity of habitat across the reserve. We hope to implement recommendations for diversifying and creating new hedgerows over subsequent years.

A generous donation has funded a detailed bryophyte survey at Gwenffrwd Dinas, which is important for lower plants, and this survey has recorded and mapped bryophyte species and assemblages across key areas of the reserve. The study will enable assessment of changes from previous surveys and inform future management, especially in the narrow, humid watercourses across the reserve.

A further donation enabled a drone survey of the upland blocks at Gwenffrwd Dinas, using photogrammetry to produce a detailed digital model of the topography. Once analysed, these data will show the presence and condition of peat features in the uplands, identifying potential for restoration and allowing us to plan future works to protect and enhance wet features in the uplands.



Mynydd Mallaen uplands

RSPB has received funding from:

Private donations; European LIFE funding via NRW

Collaboration: INCC, local grazier, MWRSP, WTSWW, Eryri National Park, VWT

Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objective? (see intro text)

- 1 ✓
- 2 ✓
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- 5 ✓
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We work with volunteers

The [Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust](#) (WWT) obtained consent and carried out repairs to the Saline Lagoon banks this summer, which had been damaged by wind and wave. These are a very important refuge on site, particularly for birds on autumn migration and during high tides. Since the repair work a spectacular number of wading birds have been recorded on the lagoons including a record 17 Spoonbills and 6 Great White Egrets.




Other wildlife highlights this year have included nesting kingfishers, visiting Caspian Tern and Pallid Harrier, Purple and White-letter hairstreaks, and Water Voles – we recently commissioned a wider study of Water Vole distribution on site from Kora Ecology to understand how they are using the wider reserve and obtain suggestions for management.

Extensive restoration work has also taken place on the main island within the Millennium Wetlands this autumn to reduce scrub and restore scrapes and ditches to enhance habitats for ground nesting birds.

The installation of stunning new pedestrian access bridge for the Millennium Wetlands was completed in August.



A giant willow kingfisher sculpture

<p>With the help of our volunteers we have created a handful of giant willow sculptures on the reserve. The latest is a Kingfisher, completed in April this year.</p> <p>Invasive species continue to prove a major challenge on site. Both Himalayan Balsam and New Zealand Pygmyweed have recently spread to a number of new areas of the reserve, despite our best efforts to control these and other non-native invasive species.</p>	 <p>The new Heron's Wing Bridge at WWT</p>
<p>WWT received funding from:</p> <p>Heron's Wing Bridge Project – UK levelling Up fund; DC/WW</p>	<p>Collaboration: CCC, DC/WW, Koru Ecology, NRW</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p> <p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>The Conservation Section CCC continued to work on sites in the CCC Caeau Mynydd Mawr Marsh Fritillary Project and other CCC sites managed with S106 planning funds, to mitigate the impacts of development on habitats and species in the county. This included arranging and promoting the benefits of conservation grazing at sites across the county.</p> <p>A <i>Strategy for Grassland Management for Pollinators on the CCC Estate</i> was approved by Cabinet and working with Grounds Maintenance, schools and other departments in the council it will be implemented over the coming years, increasing the areas managed for pollinators.</p>	 <p>Conservation grazing by cows</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p> <p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	<p>Collaboration: CCC departments; graziers</p> <p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>The National Trust focused on two main projects in 2024.</p> <p>The Dolaucothi Woodland Investment grant – has funded habitat improvements to woodlands and trails across the Dolaucothi estate, restored the walled wood garden, and allowed planting here and in the wider parkland with native and ornamental trees (also tackling Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed). The funding has replaced over 7 km of livestock fencing around woodlands such to prevent unwanted grazing and is creating 3.5 ha of new woodland. Selective thinning of Beech woodland and surveying and treating Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron around the estate has taken place, also tackling Balsam in areas away from the watercourses to prevent wider spread. Work has also reduced the impact of Laurel in areas around the former parkland. 14 new Pine Marten boxes have been installed (with support of VWT) and Grey Squirrel control undertaken to support the work of MWRSP. A survey of notable trees was carried out on the estate to identify veteran trees and the next generation of veterans, with a view to engaging with tenants in order to try and protect the trees. Tenants have also engaged with the project, allowing us to establish 600 m of new hedgerow and small woodland block as a new wildlife corridor. National Forest of Wales Status for Dolaucothi was achieved this year as well.</p>	 <p>Lightening struck veteran Sycamore tree at Dolaucothi farm</p>

[Dinefwr Park – 4 Rivers 4 Life](#) is working on the 105-ha floodplain with a view to restoring natural processes and reducing the effect of previous farming practices there. Data is being collected on the geomorphology and via dip wells, which record water table levels throughout the year. This will inform the re-establishment of some of the choked/scrubbed up small ponds and ephemeral pools. In the last 2 years surveys of the ponds, including Otter, Water Vole (none found), birds, flora, Diptera and freshwater mussels were undertaken to establish a base line. New species for the park have been recorded: Greater Butterfly Orchid in Castle field and one of very few confirmed sightings of the rare fungus *Irpex latemarginatus* at Dinefwr.



The rare fungus *Irpex latemarginatus*

On the wider estate under a new agreement with NRW, we have begun work to install stock fencing to protect veteran trees. A new tree nursery will create a continuous supply of native Dinefwr oak for the site.

A survey of the park’s Lichens, dead wood invertebrate community has completed and airborne ammonia pollution, which damages the lichens is undertaken - all with NRW as partners.

We are about to fence out an area of about 3 ha of farmland near Home Farm to create 3 ha of woodland and last year established an area of land where we are looking to create 1 ha of new wood pasture by planting 15 new trees and installing tree guards.

NT has received funding for:

WG TWIG – Dolaucothi Woodlands, Four Rivers for Life Project and NRW

Collaboration: NRW, BSBI, NBGW, CADW, VWT, NT tenants, MWRSP

Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?

- 1 ✓
- 2 ✓
- 3 ✓
- 4 ✓
- 5 ✓
- 6

We work with volunteers

The [Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru \(INCC\)](#)’s community wildlife garden in Garnant has been developing well, particularly the pond and meadow habitats.

As well as providing a haven for wildlife, it is also a place where INCC can run volunteering events and activities for local people.

INCC has been working with local landowners and farmers to install 12 Barn Owl boxes. With its marshy grassland, heathland and meadows, the Amman Valley is an ideal landscape for the species. Working alongside experienced and licensed bird ringers we were able to check eight of the nest boxes. In total 12 Barn Owl and 2 Tawny Owl chicks were ringed.


With support from the Mynydd y Betws community fund and WG LPfN funding, INCC have installed over 200 nest boxes for the Amman Valley’s House Martins population, including on the Amman Utd Rugby Stand, Cwmaman Town Council Community Centre, TRJ office and Ammanford Police Station.



To try and get a better idea of the distribution of Hedgehogs in the valley, INCC have been building Hedgehog boxes to help homeowners survey and monitor for them in the garden.




As well as providing a better insight into the distribution of Hedgehogs in the valley, the project has also been an excellent way of engaging with the community about Hedgehogs and the measures people can do in their own gardens to help the species.







House martin nest cups being erected.



INCC has received funding from. Connecting People with Nature, supported by the Mynydd y Betws Community Fund, WG LPfN						Collaboration: local residents, landowners, farmers, businesses, volunteers.
Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?						We work with volunteers
1 ✓	2 ✓	3 ✓	4	5 ✓	6 ✓	
<p>The MOD at Pendine manage areas of Laugharne–Pendine Burrows SSSI/Carmarthen Bay Dunes. In 2024, as part of ongoing annual management we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carried out follow-up herbicide control of sea buckthorn regrowth and seedlings in areas where previous removal has been completed. 2. Installed additional livestock fencing to provide better control of grazing in botanically sensitive areas. 3. Carried out a late summer cut and collect of 20 ha dune grassland and scrub seedlings in areas where grazing is not practical. 4. Mechanised removal of 5 ha of sea buckthorn along the foredunes. 5. Mechanised removal of 10 ha of willow/alder dominated scrub on dune slack/fen habitat. <p>At Pembrey Sands Air Weapons Range (Pembrey Coast SSSI / Carmarthen Bay Dunes / Twyni Bae Caerfyrddin SAC) as part of ongoing annual management we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carried out follow-up herbicide control of sea buckthorn regrowth and seedlings in areas where previous removal has been completed. 2. Carried out a late summer cut and collect of 10 ha dune grassland in areas where grazing is not practical. 3. Modified the mowing regime around selected operational areas to encourage flowers to develop and set seed. 4. Mechanised removal of 2 ha of willow dominated scrub on dune slack habitat. 						
						Collaboration: NRW
Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?						
1	2 ✓	3 ✓	4 ✓	5	6	
<p>Tree planting was carried out over winter 23/24 on two Carmarthenshire County Council sites in Llandybie and St Clears; at St Clears planting days held with the local school and local residents were very well attended. The wheelchair access path previous installed in Tregib Sorts Field has now been extended through CCC’s Tregib Community Woodland to join up with the adjacent Woodland Trust site with funding from Local Places for Nature. Areas clear-felled of conifers at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park have now been restocked with native broadleaves.</p> <p>CCC has been awarded TWIG funding for two community woodland projects that will run until June 2026. At Bynea CCC, grazing land adjacent to Bynea CP school will be used to create a new community woodland. In Pontyberem public access infrastructure will be upgraded in Pentremawr Woodland along with INNS control and other woodland management operations.</p>						 <p>Local schoolchildren helping with tree planting at St Clears.</p>




<p>WG Woodland Creation Grant funding has been obtained to plant shelterbelts at Bremenda Isaf County Farm in Llanarthne, which will be carried out over this coming winter.</p>	
<p>Grant funding was received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Small Grants Woodland Creation • WG TWIG funding • Local Places for Nature 	<p>Collaboration: schools</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓</p>	
<p>The Carmarthenshire Meadows Group have held two indoor meetings (open to members and non-members) which were well attended. Our membership has grown to 132, our website has 229 subscribers, and Facebook Group has 620 members. The Big Meadow Search (a CMG initiative - now UK wide) Facebook Group has 630 members and 2948 followers on X (Twitter).</p> <p>Three members of the CMG Group will attend a National Meadows Group Conference in Shropshire in November giving a presentation about the formation and development of the group in the county.</p> <p>We have helped the Carbon Community with meadow walks at their site near Cynghordy for their volunteers and facilitated their contact with Plantlife's Resilient Grasslands project staff and local graziers to manage their grassland areas.</p>	 <p>Photo of Plantlife staff, CMG chair, Carbon Community Staff and Graziers visiting the Carbon Community</p>
	<p>Collaboration: Plantlife, The Carbon Community, graziers</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 5 ✓ 6</p>	
<p>At the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre we continue to work closely with Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership, delivering quality biodiversity data at the local level. We also work closely with local ecologists and species experts in the region to ensure that decisions are made with regard to biodiversity and provide services such as mapping priority habitats and species sites for the Carmarthenshire State of Nature report, promoting this on our website and to our wider audience. This financial year with help from WG Local Places for Nature we have been delivering a project to engage with a wide audience and have delivered training to more than 150 volunteers in Carmarthenshire. They have generated over 500 biological records, including a new site for Wood Horsetail in the county. Several of these volunteers have gone on to record wildlife in their areas of Carmarthenshire on a regular basis. We have also promoted the recording of INNS species through our recording platforms and share this additional information to our partners including LNPs.</p>	 <p>A recording training session organised by WWBIC</p>
<p>Grant funding: WG Local Places for Nature</p>	<p>Collaboration: CNPs, local community groups</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓</p>	

<p>The Lichen recorder for the county helped at the Bishop’s Park Project run by Tywi Gateway Trust, Abergwili, working with project organisers and other volunteers to record and interpret the lichens of the walled garden; delivering lichen talks in the park and to assisting with interpretation to support their Lottery Funded project.</p>	<p>Collaboration: volunteers, project leaders</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p> <p>1 ✓ 2 3 4 5 ✓ 6</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>The National Botanic Garden of Wales’ seed banking programme has continued in partnership with the Millennium Seed Bank’s UK projects. This year, we have focused on crop wild relatives and tree species. A range of species from Carmarthenshire have been collected, including Sea Radish, Wild Parsnip and Prickly Lettuce. We have also established a germination testing regime for our seed bank – a critical task in obtaining baseline data on seed viability to monitor viability in decades to come. Where possible, seedlings from the tests are being grown-on to provide material for display and seed bulking.</p> <p>We have propagated the internationally threatened Shore Dock for NRW for reintroduction to the Vale of Glamorgan and are also continuing to grow the threatened Dog Screw Moss for Natur am Byth, and other plant species to support <i>in-situ</i> conservation.</p> <p>A 2-year Nature Networks Fund 3 project ‘Growing Resilience: A National Nature Reserve for the future’ started, delivering capital works, conservation engagement and research on the Botanic Garden’s Waun Las National Nature Reserve. A Conservation Engagement Officer has been appointed for 2 days a week.</p> <p>A three-year ‘Plants Past, Present and Future’ project has continued to digitise our 80-200 year old pressed plant collections and deliver botanical engagement.</p>	 <p>Volunteering in the herbarium at the NBGW</p>  <p>Surveying Waun Las NNR</p>
<p>NBGW received funding from:</p> <p>‘Plants Past, Present and Future’ project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Dynamic Collections Initiative.</p> <p>‘Growing Resilience: A National Nature Reserve for the future’ project funded by Welsh Government/National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Nature Networks Fund 3</p> <p>Grants-in-aid from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew for seed banking crop wild relatives and trees in 2024.</p>	<p>Collaboration: Royal Botanic Garden’s Kew/Millennium Seed Bank Plantlife, NRW, BSBI, CCC, NT, WTSWW, Natur Am Byth</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p> <p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales’s (WTSWW) new nature reserve, Rhydyglyn near Llansawel, has been brought into appropriate conservation management following fencing and installation of essential infrastructure to allow cattle grazing supported by WG LPfN funding via the Carmarthenshire LNP. Approximately 9 ha of former sheep pasture and rough ground is being restored by working in partnership with a local specialist conservation grazier and her herd of Dexter cattle along with interventions such as mowing. Marshy grassland and rhos pasture are being restored from being rank and invaded by scrub, formerly semi-improved</p>	

<p>pastures are being restored and over time will become species-rich hay meadows. Due to the need for security for cattle grazing, the reserve is not open to the public, but specialist interest groups have been welcomed on site and others can make arrangements to visit.</p>	<p>Cattle grazing the new nature reserve at Rhydyglyn</p>
<p>Grant funding was received from:</p> <p>NNF Healthy Resilient Grasslands & NNF Accessible Nature have delivered actions on many of our reserves in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The LPfN funding has supported several other habitat creation projects, grey squirrel control and the Mid Wales Red Squirrel project in the county.</p>	<p>Collaboration: grazier, CNP,</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 4 5 6</p>	
<p>The Sands of LIFE project, funded by the EU and led by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), is ending after 5 years of recreating natural movement in dunes and revitalising habitats housing some of the country’s rarest wildlife. The Sands of LIFE team are immensely proud of the work that has taken place over the last 5 years. Active conservation action like this, can make a real positive difference for threatened dune wildlife.</p> <p>The project’s final conference took place in May with more than 100 delegates from the UK and overseas gathered in person and online to hear from local and international experts about sand dune conservation and management.</p> <p>The team shared the findings and highlights from the project’s 5 years of action for biodiversity, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 ha of works were carried out. • 29 km of fencing was completed. • 191 ha of sand dune habitat has been directly restored. • 31 ha of bare sand habitat created. • Over 250 ha of new area of dune brought into grazing. • 23 artificial rabbit warrens created to support rabbit grazing. <p>The conference also included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informative presentations from local and international speakers on the latest developments in sand dune conservation and management. • Networking, collaborating and sharing of best practice between leading sand dune managers from across the UK and Northern Europe. • Site visits to world class sand dunes on the Isle of Anglesey. • The unique culture, landscapes and language of beautiful North Wales. <p>The full programme and recordings of the conference presentations can be found on the Sands of LIFE webpage.</p>	 <p>Sand of LIFE final conference</p> <p>Collaboration: CCC, Llanelli Naturalists, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Dynamic Dunescapes, BSBI.</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6 ✓</p>	
<p>CCC’s Outdoor Recreation team received WG TWIG funding at Ynysdawela with habitat improvements delivered for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and Dormouse. Specific areas were opened up for general invertebrates. Around 175 educational visits/event attendees. Fungi, invertebrate, saproxylic beetle and bat surveys were conducted by external consultants.</p> <p>INNS work was carried out at Pwll lagoon Local Nature Reserve (LNR) for Rhododendron and North Dock LNR, for Sea Buckthorn and Japanese Rose with WG LPfN funding via the Carmarthenshire LNP.</p>	

<p>With this funding fencing to protect Water Vole habitat at Morfa Berwig LNR was also undertaken.</p> <p>NRW funded peat bog restoration at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park; in addition £25k funding from WG Peatlands Project will allow ditch blocking and further bog restoration here.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation worked in partnership with Bumblebee Conservations' "Connecting the Carmarthenshire Coast" Project, and also the Natur am Byth project to protect the endangered Strandline Beetle.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council Outdoor Recreation Service volunteers contributed 1000 h of their time between April and September 2024.</p> <p>The Probation Service have cleared footpaths at our Morfa Berwig LNR.</p> <p>Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park has achieved National Forest for Wales status.</p>	<p>Pembrey Burrows Local Nature Reserve</p>
<p>Grant funding has been received from: TWIG, Local Places for Nature, NRW</p>	<p>Collaboration: CNP partners, Natur am Byth, Probabtion Service, BC, Tir Coed, Coed Lleol.</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	
<p>The Project Seagrass Nursery the team have been focused on flowers and seeds. The plants in the polytunnel continued flowering through the summer and a lot of pollination has meant that we've been able to collect a lot of seed-filled spathes. These spathes have been processed (where we let the spathes rot down and the mature seeds fall out) and we've started collecting the mature seeds which are now in storage.</p> <p>Fieldwork teams in the Isle of Wight, North Wales and Scotland have been heading out to donor meadows to collect seeds for restoration projects. The seed-filled spathes that have been collected are now at our HQ in Bridgend where they are being processed. Once they're ready they'll be taken to the nursery for long term storage and monitoring.</p> <p>There has also been monitoring for the South and West Wales project taking place to evaluate the success of seed sowing and core transplanting at our Cardiff and Llanelli sites that was conducted earlier this year.</p> <p>Open days at the nursery site in Pendine allowed people (including CNP partners to visit the site, meet the team and see the work that is underway.</p>	 <p>Propagating seagrass seeds - seed-filled spathes</p> <p>Collaboration: CNP, NRW, CCC, vols</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	
<p>The Local Places for Nature Project in Carmarthenshire launched its Engagement Platform in 2024. It includes a survey to find out how people feel about their local area and a map to drop a pin to show their favourite public green space.</p> <p>People can sign up to hear about wildlife and greenspace events, training, news, and project updates, submit photos and find out more about LPfN projects.</p> <p>It's an opportunity for individuals and communities to get involved, share experiences, and learn from others.</p>	

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1 ✓	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>This year, thanks to NRW's support, the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales installed a large amount of new fencing and infrastructure at Carmel National Nature Reserve. This includes around 600 meters of post and wire and a new holding pen, to support the ongoing reversion of our species-rich hay meadows by enabling continued aftermath grazing, as well as giving us the opportunity to compartmentalize the grazing pressure on site. The holding pen, allowing safe loading of cattle and a space necessary for TB testing, is essential.</p> <p>We were also able to fence off of an area of remnant heath and scrub to establish grazing in a neglected 3.5 ha section. The perimeter fence measures close to a kilometre. Four cows spent several weeks bruising bracken and browsing on regenerating scrub. This has opened up the scrub layer where dwarf shrub heath species, such as ling heather and Billberry, were struggling under encroachment.</p> <p>On our bog section we also built a new handling pen, and replaced a damaged roadside fence, supporting ongoing grazing. The bog, previously drained, suffers from scrub encroachment which leads to further drying out of the peat. Cattle grazing helps keep this in check.</p> <p>We have been funded by Dŵr Cymru's Environment Fund and The Woodland Trust in the purchase of hedgerow trees to plant up two new hedgerows, improving the quantity of tree cover and habitat connectivity across the site.</p>						 <p>Cattle grazing at Carmel NNR</p>
<p>Grant funding has been received from: WG/HLF Nature Networks Healthy Resilient Grasslands and Accessible Nature funding have delivered actions on many of our reserves in Carmarthenshire. The LPfN funding has supported several other habitat creation projects, and the Mid Wales red Squirrel project in the county.</p>						<p>Collaboration: NRW, Dŵr Cymru, The Woodland Trust, volunteers</p>
Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?						We work with volunteers
1 ✓	2 ✓	3 ✓	4 ✓	5 ✓	6	
<p>The Mid Wales Red Squirrel Partnership (MWRSP) has been reaching out to partners, developing collaborative initiatives to deliver shared objectives. We developed research programmes with Aberystwyth and Bangor Universities, and closer ties to NRW forest managers, as well as the other red squirrel conservation areas within Wales and in the UK. The MWRSP area is now represented on the Red Squirrel distribution map, and we are contributing to the development of a national squirrel project and strategy across Wales in collaboration with UKSA. This will directly benefit the conservation of Red Squirrels in Carmarthenshire and the engagement of local people in that process in the long term.</p> <p>We have also had a push on recruiting volunteers to replace those who have stepped back from the project after many years of contributing their time. To do this we have re-printed MWRSP leaflets and attended local shows three of which were within Carmarthenshire: Cwrt y Cadno, Rhandirmwyn and Caio.</p>						 <p>MWRSP project stand at a Carmarthenshire village show.</p>

<p>We are a delivery partner in the Bryn Arau Duon based TWIG funded Changing Forests in A Changing World Project, primarily delivering public engagement and volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>There have been a couple of 1:1 training sessions delivered in Grey Squirrel control and Red Squirrel ID and camera trapping. One of our project officers is now an accredited Lantra trainer and we are preparing to deliver a Grey Squirrel control training day for our new staff and volunteers as well as representatives from similar projects and partner organisations.</p>	<p>Collaboration: Red Squirrel Trust Wales, Aberystwyth University, RSPB, VWT, BASC, NT, NRW, TWIG project – Changing Forests in a Changing World</p>
<p>Grant funding has been received from: WG LPfN</p>	
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	
<p>Carmarthenshire County Council manages a range of sites from Local Nature Reserves, Country Parks and green spaces to sites managed as part of planning agreements.</p> <p>Most of these sites are important for a range of species including protected and priority species in Wales. Sites are surveyed – working with ecological surveyors or by staff, sometimes with the help of volunteers. Surveying for species such as Dormice, Water Vole, Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, Strandline Beetle, bats, Otters and Harvest Mice all inform the management of sites and help train officers.</p> <p>Officers also working closely with a wide range of departments internally, such as with Property, Highways and maintenance teams to ensure that species are considered during routine works. For example, ensuring the potential for bats and birds is considered during work on council-owned property or structures, or reptiles, birds and amphibians during garden and grounds maintenance.</p>	 <p>Surveying for Harvest Mice at St Clears.</p> <p>Collaboration: CNP Partners, ecological consultants, expert volunteers</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>	<p>We work with volunteers</p>
<p>1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6</p>	
<p>Butterfly Conservation’s Wales Marsh Fritillary (MF) Recovery Partnership development project is underway, with a Nature Networks Fund (round three) grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. Running until December 2025, we aim to create a ‘Wales Marsh Fritillary Recovery Partnership’ with key partners and landowners. With great work already being undertaken to conserve the MF across Wales, we want to bring everyone together to share expertise, experience, passion, and data to combine resources to have a greater impact. We are currently trialling regional ‘hubs’ to give a local focus, which will feed into a Wales-wide partnership in the future.</p> <p>Data continues to show that the Marsh Fritillary is declining in Wales despite targeted conservation action to address habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation. We currently monitor core sites throughout Wales on a rotational basis, but we need more support for our dedicated volunteers without whom this would not be possible, and to support this growing partnership. Since June we have run online and onsite training in MF ecology and survey techniques. We will run further training sessions, summer traineeships for young people aged 18-25, and chances for individuals and community groups to join us on a variety of site visits, practical tasks and habitat mapping throughout 2025.</p> <p>Through collaboration with partners and landowners, we are producing recommendations and costed plans for identified priority sites, developing</p>	 <p>Larval Web survey by volunteers at Caeau Ffos Fach Nature Reserve</p>  <p>Conservation grazing of Marshy Grassland.</p>

<p>‘shovel-ready’ projects for future funded applications. The ultimate aim, following on from this project, is creating a ‘Marsh Fritillary Strategy for Wales’, which partners will feed into, and hopefully endorse, establishing a joint approach to ensure the MF’s future in Wales.</p> <p>Away from the Nature Network Fund, we continue to undertake winter work parties for the MF which includes scrub control on known Rhos pasture grasslands which support larval webs within existing metapopulations.</p> <p>Late summer work parties have continued for the Brown Hairstreak, including the removal of vegetation from the base of hedgerows to ensure suitable egg laying resources and we will assist with winter coppicing work parties on key sites and continue to provide hedgerow management advice throughout the year for landowners.</p> <p>Brown Hairstreak monitoring, via egg counts, continues to be undertaken throughout the winter months at core sites, building a strong evidence base to inform future projects of where priority connectivity is required, and existing hedgerows to be brought into favourable management.</p> <p>We have also been supporting the BBCT’s ‘Connecting Carmarthenshire Coast’ project undertaking surveys of Grizzled Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Small Blue, Large Red Belted Clearwing, White Spotted Sable and <i>Caryocolum blandulella</i>.</p>						
<p>Funding: The Wales Marsh Fritillary Recovery Partnership Project is funded by a Nature Networks Fund (round three) grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund.</p>						<p>Collaboration: WTSWW, NT, INCC The Bug Farm, BBCT, Buglife CCC, NRW, MOD Pendine and Pembrey</p>
<p>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?</p>						<p>We work with volunteers</p>
1 ✓	2 ✓	3	4	5 ✓	6	

Project Funding in Carmarthenshire (including to CNP Partners) in 2024

1. The Woodland Improvement Grant (TWIG) – Carmarthenshire projects

Llanelli and Mynydd Mawr Heritage Railway

CCC - Ynysdawela LNR

Sustainable Forest Management Ltd - Bryn Arau Duon - Changing Forests in A Changing World Project

NT - Dolaucothi

CCC - Bynea

CCC - Pontyberem

2. WG Local Places for Nature

[KWT LPfN packages](#) in Carmarthenshire since 2020/21

72 Starter packs (Pollinator/Wildlife/Orchard/Food) for communities/groups

31 Development packs (Food/Wildlife) for communities/groups

HLF funding - Llanedi CC - in progress.

Pembrey & Burry Port TC - still providing paperwork before starting.

Carmarthenshire Local Places for Nature funding

23/24 – projects delivered/developed across 11 capital project headings

23/24 – 11 revenue projects supported

24/25- projects delivered/underway across 8 capital project headings

24/25 - 18 LPfN/LNP revenue projects underway/planned

WG/HLF Nature Networks funding

Nature Networks is a 3-year programme funded by Welsh Government which aims to address the nature emergency in Wales through increasing biodiversity, improving the condition of protected sites and enhancing the resilience and connectivity of our habitats and species.

NNF2 2023 – Carmarthenshire projects

BBCT – [Connecting the Carmarthenshire Coast](#)

Plantlife - [Glaswelltiroedd Gwydn Project/Healthy, Resilient Grasslands](#)

NNF3 2024 – Carmarthenshire projects – wholly or linked to in part.

BC - [Wales Marsh Fritillary Recovery Partnership](#)

WWRT - Sea Trout River Enhancement and Management (STREAM) Project

VWT - [Social Feasibility Assessment for the reintroduction of the European wildcat \(*Felis silvestris*\) to Wales](#)

BSBI - [Priority Plants on SSSIs in Wales](#)

Project Seagrass - [Facilitating Accelerated Nature Networks for Seagrass \(FANNS\)](#)

NBGW - Growing Resilience: A National Nature Reserve for the future

Plantlife - Resilient Welsh Rainforests

BTO Cymru – [Raptor monitoring Wales](#)