

## CARMARTHENSHIRE STATE of NATURE – SECTION 7 ‘PRIORITY’ OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Section 7 - Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity.



The species listed in this table have been identified by Welsh Government (WG) as part of a list of species and types of habitat found in Wales that they consider are of key significance to maintain and enhance biodiversity in this country. This list (Section 7 list) is currently under review by WG and Natural Resources Wales (as of 2024).



Public authorities (e.g. WG, councils) must take reasonable steps to maintain and enhance the species and types of habitat included in Section 7 and encourage others to take such steps. By safeguarding these species and habitats, improving their management and raising awareness about them it is hoped that a resilient natural environment in Wales will be sustained into the future.



It is the Section 7 species that the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership consider for priority action, but other species have been identified for local action where there are few records or where Carmarthenshire has populations where specific action can help conserve enhance the species.




**Associated habitats** refers to the relevant Section 7 Priority habitats in Wales



Most of the species here have not been recorded in Carmarthenshire for some time but included as this may well be because of lack of opportunity for recorder effort.

Species	Carmarthenshire Overview	Identified priority action in Carmarthenshire
<p><i>Asilus crabroniformis</i> Hornet Robberfly</p>  <p>Length: 25 mm © Sam Bosanquet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Lowland Grassland and Heathland</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> In Carmarthenshire last recorded in 2005 in the west of the county but may survive at a few of the small numbers of unimproved pastures in the county.</li> <li>• It flies in late summer (July-early Sept)</li> <li>• A much-declined species of unimproved cattle or horse-grazed pastures and now very rare in Carmarthenshire.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> ↓</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Apart from the loss of habitat, it has been seriously affected by the use of ivermectins (and other animal medications) to control bot fly, etc. in horses and other internal parasites in cattle. These chemicals are excreted in the dung and kill off the larvae of dung beetles on which <i>Asilus</i> larvae are predatory.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites.</li> <li>• Potential for public participation survey</li> </ul>
<p><i>Eucera longicornis</i> Long-horned Bee</p>  <p>© Liam Olds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> coastal grasslands, soft cliff faces, heathland edges, woodland rides and clearings and sometimes brownfield areas</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown. One of the UK's largest solitary bees. In Carmarthenshire it was recorded in 2021 at NBGW - first record since 2005. Only five records since 2000.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> loss of species-rich habitats</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Chrysis fulgida</i> Ruby-tailed Wasp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Ruby-Tailed Wasps are often seen running over walls, banks and tree trunks in search of the nests of the insects (usually other wasps and bees) that they parasitize. <i>Chrysis ignita</i> mainly parasitizes mason bees and can often be found searching for their nests in old stone walls. They are most commonly found in warm dry places.</li> <li>• In Carmarthenshire, this was recorded for the first time in Wales from Pembrey bombing range in 2005 by Liverpool Museum (during a CCW-funded survey of Welsh dune aculeates). It was recorded again in Pembrey Forest in 2008, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017. It is a qualifying feature of Pembrey</li> </ul>	

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	Coast SSSI and is an important feature of the forest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> unknown</li> </ul>	
<b>Iron Blue Mayfly <i>Nigrobaetis niger</i> (<i>Baetis muticus</i>)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Wetlands/ Freshwater</li> <li>• In Carmarthenshire there is a record from Dinefwr Park in 2003.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> changes to the structure and management of marginal and riparian vegetation; low flows caused by abstraction; high levels of suspended silt; unsympathetic dredging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<b><i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail</b>  <p>From left to right <i>Vertigo angustior</i> and <i>V. substriata</i></p> <p><b>NB.</b> Note that the <i>V. angustior</i> shell twists to the left (sinistral) whereas <i>V. substriata</i> are 'right-handed' (dextral).</p> <p>Both <i>angustior</i> and <i>substriata</i> are ribbed but obviously differ in their 'whorling'.</p> <p>The shells are about 1.5mm long and 1mm wide</p> <p>© John Harper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> It normally occupies the interface between sand dune and upper saltmarsh habitats (as at Whitford Burrows). The site at the rear of Pembrey Forest where it has been found was, historically, an arm of the sea, i.e. the saltmarsh–sand dune interface favoured by this species.</li> <li>• The shell is pale yellow-brown in colour with many thin growth ridges and five whorls. The mouth of the shell has five to six teeth and is thickened. The shell is sinistral, which means the body whorls are coiled in a clockwise direction with the mouth opening on the left-hand side of the body.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown. In Wales, the largest known population in Wales is found in Whitford Burrow NNR (C&amp;CS). Additional records from Pembrey Forest, Pembrey Aerial Firing Range and grazing marsh immediately to north of forest in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. Several populations but small numbers.</li> <li>• Such an easily overlooked tiny snail may still be present at the latter Carmarthenshire sites.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown.</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> vulnerable to changes in hydrological conditions, reduced grazing pressure and physical disturbance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included as one of the species in the Wales Natur am Byth project</li> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check other potential new sites.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Meloe violaceus</i> Violet Oil Beetle</b>  <p>© Steven Falk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> This species can be found in woodland edge habitats, glades and rides, upland moorlands and on flower-rich grasslands.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> The distribution of this beetle has shrunk dramatically across the UK. They are strongly dependent upon the long-term maintenance of wildflower-rich, semi-natural grasslands.</li> <li>• Recorded in the county in 2023 at Llangynin.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> loss of species-rich grassland</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/violet-oil-beetle">https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/violet-oil-beetle</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote records for this species.</li> </ul>
<b>SECTION 7 SPECIES PREVIOUSLY RECORDED BUT WITH NO RECORDS SINCE 2000</b>		

Species	Carmarthenshire Overview	Identified priority action in Carmarthenshire
<p><i>Bembidion quadripustulatum</i> Scarce Four-dot Pin-palp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Wetlands - damp, sometimes shaded bare mud or clay.</li> <li>• This beetle is found on wetland margins, including bare sand, mud or chalky-clay margins, well-vegetated fen margins, and bare silt lagoon margins.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> In Carmarthenshire, found on the banks of the Tywi near Llandeilo in 1996.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><i>Bidessus minutissimus</i> Minutest Diving Beetle</p>  <p>Length: 1.5 mm © The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Freshwater. This beetle is found on the lower reaches of rivers in association with sand and fine gravel banks.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown. In Carmarthenshire, there was a 1950 record at Llangadog Bridge, Afon Tywi, Llangadog.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> loss of its sand and gravel bank habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> <li>• Best conserved by maintaining suitable habitat as part of the Afon Tywi SSSI/SAC.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Cylindera germanica</i> Cliff tiger beetle</p>  <p>Length: 8–11 mm © Roger Key</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> The species depends on slumping to expose new areas of bare cliff/soil and little of that habitat is found in Carmarthenshire.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown. There is one record from Craig Du–Wharley Point cliffs west of Llansteffan from 1954.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><i>Dipoena inornata</i> (<i>Phycosoma inornatum</i>) Silky Gallows-spider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Coastal – a species of dry grassland, shingle and coast and, like most spiders under-recorded and its true status is unknown.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown.</li> </ul> <p>There are 1991 records from the Carmarthenshire coast at Dolwen Point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> This species may be abundant in rides with sandy banks in afforested areas of heath. The loss of this habitat when the forests are cleared could be a threat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><i>Hydroporus rufifrons</i> Oxbow Diving Beetle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Wetlands/ Freshwater – shallow and temporary waters in old oxbow systems, unimproved pastures, marshes fens and dune systems.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> <li>• 1959 record from castle moat, Kidwelly. The site was checked in 1988 and none were found.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult only active in the autumn and spring so may be overlooked in surveys.</li> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>

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 <p>Length: 4–5 mm</p> <p>© The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A survey in 2012 found it on the Afon Teifi at Dolau-gwyrddon-isaf and Morr Wood (High Mead) – both in Ceredigion close to Carmarthenshire.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Populations are highly vulnerable to drainage and infilling of pools and nutrient enrichment from agricultural runoff.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Microsoft Word - Oxbow Diving Beetle -16.02.15 JR.doc (freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)</a></p>	
<p><b><i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i> Southern Yellow Splinter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> This crane fly is found in wetlands/woodlands – wet rotting twigs and branches in seepages in deciduous woodlands. Thought to need continuous shade and constant supply of rotting timber.</li> <li>• In Carmarthenshire the most recent record is from Dinefwr Deer Park in 1996.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Highly vulnerable due to its specialist habitat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> Freshwater Pearl Mussel</b></p>  <p>© Pearlsinperil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Freshwater</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> In Carmarthenshire, most recent records are from the River Tywi but it is now thought to be extinct.</li> <li>• Previously recorded in the Taf.</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> poor breeding because of poor condition of rivers. Nutrient pollution from agriculture and sediment wash off land and making our rivers uninhabitable. Fish numbers have fallen so baby mussels cannot survive, and mussel beds are choked with silt and algae causing the adult mussels to die.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Four Rivers for LIFE</a> project will look to improve habitat of this species.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Panagaeus cruxmajor</i> Crucifix Ground Beetle</b></p>  <p>Length: 8–10 mm</p> <p>© Roger Key</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Coastal (Carms) – recorded from dune slacks. In S and E England it used to occur locally in marsh and fen habitat.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown. Access difficulties has meant that casual recording has ceased at Tywyn Point.</li> <li>• In Carmarthenshire it was recorded during surveys from Tywyn Burrows from 1985 to 1998. The new early-successional slack where it occurred was lost by erosion. It may still occur.</li> <li>• It has since been found at a tiny handful of other sites in Britain and in Northern Ireland; it may be associated with certain species of chrysomelid beetles (<i>Cassida</i> spp?) in wet situations. It may conceivably occur at MOD Pendine, where there is a greater extent of wet fen habitat.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b></li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Loss of dune slack habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites.</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Spriverpa lunulate</i> Northern Silver-stiletto Fly</p>  <p>Length: 10-11 mm © Roger Key</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Freshwater – lives on depositional stretches – associated with sandy river banks.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> </ul> <p>Recorded new to Carmarthenshire on the Llanwrda shingles in the late 1980s-early 1990s; here it was found on sandy areas within the shingle habitat, and it is just one species within an important shingle assemblage. The site is part of the Afon Tywi SSSI/SAC and has been subject to monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> unknown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><i>Thinobius newberyi</i> Newbery's Rove Beetle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Freshwater – subterranean, species living deep in stream side gravel. Has been found under stones and amongst fine grass roots on stream and river banks.</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> unknown</li> </ul> <p>Has been found on the banks of the River Tywi in 1998. Probably under recorded due to its small size and elusiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> unknown</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Its habitat is at risk from river management both directly (sand and gravel removal) or by actions that affect fluvial processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist survey is needed to check formerly known sites and other potential new sites</li> </ul>
<p><b>Potential additional Locally Important Species</b></p> <p>This is a list of other Locally Important Species that we should also consider alongside the S7 priority list. These could be species found in Carmarthenshire (post 2000 records) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are nationally rare, threatened or scarce</li> <li>• are rare in Carmarthenshire</li> <li>• are Red listed</li> </ul> <p>and for which Carmarthenshire has a responsibility for ensuring the species survives and prospers and we can identify the conservation action required</p>		
<p><i>Datonychus arquatatus</i> Gypsywort Weevil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Wetlands – fen habitat</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> UK Red Data Book: Indeterminate Its only known UK site is Pembrey Air Weapons Range (SN3604) where it was first discovered in 1997.</li> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> It is a qualifying feature for Pembrey Coast SSSI. Survey has shown that its status there is Unfavourable: Declining here.</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> inappropriate management of foodplant Gypsywort and associated fen habitat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable management of SSSI</li> <li>• Survey other suitable sites – Ffrwd Fen WTSWW Nature Reserve</li> </ul>
<p><i>Eurynebria complanate</i> Strandline Beetle</p>  <p>© Paul Aubrey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Associated habitat:</b> Coastal – sandy beaches backed by coastal dunes</li> <li>• <b>Current status:</b> Endangered</li> </ul> <p>Confined to four sites in Carmarthen Bay, including Cefn Sidan (Pembrey) and Laugharne–Pendine Burrows. Carmarthenshire holds 66% of the UK population (the other 33% is at Whiteford Burrows)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trends:</b> Declining.</li> <li>• <b>Threats:</b> Removal of debris on beaches which provides habitat</li> </ul> <p>Severe winter storms may remove over-wintering sites within the frontal dunes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the presence of this species, especially to those undertaking beach cleans.</li> </ul>