CARMARTHENSHIRE'S STATE OF NATURE – SECTION 7 'PRIORITY' PLANTS revised 3rd February 2023

Please refer to <u>The Plant Atlas 2020</u> for more detailed information about the species listed below.

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

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* <u>A Vascular Plant Red Data List for Wales</u>, Plantlife, 2008

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
Gentianella amarella ssp. occidentalis	• Associated habitat: an annual of coastal dunes and	Annual survey at Tywyn Burrows should
(G. uliginosa)	dune-slacks, usually in open ground or short	be carried out at sites where it has been
Dune Gentian	vegetation maintained by grazing, disturbance or winter flooding.	recorded in the past.
	Current status:	• Need for regular surveys at former sites
COLD A STOLEY		at Laugharne Burrows at sites where it was recorded in the past and also in
	Wales Red Data list - Vulnerable (Vulnerable in GB)	habitats where it could also be present.
	Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.	• Dune Gentian is a very high priority for
	A UK endemic recorded from 5 tetrads in	the MOD at Pembrey, who are consulting
	Carmarthenshire, only 2 post-2000. No	with NRW in terms of specialist
	Carmarthenshire records since 2012.	management advice. Meanwhile their
	• A species confined to dune systems in North Devon,	ongoing programme of scrub removal at both Pembrey and Pendine is restoring
	Gower and Carmarthenshire. The Tywyn Burrows	large areas of potentially suitable dune
	population, though very small and vulnerable is,	slack and dune grassland.
	nevertheless, apparently the largest of all these and	
	therefore of very high importance.In Carmarthenshire, until the 1980s, the species was	
	known at both Laugharne Burrows where it was last	
	recorded in 1994 and Tywyn Burrows but, in recent	
	years, became confined to the old helipad at Tywyn	
	Burrows.	
	• The last records at Pembrey were 2019 when a total	
	of 16 plants were found in two areas during surveys.	
	Current action:	
	• NRW are currently working with the MOD on the	
	Dune Gentian at Pembrey Sands Weapons Range. An	
	expert report with recommendations has informed the management and restoration work.	
	At MOD Pendine NRW are continuing the work of	
	the Sands for LIFE project with the MOD to restore	
	habitat where Dune Gentian was last found.	
	• NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank.	

	• Trends: Continuing decline. Possibly extinct in Carmarthenshire?	
	• Threats:	
	 Diffuse airborne pollution. Very vulnerable to the colonisation of scrub and rank vegetation. Ineffective conservation management. 	
Silene gallica Small-flowered Catchfly	• Associated habitat: An annual of cultivated and disturbed ground, mainly in arable fields on (often acidic) sandy or gravelly soils, and on old walls and waste ground.	• Look at feasibility of reintroducing plant at a suitable site in Burry Port where site can be managed safely.
	Current status:	
	Wales Red Data list - Vulnerable (Endangered in GB).	
	Recorded from 8 sites in Carmarthenshire, only 1 post- 2000.	

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
	 Its only Carmarthenshire site is at Burry Port Harbour. Plant numbers varied widely from year to year but in recent years there has been a general reduction in numbers (2015 - 33 plants flowered, 2017 – 3 plants 2019 -17 plants) with no plants currently recorded. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank Trends: The Carmarthenshire population looks to have succumbed after some years when no management took place along the wall top where it was recorded. Whilst in good years the seed-set is sufficient to maintain the soil seed bank, in poor years this is unlikely to be the case. Threats: Vulnerable to the colonisation of scrub and rank vegetation Poor site management. Lack of required management. 	
Dianthus armeria Deptford Pink	• Associated habitat: An annual or short-lived perennial plant of open, disturbed sites, occurring in short grassland in pastures, roadsides, and field margins, and as a casual on waste ground.	 Contact new owners of Pinged to resurvey the site. Resurvey Whitland site.
	 Current status: Wales Red Data list - Vulnerable (Endangered in GB) Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act Recorded from 5 sites in Carmarthenshire, 3 post 	
	 2000. Only 1, possibly 2, are extant. In recent years, three sites have been recognised outside gardens in the county including a new one discovered in 2021 near Whitland where a total of 11 plants were discovered. The current status of the Pinged, site is unknown as it hasn't been monitored since 2013. The small population at Old Castle Pond, Llanelli, discovered in 2007 declined over the following two years and was 	
	 extinct by 2010. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank – this has been bulked up via cultivation. Trends: Rather an ephemeral species which, by now, 	
	 may be extinct at previously known sites. It is surprising that <i>D. armeria</i> is so rare in the wild as wherever seed is sown into gravelly or open ground, it seems to proliferate and maintain or multiply from year to year. Threats: Habitat disturbance, overgrowth of rank 	
	 vegetation. Current Action: In Sept 2013, a small amount of seed was collected under licence from the Pinged site and passed to NBGW for <i>ex situ</i> propagation, which has been successful. A reintroduction project has meant that propagated plants have been introduced to a local site. 	
Euphrasia rivularis Cumbrian Eyebright	• Associated habitat: An annual of upland rocky flushes, seepage areas and wet rock ledges.	 Continue to survey potential habitat in general areas of known sites.
	 Current status: Wales Red Data list - Endangered (Vulnerable in GB) This is a UK endemic with 21 small populations in Carmarthenshire, all recorded post 2000. In Carmarthenshire, the main populations occur in base-rich flushes on the Carboniferous Limestone outcrop of Mynydd Du eastwards to the Old Red Sandstone slopes north of Carmarthen Fan within the Bannau Brychaeiniog area of the county. A new population was discovered at the NW edge of 	• Specialist monitoring of known sites.

Species	Carmarthenshire overview 'stepping stone' to the next closest populations in Snowdonia. • Trends: Probably stable. • Threats: Probably few threats except from diffuse	Priority Action Identified
Euphrasia montana (E. rostkoviana subsp. montana, E. officinalis var. montana, E. officinalis ssp. monticola, E. montícola) Mountain Eyebright	 airborne and groundwater pollution. Associated habitat: An annual of dry upland hay meadows, wet meadows and fens. Current status: Wales Red Data list -Vulnerable (Vulnerable in GB) 2 sites in Carmarthenshire recorded post 2000 but taxonomic and identification problems have resulted in the frequency and distribution of ssp. montana being poorly known. Trends: Probably quite stable Threats: Probably few threats except from diffuse airborne pollution. Following the publication of the BSBI Euphrasia Handbook, the taxonomy seems to be agreed and stable, giving the opportunity to be more certain of determinations. 	Specialist monitoring of known sites.
Euphrasia anglica (E. officinalis subsp. anglica) English Eyebright, Glandular Eyebright	 Associated habitat: An annual of hay meadows, pastures, heaths, moorlands, forest rides, etc., generally relatively lowland but reaching its greatest elevation in GB of 395m in Carmarthenshire. Current status: Wales Red Data list - Vulnerable (Endangered in GB) A UK endemic recorded from 43 tetrads in Carmarthenshire, about 25 recorded post 2000. Quite widespread and locally frequent in unimproved acid grassland and forest rides in the eastern two-thirds of the county. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank. Trends: Probably quite stable. Threats: Probably not threatened. 	Specialist monitoring of known sites.
Gymnadenia densiflora Marsh Fragrant- Orchid	 Associated habitat: Mainly coastal dune slacks with a few small populations in base-rich unimproved inland grassland sites Current status: Wales Red Data list -Data Deficient (Data Deficient in GB) The aggregate species has been recorded from 23 tetrads in Carmarthenshire, only 6 of which are post 2000 records. There are only 3 <i>G. densiflora</i> populations known to be extant. Small populations occur at both Laugharne and Tywyn Burrows and possibly one inland site. Trends: Steady decline Threats: Probably not threatened at its coastal duneland sites but loss of inland grassland habitats is probably a severe threat. Diffuse airborne and groundwater pollution are likely to be threats to this species. 	 Regularly monitor all sites but inland sites in particular few of which have been monitored since the CCW Phase 1 survey in the late 1980s. Seek to conserve inland sites in collaboration with landowners. Continue to manage coastal sites including the use of conservation initiatives such as the Sands of Life.
<i>Gymnadenia borealis</i> Heath Fragrant-orchid	 Associated habitat: Damp acid and rhôs grassland. Current status: Wales Red Data list - Data Deficient (Not threatened in GB) The aggregate species has been recorded from 23 tetrads in Carmarthenshire, only 6 of which are post-2000 records. There is only 1 <i>G. borealis</i> population 	 Regularly monitor all sites - few of which have been monitored since the CCW Phase 1 survey in the late 1980s. Seek to conserve sites in collaboration with landowners.

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
	 known to be extant. <i>Probably</i> most inland <i>Gymnadenia</i> populations in Carmarthenshire are this species. Trends: Steady decline. Threats: Loss of inland grassland habitats is probably a severe threat. Diffuse airborne and groundwater pollution are likely to be threats to this species. 	
<text></text>	 Associated habitat: a saprophytic perennial plant of leaf litter in shaded woodlands. Current status (Wales Red Data list): Not threatened (Endangered in GB) Recorded from 11 sites in Carmarthenshire of which 5 have been recorded post 2000 but only the 2022 discovery appears to be extant. Populations tend to be ephemeral: the last population in the MCP between Pwll and Burry Port and in Pembrey Forest, which naturally build-up and decline over a period of c.5–10 years was last seen in 2013. A single flowering stem was discovered at the edge of the former Grillo works site in Burry Port in 2022. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank. Trends: Ephemeral Threats: Loss of habitat, e.g. by disturbance and scrub colonisation. Loss of brownfield habitat. 	 Management plan written by MCP ranger with management recommendations. Regular annual monitoring of historic sites. Close monitoring of the new site in Burry Port will be required as it is in a brownfield site which is imminently to be redeveloped. The developer and their consultants need to be made aware of its presence even if they have consulted WWBIC, as the record will not yet have reached WWBIC.
Iparis loeselii var. ovata Fen Orchid	 Associated habitat: Early successional dune slack with open vegetation Current status: Wales Red Data list - Critical (Endangered in GB) European Protected Species EC Habitats Directive Annex IIb and IVb Bern Convention Appendix 1 Protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act. A UK endemic recorded from at least 5 sites in Carmarthenshire in the past, only 1 site is extant. Trends: Previously last recorded in Carmarthenshire at Laugharne Burrows in 2002 and at Tywyn Burrows in 1971. By c.2020, <i>Liparis</i> was regarded as extinct in Carmarthenshire, but six plants were discovered in July 2022, at the same location at Laugharne Burrows as when it was last seen in 2002. 	 Monitor 2022 site and past known sites at least once every year. Continue to manage sites including the use of conservation initiatives such as the Sands for LIFE project.



New scrapes were made at Laugharne Burrows in 2005 and further scrapes were made more recently as opportunities have arisen - these are developing into what appears to be suitable habitat.

The 2022 plants were rediscovered within 1–2m of 2002 records where dune management had taken place over the preceding 20 years. However, there has been no extension in its range, even within the dune slack where it occurs, despite all the management effort expended on it.

• **Threats:** Loss of suitable dune slack habitat due to succession when the hollows dried out and became covered in vegetation.

Diffuse airborne pollution is likely to be a major threat to this species.

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
	Discussion is ongoing whether to introduce Kenfig seed to Carmarthenshire sites.	
<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i> Stag's-horn Clubmoss	• Associated habitat: Acid upland moorland and rock- outcrops	• Further recording and monitoring required.
	• Current status:	• Ensure sheep grazing intensity is kept at
	Wales Red Data list - Not threatened (Not threatened GB)	an appropriate level.Inform forestry concerns of where
A PARE	EC Habitats Directive Annex Vb	populations occur and ask them to be
	Recorded from 21 tetrads in Carmarthenshire in the past, about 12 of which have been recorded post 2000.	avoided.
	In Carmarthenshire, <i>L. clavatum</i> is mostly confined to Mynydd Mallaen with additional small populations recorded in Brechfa Forest (2014), Caeo (2001), Crychan (1980), Mynydd Du (2012, BBNP) and a single record at Maudsland (1987) subsequently destroyed by forestry planting.	
	 Trends: Despite the threats from sheep and forestry work, the species seems to be holding it own, 	
	particularly on Mynydd Mallaen and Mynydd Du.	
	• Threats: All populations are vulnerable to sheep	
	grazing/trampling, especially those on Mynydd Mallaen which tend to be single or small, rather loosely attached plants vulnerable to being dislodged	
	by sheep trampling on them.However, they appear to be doing better on Mynydd	
	Mallaen since sheep numbers seem to be reduced.	
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i> Bastard Balm	• Associated habitat: A strong-smelling perennial herb of woodland, wood-borders and hedge banks.	• Site needs to be regularly monitored and the landowner needs to be kept
	• Current status (Wales Red Data list): Endangered (Vulnerable in GB)	informed of how the plants are doing.
	Very small populations or single plants recorded from 6 sites in Carmarthenshire in the past, only 1 site is extant.	
	The only Carmarthenshire site is on a roadside bank in the Cych Valley with no protection.	
	• NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank.	
MAR DEL	• Trends: The population probably remains +/- stable	
	• Threats: The plants are very vulnerable to inappropriate road bank management (eg to close cutting of the bank) or reduction of tree canopy.	
Mentha pulegium Pennyroyal	Associated habitat: Native populations: grazed damp	Specialised monitoring known sites.
	unimproved grassland. • Current status	
	Wales Red Data list - Native Populations only: Critical	
	(Endangered in GB)	
A PACTOR IN	Recorded from 12 sites in Carmarthenshire in the past, 5 of which post 2000.	
	No native populations have been recorded from Carmarthenshire since those from 'goose-grazed	
	pastures' at Brynamman in the 1940s. All recent records are of casual plants or plants	
	introduced with restoration seed mixes and are of the non-native upright form which does not attract the same high conservation status.	
	Non-native populations have been recorded from river shoals (Tywi), restored opencast land (Tumble, Garnant) and recontoured compacted poorly-draining development sites (e.g. Dafen).	
	• Trends: Casual or general downward trends where it has been abundant in the past (Tumble, Dafen)	
	• Threats: Open, sparsely vegetated land becoming colonised with rank vegetation and scrub (Tumble); development sites being built-over (Dafen).	
	Associated habitat: a perennial plant of damp or wet	

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
dropwort	 tall-fen, usually in areas of winter flooding. Current status (Wales Red Data list): Least concern (Vulnerable in GB) Recorded from 13 sites in Carmarthenshire, only 5 recorded post 2000. In Carmarthenshire there are several small populations in coastal levels marshes, e.g. in the extensive fenland on Laugharne Burrows, Ffrwd fen, the lower Tywi valley below Carmarthen and by the Tâf and Cynin below St. Clears. There are old records from both Gwendraeth valleys including the inland population at Ynys Uchaf SSSI, Porthyrhyd, which has not been seen since 1986. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank. Trends: General decline Threats: Drainage. 	 populations. Council-owned site at St. Clears is a proposed Local Nature Reserve. The Ynys Uchaf SSSI site needs to be monitored urgently
Platanthera bifolia Lesser Butterfly-orchid	 Sites succeeding to scrub. Associated habitat: a perennial plant of heathy pastures, fen-meadows, grassland, open scrub, 	• Continue surveys/monitoring – highlight through Carmarthenshire
Image: cost buttering oreina	 woodland edges and rides, and on moorland. Current status (Wales Red Data list): Least concern (Vulnerable in GB) Recorded from 23 sites in Carmarthenshire, only 5 post 2000. Main populations at Whitehill Down SSSI, Cae Blaen Dyffryn SSSI nature reserve and Pen-y-Graig Goch SSSI, the first two consisting of hundreds of plants. Populations may be doing OK although they naturally fluctuate in numbers from year to year. About 16 smaller populations occur in the county but most have not been seen since the 1980s or early 1990s. Trends: Apparent decline but there is a need for a concerted monitoring effort to determine which populations may be extant. Threats: Loss of suitable habitat Neglect of sites allowing their succession to scrub. Diffuse airborne pollution and possibly diffuse pollution of groundwater are potentially major threats to this species. 	Meadows Group • Seek to conserve extant sites in collaboration with landowners.
Salsola kali subsp. kali Prickly Saltwort	 Associated habitat: Coastal: early-successional coloniser of embryo dunes along strand-lines and dune fronts. Current status: Wales Red Data list - Least concern (Vulnerable in GB) Recorded from 33 tetrads in Carmarthenshire, 15 recorded post-2000. Frequent along strandlines and dune fronts of all the county's dune systems including Llansteffan, Ferryside, Burry Port, Pwll, South Llanelli, and Loughor Bridge. NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank. Trends: Unlikely to be any significant change. Threats: Excessive beach cleaning disturbing plants. 	• Monitoring required, particularly along the lengths of Pendine sands and Cefn Sidan.
Scleranthus annuus Annual Knawel	 Associated habitat: Ephemeral in open, disturbed, gravelly substrates including tracks and hard standings. Current status: Wales Red Data list - Least concern (Endangered in GB. Recorded from 12 sites in Carmarthenshire, only 2 post-2000. A new large population was discovered on the southern access track at a site in Laugharne, in July 2017 and was still present in 2022. Previously records have been from a gravelly trackway in 2007 and a shaly bank by a farm track in 1996 – BBNP. The latter had no signs of <i>S. annuus</i> in 2008 	 Further survey/monitoring required. Ensure that landowners know the significance of the plants and ask them to maintain tracks sympathetically.

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
See Man Star	although the track surface still appeared suitable.	
And the second	It is likely that other populations never come to light.	
	NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank.	
	• Trends: Probably little change in recent past.	
	• Threats: Smothering by colonising scrub, bramble and rank vegetation.	
SACK->/	Re-surfacing of gravel/shale surfaced tracks and hard standings where it has been recorded in the past.	
	• Increased use of tracks and tracks becoming covered by mud.	
Trollius europaeus Globeflower	• Associated habitat: Wet grasslands, riverbanks and riverside rocks	• Monitor all recent populations and visi sites of populations not seen for many
	• Current status:	years.
	Wales Red Data list - Least Concern (Least Concern in GB).	 Investigate ownership of Sawdde population and seek grant funding to
	Recorded from 17 sites in Carmarthenshire, only 4 post-2000.	manage cherry laurel – (BBNP?)
THE REAL PROPERTY AND A RE	Other than the relatively large number of plants which	
	grow on the rocky riverbanks in the Sawdde Gorge	
	(BBNP), it appears that only two other populations	
THAT THE SHANN	now remain (in the NE of the county), and these are of just one or two plants. Last recorded in 2015.	
	• Trends: Decline, probably even in the Sawdde valley	
	population	
	• Threats: The severe decline in the populations of	
	<i>Trollius</i> is mainly due to agricultural improvement of the pastures in which they once grew.	
	 The Sawdde plants are currently threatened by 	
	overshadowing Cherry Laurel and conservation efforts	
	need to be directed at cutting-back this threat - BBNP	
Section 7 species previously recorded in	the county but now possibly extinct	
Matthiola sinuate Sea Stock	Associated habitat: Coastal: a biennial or short-lived	• Specialist monitoring required along
	perennial plant of sand dunes and sea-cliffs.	the length of Pendine sands to Ginst
の変更のないな人で	Current status:	Point.
	Wales Red Data list - Least Concern (Vulnerable in GB).	
A THE ACT AND A	Section 7	
	Recorded from 2 sites in Carmarthenshire, both currently thought to be extinct.	
	The Carmarthenshire plants have all occurred in early- successional and embryo dunes along the strand-line of Pendine Burrows and Ginst Point.	
	One plant was discovered new to Carmarthenshire at Ginst Point in 2006 but no offspring were produced and several plants were found along the dune front of Pendine Sands in 2007. This population did not	
	persist either.	

	• Threats : If plants do become established, they would be very vulnerable to damage or destruction by beach users.	
Dactylorhiza viridis (Coeloglossum viride)	Associated habitat: Coastal short-turf grassland and	• Monitor all sites where it was recorded
Frog Orchid	dune slacks, inland base-rich or acid grassland over	in the past.
	thin soil.	 Seek to suitably manage inland sites in
	Current status:	collaboration with landowners.
	Wales Red Data list - Endangered (Vulnerable in GB)	• Continue to manage coastal sites
	Recorded from 4 sites in Carmarthenshire, last seen in the county at Laugharne Burrows <i>c</i> .2002, inland near Cwmduad (1996), near Abergorlech (1987, not refound in 1999) and Mynydd Myddfai (1905).	including the use of conservation initiatives such as the Sands for LIFE.
	 NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank. 	
	• Trends: Rapid decline	
	• Threats: Extinct in Carmarthenshire.	

• **Trends:** Currently extinct but the species may again become established for short periods in the future.

• NBGW have seed for their Seed Bank.

Species	Carmarthenshire overview	Priority Action Identified
The second s	Loss of suitable habitat	
	• Sites succeeding to scrub.	
	• Diffuse airborne pollution and possibly diffuse	
	pollution of groundwater are potentially major threats	
	to this species.	
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SECTION 7 SPECIES WITH NO RECENT RECO	ORDS BUT MAY STILL OCCUR	
Dactylorhiza viridis Frog Orchid	Last seen in the county at Laugharne Burrows c.2002	
Juniperus communis subsp. communis	• Last seen in Carmarthenshire in the wild in 1972.	
Common Juniper		
Galeopsis segetum	An annual weed of arable and waste ground	
Downy Hemp-nettle	Only one Carmarthenshire record in 1912.	
Galeopsis speciosa	• An annual weed of cultivated, marginal and waste ground.	
Large-flowered Hemp-nettle	• Three Carmarthenshire records, most recent in 1952 it could conceivably be recorded again.	
Galeopsis angustifolia	• An annual of arable land, waste places and open ground on calcareous substrates.	
Red Hemp-nettle	Six records in Carmarthenshire but none since 1963	