

CARMARTHENSHIRE'S STATE OF NATURE – MOSSES (BRYOPHYTES)

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.




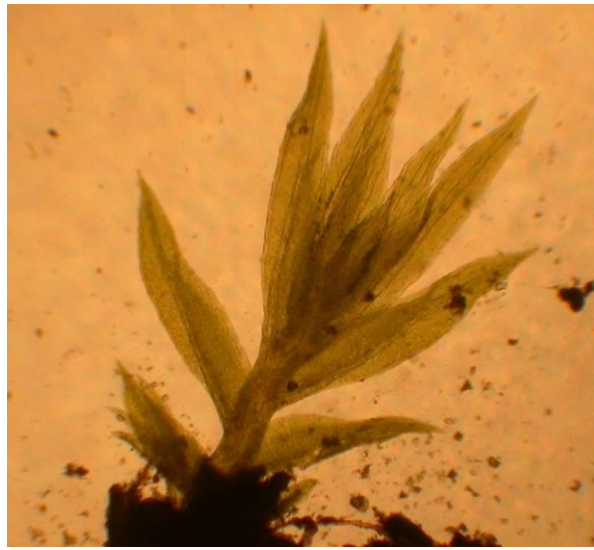
It is the Section 7 species that the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership consider for priority action, but other species have been identified for local action where there are few records or where Carmarthenshire has populations where specific action can help conserve enhance the species.





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



Please refer to [British Bryological Society](https://www.bryologicalsociety.org/) for more detailed species description information.

All photos copyright S. Bosanquet

SPECIES	Carmarthenshire overview	Identified priority action in Carmarthenshire
<p>Baltic Bryum - <i>Bryum marratti</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Dune • Current status: In Carmarthenshire it is found on the north side of Tywyn Burrows, and near Ferryside at Morfa Uchaf, in both cases where freshwater flows from dunes on to grazed salt marsh. • Trends: unknown • Threats: land use change, Climate Change, coastal realignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing of dune–saltmarsh transition for <i>Bryum marratii</i>
<p>Multi-fruited River Moss <i>Dendrocryphaea lamyana</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Freshwater • Current status: In Carmarthenshire it is found on the Teifi around Cenarth, Henllan, Pont Tyweli and Maesycrugiau, but commoner on the sunny north bank of the river. Also at one site on the Tywi at Nantgaredig – both Special Areas of Conservations It is found on rocks on banks and overhanging trees. • Trends: unknown • Threats: shading, nutrient enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info passed to local anglers.
<p>Irish Daltonia <i>Daltonia spachnoides</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Spreading into Wales from Ireland – likes ultra-humid willow in conifer areas. • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, three records from Brechfa Forest and one from near Llyn Brianne. • Trends: increasing • Threats: none, and no longer a conservation priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suitable actions.

		
<p>Lead Moss <i>Ditrichum plumbicola</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Mines • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found on two disused lead mines at Rhandirmwyn. The main site was designated in 2013 as Mwyngloddfa Nantymwyn SSSI. • Trends: stable, following monitoring in 2020 • Threats: mine remediation works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI protection for <i>Ditrichum plumbicola</i> and <i>Scopelophila cataractae</i>
<p>Tongue-leaved Copper Moss <i>Scopelophila cataractae</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Mines • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found at disused lead mines at Rhandirmwyn. The site was designated in 2013 as Mwyngloddfa Nantymwyn SSSI. • A population was also found in 2017 in the Loughor Estuary at Bynea. Many patches were found scattered on the two fingers of slag dumped on the saltmarsh there. • Trends: unknown at Rhandirmwyn, stable at Bynea • Threats: mine remediation, construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI protection for <i>Ditrichum plumbicola</i> and <i>Scopelophila cataractae</i>
<p>Awl-leaved Ditrichum <i>Ditrichum subulatum</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Coastal • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found on acidic banks above coastal creeks. One record from the Taf estuary north of Dylan Thomas' Boathouse, Laugharne. • Trends: unknown • Threats: coastal erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey for <i>Ditrichum subulatum</i> (estuary banks)
<p>Portuguese Pocket Moss <i>Fissidens curvatus</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Grassland • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found at Dryslwyn castle, but gorse scrub has invaded here, and also recorded on a lane bank near Llandeilo. • Trends: declining, probably lost from Dryslwyn Castle • Threats: scrub encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub clearance at Dryslwyn Castle for <i>Fissidens curvatus</i> - Discuss with CADW

<p>Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Dune • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found at Laugharne–Pendine Burrows; extinct at Pembrey and Tywyn Burrows • Trends: increasing at Laugharne-Pendine Burrows following a decline • Threats: dune stabilisation, construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management by QINETIQ at Pendine Range to safeguard Petalwort including recent hydrological assessment
<p>Lesser Squirrel Tail Moss <i>Habrodon perpusillus</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Woodland • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found on sycamores at St John’s Hill, on the south side of Laugharne. • Trends: <i>Habrodon perpusillus</i> is increasing across south Wales so is no longer considered a significant priority • Threats: tree works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sycamore protection at Sir John’s Hill for <i>Habrodon perpusillus</i> • CCC PROW informed of presence of moss at St John’s Hill
<p>Spreading-leaved Beardless Moss <i>Weissia squarrosa</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Farmland • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found on a verge near Ferryside. • Trends: unknown • Threats: tree planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey (arable and rye-grass leys) • Pass details on to CCC Highways re verge management.
<p>Veilwort <i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: Wetland • Current status: In Carmarthenshire, found in tussocky rank <i>Molinia</i> at Cors Goch, Glyn bog, Llyn Llech Owain, Llanpumsaint and recently on a ridge above Rhandirmwyn. • Trends: unknown • Threats: Climate Change, nutrient enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water level management on bogs for <i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>
<p>S7 species found in BBNP area of Carmarthenshire but may be present within Carmarthenshire CNP area</p>		
<p>Fragile Frillwort <i>Fossombronina fimbriata</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: • Current status: In BBNP area of Carmarthenshire, found at Pont-ar-Wysg where a sheep track crosses a base-rich flush. • Trends: unknown • Threats: river dredging, afforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain upland grazing for <i>Fossombronina fimbriata</i>

<p>Pitted Frillwort <i>Fossombronia foveolata</i></p>  <p>Most <i>Fossombronia</i> look identical and their spores need to be checked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated habitat: • Current status: In BBNP area of Carmarthenshire, found on banks of Usk Reservoir • Trends: unknown • Threats: Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey - upland pools.
<p>Section 7 species previously recorded in the county but now considered extinct here</p>		
<p>Wilson's Pottia - <i>Pottia wilsonii</i>/<i>Tortula wilsonii</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extinct, recorded once near Llansteffan in 1907. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further survey of coastal slopes near Llansteffan - thin soil on coastal rock
<p>Sea Bryum -<i>Bryum warneum</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not seen in Carms since 1910 but recently found at Whiteford Burrows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dune remobilisation for <i>Bryum warneum</i> and <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> • CCC/MOD/NRW all removing sea buckthorn from coastal dunes. NRW recreating slacks at Pendine and Pembrey ranges
<p>Potential additional Locally Important Species This is a list of other Locally Important Species that we should also consider alongside the current S7 priority list. These could be species found in Carmarthenshire (post 2000 records) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are nationally rare, threatened or scarce • are rare in Carmarthenshire • are Red listed <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>Bryum dyffrynense,</i></p>	<p>Recently found at Laugharne-Pendine Burrows, unknown trend</p>	
<p><i>Bryum riparium,</i></p>	<p>one record from a stream bank in NE Carmarthenshire, unknown trend</p>	<p>More survey needed</p>
<p><i>Drepanocladus sendtneri</i></p>	<p>Occurs in one dune slack at Laugharne-Pendine Burrows, unknown trend, threats include dune management</p>	