



# Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

## Report on Action

January – December 2025

## 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 at least three times a year and frequent updates (typically weekly) sent to the Partnership. 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 2025.

In Wales, of particular note in 2025 is [Environment \(Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets\) \(Wales\) Bill](#) introduced to the Senedd on 2 June 2025. This emerging legislation:

- Seeks to embed internationally recognised environmental principles into law (prevention; precautionary; rectification at source; polluter pays).
- Requires Welsh Ministers and Natural Resources Wales to apply these principles and integrate environmental protection into policy.
- Establishes an oversight body: the *Office of Environmental Governance Wales* (OEGW) to monitor, enforce, and ensure compliance.
- Introduces a framework for statutory biodiversity targets. These must focus on things like reducing extinction risk of native species; improving ecosystem resilience; increasing genetic diversity; ensuring good quality evidence and its accessibility.

The first group of legally binding biodiversity targets are likely to be set in 2028 (2 years after the legislation is enacted).

In addition, in Wales there will be an imminent 'refresh' of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales (NRAP). The current plan was published in 2015 and set out a commitment to reverse the loss of biodiversity in Wales and objectives for action. This was updated in 2020.

The vision for the refreshed plan is that of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), that 'by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits for all people'.

Building on the 6 objectives of the 2015 NRAP and aligning with the GBF, six aims have been proposed:

Aim 1: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

Aim 2: Safeguard species and improve their management.

Aim 3: Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.

Aim 4: Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.

Aim 5: Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.

Aim 6: Improve our evidence and monitoring.

There will be further engagement with completion targeted for spring 2026.

Therefore, locally the Partnership is preparing for a corresponding ‘refresh’ of the Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan. We want to be sure that it is useful to all partners in the CNP (i.e. public and non-public partners) to help the vital work they have been carrying out in the county for decades.

The CNP is holding partner meetings that focus on the priority grouped habitats in the county. The aim is to hear from relevant partners on their work to get a picture of the range of work taking place in the county for these habitats and the priority species associated with them.

Progress continues in Wales, and Carmarthenshire on the Wales 30x30 target to protect 30% of land, freshwater, and seas by 2030, in line with the GBF. Mapping projects are taking place, led by the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre, focusing first on the CCC-estate and then the wider CNP area looking at the land managed for biodiversity, and where the opportunities are to manage other areas.

Some CNP partners are contributing to a national pilot project to trial a toolkit to assess sites for qualification as Natufa (formerly Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures – OECMs) sites. These are non-designated sites that already contribute to nature recovery – or have the potential to do so. They complement designated sites with the objective to form a nationwide resilient ecological network.

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 the work of all the partners is and will be fundamental in delivering the national aims of the refreshed NRAP in the future.

Individual partners have successfully leveraged project funding from a number of sources: WG Local Places for Nature Funding, National Forest for Wales, The Woodland Improvement Grant, HLF Nature Networks, NRW agreements and deliver vital projects and engage with communities as a result of this funding. However, long-term funding to ensure continued functioning of the CLNP is needed 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.

In addition, in 2026, the roll-out of the WG Sustainable Farming Scheme should take place.

We hope that the payments are effective in delivering habitat restoration and long-term wildlife-friendly farming practices. In addition, away from agriculture, there is very limited financial support available for long-term land management for nature conservation and grant funding is not a sustainable solution. A few of our partners are able to fund ongoing land management through public donations and membership support, but in many cases organisations are unable to maintain the benefits of biodiversity enhancement work beyond the lifespan of project timelines. An important role of the Local

Nature Partnership is therefore to raise awareness and support among the public and authorities of the vital importance of biodiversity and the ecosystem services nature provides at every scale.

Ahead of another busy year in 2026, this report provides a summary of just some of the achievements of the partners in 2025. 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**

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland	BSBI	Natural Resources Wales	NRW
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	BBCT	Pembrey Conservation Trust	PCT
Butterfly Conservation	BC	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB
Carmarthenshire County Council	CCC	South Wales Trunk Roads Agency	SWTRA
Carmarthenshire Meadows Group	CMG	The Woodland Improvement Grant	TWIG
Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru	INCC	Vincent Wildlife Trust	VWT
Invasive Non-Native Species	INNS	Wales Biodiversity Partnership	WBP
Local Nature Reserve	LNR	Welsh Government	WG
Local Places for Nature	LPfN	West Wales Rivers Trust	WWRT
Millennium Coastal Park	MCP	Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales	WTSWW
National Botanic Garden of Wales	NBGW	Wildfowl and Wetland Trust	WWT
National Forest for Wales	NFFW	Funding available as part of the planning process where environmental mitigation is a condition	S106
National Trust	NT	Funding as part of legal agreements with NRW to manage protected sites	S16

Current Carmarthenshire's Nature Recovery Plan objectives cited in the report:

- 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.

In 2025 [INCC](#) have continued with their range of species and habitats-focused projects, including, in Carmarthenshire, habitat management, INNS removal, monitoring and surveys at Llwyndewi Nature Reserve on the edge of the Brecon Beacons. This included removal of Himalayan Balsam, thinning of Bracken, pond creation and the installation of Willow Tit boxes. The project included employment of two students part-time over the summer, running a programme of volunteer sessions.

Habitat management has involved removing sheep and establishing cattle grazing in the marshy grassland habitats and restoring acid grassland and scree by 'bashing' Bracken in selected areas.



Bracken bashing at Llwyndewi Nature Reserve

#### Funding in 2025:

- Ynni Sir Gar – Willow Tit boxes
- Support for Student Placements

#### Collaboration:

Cwmaman Town Council, Bridgend College, Brecon Carreg Water, Welsh Ornithological Society, NBGW, BC, WTSWW, CCC

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

① ✓	② ✓	③ ✓	④ ✓	⑤ ✓	⑥
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We work with volunteers

The [Carmarthenshire Meadows Group](#) holds two indoor meetings every year in different village halls, generally moving the meetings round the county to ensure that meadows owners across Carmarthenshire can come along. These are well attended, and usually comprise one main full-length talk, and several short presentations and discussions. The CMG has over 100 members, the website has 232 'subscribers', and the Facebook Group has 670 members. The Big Meadow Search (BMS, a CMG project- now nationwide) Facebook Group has 730 members, 2713 followers on X, and 1422 on Bluesky. The BMS project has produced two volumes of the BMS book, with identification hints for grassland plants and information on their associations with other species. Two members of the Steering Group (SG) attended the National Meadows Conference near Bath. In June the SG arranged and subsidised training in scythe use for CMG members.



Scything training for CMG members

#### Collaboration:

Private landowners

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

① ✓	② ✓	③ ✓	④ ✓	⑤ ✓	⑥
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**Carmarthenshire County Council** has been running two TWIG projects this year, led by their Coed Cymru Woodland Officer:

1. The Bynea Community Woodland project is a woodland creation project next to Bynea CP School. 4.6 ha of native woodland has been planted with additional areas left to naturally regenerate to create a total of 7ha of woodland. Planting days were held with children from the school and other local residents. All-access paths and gates have been installed through the area.

2. At Pentremawr Colliery in Pontyberem TWIG funding is being used to improve public access, carry out surveys, control INNS and manage habitat. Cherry Laurel and Japanese Knotweed has been treated over around 2.5ha, thinning of conifers has been carried out and coppicing of secondary woodland is planned for this winter.

At both sites [Coed Lleol](#) have held a series of engagement events for school children and residents including nature walks and woodland activities such as foraging and mindful drawing.

Other work has included 0.8ha of woodland planting at Bremenda Isaf County Farm, Llanarthne, buffering existing woodland and hedges and providing increased shelter and biosecurity for livestock.

At Gilfach County Farm, Llandovery CCC worked with the tenant to help design tree planting to buffer and connect exciting areas of woodland and mature hedgerow trees, which was implemented by the tenant through the WG Small Grants Scheme.

CCC has worked with three LNP partners (WWRT, WTSWW and NT) to submit two successful NFfW Landscape scheme applications. These include a project at the old school grounds at Tregib where this and LPfN funding will be used to enhance the woodland habitat and public access to this area.



Coppicing at Pentremawr Community Woodland

#### Funding in 2025:

WG TWIG woodland projects

WG Small Woodland Grant scheme

#### Collaboration:

Coed Lleol,

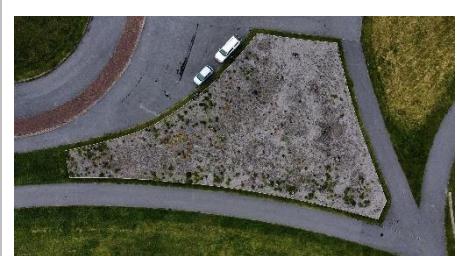
Pontyberem Community Council

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objective (see above)

**1 ✓**   **2 ✓**   **3 ✓**   **4 ✓**   **5**   **6**

**CCC's Outdoor Recreation Service**, manages 13 sites across the county (6 LNR 1proposed LNR and country parks green spaces). In 2025 some important projects have taken place to restore and create habitats across some of these sites. A Carbon Capture Project at Festival Fields in the MCP created brownfield habitat using slag, a waste product from the steel industry. The site was planted with plug plants and will hopefully become species rich, as the slag can support a wide variety of plant species.

At Morfa Berwig LNR, brownfield habitat and Water Vole habitat have been managed for these priority features, and WG LPfN funding is supporting a Greater Horseshoe Bat project at Pembrey Country Park, working with the Vincent Wildlife Trust.



Carbon Capture Project at Festival Fields

LPfN funding has also supported Sand Martin nest boxes at Ffynnon Helyg pLNR, where the declaration of Ffynnon Helyg as a full LNR is moving ahead. The installation of cattle handling pens at Pembrey Burrows LNR has enabled focused grazing of the designated sand dunes here.

**Funding in 2025:**

Local Places for Nature 25-26

Natural Resources Wales S16 agreements

Planning S106

**Collaboration:**

NRW, Vincent Wildlife Trust, local grazier

**Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objective (see above)**

We work with volunteers

1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6

For the [RSPB](#) an important project at Gwenffrwd Dinas this year has been taking back in hand a buffer strip between permanent pasture and Dinas woods. Currently there is a very hard transition from grass sward to canopy trees, but a new fence line will enable the RSPB to create a much more diverse and gradual transition between habitats. This area will be grazed with cattle in as well as within the woodlands, instead of sheep as previously, and the development of scrub patches will be encouraged. This will provide important habitat, as well as better regulating the humidity within the woodland. Dinas is an important location for a range of lower plants, and increasingly dry summers pose a risk to these populations. A more natural gradation from grassland to high canopy will reduce windspeed and retain more moisture, improving the microclimate.

The RSPB have also been consulting with the [Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust](#) re the creation of new ponds and wet features in these newly established areas, further benefitting biodiversity.

The other key project at Dinas has been recovery from Storm Darragh in December 2024. The storm brought down hundreds of trees on the reserve and rendered about 100 m of our boardwalk unusable. We decided to redirect this, rather than clearing and repairing the existing route, which was nearing the end of its lifespan. This has enabled us to retain windblown trees *in situ*, with all the associated ecological benefits. The new route will also take visitors on a more varied journey into the reserve, exploring different habitat types.

**Funding in 2025:**

Our tenant farmers have carried out various works under Small Grants, including hedge laying and tree planting. All in-hand work in the last year has been funded from core budget or generous donations.



New fencing at Gwenffrwd Dinas

**Collaboration:**

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation INCC  
WTSWW  
Vincent Wildlife Trust

**Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)**

We work with volunteers

1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6

For the [Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales](#), a combination of grant funding and volunteer effort have helped in ongoing management of their nature reserves, including supporting key habitats and species, whilst also improving access for people to enjoy them. Key highlights for 2025 have been:

- hedge laying at Rhos Cefn Bryn to improve habitat for Dormice and provide flight lines for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly;
- fencing the northern part of Ffrwd Farm Mire so that grazing can be extended to support the recovery of fen habitat;
- cutting and grazing at Cors Goch to open up sward of grasses, benefitting the rare Black Bog Ants and encouraging *Sphagnum* moss growth;
- planting of Hawthorn and Elder to add to the understorey at Castle Woods to support the life cycle of saproxylic invertebrates (invertebrates that are dependent on dead or decaying wood);
- engaging in a field management review at Carmel, involving looking at soil samples and botanical information to improve management of specific hay fields;
- a LPfN funded survey of Atlantic bryophytes (mosses) at Nant Melyn Nature Reserve;
- pony-powered bracken bruising at Carmel NNR to aid recovery of acid grassland and heath habitats.

The Trust have also tackled invasive non-native species, including getting specialists in to deal with Cotoneaster on the quarry faces at Carmel, as well as the Rhododendron at Castle Woods. Himalayan Balsam has been targeted at Carmel, Castle Woods, Cors Goch, Rhydyglyn, and Mink control work has been expanded at Ffrwd Farm Mire, to now include neighbouring land also. Western Hemlock has been controlled at Erw Hen Hebog where its presence threatens fragile temperate rainforest habitat.

Access improvements include a new boardwalk at Ffrwd, a new bridge at Talley, a new ramp and section of boardwalk at Castle Woods, whilst volunteers have helped keep kilometres of tracks and paths open and accessible. A significant amount of tree safety work has been carried out at Castle Woods.

#### **Funding in 2025:**

NHNF 3 accessible nature, NHNF 4, LPfN.



Hedge laying by volunteers at Rhos Cefn Bryn.

#### **Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)**

**Collaboration:** CCC, NRW, Plantlife, BC, NT, Carmarthenshire Wildfowlers Association, numerous graziers

We work with volunteers

**1 ✓** **2 ✓** **3 ✓** **4 ✓** **5 ✓** **6**

[West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre](#) (WWBIC) completed their Toolkit for Community Wildlife Recording in March 2025. Over the 2 years of the project, WWBIC worked with three groups in the county: Talley and Cwmdu Smallholders Club, Cilymaenllwyd Footpath Restoration Project and Bishop's Park Abergwili volunteers. The experience from working with these groups was used to create a range of resources including the [Recording Toolkit website](#) and several booklets to aid identification and inform on the interactions of common species seen every day.

The LPfN funded *Building the Wildlife Recording Community in Carmarthenshire* follows on and aims to engage more people in the county at all levels of experience, enhancing their skills as wildlife recorders and helping them understand their local environment better. It makes use of the previous resources and experience together with GIS technology, to encourage people to adopt their local area or patch and, ultimately to provide them with a recording plan. This plan will help them understand their local patch better, the biodiversity it could potentially support, and through recording, help to monitor it over time.

Biological Record holdings for Carmarthenshire have increased from 1,506,491 to 1,698,241 from January to September.



A recording day run by WWBIC

#### Funding in 2025:

WG LPfN

#### Collaboration:

Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership  
Energy Local Capel Dewi, community groups.

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

We work with volunteers

**1 ✓** **2** **3** **4** **5 ✓** **6**

The [Wildfowl and Wetland Trust](#)'s application to Nature Networks Fund, **unsuccessful** in 2024, has been resubmitted this year, for work on Saline Lagoons, Freshwater Habitat creation, coastal path interpretation and British Steel Hide enhancements.

Working with consultants WWT have had a Willow Tit project, installing nestboxes, undertaking surveys and habitat management for this priority species in Wales.

Work has created new paths around ponds to replace deteriorating boardwalks.

This year grazing an island on site with goats and the use of a Robomower for vegetation management on banks has been trialled and a Truxor amphibious machine has been used for reedbed management and other emergent vegetation.



Goat grazing at WWT

#### Funding in 2025:

Charitable Trust funding for pond restoration work

#### Collaboration:

CCC, BTO, ARC, British Dragonfly Society, Folly Farm, PTES.

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

We work with volunteers

**1 ✓** **2 ✓** **3 ✓** **4 ✓** **5 ✓** **6**

As part of a Nature Networks Fund 3 project, the [National Botanic Garden Wales](#) (NBGW) held their first-ever 48-hour BioBlitz Festival. Experts, volunteers and visitors joined over 25 conservation organisations from across Wales to learn about and record as many species as possible. Together, participants generated 999 biological records representing 486 taxa. Read more in Conservation Engagement Officer [Ellyn Baker's blog](#).

Alongside the BioBlitz, the project delivered the longstanding Fungus and Wildflower Days and developed new interpretation materials, an [audio trail](#) and fixed-point photography posts for Waun Las National Nature Reserve.

The NBGW [seed banking programme](#), continued in partnership with the Millennium Seed Bank and collected 22 seed collections across Wales from trees, shrubs and threatened flora. These included Marsh Gentian in Anglesey (Vulnerable in Wales), Mossy Saxifrage in the Brecon Beacons (Vulnerable in Great Britain) and Divided Sedge from Barry (Endangered in Wales).

The Gardens also hosted a Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Natur am Byth (NaB) trainee for 8 months and continue to grow threatened mosses for NaB to support *in-situ* conservation. In addition, they have begun cultivating plants for an *in-situ* project in Eryri run by NaB and Plantlife.

Finally, the Garden's 3-year [Plants Past, Present and Future](#) project continues to digitise our historic pressed plant collections, some dating back 80–200 years, with the invaluable support of dedicated volunteers.



Group	Species Count
Flowering plants	188
Mosses & Liverworts	23
Ferns	2
Lichens	11
Fungi	27
Moths & Butterflies	74
Bees, Wasps & Ants	30
Flies	47
Other Invertebrates	58
Birds	19
Mammals	4
Amphibians & Reptiles	3

Results from the NBGW BioBlitz Festival

#### Funding in 2025:

['Plants Past, Present and Future'](#) project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Dynamic Collections Initiative

'Growing Resilience: A National Nature Reserve for the future' project funded by Welsh Government/National Lottery Heritage Fund's Nature Networks Fund 3

Small grants-in-aid from Royal Botanic Gardens Kew for seed banking of red-listed species and trees/shrubs in 2025.

#### Collaboration:

Kew Gardens Millennium Seed Bank  
Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland  
Plantlife  
Natural Resources Wales  
Treborth Botanic Garden  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
Support from other organisations for seed collecting landowner consent and local knowledge (e.g. Wildlife Trusts, National Trust).

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

We work with volunteers

1 ✓	2 ✓	3 ✓	4 ✓	5 ✓	6
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The [Vincent Wildlife Trust](#) have multiple carnivore focused conservation projects operating within Carmarthenshire in 2025:

### **Martens on the Move**

This supports the recovery of the Pine Marten through community engagement and action. In Carmarthenshire in 2025:

- 15 den boxes and 30 Pine Marten feeders were built by Llangadog, Llandeilo and Llandovery Men's Shed and Brechfa Shed;
- 20 den boxes are being monitored by volunteers (with plans to install 20 more in the area on both private and forestry land);
- 2 x training days (Pine Marten ecology and monitoring) delivered to National Trust Dolaucothi staff and volunteers



A Pine Martin feeding on apples!

### **National Polecat Survey**

This is a Citizen-science led monitoring survey for the polecat - 45 sightings were reported in 2025 within the county

### **Social feasibility assessment for the reintroduction of the European wildcat to Wales**

This 1-year community engagement programme aims to assess the viability of a potential re-introduction, and to determine support/opposition, identify mitigation methods and inform future actions.

The project hosted a number of public workshops and semi-structured interviews in 2025 to record and analyse the views of interested parties (i.e. farmers, conservationists, cat welfare advocates, field sports businesses)

Production of the report '[Could the wildcat work for Wales?](#)' will be forthcoming

### **Funding in 2025:**

Martens on the Move (NLHF),  
Wildcat social feasibility (NNF, Cronfa Treftadaeth, PTES)

### **Collaboration:**

NRW, National Trust, SelectFor, Durrel Conservation Trust, Wildwood Trust, Cats Protection

### **Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)**

We work with volunteers

1 ✓	2 ✓	3	4	5 ✓	6
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The **MOD** undertake important on-going management of designated sites on their land in Carmarthenshire

At Pendine (Laugharne - Pendine Burrows SSSI / Carmarthen Bay Dunes / SAC) management includes:

- a late summer cut and collect of 20 ha dune grassland and scrub seedlings in areas where grazing is not practical;
- mechanised removal of 5ha of Sea Buckthorn along the foredunes.
- conservation grazing of 330ha of dune grassland.

At Pembrey Sands Air Weapons Range (Pembrey Coast SSSI/Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC) management includes:

- follow-up herbicide control of Sea Buckthorn regrowth and seedlings in areas where previous removal has been completed.
- a late summer cut and collect of 10ha dune grassland in areas where grazing is not practical.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mechanised removal of 2ha of willow-dominated scrub on dune slack habitat.</li> <li>conservation grazing of 460ha of fixed dune grassland and saltmarsh.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Collaboration:</b> MoD habitat restoration mirrors what NRW is doing at Pembrey to maximise benefits.
<b>Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)</b>	
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<p>2025 has been a landmark year for nature, science, and people at The <a href="#">Carbon Community</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Nature</b></p> <p>The Glandwr Forest Connected Trees and Woodlands Project, funded by the Welsh Government's National Forest for Wales Landscape Pilot 2024/2025 and administered by WCVA via the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership, has significantly improved connectivity across a diverse range of habitats and safeguarded more trees. As part of the project, we hosted a training on Brecon-style hedge laying, which was very popular.</p>	
<p>The trees at Glandwr Forest were planted in 2021 with the ambition of establishing a healthy, diverse broadleaf woodland with a field-trial facility at its heart. This was recognised in 2025 when Tilhill Forestry and The Carbon Community received a Gold Medal for Broadleaf Planting or Restocking Under Ten Years Old (Class A) at the Royal Welsh Show.</p>	
<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>Our Carbon Study is a long-term research programme investigating how to accelerate carbon removal from the atmosphere in trees and soil. Designed in collaboration with leading scientists, the study explores how enhanced rock weathering and soil microbiome inoculation affect tree growth, soil biodiversity, and carbon storage both above and below ground.</p>	
<p>2025 marks the fifth year of the project and a significant scientific milestone. At last, enough time has elapsed to rigorously quantify changes in carbon held belowground - in the roots and in the soil. Samples have been collected, and this data will be combined with the above-ground measurement of the trees, which is collected annually by citizen science volunteers during our annual Big Tree Measure.</p>	
<p><b>People</b></p> <p>During 2025, more than 114 volunteers contributed 236 volunteer days of hands-on support. Activities have included hedge-laying, tree shelter removal, trees planting, and measuring. Glandwr Forest has also welcomed visitors for guided tree walks and hosted the South Wales Division of the Royal Forestry Society.</p>	
<p><b>Funding in 2025:</b></p> <p>Glandwr Forest Connected Trees and Woodlands funded by the WCVA NFFW Landscape Pilot</p> <p>Glandwr Forest Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Study (MRV Study) funded by the Woodlands into Management Forestry Innovation Fund</p>	<p><b>Collaboration:</b> Forestry – Tilhill Forestry</p> <p><b>Research –</b> Imperial College London, Swansea University and The University of Sheffield have all been onsite for research purposes in 2025</p> <p><b>Meadows –</b> Plantlife has given us</p>

(WIMFIF) from the Forestry Commission. This project was run in conjunction with Swansea University.

guidance on meadow management and eDNA sampling

**Community Science Volunteering and Big Tree Measure 2025** – This year we have had volunteers from SAP, Heidelberg Materials, Swansea University, Office of the Future Generation Commissioner for Wales, Black Mountains College, NRW, Imperial College London

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 5 6

The [CCC Caeau Mynydd Marsh Fritillary Project](#) continues in the Cross Hands area. Surveys with **Butterfly Conservation volunteers** have yielded some good results this year, with the butterfly emerging about a month early. Some good numbers of larval webs were recorded on sites with low numbers in recent years. A larval web was even found near the edge of a rugby pitch in Tumble!

**CCC S106 Projects:** Habitat management projects in mitigation for development, funded by planning obligations are increasing. There are now six projects for a range of species and habitats, and more on the horizon. This is becoming to be a good way of effectively mitigating impacts of development, on behalf of the developer.

The Natural Environment team are increasing working with other CCC departments building good working relationships, e.g. with Grounds Maintenance on grassland management, Corporate Property on County Farms and recently Flood Defence on the delivery of a flood alleviation project in Llansteffan.



Filming for Butterfly Conservation's Marsh Fritillary Recovery Partnership Project at their Median Farm reserve, with one of the landowners involved in the Caeau Mynydd Mawr Project.

#### Funding in 2025:

S106 development funding

#### Collaboration: BC

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)

1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 ✓ 4 ✓ 5 ✓ 6

The [West Wales Rivers Trust](#) has had another busy year in 2025 delivering habitat improvements to the rivers of Carmarthenshire. Work has included carrying out the following:

- over 2km of wooded river corridor creation through fencing and planting with over 1000 trees planted. This will help form more resilience in the headwaters of the river to climate change and improving future habitat. This was delivered in collaboration with supportive farmers in the Cothi Valley via the WG NFFW Landscape Project, with additional support from NRW's sustainable fisheries fund.



A technical fish pass easement at perched bridge on Afon Ceiliog near Llanybydder

- installation of six fish passage easements, creating access for fish beyond problematic bridges and culverts located along tributaries of Rivers Tywi and Teifi.
- over 6km of Himalayan Balsam removal along tributaries of Tywi & Teifi: Afon Bran and Marlais (near Llandovery and Ceiliog and Hust (near Llanybydder).
- preparation of the River Teifi Restoration Plan in collaboration with NRW's River Restoration Team. This consists of landscape-scale river restoration actions across six Teifi sub-catchments.

**Funding in 2025:**

WG NFFW Landscape Project

NRW Sustainable Fisheries fund

**Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)**

**Collaboration:** land owners, CCC

**① ✓** **② ✓** **③** **④** **⑤** **⑥**

The [Local Places for Nature Project](#) in Carmarthenshire delivered over 50 projects at all scales throughout the county both on the council estate and with partners within the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership. These included:

- green infrastructure projects in urban areas, enhancing areas and creating accessible natural space on former 'hard' areas;
- fully accessible food growing, nature and wellbeing projects;
- community orchards;
- hedgerow planting and laying;
- installation of bench planters;
- aquatic invasive plant removal;
- wildlife recording and volunteer engagement and support;
- work to allow conservation grazing;
- learning resources for CCC officers.

The LPfN [Engagement Platform](#), launched in 2024 is still active. 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.

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.

It's an opportunity for individuals and communities to get involved, share experiences, and learn from others.

**Funding in 2025:**

WG LPfN funding



**Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see above)**

**Collaboration:** CNP partners; communities, volunteers.

We work with volunteers

**① ✓** **② ✓** **③ ✓** **④ ✓** **⑤ ✓** **⑥**

**Butterfly Conservation's** valuable work in the county with volunteers continues to provide valuable information about the status of the priority Marsh Fritillary and Brown Hairstreak Butterflies.

For both species 100s of hours of staff and volunteer time were spent, across the year, surveying new sites, monitoring existing sites and undertaking valuable landowner liaison and habitat management.

For the Brown Hairstreak Butterfly, after at least a decade of decline, there are still two metapopulations remaining in Wales, both with a significant Carmarthenshire contribution in the Teifi and Tywi Valleys.

For the Marsh Fritillary, Carmarthenshire has more 1km grid squares occupied by the butterfly within the last 20 years than any other county in Wales. However these 'metapopulations' occur across county boundaries so BC work closely with BBNP and NPT as well.

Butterly Conservation's all Wales Nature Networks3 Marsh Fritillary project has had a significant presence in the county has done a great job of engaging and training lots of different people over the last 18 months.



Brown Hairstreak butterfly winter egg survey

#### Funding in 2025:

WG LPfN

NN Funding

Collaboration:

WTSWW, NT, CCC, landowners

#### Contributes to Carmarthen NRP Objectives (see intro text)?

We work with volunteers

① ✓

② ✓

③ ✓

④ ✓

⑤ ✓

⑥

### Project Funding in Carmarthenshire (including to CNP Partners) in 2025 – this is NOT complete – but what is known about.

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

Bynea Community Woodland

Pentremawr Colliery Woodland

#### 2. WG Local Places for Nature

[KWT LPfN packages](#) in Carmarthenshire in 2025

8 Food Garden packages (previously named Development package)

1 Food Mini garden package (previously named starter package)

2 Community Orchards

2 School orchards

#### 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

#### 3. National Forest for Wales

2025 - Glandwr Forest Connected Trees and Woodlands Project – Carbon Community

Connecting the woodlands, hedgerow trees, pastures and peatland of Glandwr Forest for habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity and broader community engagement.

2025 Cothi Riparian Woodland Corridors – WWRT

Create and manage natural wooded river corridors along the Cothi from Pumsaint to source. Corridors of 4-10 m fenced off areas. Manage existing vegetation to boost biodiversity. Community engagement.

#### 25-27 - Cothi Riparian Woodland Corridors – WWRT

Create and manage natural wooded river corridors along the upper reaches of River Cothi catchment with a strong emphasis on community engagement & involvement.

#### 25-27 - Llandeilo Woodlands Project – CCC/WTWW/NT

To improve access for visitors; engage with local people; create new woodland habitats; and enhance habitats and economic productivity at three woodland sites around Llandeilo.

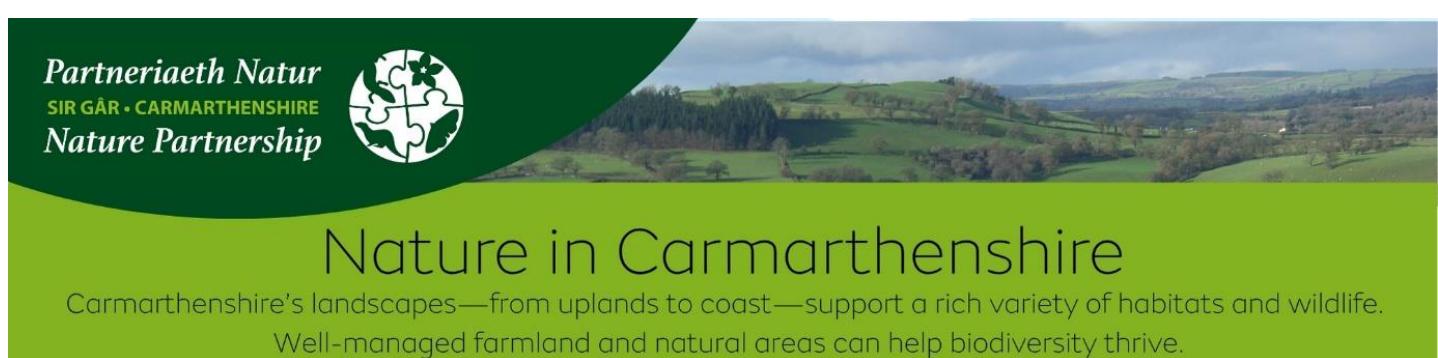
#### 4. WG/HLF Nature Networks funding

Nature Networks is a programme funded by Welsh Government that aims to strengthen the resilience of Wales' network of protected land and marine sites, building capacity to strengthen and upscale future delivery for nature, and actively encouraging community engagement..

#### NNF4 2025 – Carmarthenshire projects

WTWW - Our journey to 30x30 – condition, connectivity and resilience in protected sites

NN5 applications – 4 Carmarthenshire project applications – decisions in December



The banner features the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership logo (Partneraeth Natur SIR GÂR • CARMARTHENSHIRE Nature Partnership) on the left, followed by a scenic landscape of rolling green hills and fields. The text "Nature in Carmarthenshire" is prominently displayed in the center, with the subtext "Carmarthenshire's landscapes—from uplands to coast—support a rich variety of habitats and wildlife. Well-managed farmland and natural areas can help biodiversity thrive." Below the banner, the text "The Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership is made up of local organisations, wildlife charities, and volunteers that work together to:" is followed by four circular icons representing different actions: "Protect and restore habitats and species - from coast to the uplands" (image of a coastal landscape), "Support wildlife across the county by restoring and connecting habitats" (image of a small animal in a tree), "Tackle threats to wildlife so nature can thrive" (image of a moth), and "Monitor and share knowledge & inspire community action" (image of hands holding a small animal). At the bottom, the text "Everyone can do something for nature. Join us in helping Carmarthenshire's natural environment flourish. Visit our website to find out more: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity)" is displayed.