

CARMARTHENSHIRE

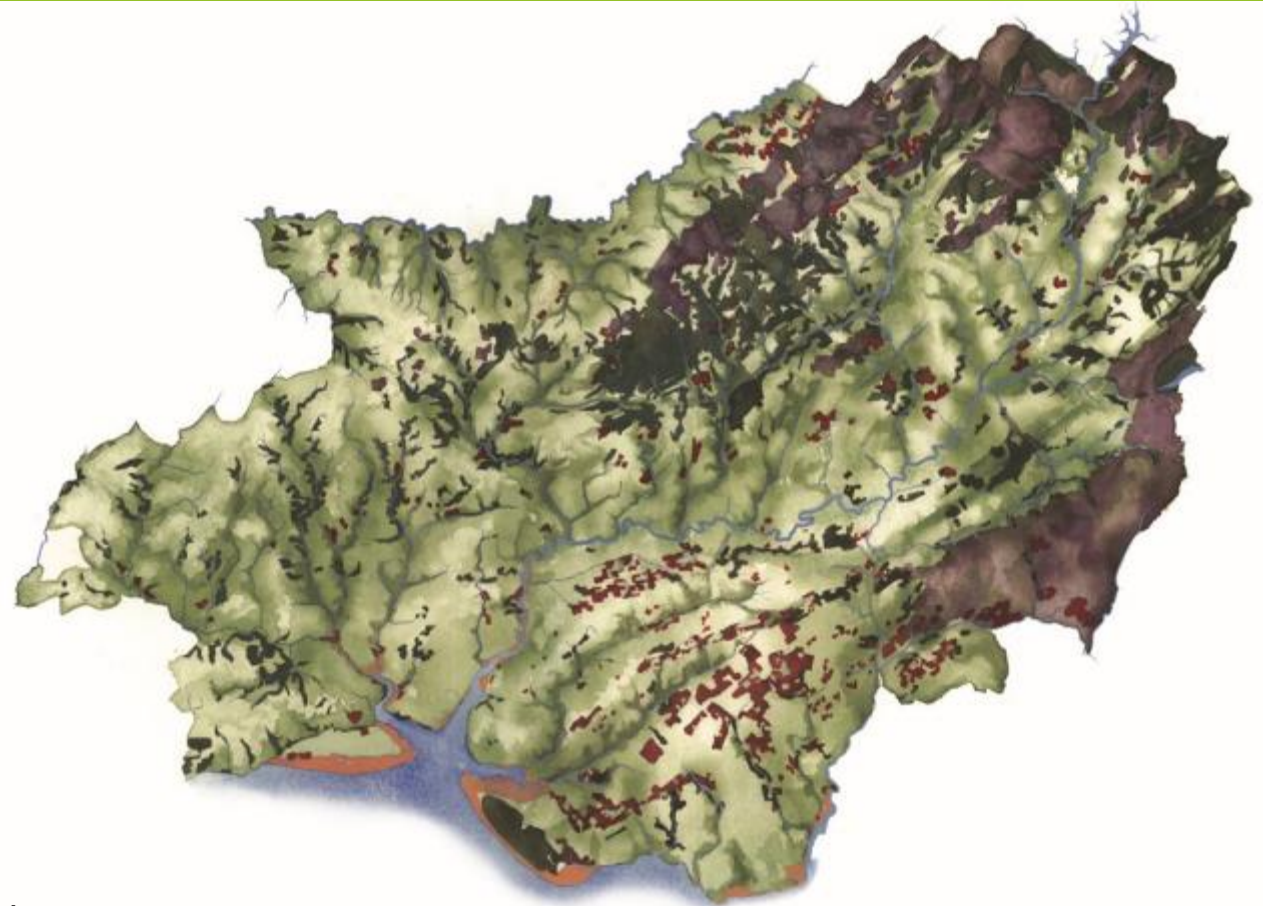
Nature Notes

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SIR GÂR • CARMARTHENSHIRE
Nature Partnership



JUNE – JULY 2020

Carmarthenshire has some wonderful wildlife. These 'Nature Notes' are some highlights to encourage us all to take a closer look around us – even the common is special. Seen anything interesting – then why not send us a photo?



For more information about nature in the county then read our Nature Recovery Plan:
carmarthenshire.gov.wales/biodiversity

Send your photos to: Biodiversity@carmarthenshire.gov.uk



© Adam Dare

Pied wagtails

Pied wagtails (*Motacilla alba*) are one of our most familiar birds and have adapted to our built structures. They feed on insects and roads, roofs and patios warm up quickly attracting their insect prey.



Scarlet tiger moth

This exotic-looking scarlet tiger moth was (*Callimorpha dominula*) found in Cilycwm on some wisteria. It is mainly found in SW England and Wales and we have a few records in the county each year. This year seems to have been a good year for it with more records than ever. It is worth looking out for in June/July, even in your garden.



Common lizard

This common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) was hiding among some plants. They bask in the warm sun and can be found in gardens so keep you eye out. They are great pest controllers!





© Dom Greves

Glow worm

If you see, or have seen, a glow worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*) in Carmarthenshire, let the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group know at:

glowworms@carmarthenshiremeadows.com.

Females emit a greeny-orange light from their bottoms at night. They climb up plant stems and glow in order to attract males. Adults are 1.5-2.5 cm and are only around for a short period in June and July, glowing at night in gardens, hedgerows and woodland rides. You might just still see one.



Meadowsweet

Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) provides a frothy display in damp areas of the county. In Tudor times Queen Elizabeth I used to order meadowsweet from Carmarthenshire as a 'strewing' herb for Hampton Court. The herbs were laid on the floor, so that pleasant odours would be released when people walked on them. She thought our meadowsweet smelt better than anyone else's. What do you think?



© Ian Morgan

Blooming marvellous

If you like a 'neat' lawn but want to help pollinators as well have you thought about cutting a bit less often and setting the cutting blades a bit higher? This way more of the most common lawn plants will be allowed to flower and the pollinating insects allowed to take advantage of them: buttercups, clover, self heal, daisies and dandelions and the bees, hoverfiles and beetles that use them will all thank you for it.



© Adam Dare

Broad-bodied chaser dragonfly

This amazing sequence of photos shows a female broad-bodied chaser dragonfly (*Libellula depressa*) emerging from the nymph stage, having climbed out of a pond near Llanelli. This widespread species may be the first to colonise new ponds. They regularly return to the same low perch after swift flights along the pond margins.



© Richard Turner

Pond creation

This pond was created in February 2020. Amazingly the second photo shows it again in June 2020 – it's hard to imagine that it has developed so well, so quickly. Very little was planted into the pond and most of the plants and pond wildlife colonized by itself. Even a small pond can be home to an interesting range of wildlife, including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts. It could also become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats – the best natural garden pest controllers!

Want some advice?

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit/>



Disturbed ground

This track, created as part of a woodland replanting scheme, was bare ground last year. Many species of bee, solitary wasp, spider and beetle are dependent on bare ground to hunt and nest because these areas provide a warm microclimate and easy tunnelling. However, bare ground does not remain bare for long; plants colonise areas providing food resources for more insects.



Take a closer look...

At first glance not much appears to be happening on this hogweed flower. However, take a closer look. A range of invertebrates can be seen feeding on the flowers. Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) provides pollen and nectar for a wide range of invertebrates, including beetles, wasps and flies.



Spring/early summer

Carmarthenshire has looked particularly splendid this spring/early summer and many of us will have appreciated the fine weather to take some exercise outside during lock down. What have you see during this period? Let us know.



Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership

