Gwent-Glamorgan Recorders' Newsletter

Issue 34
Spring 2026

SEWBReC
SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

an ALERC accredited LERC
Association of Local Environmental Records Centres

NBN MEMBER

Contents

Front page photo: Capillary Threadmoss *Bryum capillare* © Steven Murray

Welcome to the 34th edition of the Gwent-Glamorgan Recorders' Newsletter.

Invertebrates kick us off with Welsh colonies of Railway Bagworms (p3) and meadows full of diversity (p4-7). Take note of the new advice from the RSPB about feeding birds (p7).

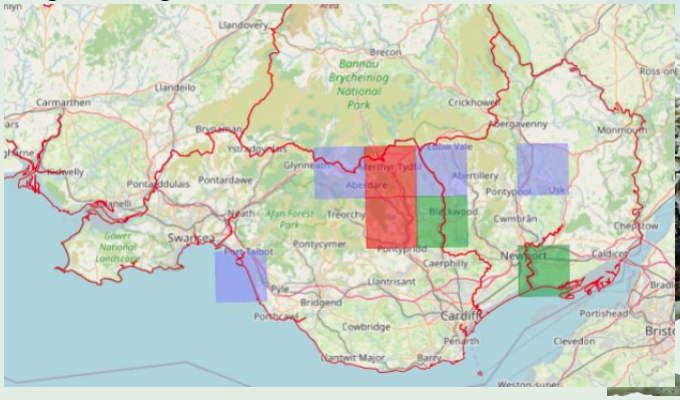
SEWBReC has reached a significant milestone in its data holdings— the database now includes a whopping 8 million records (p10-11). A huge thank you to all the recorders that have helped us reach that fantastic number.

Take a step back in time to the wonderful historic natural history photographs taken by Colonel H Morrey Salmon (p16-17). Join us at one of the many events taking place over the next few months (p28), and brush up your field skills by booking onto one of the species identification courses (p. 29-31).

As usual, a very big **thank you** to all those who have contributed to this newsletter. We currently produce the newsletter twice per year, and articles are always welcome. Email info@sewbrec.org.uk if you would like to contribute to the next edition.

Rebecca Wright-Davies, SEWBReC (Editor)

P.S. Look out for a lichen species that seems to be popping up across south east Wales, namely Golden-eye Lichen (*Teloschistes chrysophthalmos*), a distinctive bright-orange fruticose lichen that grows on twigs of hawthorn and apple trees. Current UK distribution maps show that it is a southern species, its stronghold being the Mediterranean. SEWBReC has 19 records overall, 13 of which are from 2026! Is it spreading or just under-recorded? The species is listed on Section 7 (a list of species and habitats of principal importance in Wales), and is categorised as Critically Endangered and Nationally Rare. Keep your eyes peeled—there are plenty of squares to fill.



Distribution of Golden-eye Lichen records held on Aderyn

Golden-eye Lichen © *Steven Murray*

Larva found in a cobweb at Radyr Train Station in 2003 © David Slade

The Railway Bagworm

David Slade (VC41 County Recorder Lepidiptera)

In January 2005 I discovered the first Welsh colony of *Bankesia conspurcatella* (subsequently given the common name Scarce Bagworm). I had adult males in my then garden on Mynachdy Road and at the bus stop on The Philog, so all in the vicinity of the Gabalfa interchange in Cardiff. The males fly early in the morning and late in the evening, from January through to the beginning of April. The females are wingless and never leave their larval cases, making expansion of range limited entirely down to the caterpillars!

No larval cases or females have been found in Mynachdy as yet, but they have been found at Radyr Station (both on the platform and under the footbridge that crosses the Taff into Forest Farm), and Bridgend Train station (although they are restricted to just one wall here!).

In 2005 it was only known from half a dozen other locations across the UK, but it has now been found in considerably more, and interestingly many of them are at or near railways and stations. I really think they missed a trick giving it the boring common name of 'Scare Bagworm' – Railway Bagworm would lead to much better engagement, I think.

This year, the species was added to Section 7 of the Environment Act Wales (2016), indicating that it is now a species of conservation concern in Wales. Off the back of this, with help from Pip Gray at Butterfly Conservation, we have been engaging with the ecologists at Transport For Wales, and hope that we can incorporate this peculiar moth into their management plans – and maybe find it at more stations along the way.

Adult Male from Mynachdy Road, January 2005 © David Slade

The colonial wall at Bridgend Train Station in 2019 © David Slade

Male Long-horned Bee (*Eucera longicornis*) © Liam Olds

Buzzing Meadows

Christian Owen – Director of Conservation & Land Management, Glo I Natur CIC

Uncovering Invertebrate Diversity in Monmouthshire's Meadows

In the rolling landscapes of Monmouthshire, two cherished grassland reserves are proving to be vital havens for some of south-east Wales' most fascinating – and often overlooked – wildlife. Kingcoed Meadows and Trellech Wet Meadow, both managed by the dedicated Monmouthshire Meadows Group, were the focus of detailed invertebrate surveys throughout 2025. Led by me, Christian Owen of Christian Owen Bio-Surveys, these studies recorded a combined total of over 700 invertebrate species, highlighting the importance of these flower-rich sites for bees, beetles, spiders, flies, and many more groups.

Traditional, low-intensity meadow management – featuring late hay cuts, no chemical inputs, and carefully timed grazing – is helping these special places resist the widespread habitat loss and biodiversity declines seen across much of the countryside. These surveys not only celebrate the richness of these sites but also provide baseline data to guide future conservation efforts, reminding us all of the hidden gems in our local landscapes.

Kingcoed Meadows: A Buzz of Rare Finds

Nestled near the hamlet of Kingcoed, south-east of Raglan, this 11.8-acre site comprises two large, traditional, flower-rich, unimproved meadows bursting with wildflowers such as Bird's-foot Trefoil, Common Cat's Ear, Common Spotted and Southern Marsh Orchids, Hogweed, Knapweed, Rough Hawkbit, Tufted Vetch, Yellow Rattle and many more. Purchased by the Meadows Group in 2016 with support from various trusts and local donors, it stands as an inspiring example of grassroots conservation.

The surveys here, which were conducted over four daytime visits between April and August, recorded **444 invertebrate species**, including **52 of 'conservation interest'**. Among the highlights was the striking Long-horned Bee (*Eucera longicornis*), a Section 7 priority species under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The site also supports the 'Vulnerable' Broad-banded Nomad Bee (*Nomada signata*), a cleptoparasite of the Tawny Mining Bee (*Andrena fulva*), along with rare and scarce species such as the bee-mimicking Downland Villa fly (*Villa cingulata*), Knapweed Ghost (*Acanthiophilus*

helianthi), the spiders *Araneus triguttatus*, *Pardosa tenuipes*, and *Xysticus acerbus* (now a Section 7 species), and the beetles *Acupalpus exiguus*, Clover Head Weevil (*Hypera meles*), *Protapion difforme*, and *Protapion varipes*.

Even more exciting were several significant discoveries, including: the planthopper *Scottianella dalei* (also recorded at Trellech), a small and strikingly marked delphacid which turned out to be new to Wales. The nationally scarce click beetle *Oedostethus quadripustulatus* was seemingly new to the Vice-County 35 of Monmouthshire (VC35). Two species recently recognised as new to Britain were also recorded here: the seed beetle *Bruchidius varius* and the tachinid fly *Phasia barbifrons* (Yellow-clubbed Phasia). The beetle fauna alone included 119 species, 16 of which were of 'conservation interest'.

The meadows' varied structure – short turf in spring giving way to taller vegetation in summer, bordered by old hedgerows – combined with a late-July hay cut followed by sheep grazing, creates favourable conditions for a wide range of invertebrates to complete their life cycles.

A summary of the invertebrate groups recorded at Kingcoed Meadows:

	Number of Species	'Conservation Interest'
Total species	444	52
Coleoptera (beetles)	119	16
Diptera (flies)	83	11
Hemiptera (true bugs)	69	8
Arachnida (harvestman, spiders etc.)	50	7
Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)	41	5
Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants, etc.)	39	4
Mollusca (slugs and snails)	15	0
Collembola (springtails)	11	0
Other	7	0
Orthoptera (crickets, grasshoppers etc.)	6	0
Neuroptera (lacewings)	3	1

Trellech Wet Meadow: A Wetter Wonderland

Further north, in the historic village of Trellech, lies the larger 24-acre Wet Meadow reserve – a Local Wildlife Site. Leased from the Welsh Church Trust by the Meadows Group, the site comprises a mosaic of neutral to slightly acidic grasslands, seasonal wetlands, streams, ponds, scrub, and oak woodland.

The surveys here, also conducted over four daytime visits, recorded **485 invertebrate species**, including **60 of 'conservation interest'**, with particularly strong representation from wetland-loving groups such as hoverflies, soldier flies, snail-killing flies, and true bugs. Bumblebees, solitary bees, ground beetles, spiders, and harvestmen also thrive, supported by the site's diverse habitats.

Key finds included the Section 7 priority ground beetle Scarce Four-dot Pin-palp (*Bembidion quadripustulatum*), along with rare and scarce species such as the False Fleshfly (*Eurychaeta palpalis*), Western Bee-fly (*Bombylius canescens*), Scarce Red-legged Robberfly (*Dioctria cothurnata*), the crab spider *Xysticus acerbus*, and the beetles *Acupalpus exiguus*, *Attactagenus plumbeus*, *Enicmus fungicola*, Cramp-ball Fungus Weevil (*Platyrhinus resinosus*), *Polydrusus formosus*, and *Protapion varipes*.

Protapion varipes (carded) © Liam Olds

Adult male *Scottianella dalei* (preserved in solution) © Christian Owen

Three species seemingly new to Wales were also encountered here: the weevil *Polydrusus flavipes*, the leafhopper *Zygina tiliae*, and the planthopper *Scottianella dalei* (recorded here a day before the Kingcoed sightings). Several species also appear new to VC35, including the ground beetle *Acupalpus meridianus*, the fringed-winged beetle *Clambus pubescens*, the lauxaniid fly *Sapromyza zetterstedti*, and the pselaphine rove beetle *Pselaphus heisei*. **Note**, however, that an absence of prior records for a vice-county does not necessarily mean a record is new; it may simply reflect records that have not yet been submitted to the relevant recording scheme, local records centre, or other databases.

Low-intensity cattle grazing (aided by innovative satellite collars for precise management) in selected areas maintains a varied sward height and protects the site's hydrology. The reserve's connection to nearby sites, including Gwent Wildlife Trust's New Grove Meadows, forms part of an important wildlife corridor in the Wye Valley.

A summary of the invertebrate diversity at Trellech Wet Meadow:

Invertebrate Group	Number of Species	'Conservation Interest'
Total species	485	60
Coleoptera (beetles)	181	28
Diptera (flies)	80	10
Hemiptera (true bugs)	79	10
Arachnida (harvestman, spiders etc.)	43	5
Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants, etc.)	31	2
Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths)	17	2
Mollusca (slugs and snails)	10	1
Collembola (springtails)	7	1
Myriapoda (centipedes and millipedes)	7	0
Psocoptera/Psocodea (barkflies)	6	1
Neuroptera (lacewings)	6	0
Orthoptera and allies (crickets, grasshoppers, earwigs etc.)	6	0
Other	5	0
Isopoda (woodlice)	4	0
Odonata (damselflies and dragonflies)	3	0

Crab spider *Xysticus acerbus* © Liam Olds

Why These Meadows Matter

These surveys go far beyond simply counting species. Invertebrates are the unsung heroes of ecosystems – pollinating plants, recycling nutrients, breaking down waste, and providing food for birds, bats, and other wildlife. Yet many species continue to decline due to intensive agriculture, habitat fragmentation, and climate pressures.

Sites like Kingcoed and Trellech, preserved through community effort and traditional management, offer real hope. The Monmouthshire Meadows Group, with over 350 members and hundreds of acres under sympathetic care, plays a pivotal role in this work.

Cramp-ball Fungus Weevil (*Platyrhinus resinosus*) © Liam Olds

Downland Villa (*Villa cingulata*) © Christian Owen

For local people and visitors, these peaceful reserves offer more than ecological importance. Public paths at Trellech, interpretive boards at both sites, and the chance to experience vibrant summer wildflowers and autumn waxcap fungi make them wonderful places for gentle walks and quiet reflection.

As we move into 2026, these remarkable discoveries remind us of the hidden treasures in our local landscapes. Recorders are encouraged to visit these meadows, submit wildlife sightings to SEWBReC, and support the ongoing efforts of the Monmouthshire Meadows Group. Who knows what other wonders still await discovery in Monmouthshire's buzzing meadows?

I would like to thank my good friend Liam Olds for the use of his excellent images – he takes far better photos than I do!

Feed seasonally. Feed safely.

The RSPB's Conservation Scientists have recently carried out an evidence review into the pros and cons of feeding birds in our gardens. The review identified strong evidence that supplementary feeding promotes the spread of pathogens in gardens, including the Trichomonosis parasite.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) © Mike Cram

Across the UK, Trichomonosis has caused serious declines in Greenfinch and Chaffinch populations and may now be causing a rapid decline amongst Bullfinches.

Supplementary feeding concentrates birds around feeders and water baths, where sick birds regurgitate contaminated food and water, which is then accessible to healthy birds and results in the spread of disease. The scientific evidence shows that the risk of Trichomonosis outbreaks is highest in summer and autumn.

For these reasons, the RSPB has updated its guidance on feeding garden birds, advising the public to feed seasonally and feed safely. Full explanation of what this means can be found on the RSPB website.

Text originally published in the Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) newsletter.

Pant Marsh: Habitat mitigation site in Talbot Green © Bethan Dalton

#NNF4: Building Nature Networks in RCT

Charlotte Powell, Nature Networks Officer, RCTCBC

A landscape of extraordinary character; just one of the ways to characterise Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). From ancient woodlands to grasslands, watercourses to colliery spoils, each of these is home to a rich and biodiverse flora and fauna. These habitats, along with a mosaic of semi-natural habitats create a network that help to physically link the biodiversity of RCT and beyond.

RCT is also a place of communities, businesses and thriving economic activity. As a result, major development pressures exist for new infrastructure including roads, residential and commercial developments and green energy schemes. Species and habitats of nature conservation significance, and protected sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are often close to where these new developments take place. Without care, habitats can easily become fragmented and species isolated, leading to declines in our biodiversity.

Therefore, in our changing world, it is more important than ever to protect these habitats. Accordingly, RCT have developed a bespoke approach to ensure that economic growth can happen alongside appropriate biodiversity protection and enhancement. Through the mitigation requirements of planning consent for developments, there is an opportunity to help reconnect habitats and species. This opportunity is being explored as part of the 'Building Nature Networks in RCT' project.

Introducing the Building Nature Networks in RCT project

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has been awarded funding by the Welsh Government's Nature Network Fund, distributed by The Heritage Fund, to improve the condition of and connectivity between protected sites. The 'Building Nature Networks in RCT' project will explore how land set aside for habitat mitigation, as part of planning agreements, can be managed for the greater benefit of protected sites.

As part of their planning agreement, developers are required to mitigate, and where possible enhance, any adverse effects their development could bring. This is often achieved by allocating an area of land close to the development for habitat management. This can involve creating, restoring or managing existing habitat to maintain the nature conservation value of the area.

Currently, there are over 50 sites in RCT with habitat mitigation requirements being actively managed or with plans for future management.

By working with developers and local land managers, the aim is to create "stepping stones" using these habitat management plan (HMP) sites, helping species to move more easily between protected sites and across the whole landscape.

Providing connectivity

Over the next 2 years, this project hopes to understand how effective long-term habitat connectivity can be provided to protected sites and how the knowledge learnt can help developers create more meaningful mitigation.

Some of the works to be done to achieve this include:

- Mapping and assessing the condition of habitats on HMP sites
- Mapping and assessing the condition of habitats on protected sites
- Undertaking regular meetings with developers and landowners of HMP sites to discuss progress with habitat mitigation plans
- Creating a way to demonstrate the habitat network's connectivity for species

Habitat identification and recording

To develop resilient habitat networks, up-to-date information about the habitats in RCT is needed.

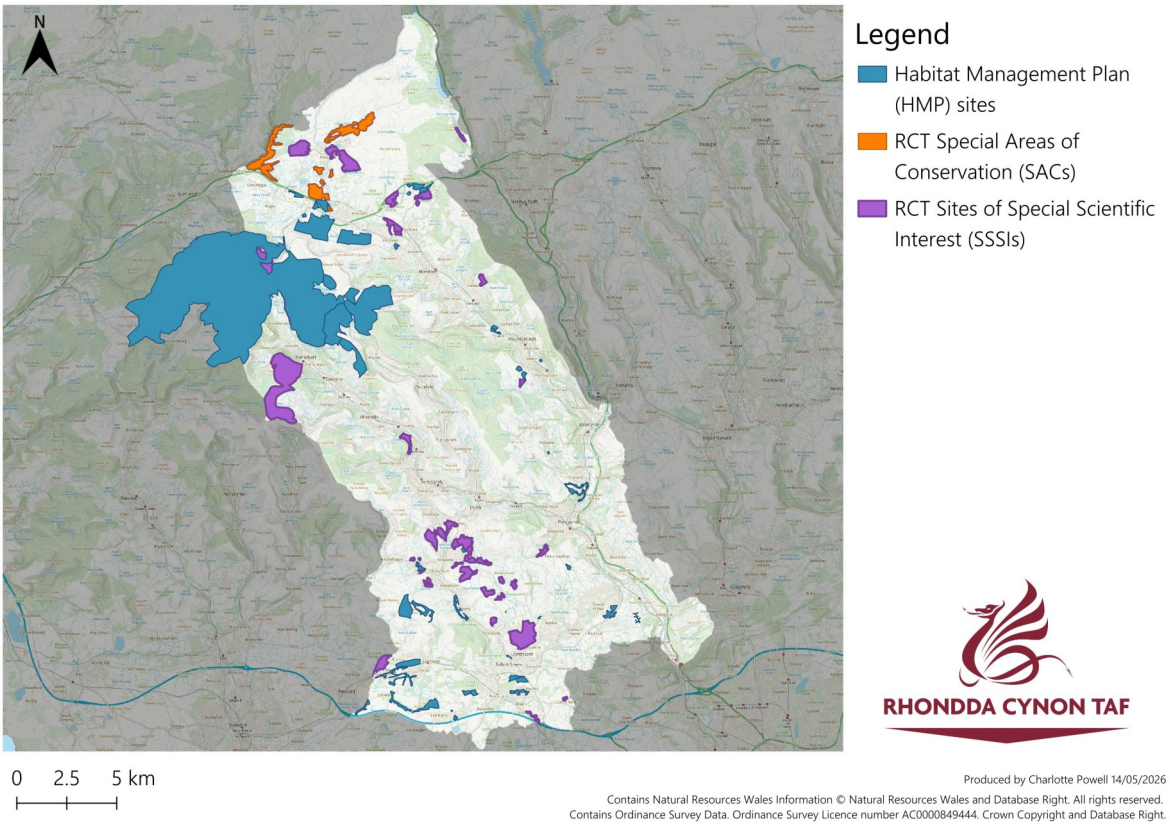
As a part of this project, in partnership with SEWBReC, community habitat identification and recording training events will be run for residents to learn how to identify local habitats and learn more about their key features and the species that live in them.

A programme of habitat-themed training events will be held over the next 2 years across different habitats found in RCT. The first of these events was held on May 1st at Coed Caedyrs, an ancient semi-natural woodland site at Nantgarw.

Habitat identification and recording event at Coed Caedyrs © Adam Rowe

Attendees were able to trial some new survey techniques and training materials created for the project with some key ancient woodland indicator species being recorded including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).

To stay updated on our future events follow the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Nature Partnership Facebook page! (Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Nature Partnership | Facebook)



Building Nature Networks in RCT project area and sites overview © RCTCBC

Gold-ringed dragonfly © Amy Hicks

Eight Million Records

Amy Hicks, Senior Biodiversity Officer, SEWBReC

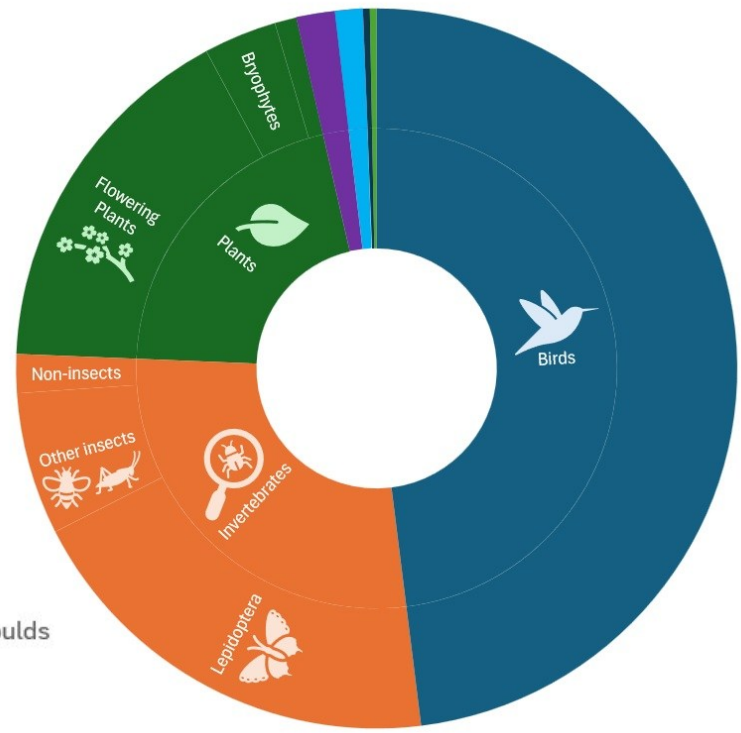
Thanks to all of your recording efforts, on 19th May 2026, SEWBReC's database on Aderyn reached a whopping 8 million records. The last milestone number reported in this newsletter was 5 million in Spring 2022, meaning we've received and imported an incredible 3 million records in 4 years!

The 8 millionth record uploaded was of a **Golden Ringed Dragonfly** (*Cordulegaster boltonii)* submitted by **David Clements Ecology** as part of a batch of ecological survey records. Thank you David and team!

What makes up the 8 million?

In 2022 birds made up 36% of our 5 million record database. Now, thanks mainly to improved data-flows from the popular birding apps, birds now make up almost half (48%) of our 8 million records. The next most popular groups to record remain invertebrates and plants, with Lepidoptera still by far the most well recorded group of invertebrates.

Unsurprisingly, our most recorded species is still a bird, however Robin has been knocked off the top spot this year by Blackbird. To find the first non-bird you need to look all the way down to number 34, however three non-bird species have made it into the SEWBReC Top 40 Chart: Meadow Brown and Speckled Wood butterflies, and Common Pipistrelle Bat. Can you get your favourite common species into the top 40 before we reach 10 million records?



Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped us reach this milestone

Blackbird © Dan Read

by submitting records. Every record submitted adds up and helps to build a fuller picture of the wildlife of south east Wales so it can be better protected.

SEWBREC Top 40 Records Chart

	Species	Records
1	Blackbird	123,685
2	Robin	114,157
3	Blue Tit	109,923
4	Carrion Crow	105,222
5	Woodpigeon	105,208
6	Magpie	98,176
7	Mallard	92,213
8	Herring Gull	88,480
9	Wren	83,522
10	Jackdaw	81,373
11	Great Tit	80,846
12	Goldfinch	78,046
13	Dunnock	74,014
14	Chaffinch	70,525
15	Lesser Black-backed Gull	69,567
16	House Sparrow	68,998
17	Black-headed Gull	60,090
18	Chiffchaff	57,763
19	Starling	57,140
20	Song Thrush	55,906

	Species	Records
21	Buzzard	50,662
22	Mute Swan	49,963
23	Cormorant	47,938
24	Swallow	47,286
25	Moorhen	47,279
26	Coot	46,807
27	Grey Heron	46,424
28	Canada Goose	44,773
29	Long-tailed Tit	41,614
30	Blackcap	39,326
31	Greenfinch	38,842
32	Coal Tit	36,643
33	Tufted Duck	36,282
34	Meadow Brown	35,581
35	Speckled Wood	33,777
36	Meadow Pipit	33,285
37	Common Pipistrelle	32,953
38	Collared Dove	32,682
39	Great Spotted Woodpecker	32,026
40	Curlew	31,277

Lesser Emperor © Lee Gregory

Willow Emerald © Gavin Vella

Recording dragonflies: how you can help the Monmouthshire Atlas Project.

Steven Preddy, Monmouthshire (VC35) County Dragonfly Recorder

Our dragonfly community in south east Wales made further great progress with recording our Odonata here in 2025. In Monmouthshire (Vice County 35), the eastern side of SEWBReC's area, we saw not one, but two new species added to the county list.

The first was a single Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*) at Magor Marsh in the spring, seen by just one fortunate observer. By contrast, our second addition, Willow Emerald (*Chalcolestes viridis*), first found in August, had been found at nearby 10 sites by the end of the year, with lots of breeding evidence discovered. Adding to this, we had a record number of Lesser Emperors (*Anax parthenope*), our first Red-veined Darters (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*) for two decades, and newly- or re-discovered sites for several of our scarcer species.

We're now past the half way mark with recording for the Monmouthshire atlas. The latest distribution maps are now available at the British Dragonfly Society's website (https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/monmouthshire-dragonflies/).

We still have some work to do, however, and just four years left to go. There are plenty of stubborn gaps without a single dragonfly record since before the beginning of the atlas period in 2020.

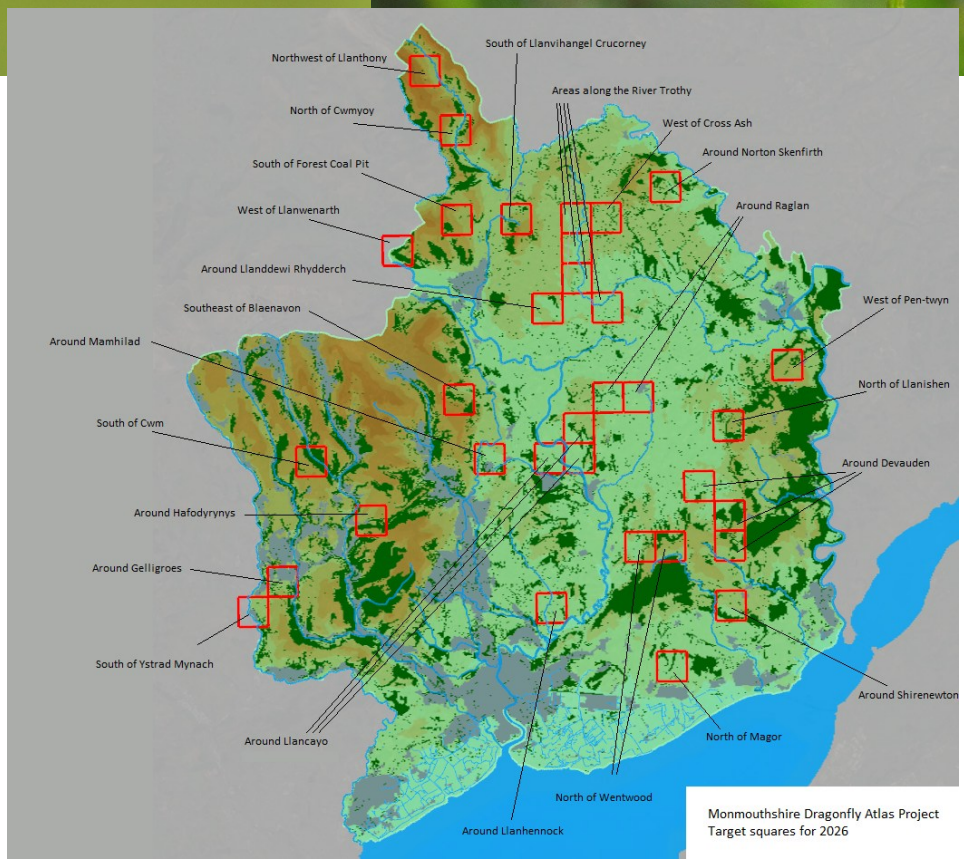
I've drawn up a target list of 99 areas that the project needs to receive records from to give us a comprehensive county-wide picture. They're spread very evenly around the county, so at least one will be within easy reach of Gwent residents. Please see the map overleaf for the first 33 of these.

I'd be very keen to hear from you if you'd like to check out any of these areas. Just a single visit to look for dragonflies is all that's needed. Please drop me an email, WhatsApp me, or give me a call and I can match you up with a suitable area.

Please contact Steve Preddy (Monmouthshire County Dragonfly Recorder), Steve.Preddy@me.com, 07989 870508 for further information about the Monmouthshire Atlas Project.

Scarce Chaser © Frank Sengpiel

Red-veined Darter © Paul Parsons



Monmouthshire Dragonfly Atlas Project
Target squares for 2026

The Fungus Verification Consultation Project

Keiron Derek Brown , Biological Recording Company

The consultation looked at how British Mycological Society can improve how UK fungal records are verified and shared through the Fungal Records Database of Britain and Ireland (FRDBI). It builds on earlier research by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which found that fungal data systems are fragmented, inconsistently verified, and often difficult to access, limiting their usefulness for conservation and research.

The project gathered feedback through a nationwide survey of 183 fungus recorders and a workshop at Kew Gardens. Survey results showed that recorders strongly prefer expert human verification over AI tools, many are interested in training to help with verification, and there is broad support for more open data sharing. Workshop participants agreed that the current backlog of unverified records is a major issue and that clearer, more consistent verification standards are needed.

The final report proposes seven recommendations, including assigning species difficulty ratings, bulk-verifying older records, creating a species-focused verification protocol, building a national verifier network, and introducing an open data policy for sharing records through the NBN Atlas.

View the project webpage and read the full report here.

Notes on the Mole

Colin Titcombe

*Mole (*Talpa europaea*) © Colin Titcombe*

Is the Mole (*Talpa europaea)* a mammal that we take for granted? Looking through my mammal records recently it would certainly seem that I am guilty of this offence. Of course the Mole is a very common animal and, perhaps like the Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), we tend not to record it, unless, that is, it has done something unusual.

My mammal records date from 1958 and, until March 2001, the Mole hardly gets a mention, and then it was only because it was a white Mole.

White Mole © Colin Titcombe

Because of their subterranean existence we don't see Moles very often, but we know that they are there because of their excavated earth-mounds (Mole-hills). The underground existence of the Mole is enabled by a highly developed body-structure with large front feet, designed for digging, along with the required musculature and modified skeletal structure which facilitates its great digging capacity.

Moles sometimes burrow just below the surface of the ground so their tunnelling activity can easily be seen. At such times worms emerge out of the ground just ahead of the tunnelling Mole and Robins (*Erithacus rubecula),* ever alert for feeding opportunities, are quick to take advantage. In this way Robins also attend Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*) 'mooting' as well as human gardeners' digging.

Having excavated an underground tunnel it may be that other animals will use these to their own advantage. In November 2002 Jim Pitcher reported the capture of a Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) in a scissors trap intended to catch a Mole in his garden in Penhow. If Moles are to be killed today the most commonly used method comes in the form of poisons, but back in the 1960s the scissor traps were widely used by professional mole-catchers, and their work shown to the world as a 'mole-gibbet'.

Today, thankfully, Moles and their mole-hills are more likely to be tolerated. During 2025 I took particular notice of the Mole activity in my home village, Llandogo. On the 3rd January I made a note relating to three fresh mole-hills along a well-worn sheeptrack near the River Wye in the village. During May 2025 Chris Hatch and I walked a stretch of the Usk Valley Walk above Llanvihangel Gobion. Here we found a concentration of 27 Mole-hills along just 14 yards (paces) of footpath. This association of mole activity with well trodden foot-paths/sheep tracks I had encountered before in the Valley of the Mally brook at Newton near Monmouth.

Could it be that the regular passage of animals above ground attracts the movement of worms and other invertebrates below ground, which in turn attracts the Moles?

Editors note: A mole-gibbet is a traditional practice where trapped Moles are hung on fences by professional Mole catchers, acting as proof that the pest control work was completed – see photograph overleaf.

Large front feet of Mole © Colin Titcombe

As will be gathered from the notes made so far, Moles commonly occur in riverside meadows which are prone to seasonal flooding. Such inundations, however, present no problem to the Moles for they are well known to be capable of swimming very well.

The remaining observations made during 2025 relate to Mole populations on green areas within Llandogo – the churchyard, the cemetery, the Holmfield Green and the Llandogo play-area. The Moles occupying the churchyard and the adjacent cemetery were active throughout the year, no matter what the weather conditions. In contrast mole-hill appearance was only to be seen on the Holmfield Green up until the 19th June. No fresh mole-hills were seen here until the 25th October of this

Mole-hills concentrated along a well-trodden sheep track in the Valley of the Mally Brook near Newton, Monmouth © Colin Titcombe

Mole-hills in the frosts of winter © Colin Titcombe

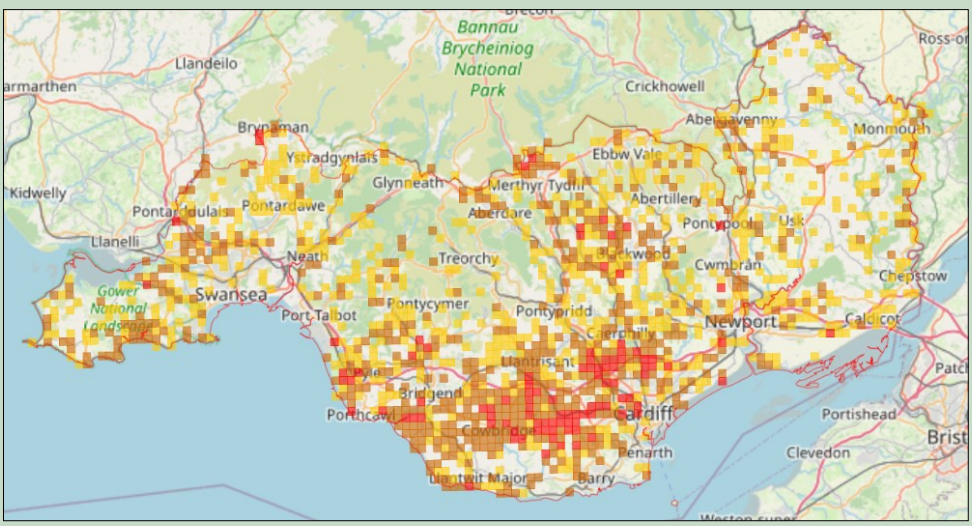
The work of the Mole-catcher as shown in the Wye Valley c. 1967 © Colin Titcombe

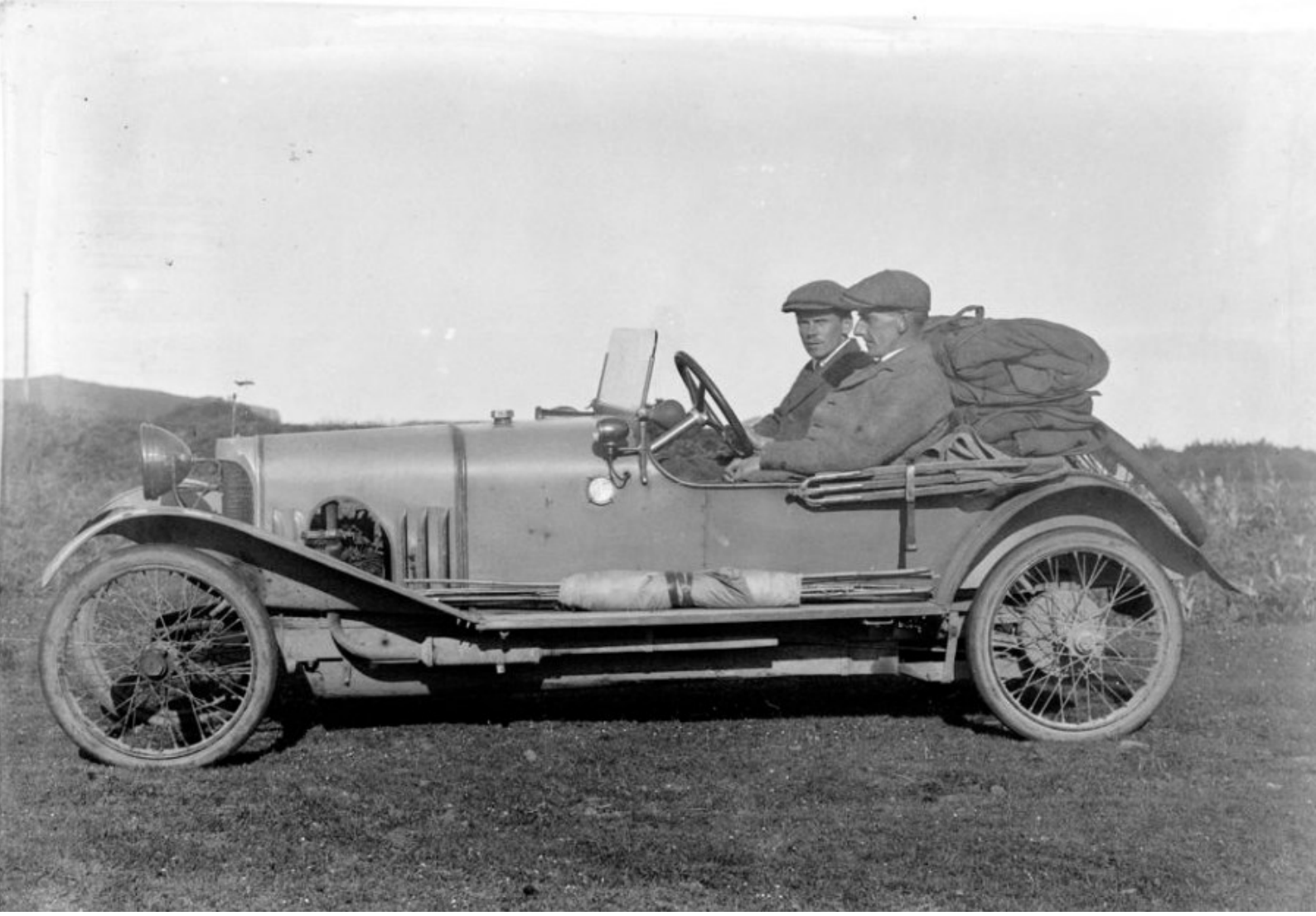
year when three fresh mole-hills appeared.

A couple of weeks later I counted twelve fresh mole-hills here, but on the children's play-area only three were produced. At the very end of 2025 there were four fresh mole-hills on the Holmfield Green but none at all on the children's play area- had there been a culling operation here? In contrast fresh mole-hills were a notable feature of both Llandogo Churchyard and the adjacent cemetery, representing very healthy populations. The same can be said for the pastures which lie between Llandogo Village and the River Wye. Long may it remain so.

Editors note: The distribution of mole records in the SEWBReC area is patchy with just 3,488 records. The highest concentration of records are in the northern parts of the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. Spotting a mole-hill counts as a field sign and therefore a wildlife record, so don't forget to record them!

Map created using Aderyn.





Harry Morrey-Salmon and Geoffrey C. S. Ingram in Morrey-Salmon's Godfrey Nash sports car, on route to Gower for a 4 day birdwatching and photography trip. Photographed 14 May, 1921. Image: By permission of Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales

Fantastic Early Bird Photography Saved for the Nation and put Online

Cardiff Naturalists Society

Through the efforts of the Cardiff Naturalists Society and with support from his son Hugh, and the staff of Amgueddfa Cymru /National Museum of Wales the collection of glass plate negatives and associated archive of Colonel H Morrey Salmon has been conserved and made available for everyone to see via Amgueddfa Cymru collections online.

The Cardiff Naturalists' Society had, since the 1980s, been the owner of the historically important photographic collection created by Colonel H. Morrey Salmon CBE, MC, DL, DSc, (1890-1985) 72nd President of the Society.

Morrey, as he was known to all, started his photography in 1908 principally of the birds of Wales and amassed a large collection of extremely high-quality glass plate negatives. These were held in secure storage along with an archive of documents that relate to him and his photographic partner Geoffrey C. S. Ingram at Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales.

The photographs include extensive pictures from the Cardiff and Vale area, but also include many scientifically and historically important pictures from the rest of Wales, especially the Pembrokeshire islands of Skomer, Skokholm and Grassholm. It includes species that are now very rare in Wales and the UK.

There had not been a means, until now, for the Society to make the images and information contained within the collection available to scientists, conservationists, and those interested in birds, the history of photography and for general cultural study.

The Society and the Salmon family agreed to transfer ownership of this collection to the Museum, and under their guidance, members of the Cardiff Naturalists' spent thousands of hours cleaning, conserving, digitising and identi-

fying the birds in the photographs and transcribing the often hard to read paper information to create a useable archive and valuable biological records.

With generous funding from Hugh Salmon, the CNS contracted the museum to scan them into their systems and make the pictures available to everyone via their online system on this link.

With the challenges that the camera systems had at the time, Morrey had issues with low light and long exposures. From the total of 3500 glass plates, the Society selected for the museum to publish online 1000 images that showed the best of the birds and/or had the most interesting historical aspect (such as the 1934 International Ornithological Congress (IOC) where the birders were ferried around Welsh islands in 2 Royal Navy destroyers, and some very early colour wildlife photography).

All 3500 were digitised by the society and given to the Museum along with a digital archive of the project to ensure that there was a good record for future photographers and ornithologists to work with.

An exhibition featuring his camera equipment, some of the pictures and information about the IOC congress in 1934, and information about the project is currently on display at Amgueddfa Cymru.

Additional documents and supporting information is available via the Society website.

This effort and the success of the project have already gained significant praise:

*Marsh Helleborine (*Epiactus palustris*) in the Vale of Glamorgan. Photographed 29 June 1919 by Colonel Harry Morrey Salmon. Image: By permission of Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales*

*Young Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) in the Vale of Glamorgan. Photographed 04 July 1920 by Colonel Harry Morrey Salmon. Image: By permission of Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales*

Iolo Williams (wildlife presenter - https://iolowilliams.co.uk/)

I was aware of ornithologist Colonel Morrey Salmon, known for his work saving the Red Kite in Wales during the last century, but he was not just a conservationist he was an important early bird photographer. Pioneering techniques such as photography for Gannet colony counting on Grassholm and "high speed" flash of swifts in Aberedw.

He left a legacy of thousands of fragile glass plate negatives and an archive of important historical biological records which have been in storage and have not been looked at since the 1980s.

It's wonderful that a selection of a thousand of these early important bird photographs have been cleaned and linked to their records and are being made available for everyone though the incredible efforts of the Cardiff Naturalists Society volunteers in conjunction with the staff of Amgueddfa Cymru, and I would encourage anyone with an interest in birds or early photography to take a look at them.

Andy Kendall (Former President of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society and project coordinator - http://www.shenstone.me.uk/)

The challenges that he overcame to get such excellent pictures are immense. One frame and then you have to change the plate and wait sometimes hours for the bird to return for the next photograph.

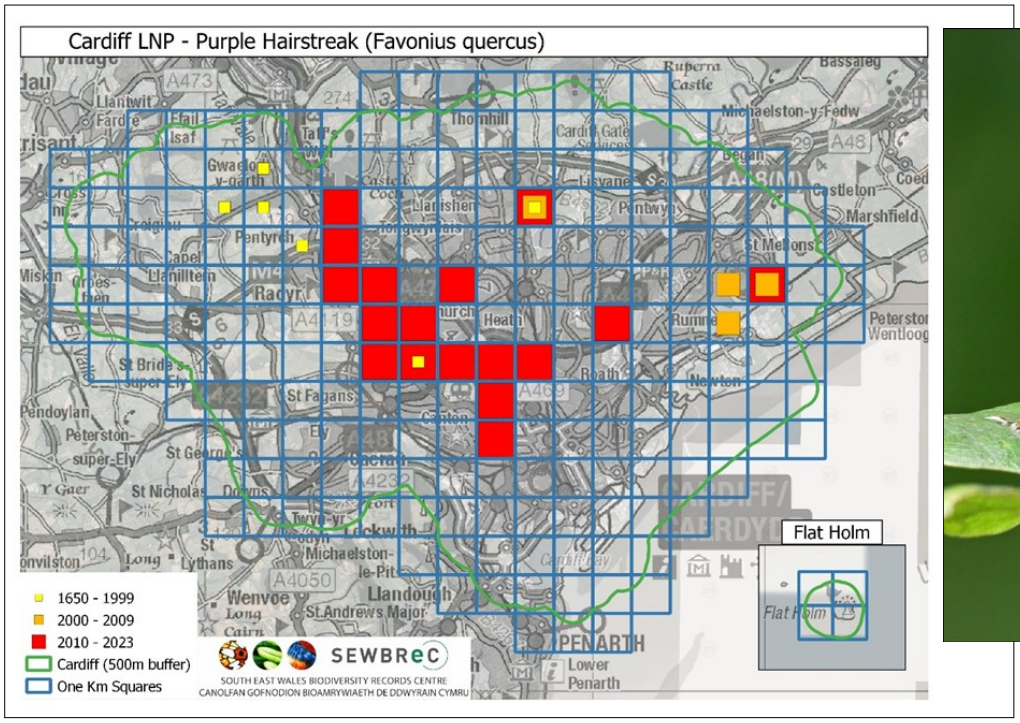
It is superb to be able to put the work of this pioneering Welsh wildlife photographer and conservationist back into the public awareness, to tell his story and to secure his work for the people of Wales and the world.

Highlighting changes in distribution with pretty maps

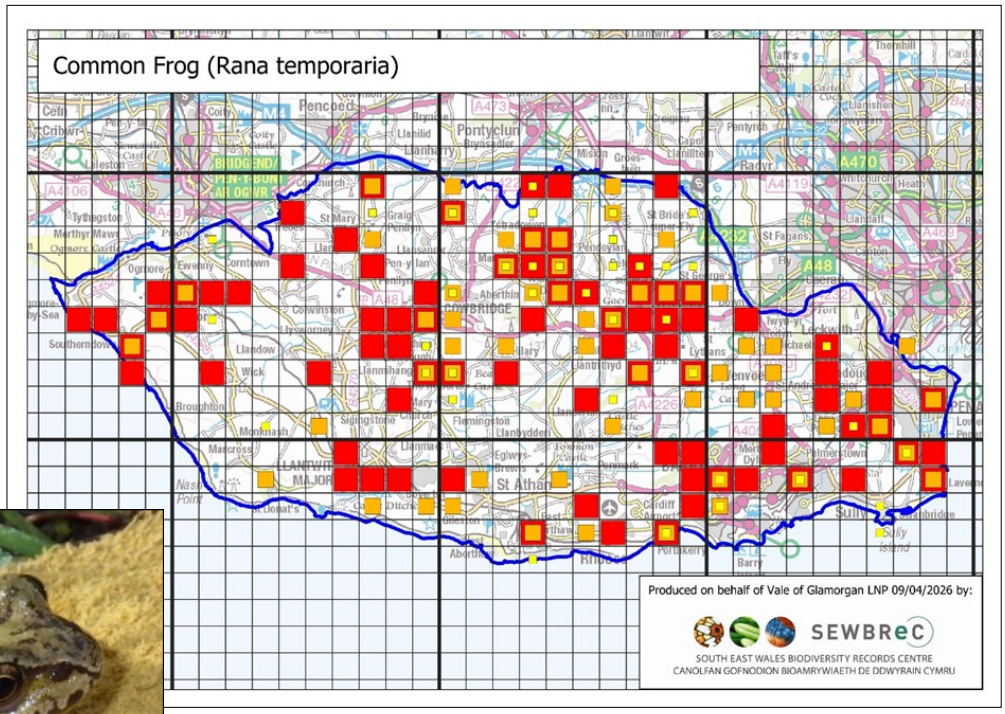
David Slade, Senior IT & Records Officer, SEWBReC

Who here doesn't like a nice map? As part of a project for Cardiff's Local Nature Partnership (LNP), I was playing around with nested squares to try to help visualise where species have either expanded or contracted, and this led to the map here for Purple Hairstreak. Small yellow squares indicate old (pre 2000) records, orange for the middle period and the larger red squares for post 2010 records.

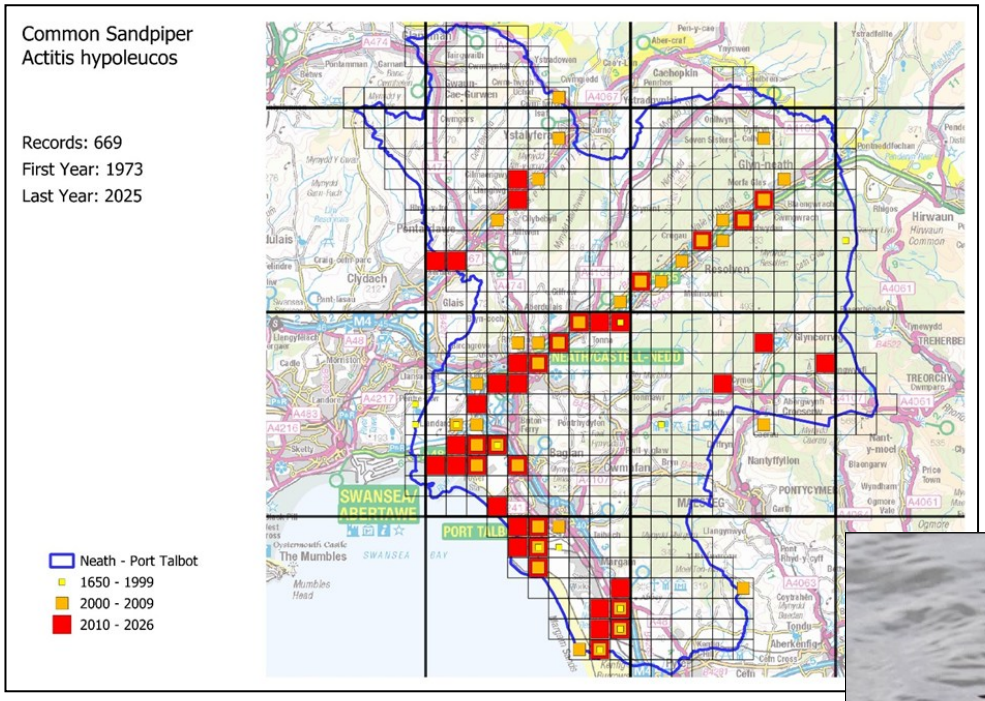
Looking at this map, one might think that Purple Hairstreak has expanded in range considerably since 2010, whilst in this case it is more likely down to concerted recording effort and a better understanding of how to find them. I just make the maps it is up to others to work out what they mean!



Purple Hairstreak (*Favonius quercus*)
© Annie Irving



Common frog (*Rana temporaria)*
© Peter Sturgess

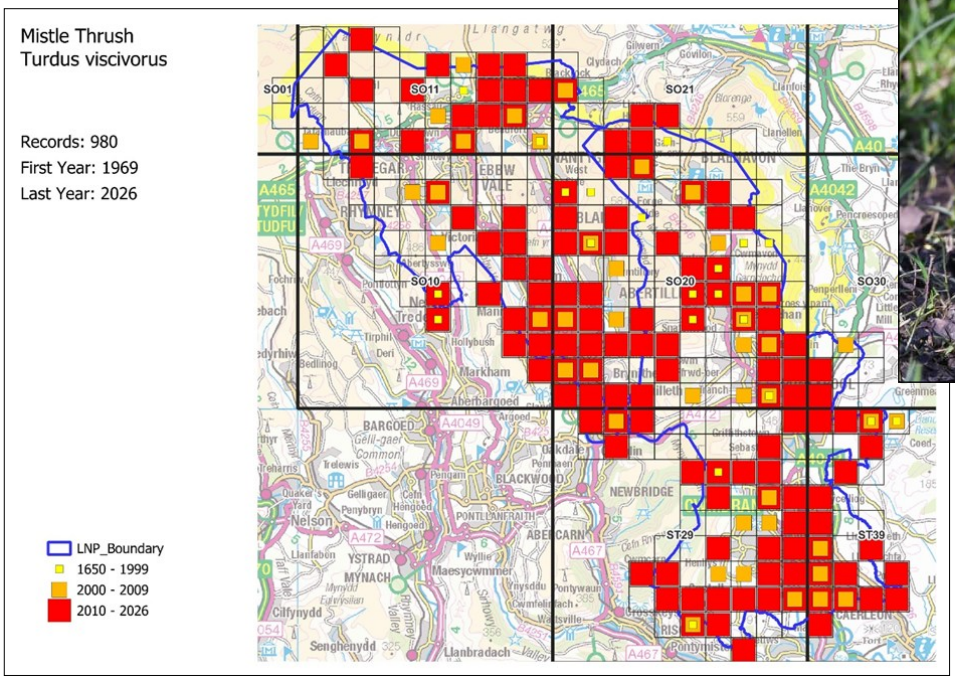


Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) © Annie Irving

More recently I've produced maps in the same style for few other regions, and we are in the process of offering maps like this to support LNPs. We think these maps may be helpful to LNPs, especially as they get to grips with the implications of recent changes to the Section 7 list. This list includes species and habitats of principal importance for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Wales as part of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The map of Common Frog on the previous page shows that there are large areas in the Vale of Glamorgan without recent (if any) records. The map of Common Sandpiper in Neath Port Talbot gives a good indication that it might be associated with rivers! The map below shows Mistle Thrush, which is a newly-added Section 7 species, for the Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen LNP area, with lots of new monads added in recent years.

Mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) © Paul Denning



Celebrating 50 Years of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

Jo Milborrow, Butterfly Monitoring Officer, Butterfly Conservation

In 2025-26, the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) celebrated its 50th anniversary, recognising fifty years of volunteer-led butterfly monitoring that contributes to one of the world's longest running invertebrate monitoring schemes.

The scheme officially began in 1976 when 39 transects were set up on nature reserves in England and Wales and has now grown into a nationally coordinated network with more than 3,500 sites monitored for butterflies each year throughout the UK. There are more than 2,600 traditional transect routes active across the UK, and this still includes half of those original sites, with a handful having contributed data in every year of the scheme to date.

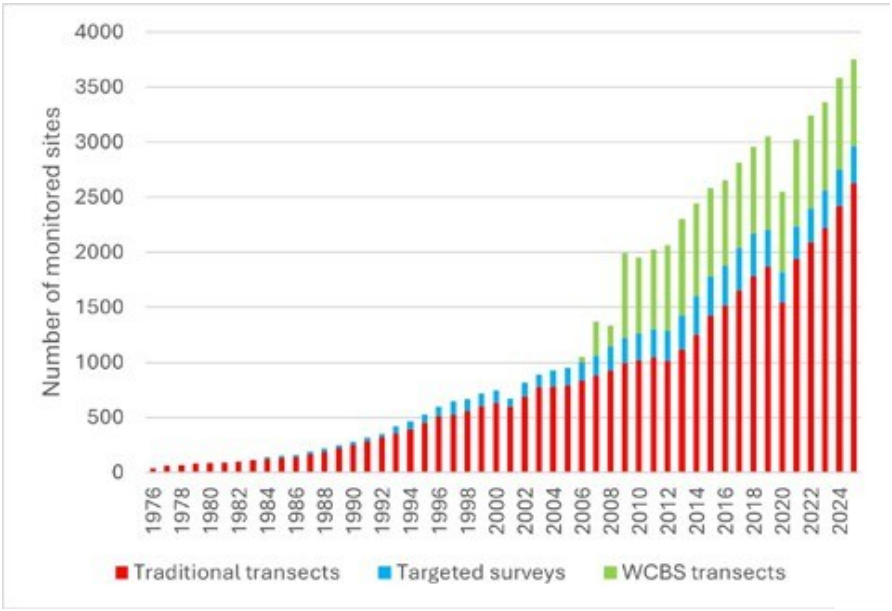


Figure 1. Number of UKBMS surveys each year from 1976 to 2025.

The scheme produces robust annual population trends for 58 of our 59 regularly occurring species, you can view the population trends for each butterfly species by visiting the UKBMS website: https://ukbms.org/species

Since the scheme began, Transect Surveyors have collected over 10 million butterfly records, which has told us a great deal about how our countryside has changed over the years.

Whilst transects form the backbone of the UKBMS, those data are supplemented by additional methods, including targeted counts for priority species and, since 2009, data from the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS). This latter scheme is based on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) protocol developed by the BTO, with two parallel transect routes being set up in randomly generated 1km squares across the UK countryside. Each WCBS square is walked at least twice per year at the height of the butterfly season, we are always looking for more people to take on a WCBS square so please see below details on how you can get involved.

Long-term trends show that 22 of our butterfly species are in significant decline across the UK while 17 have significantly increased since monitoring began. This situation becomes more nuanced once you drill down to the data from individual countries. In England the situation is worse, with 24 species in decline against 15 species on the increase. Results from Wales and Northern Ireland also show more species in decline than increasing. However, the outlook is much more positive in Scotland where only three species have suffered long-term declines while 11 species have significantly increased.

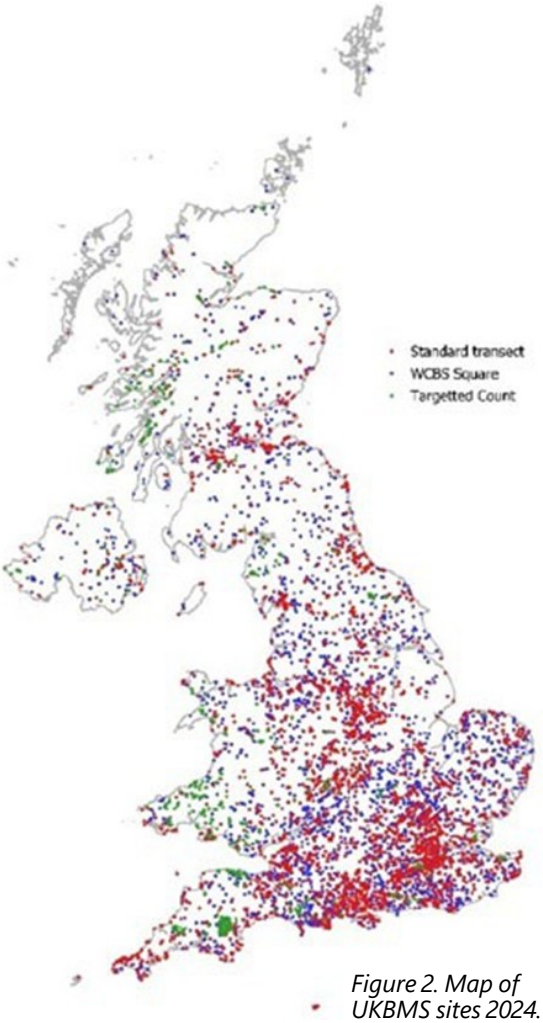


Figure 2. Map of UKBMS sites 2024.

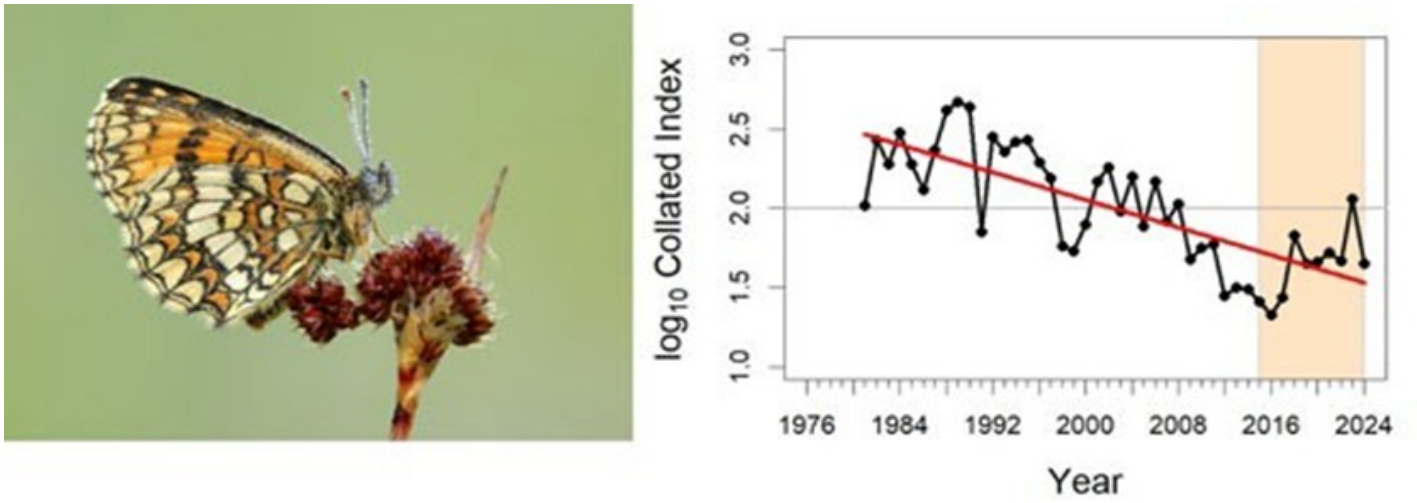


Figure 3. UK population trend for Heath Fritillary from 1976 to 2024, including trendline in red and the short-term trend (10 years) highlighted by the orange bar. Photo – Heath Fritillary: Iain H Leach

The list of most heavily declining species across the UK is a great cause for concern, covering a mixture of habitat specialists and, formerly, more widespread species. Heath Fritillary has declined by the greatest amount (89% since 1981), but Small Tortoiseshell and Wall have also both declined by over 80% in the long-term.

Factors driving these declines are varied and complex, but include the loss of important semi-natural habitats to development or land use change, agricultural intensification and habitat degradation through changing management practices. Climate change is also having a negative impact on some species either directly or indirectly through impacts on their foodplants or pathogens.

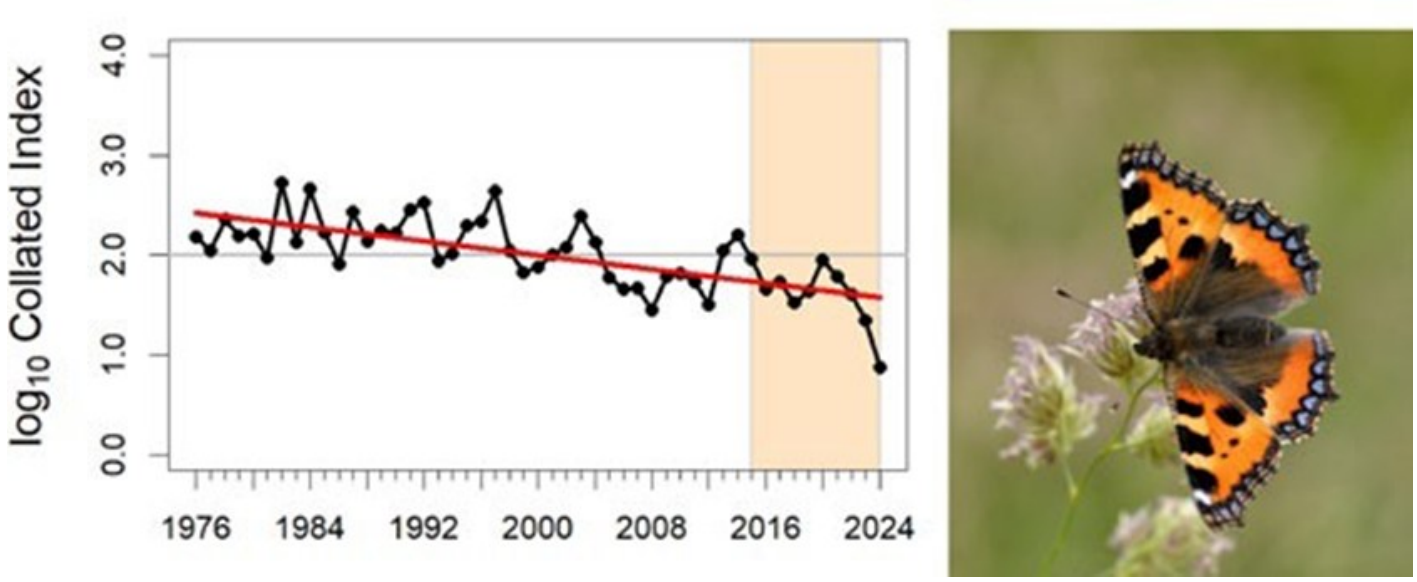


Figure 4. UK population trend for Small Tortoiseshell from 1976 to 2024, including trendline in red and the short-term trend (10 years) highlighted by the orange bar. Photo - Small Tortoiseshell: Bob Eade

In contrast, the long-term increases in Scotland undoubtedly highlight one of the positive impacts of climate change, with several species expanding their range northwards in recent years and continuing to establish new populations. Great examples of this are the Orange-tip, Peacock, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and Wall (bucking the national trend).

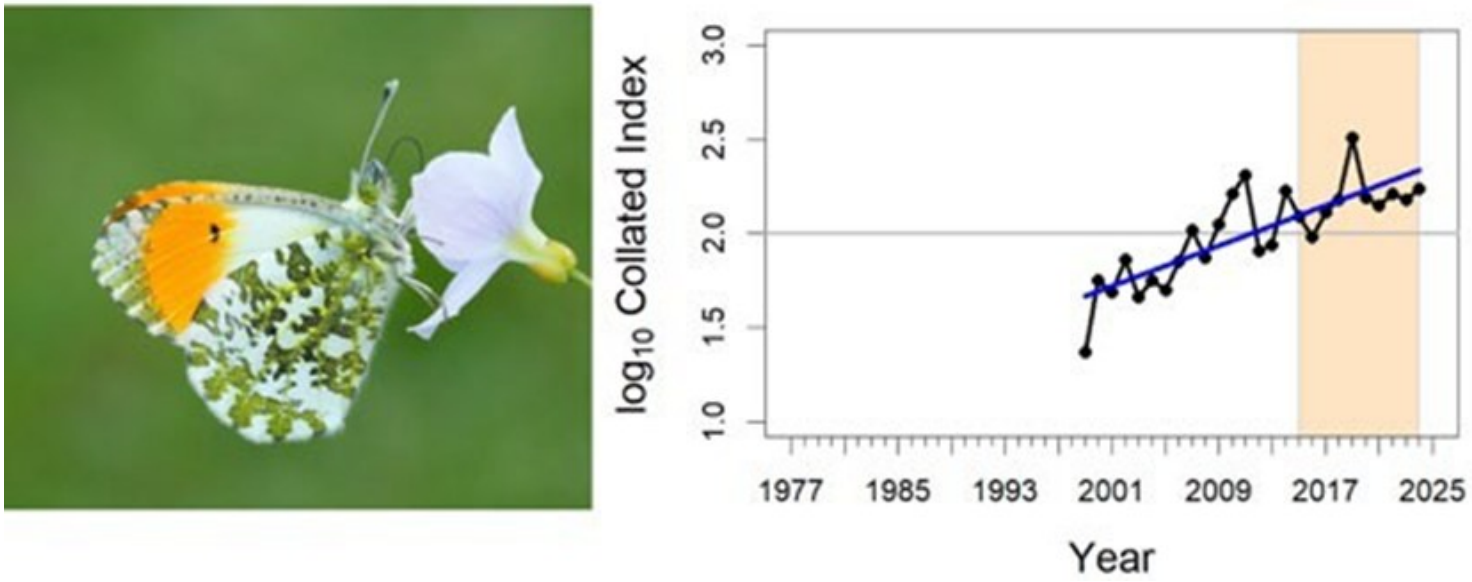


Figure 5. Scotland population trend for Orange-tip 1999 to 2024, including trendline in blue and short-term trend (10 years) highlighted by the orange bar. Photo - Orange-tip: Iain H Leach

How the data are used – Indicators and research

Data from the scheme are also used to produce official Government biodiversity indicators, by combining data across different species groups. These are updated annually with the latest data. The current indicators show that habitat specialist butterfly species are faring worse, showing significant long-term decreases across the UK, while figures for habitat generalists are stable. Further analyses also show significant declines for butterflies on farmland and woodland sites since 1990. To view the latest set of butterfly indicators please visit the Defra website: Butterflies in the United Kingdom and in England, 1976 to 2024 - GOV.UK

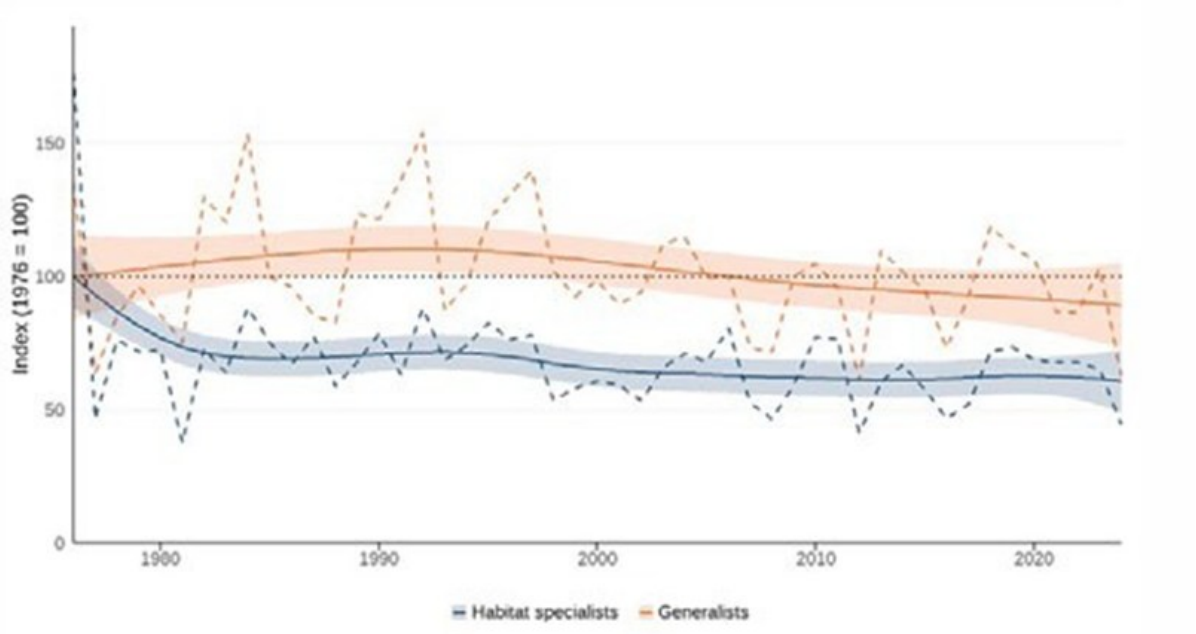


Figure 6. Trends for the abundance of habitat specialist (26 species) and generalist butterfly species (24 species) in the UK, 1976 to 2024

Get Involved

If you'd like to get involved with this long-running scheme we are always looking for more Recorders to help with the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS). This is part of the UKBMS and aims to survey a broad range of randomly selected sites across the UK, taking in all types of habitat. There are 1000 randomly selected 1km squares which are surveyed twice during July and August.

1. **Explore -** Use the map to explore squares near to you, you can see when they were last surveyed, a site map and a species list - https://ukbms.org/sites
   Find out all about what is involved in the surveys with this video - https://www. youtube.com/watch?v=kNeZr1cv84c
2. **Connect –** Find your local WCBS Champion, these volunteers help to coordinate the surveys in their area. They can get you set up with a suitable, available square - https://ukbms.org/regional-co-ordinators

3. **Register –** Register on the UKBMS website stating which square you will be surveying - https://ukbms.org/MyData
4. **Survey!** Carry out at least two survey visits on warm, sunny days during July and August. Find all the details here - https://ukbms.org/guidance-recording-forms

The geographic spread of WCBS squares ensures that monitoring reflects the true diversity of UK landscapes, from intensively farmed areas to upland fringes, urban areas, and pockets of semi-natural habitat.

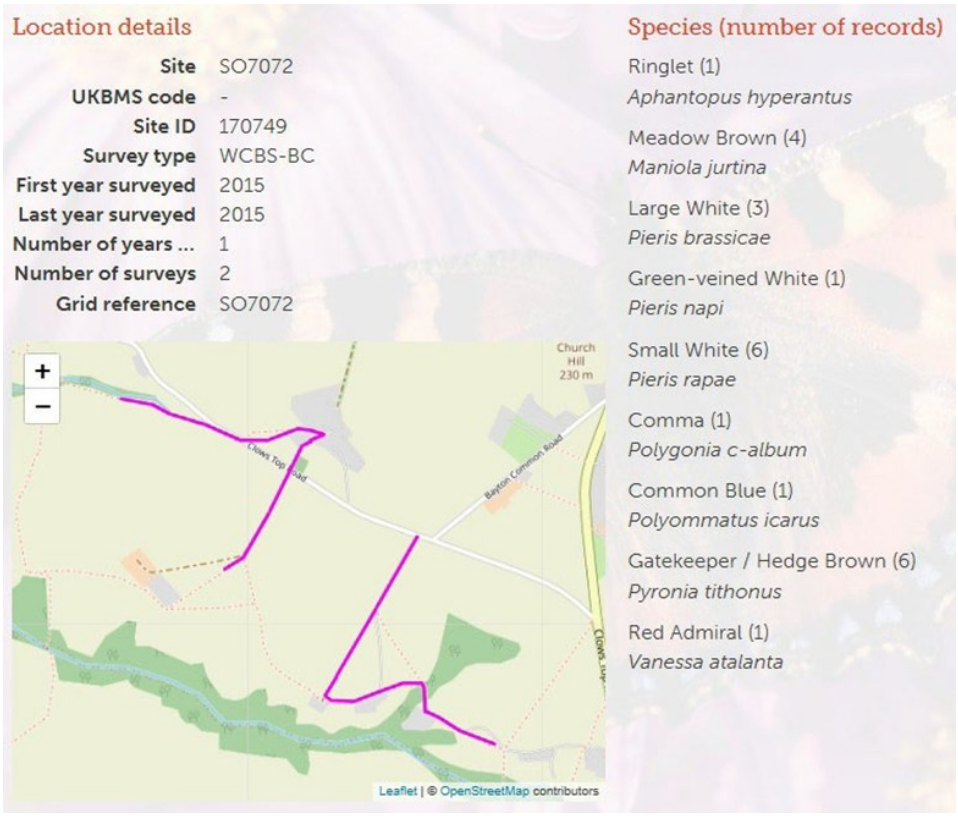


Figure 7. Details of an available WCBS square from the UKBMS website - https://ukbms.org/sites

Want to monitor butterflies in your area?
Alongside the work of the UKBMS, Butterfly Conservation supports and promotes a range of additional butterfly monitoring methods across the UK. These use a variety of approaches, from simple, unstructured observations that anyone can contribute to, through to more involved, repeated survey methods like those used by the UKBMS.
To help local groups, partnerships, and community projects get involved, new guidance has recently been produced outlining the different monitoring methods available. The guidance explains how each approach works, the level of effort required, and how to choose the method that best suits your project, location, or volunteer capacity. The guidance is available to download from the UKBMS website here.

A Huge Thank You
The UKBMS has always been a volunteer-led triumph. To all the transect surveyors, WCBS recorders, county coordinators, regional organisers, partner staff and everyone who contributes time, expertise, and enthusiasm: **thank you**. Your efforts are the backbone of 50 years of monitoring, and the reason we've been able to celebrate this anniversary with such confidence in the scientific and conservation value of the data.

The UKBMS is supported and managed in partnership by Butterfly Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Follow us on Bluesky - @ukbms.bsky.social Twitter - @UKBMSLive

This article was originally published in the April 2026 NFBR newsletter. You can read the full issue here NFBR Issue 69.pdf

The scarce hoverfly *Parasyrphus nigritarsis*

Elaine Wright, Senior Recording and Communications Officer, SEWBReC

Late spring is a great time to look for the immature stages of the hoverfly *Parasyrphus nigritarsis* amongst Dock Beetle (*Gastrophysa viridula*) colonies. This hoverfly is considered scarce, though local recorders have had great success finding the eggs and larvae this year, so its status may be a reflection of under recording. SEWBReC held 5 records prior to 2026, but have already received 17 records for this year!

Below is an excellent guide to identification by Geoff Wilkinson of the UK Hoverflies Larval Group.

Identification: 14mm in length when mature. Unique colour pattern: 5-7 dorsal pairs of yellow spots (often brown when matured), repeated pattern of brown crescent-like marks linking to a dorsal brown line most prominent anteriorly. Rear breathing tube in 3rd stage larva twice as long as wide, pale at base, reddening at tip.

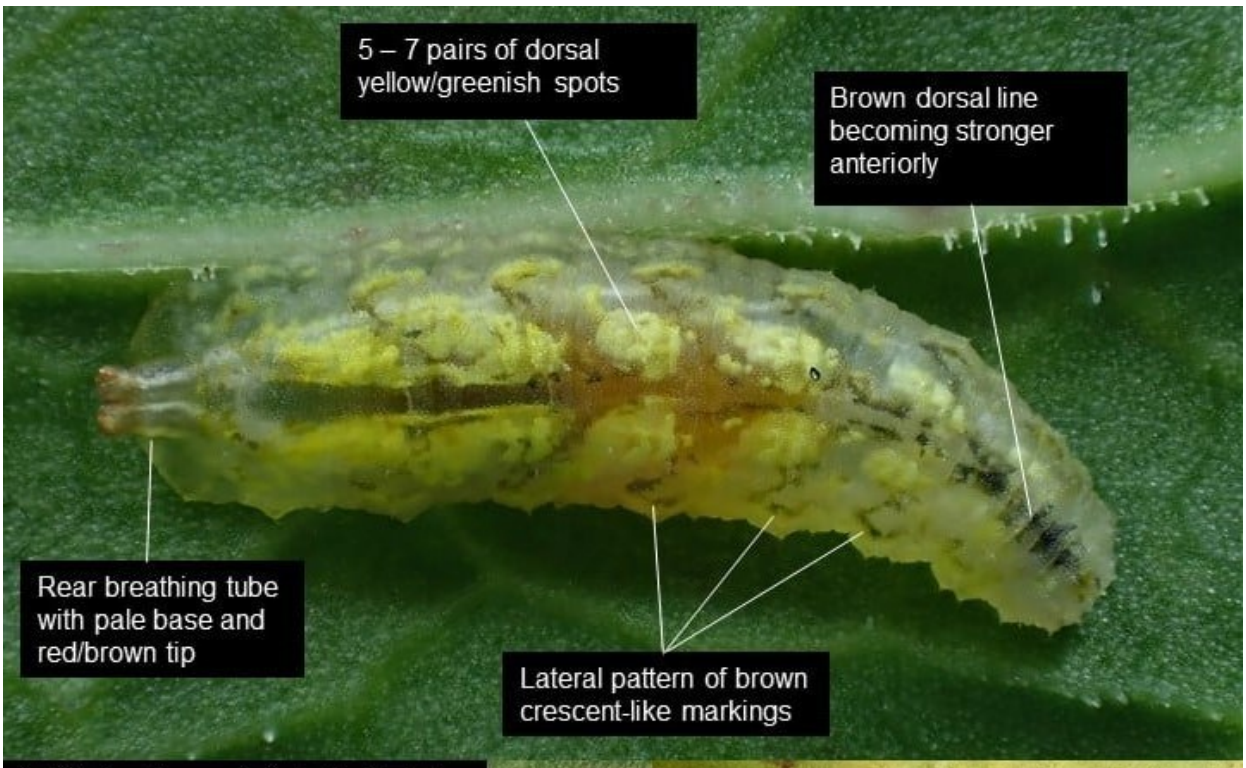
Only British hoverfly routinely found on leaf beetle eggs, larvae and pupae (though bear *Xanthandrus* in mind).

Can be identified in the field and from a good photograph.

Mating pair of dock leaf beetles and two orange egg batches on underside of dock leaf

Life-cycle: One generation per season; active May-July; mature larva overwinters in litter, adult emerges following spring.

Habits: Predator of leaf beetle eggs, larvae & pupae on alder, willow and dock. Eggs and larvae readily found among leaf beetle colonies.



3 white hoverfly eggs indicated by black line in leaf beetle egg batch on dock

2nd stage larva eating dock leaf beetle larvae

All images © Geoff Wilkinson

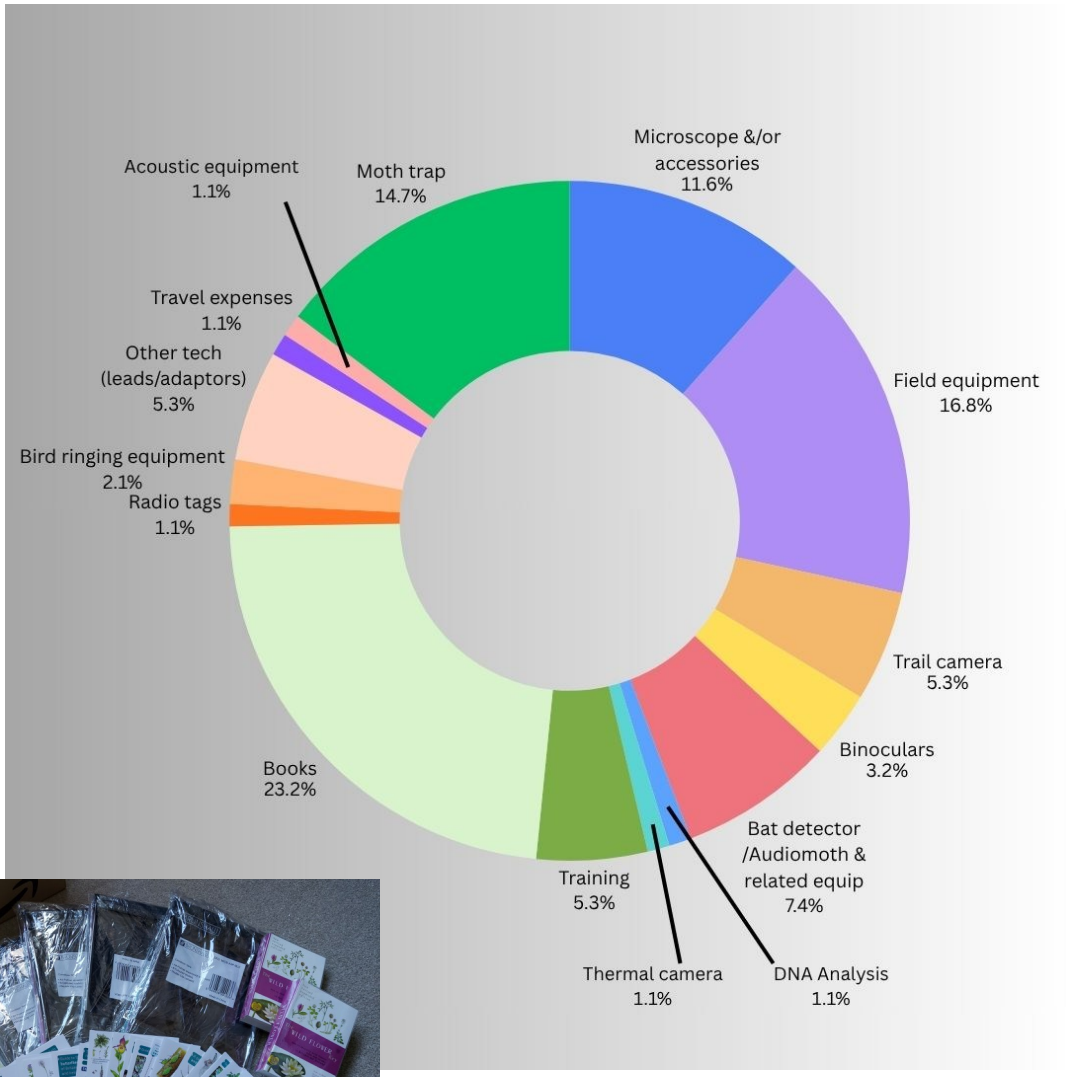
Supporting Recorders

Rebecca Wright-Davies, Senior Biodiversity Data & Enquiries Officer, SEWBReC

More than £13k of grant money has been awarded to over 70 applicants over the last 5 years.

SEWBReC Recorders' Grants are available to support wildlife recording in south east Wales. The grant is primarily aimed at funding opportunities for existing recorders to enhance their recording efforts; or for group projects with the potential to reach a number of new recorders. Small grants up to a maximum of £500 are available for items such as: Field/lab equipment; Travel expenses; Identification guides; Software; Attending courses; Running courses and workshops; Promotional material; Atlas and checklist publication.

A **Books Grant Scheme** for up to £75 for field guides, taxonomic keys and other relevant publications is also available. Download the application forms for both grant schemes from the SEWBReC website.



Above: The types of items purchased by the SEWBReC Recording Grant over the last five years. Books, moth traps and other field equipment are firm favourites!

Left: Range of botanical field guides and equipment to help a community group record plants © Cosmeston Lakes Country Park Wildlife Group

SEWBReC has books and equipment which are available for Recorders to use at our office in Talbot Green or to borrow for a time period under the **SEWBReC Equipment Loan Scheme.** Items available include guidebooks and keys on a variety of British species groups, mains powered Heath moth traps, battery powered moth traps, Clearwing moth lures, dissection microscopes, bat detector, beating trays, nets and collection pots, lab equipment for dissection and preservation of specimens. Further information can be found at sewbrec.org.uk/loan-scheme

Peacock (*Aglais io*) © Annie Irving

Ashy Mining Bee (*Andrena cineraria*) © Steven Murray

The Big British Garden Survey

The National Garden Scheme is inviting people across the UK to take part in The Big British Garden Survey, a new project which encourages everyone to discover and record the wildlife visiting their gardens using simple existing citizen science activities.

Gardens are vital habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species, yet many are unaware of the extent of biodiversity supported by their outdoor spaces. Collecting wildlife observations not only contributes to ecological research but also offers participants the chance to connect more closely with the natural world, something research shows can benefit wellbeing as well as biodiversity. Anyone with a garden, large or small, an allotment or balcony, can take part.

UKCEH scientists are working with the National Garden Scheme to deliver the project and will manage and summarise the data collected to help improve understanding of how gardens support biodiversity.

UKCEH ecologist Dr Abigail Lowe said, “By combining wildlife recording with information about garden habitats, the project will generate valuable insights into how gardens support nature.”

National Garden Scheme Chief Executive, Dr Richard Claxton comments, “Taking part is simple - record the butterflies and other insects that your garden attracts. If you are already monitoring other wildlife in your garden, you can also contribute those records. Mapping your garden and answering a short habitat survey will provide useful context about the features that might be supporting wildlife in your garden too.”

National Garden Scheme President, Alan Titchmarsh adds, “Gardens are not only hugely important in terms of caring for the landscape and for wildlife, but they also give us an opportunity to make a real contribution to the welfare of wildlife. They make a positive contribution to the health of the natural world – a hands-on way for all of us to do our bit in looking after the planet.

"The results of this important new survey will help us understand the role that thousands of gardens play and to champion ways in which gardeners can continue to support wildlife conservation in the UK. I would encourage everyone with a garden to explore their own patch of earth and contribute to this fascinating survey.”

The survey runs from April until the end of September 2026 with results published by the National Garden Scheme in early 2027.

Find out more and sign up on the National Garden Scheme website.
Article originally posted on the CEH website.

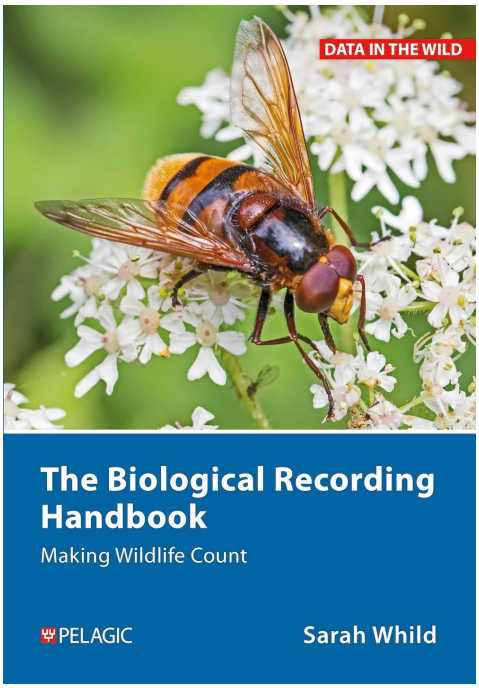
New books on wildlife recording

Elaine Wright, Senior Recording and Communications Officer

Two books on the joys and science of wildlife recording have recently been published. Both are available to borrow from the SEWBReC library, so if either of the below descriptions (taken from the website of their publisher, Pelagic Publishing) tickle your fancy, email us on info@sewbrec.org.uk to arrange a loan.

The Biological Recording Handbook: Making Wildlife Count, Sarah Whild

Biological recording is the discipline of writing down natural history observations of a correctly identified species, in a specific location, on a specific date, by a named individual. Simple enough, you may think. But these four pieces of data each have their own pitfalls for the unwary, whether making records or using them in analysis.



This is the first time that the all principles and processes of biological recording have been brought together, with a detailed look at some fascinating historical examples. What is biological recording, why do we do it, how did it start, and why does it underpin just about every evidence-based decision that is made in conservation? The book covers:

- The art of recording – in-depth, practical information from site-specific work and different habitats to handling absence data, bias and error.

- Planning – including relevant legislation and monitoring.

- Context – databases, collections, rarities, refereeing/validation.

- Analysis – working with lists and indicator species.

- Reporting – how-to, the community, ownership and confidentiality.

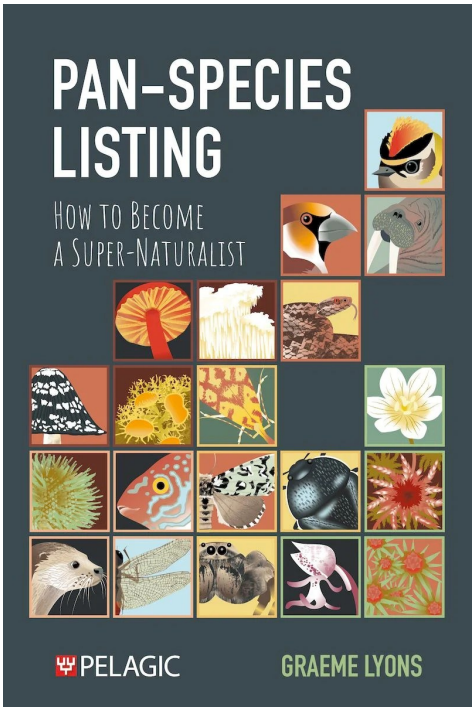
Controversial topics such as species reintroductions are discussed, tips are offered on how to make the most effective use of data, and readers are invited to carry out thought experiments on aspects of their own recording activities and well as considering the future of this all-important discipline.

The Biological Recording Handbook provides comprehensive guidance for anyone making wildlife records, whether amateur recorder, ecological consultant or conservation biology academic.

https://pelagicpublishing.com/products/the-biological-recording-handbook

Pan-Species Listing, Graeme Lyons

Pan-species listing is a brilliant method to keep track of a lifetime of natural history sightings. A personal list, not just of birds but including every moth, beetle, lichen, sea-spider, liverwort, fungus, slime mould, cetacean… anything and everything, all the species you've seen. The list is maintained as part of an online community, following your progress in a fun and gently competitive way.



But pan-species listing is not just a game; it generates huge amounts of good quality biological data, while providing a framework for the next generation of naturalists to become experts themselves. This book reveals why the approach was dreamt up, as well as how to do it, what the benefits are and how you too can realise them. The 37 taxonomic classes used on the *Pan-Species Listing* website each have a section showing which texts, websites, equipment, online groups and information are needed to get started. Along with a detailed section on biological recording and fieldcraft, they make this a very handy guide for those that don't necessarily want to list.

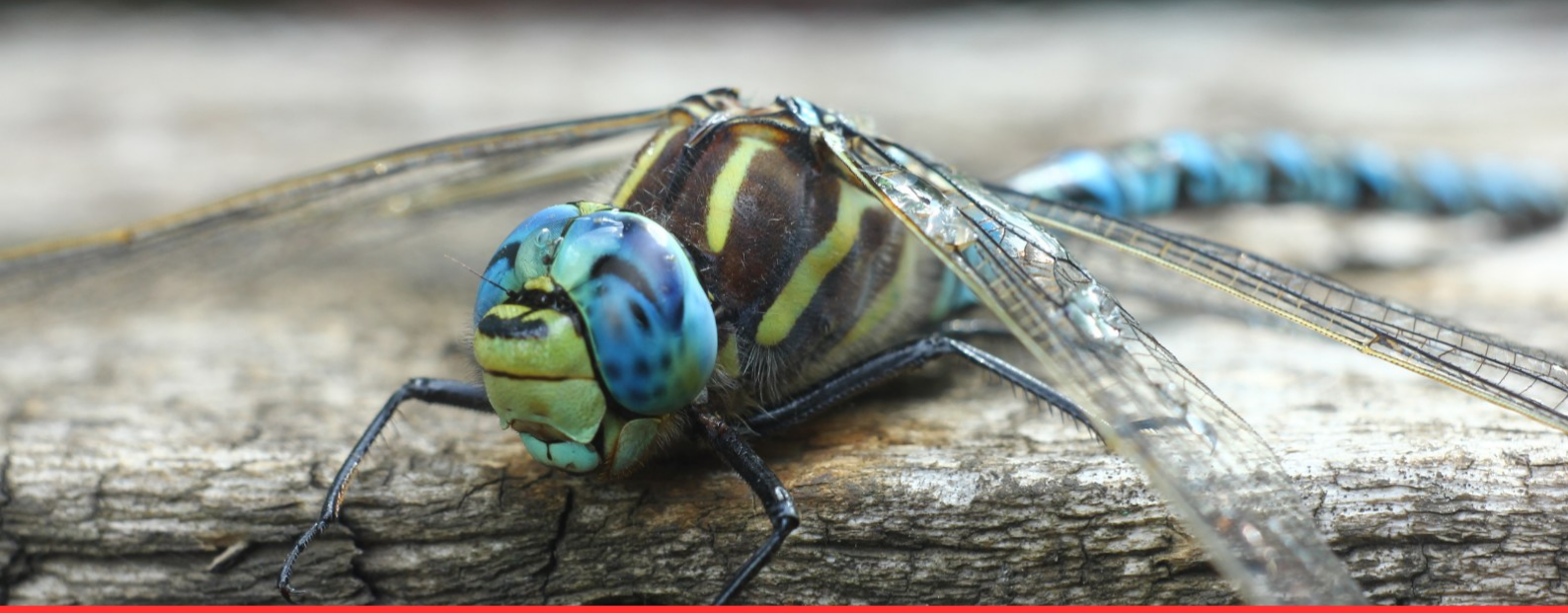
Altogether this is a crucial text for navigating the world of natural history and biological recording in the twenty-first century. The book is suitable for anyone who wishes to take part in pan-species listing but also those with an interest in biological recording, natural history, fieldwork and fieldcraft, bioblitzes, survey and monitoring, conservation ecology, record handling and analysing large lists of species.

https://pelagicpublishing.com/products/pan-species-listing

2026 SUMMER EVENTS

Join us at the below events this summer!

Date	Event	Location	Booking
Wednesday 17/06/2026	Introduction to Recording (Vale of Glamorgan LNP)	Online	info@sewbrec.org.uk
Friday 19/06/2026	Dragonfly and Damselfly Identification Course	Magor Marsh	info@sewbrec.org.uk
Saturday 20/06/2026	Introduction to Moth Trapping Course	SEWBReC Office, Talbot Green	info@sewbrec.org.uk
Thursday 25/06/2026	Identifying and Recording Habitats	Dare Valley Country Park	info@sewbrec.org.uk
Saturday 04/07/2026	Nature Unearthed	Gnoll Country Park	Not required
Wednesday 08/07/2026	Dune Plants Species Identification Course	Kenfig NNR	info@sewbrec.org.uk
Saturday 11/07/2026	Celebration of Nature	St Fagans Museum	Not required
Saturday 18/07/2026	Vale Nature Festival	Cosmeston Lakes	Not required
Saturday 25/07/2026	Go Wild!	Pontypool Park	Not required
Friday 31/07/2026	Bridgend Nature Festival	Newbridge Fields	Not required
Saturday 12/09/2026	Rocky Shore Species Identification Course	Rest Bay	info@sewbrec.org.uk



Dragonfly and Damselfly Identification Course

Friday 19th June 2026
10am - 4pm

Magor Marsh

Trainer: Steve Preddy
Cost: Free
Level: Beginners to Improvers

Join SEWBReC and dragonfly expert Steve Preddy to learn more about dragonfly identification. We will be based in the Derek Upton Centre for a classroom session on ID, then we will head out to the reserve to put our skills into practise.

Please email **info@sewbrec.org.uk** to book

SEWBReC

SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Top photo is Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*).
Bottom photo is Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*).

An Introduction to Moth Trapping

Saturday 20th June 2026
10am - 12.30pm

SEWBReC Office, Talbot Green

Trainer: David Slade - Cost: Free - Level: Beginners

Mystified by MVs? Stumped by Skinners? Come and learn about the basics of moth trapping with Glamorgan Moth Recorder Dave Slade. We will showcase types of traps available, explain best practice for running a trap and cover how to record your findings. Participants will also have the option to borrow a moth trap to take home.

Please note, this course does not cover moth species identiifcation.

Please email **info@sewbrec.org.uk** to book

SEWBReC
SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Dune Plants
Species Identification Course

Wednesday 8th July 2026
10am - 4pm
Kenfig NNR

Trainer: David Barden
Level: Beginners to Improvers
Cost: Free

Join SEWBReC and botanist David Barden to learn about the plant species found on the dunes at Kenfig NNR. There will be a slight emphasis on rushes, sedges and grasses, but we will also cover other dune plants. Suitable for beginners or improvers. Note that the course will be entirely based in the field. Booking essential.

Please email: info@sewbrec.org.uk to book a space

SEWBReC
SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Photo credits (Top left to right): Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) © Andy Oxley from Canva; Sharp Rush (*Juncus acutus*) © Faith Williams; Round-leaved Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*) © David Barden; Slender Club-rush (*Isolepis cernua*) © David Barden. Bottom: Kenfig NNR © Gray Freeman from Canva



Rocky Shore Species Identification Course

Saturday 12th September 2026
10am - 4pm

Rest Bay, Porthcawl

Trainer: Emma Lamport (Beach Academy Wales)
Level: Beginners to Improvers
Cost: Free

Join SEWBReC and marine expert Emma Lamport to learn more about the species found on the rocky shore at Rest Bay, Porthcawl. Suitable for beginners or improvers. Note that the course will be entirely based in the field. Booking essential.

Please email: info@sewbrec.org.uk

SEWBReC
SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Photo credits (Top left to right): Edible Crab (*Cancer pagurus*), Honeycomb Worm Reef (*Sabellaria alveolata*), Beadlet Anemone (*Actinia equina*) & Purple Topshell (*Steromphala umbilicalis*). Bottom: Tidal pool. All photos © Beach Academy Wales.

SEWBReC

SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)

15 Talbot Road, Talbot Green, Pontyclun, CF72 8AD.

Telephone: 01443 808896
E-mail: info@sewbrec.org.uk
Web: www.sewbrec.org.uk
Follow us on social media:

www.facebook.com/sewbrec

https://bsky.app/profile/sewbrec.org.uk

www.instagram.com/sewbrec