

Amphibian and Reptile Action Plan

Introduction and Vision Statement

Amphibians and reptiles (together known as herpetofauna) are ancient groups of animals and representative species of both groups occur in Carmarthenshire. Priority BAP species that occur in the county are common lizard, slow worm, grass snake, adder and common toad.



They live in a variety of habitats from ponds and damp grassland to heathland, sand dunes and hedge banks, roadside verges, woodland rides and edges, allotments, gardens and brownfield sites.

Amphibians and reptiles in south Wales have suffered through loss and fragmentation of habitat. Habitat has been lost to development, gardens have been paved or decked, parks ‘tidied up’ and agricultural practices changed, which has all impacted on the amphibian and reptile species that use these habitats.

Loss of these habitats has also resulted in fragmentation and isolation of populations, which can result in decline and local extinction of species.

We would like to have a more complete picture about the range and distribution of our herpetofauna populations and to ensure they remain viable through the conservation, creation and enhancement of interconnected habitat for them, including feeding, breeding and hibernation sites.

Action Plan Objectives

- HERP1SP** To maintain and increase the population of Carmarthenshire’s herpetofauna
- HERP2DCM** To gather data on the distribution and status of Carmarthenshire’s herpetofauna
- HERP3RA** To raise awareness of the status and requirements of herpetofauna in Carmarthenshire and provide advice on habitat management.

Actions

CODE	TEXT	START/END DATE	Lead partner	Action goal	Key partners	Funding	Priority L,M,H	Report Jan-Dec 2010	Report Jan-Dec 2011	
HERP1SP1	Create/enhance features for amphibians/reptiles at county's country parks and MCP	2010-2014	CCC	At least 8 parks/CPs have suitable habitat	CPs Grounds maintenance staff Volunteers	✓		Not started – 2011 action.		
HERP1SP2	Undertake project with schools to create habitats and monitor herpetofauna in their grounds	2010-2014	???			✓		Not started.		
HERP1SP3	Take part in 'ARC's Add an Adder' project looking at sites in Carmarthenshire	2010-2014	SWWARG	At least 1 Carms Project		✓?		Not started.		
HERP2DCM1	Identify and map key sites in the county for amphibians and reptiles	2010-2012	SWWARG	Key sites map produced	CCC, WTSWW CCW Vols			Not started.		
HERP2DCM2	Undertake survey of these sites and identify management requirements	2010-2014	SWWARG	At least 10 sites surveyed	CCC WTSWW Vols			Not started.		
HERP2DCM3	Identify areas which warrant attention for the Toads on Roads campaign through information request via press and community councils	2010-2014	CCC	PR Letter to community councils Newsletter article GIS layer	Vols			Two sites identified – Pantyffynnon (SN621108) and Burry Port (SN449004). Funding from CCW grant found to match fund cost of signs from Tech Services for the Pantyffynnon site. Tech Services paid for Burry Port site.		
HERP2DCM4	Set up a survey and monitoring scheme for herpetofauna at CCC sites	2010-2014	CCC	At least 2 survey sites established	SWWARG Vols			Meeting held with country park rangers and survey/monitoring scheme to be set up in 2011 at country parks. Pembrey (SN408002) Gelli Aur (SN596199) Llyn Llech Owain (SN566150) Millennium CP (SN481008) Mynydd Mawr WP (SN539125)		
HERP2DCM5	Undertake a herp survey of	2010-2013	NBGW	Survey	SWWARG			Not started.		

	NBGW (SN521183)			undertaken	Vols					
HERP3RA1	Organise a session on herpetofauna, legislation and their requirements for planners/developers/agents	2010–2014	CCC	At least one training session organised	SWWARG	✓		Not started.		
HERP3RA2	Distribute amphibian and reptile booklet to all schools/libraries/partner organisation/CCC ground maintenance staff	2010	CCC	Schools Grounds maintenance Libraries to receive booklet				Action complete.		
HERP1RA3	In partnership with allotment-owning organisations and groups, develop an information and awareness campaign to raise the profile of the slow-worm and its ecology and to encourage allotment workers to record and report sightings	2010–2013	CCC	Slow worm info sheet produced	SWWARG			Not started.		
HERP4RA4	Launch the SWWARG in the county with an event at (LLO country park) (SN566150)	2010–2014	CCC	1 launch event organised	SWWARG LLO	✓		2011 Action – during Wales Biodiversity Week		
HERP3RA5	Promote National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme through press release and article in newsletter	2010–2014	CCC	PR Newsletter article	SWWARG WTSWW			Not started.		
HERP3RA6	Get people in county signed up to National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme	2010–2014	CCC	Ten people signed up to scheme	WTSWW SWWARG			Not started.		
HERP3RA7	Add SWWARG group details to CBP website	2010	CCC	Details on to website				Not started.		
POL1HERP1	Ensure appropriate conservation and enhancement measures are implemented on sites where reptiles have been recorded through the planning process	2010–ongoing	CCC	100% of relevant planning applications				Applications with conditions for surveys/clearance strategies: 18 Protection conditions and advisories for potential sites added for 3 sites. Mitigation proposals undertaken for 1 site.		