

## WETLANDS HABITAT ACTION PLAN

### Introduction and Vision Statement

This grouped habitat action plan includes lowland fens, lowland raised bog, reedbeds and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh habitats.

Wetlands are one of our most important natural resources. They support many native wildlife species including important wetland plants, invertebrates, including dragonflies, birds, otter and water vole. They form part of a healthy and functional landscape.



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Wetlands are also important for people. They provide us with fresh water by filtering out pollution and can act as water storage areas that reduce flood risk. They provide livelihoods for people. However, wetland habitats have declined greatly: fens have been drained, grazing marshes ploughed and reseeded, reedbeds polluted, and lowland bogs damaged through peat extraction.

Today wetland habitats are recognised for the benefits that they can provide us, including helping buffer the extremes associated with climate change. Managing our wetland habitats appropriately and recreating them in the right places could bring great benefits within the county.

**Reedbeds** can occur as small areas of habitat on the fringes of waterbodies and therefore are often quite fragmented. Along the coastline from Bynea to Kidwelly there are a number of small examples of reedbed. However, Witchett Pool at Laugharne Burrows and Ffrwd Fen near Pinged have large areas of reedbed. Our estuaries also support areas of reedbed such as the extensive area at Llangennech, overlooking the Loughor estuary.

A significant sized **lowland raised bog** occurs in the county at Cors Goch at Llanllwch and smaller examples occur near Carmel and at Beacon Bog, Carmarthen. They are increasingly rare examples of an important peatland habitat so important as a carbon sink. These habitats can support a range of specialised plants and invertebrates; Cors Goch is one of only two sites in South Wales for the black bog ant.

Significant areas of **grazing marsh** occur around the Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay area and **floodplain** grazing marsh along the lower reaches of the major river valleys, especially the Gwendraeth, Taf and Tywi valleys. This is part of a once more extensive area within the county which is now greatly declined. The most important areas of **coastal** grazing marsh occur in the lower Gwendraeth and Pendine areas. Here the marshes are relatively intact and retain significant wildlife interest – Pendine is important for wintering golden plover. Both areas are of landscape significance.

The Llanelli Levels (south-east of Llanelli) was a former area of coastal grazing marsh. Most of this now is degraded through urban and industrial development.

However the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Penclacwydd has undertaken a significant amount of habitat creation

The overall vision for this plan is to maintain, extend and improve the condition of wetland habitats within the county and the BAP species associated with them. The LBAP would also seek to promote the creation and maintenance of wetlands of biodiversity value as a condition of consent for large developments such as road schemes and business parks, particularly where water attenuation facilities are required.

<b>Associated species:</b>	Harvest mouse	Fen orchid
Eurasian curlew	Water vole	
Tree Sparrow	Otter	
Common cuckoo		Agaric
Reed bunting	Common Lizard	<i>Armillaria ectypa</i>
Common grasshopper warbler	Common toad	
Willow tit	Grass snake	Oxbow diving beetle
Common starling	Adder	
Northern lapwing	Tubular Water	The Crescent (moth)
Yellow wagtail	dropwort	Oblique Carpet
Grasshopper warbler	<i>Euphrasia rivularis</i>	Heath Rustic
	Pennyroyal	Double Dart
		Blood vein

### Action Plan Objectives

<b>WET1ME</b>	To maintain the extent of wetland habitats in the county
<b>WET2AC</b>	To achieve a favourable habitat condition of wetland habitats in the county
<b>WET3RS</b>	To restore currently degraded wetland habitats in the county
<b>WET4EX</b>	To expand the area of wetland habitats in the county
<b>WET6SP</b>	To maintain and where possible expand the range/and or population of wetland species
<b>DCM2WET</b>	Identify priority areas of wetland habitats within Carmarthenshire

<b>CODE</b>	<b>TEXT</b>	<b>START / END DATE</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>	<b>Action goals</b>	<b>Key partners</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Priority L,M,H</b>	<b>Report Jan-Dec 2010</b>		
<b>WET2AC1</b>	Management of wetland area with Pembrey Country Park – buckthorn/scrub clearance, reed bed clearance (SN397007)	2010–2014	CCC	0.9 Ha managed	Pembrey CP			Reed bed cleared with brushcutter and machine used to keep rhizomes in check. Scrub clearance around pond edges.		
<b>WET3RS1</b>	Undertake bog restoration at Llyn Llech Owain CP (SN566150)	2010–2014	CCC	10.5 Ha restored	Llyn Llech Owain CP	✓		Tree clearance around the bog completed and should benefit water levels. Installation of dams in bog ditches is ongoing (slowly). Manual weeding of encroaching tree seedlings to be undertaken. Monitoring water levels with automatic data loggers.		
<b>DCM2WET1</b>	Identify from digitised Phase 1 habitat maps all wetland habitats in the county	2010–2011	CCC	One GIS layer produced	WWBIC	✓		Not started		
<b>DCM2WET2</b>	Find out from Wales Wetland Forum actual and potential projects within Carmarthenshire	2010	WTSWW					Completed. Wales Wetland has folded. However Pete Jones from Wetlands Ecosystem Group will attend a Carms LBAP meeting 2011.		
<b>DCM2WET3</b>	Investigate site ownership and existing data and identify potential for a wetland project based on ‘Coedbach Marshes’ (SN413054)	2010–2011	CCC	One report produced	RSPB CCW EAW Kidwelly TC	✓		Landscape-scale project, including wetlands being developed. Linked to another project based at Kidwelly Quay.		
<b>DCM2WET4</b>	Investigate site ownership and existing data and identify potential for a wetland project based on Llangennech coastal marshes (SN568012)	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One report produced				Not started – WSG has only met once.		
<b>DCM2WET5</b>	Investigate site ownership and existing data and identify potential for a wetland project based on grazing marsh on R. Tywi at Carmarthen (SN408195)	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One report produced				Not started - WSG has only met once.		
<b>DCM2WET6</b>	Investigate site ownership and existing data and identify potential for a wetland project based on grazing marsh around Taf Estuary	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One report produced				Not started - WSG has only met once.		

	(SN299130)								
<b>DCM2WET7</b>	Investigate site ownership and existing data and identify potential for a wetland project based on wetland habitat linked to Cors Goch (SN362186)	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One report produced				Not started - WSG has only met once.	
<b>DCM2WET8</b>	Identify other wetland sites in Carmarthenshire that require further investigation to target for project work	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One report produced				Not started - WSG has only met once.	
<b>RA4WET1</b>	Add description of wetland habitats to Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Website with photos of good examples in the county	2010	CCC	Website entry added				Completed.	
<b>RA4WET2</b>	Hold a guided walk/event looking at these habitats	2010–2014	CCC	At least 1 walk/event every 2 years	LBAP Partners				
<b>WET6SP1</b>	Monitor populations of Tubular Water Dropwort for BSBI pilot Threatened Plants Project	2009	BSBI	One report				Survey undertaken – report available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ffrwd Fen - Occasional plants scattered through 2.5m tall reedbed (SN2241920232)</li> <li>• Johnstown - Plants not refound in 2009. (SN224041895)</li> <li>• Moat Farm, Llandyry - No plants found in dense 2m-3m tall reedbed despite two substantial populations here in 1987. (SN224300493)</li> <li>• Llyn y Gors, St Clears – One plant found in 2009. (SN 222711527)</li> </ul>	
<b>WET6SP2</b>	Identify wetland sites to target survey for harvest mouse survey	2010-2012	WTSWW	Priority site list produced				Not started	
<b>WET6SP3</b>	Undertake surveys for harvest mouse on selected sites	2010-2014	WTSWW	At least one survey undertaken		✓		Not started	
<b>POL1WET1</b>	Create a Wetland Subgroup of LBAP Partnership to take forward BAP action	2010	EAW	One subgroup set up	WTSWW, CCC, CCW, WWT			Wetland subgroup formed – EAW, CCW, WWT, MCP, WTSWW but only met once. Workload constraints mean that not enough time can be committed to the group. Will look to see how group can be revived in 2011 to best effect	

								and least impact on members' time.		
<b>POL2WET1</b>	Identify a list of candidate wetland SINC's in the county – prioritising sites within settlement limits	2010–2014	CCC		WETLAND SUBGROUP WWBIC	✓		Not started		
<b>POL3WET1</b>	Development and implement policies to cease all use of peat products by local government, including contracted work	2010–2012	CCC	Peat policy produced				Not started		
<b>POL3WET2</b>	Produce a wetland enhancement plan for the MCP	2010–2012	CCC	One plan produced	EAW			One site visit held with EAW to discuss. Nor further progress.		
<b>POL3WET3</b>	Produce a “wetland strategy” for coastal floodplains habitats in Carmarthenshire	2010–2014	WETLAND SUBGROUP	One planned produced				Not started.		