

Rare Bat Species Found in Pembrokeshire

Recent survey work has found evidence of Grey Long-eared Bats (*Plecotus austriacus*) in Pembrokeshire. This species is previously unrecorded in the County and was thought to be confined in Britain to southern and south-western England. Although relatively common in Europe, they are rare in Britain since this represents the northern limit of their range.

As with other Long-eared bats the preferred roost is in large roof spaces where they can fly around, but they often roost behind ridge beams so their presence isn't always obvious. The echo-location call of Long-eared bats is very quiet, so identifying them in the field can be difficult. In this instance the bats were identified by DNA analysis of the droppings.

Pembrokeshire boasts many of the bat species found in Britain. A healthy bat population is a good indicator of a healthy ecosystem with well connected habitats. Since this species often roosts in buildings, they are particularly vulnerable to renovation of old buildings and remedial timber treatments.

Hopefully this discovery will drive further survey work to assess the distribution and abundance of this and other species in the County.

Ant Rogers.

Biodiversity Implementation Officer.



Grey Long-eared Bat
Photo: Richard Crompton
Wildwood Ecology Ltd

PEMBROKESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



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Pembrokeshire Could See the First Welsh Beavers in 600 Years!

The Welsh Beaver Project is investigating bringing wild beavers (*Castor fiber*) back to Wales. This work is being led by the Wildlife Trusts in Wales as part of their Living Landscapes strategy.

Beavers were once widespread across Wales but due to hunting for their fur, meat and scent glands they became extinct by about the 15th Century. A reintroduction is now considered appropriate because of the important role beavers can play in enriching biodiversity and managing wetland areas.

Beavers are 'ecosystem engineers' and their activities benefit a wide range of other species that live in wetland habitats. They can also help to improve water quality, regulate flow, alleviate downstream flooding and reduce erosion in rivers. As people like to watch wildlife beavers can also benefit tourism, helping to support local economies.



Photo: Allard Martinus

Adult beavers are usually around 1.3m long (including tail) and weigh about 20kg. They live in small family groups on slow moving rivers, streams and lakes within bank-side burrows or in lodges that they build from sticks and mud. They sometimes also build dams to improve their habitat, but usually only where water is too shallow (less than 0.7m deep). 95% of beaver activity occurs within 20m of the water's edge.

Beavers are herbivores and feed mostly on grass and other plants in the spring and summer, with tree bark, shoots and leaves becoming more important in autumn and winter.

Beavers have been successfully reintroduced in 24 countries across Europe without causing major issues, but they can sometimes cause local problems that require management, such as dam construction in the wrong place, or the unwanted felling of trees. There are well established solutions to these issues and any reintroduction of beavers to Wales would include a comprehensive plan for their future management. A trial reintroduction is underway in Knapdale, Scotland (the Scottish Beaver Trial - led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Royal Zoological Society of Scotland) where three beaver families were released in May 2009. The beavers are breeding and doing well. Wales has an abundance of habitat suitable for beavers and six river catchments been investigated as example release sites including the River Teifi and the Eastern and Western arms of the River Cleddau, but other suitable sites are also being considered including the Rivers Rheidol, Glaslyn and Dee.

Consultation with the public and other stakeholders is currently underway and will help to select the best pilot reintroduction site in Wales for beavers. The report *An investigation into the feasibility of reintroducing European beaver to Wales* and a summary version can be downloaded from www.welshbeaverproject.org where people can find out more about beavers, download additional reports, get the details of the public drop-in days and give feedback.

Adrian Lloyd Jones
Welsh Beaver Project
email: beaver.afanc@wildlifetrustswales.org
Tell: 01248 351541



The Shore Thing in North Pembrokeshire

A new volunteer group working with The Shore Thing has started up in North Pembrokeshire. The Shore Thing is a national project of the Marine Life Information Network, recording species of the rocky shores across the UK and making the data available through the National Biodiversity Network. If you enjoy searching rock-pools for the many creatures that live there then why not join the North Pembrokeshire Shore Thing Project and add your observations to national data records?

Climate change indicator species and non-native species are the main focus, but the group records as much information as possible about everything found during a survey. The data and photos are verified and validated by a team from the Marine Biological Network before being published. All the information collected will be made available on-line and will help to build a picture of the current status from which to measure change in the future. The occurrence and distribution of species such as periwinkles, limpets, anemones, some crabs and many seaweeds can provide information about climate change and the health of intertidal ecosystems.



Snakelocks Anemone in rock-pool.
Photo: Trevor Theobald

The Group uses two survey methods: a timed species search and a transect recording species in the upper, middle and lower shore. The transect is a more detailed study requiring 10-15 researchers.

Please contact the group if you would like to take part. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for exploring rockpools!

Julia Riddell

North Pembrokeshire Shore Thing Project

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See Also: www.marlin.ac.uk/shore_thing
www.nbn.org.uk

Conservation Help for Wales's Real Dragons!

amphibian and reptile
conservation



Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) announce the start of a new ground breaking project dedicated to the conservation of Welsh dragons (amphibians and reptiles) and the habitats they depend on, funded by the Countryside Council for Wales. The project (entitled *Community Engagement in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation across Wales*) aims to encourage a sense of ownership and responsibility for Welsh biodiversity and provide opportunities for people to engage with amphibians and reptiles as part of the shared natural heritage in Wales.

There are five native species of reptiles and six native species of amphibians in Wales. These include the rare sand lizard, which was declared extinct in Wales but a successful reintroduction program has brought them back to their homeland.

The Project will involve:

Promoting the recording of amphibian and reptile sightings by the public in their gardens and whilst outdoors.





Sand Lizard.

Photo: Amphibian & Reptile Conservation.

Supporting the current network of Amphibian and Reptile Groups in Wales. Currently there is no active group in Pembrokeshire, if you are interested in amphibians and reptiles, please contact us.

Providing training for individuals, community groups and conservation professionals.

Running a Wales Amphibian and Reptile Symposium on the 3rd November 2012 in Llandrindod Wells. This event is open to everyone.

Further developing links, planning and development structures to enhance and safeguard amphibian and reptile populations.

For more information, or to set up a group, please get in touch.

Mark Barber - (Wales Project Officer).

www.welshdragons.org

Email: mark.barber@arc-trust.org

Captured on Camera

Pembroke Millponds Action Group has installed a wildlife camera network to obtain footage of the wildlife that uses the Pembroke Millpond complex.

Following the successful capture of footage of otters using cameras sited at the Millbridge, we have added three cameras to the network and will be installing more. So far we have captured fascinating footage of otters, badgers, foxes and even a mouse. The footage was shown at the launch of the Network on 25th June which was attended by our funders, Milford Haven Port Authority, the Mayor Mel Phillips, Cllr Daphne Bush and many others. Geoff Liles from Otter Consultancy gave an informative presentation about the otters of Pembrokeshire and also showed his footage of the otters from the cameras at the Millbridge.



Common Frogs in a Welsh Pond.

Photo: Amphibian & Reptile Conservation



Pembroke Millpond Outdoor Classroom



Families enjoying one of the Wildlife Discovery Events at Pembroke Millponds.
Photo: Jo Brookman

We have been creating an Education Area next to Barnard's Tower so that schools, groups and individuals can explore wildlife in a safe and practical environment. We have been using our Pond-dipping platform this spring and summer and the Outdoor Classroom benches will be installed at the end of August. These benches and a table have been carved by the Monkton Priory Unit and sculptor Rob Jakes. There will be an inauguration event at the beginning of the Autumn term for local schools and groups to try out the new facilities and to celebrate the work of the Young People from the Priory Unit.

Jo Brookman

Pembroke Millponds Project Officer

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Email

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Carving benches at the Monkton Priory Unit

Brown Hairstreak Butterflies at West Williamston SSSI

Brown Hairstreak males will have been emerging at the end of July to be joined by females at the top of Ash trees.

This year it is hoped to locate the Assembly tree where adults meet and mate. Only a few adults were seen last year and it appears the winter survival rate was lower than normal (a trend also observed in Worcestershire and Oxfordshire). Any sightings while visiting the reserve will be of importance - please pass any record on with a description of behaviour and where seen if possible.

This year's winter egg count will be on Sunday 2nd December - meet at 10.00am in the top carpark. All welcome.

Nikki Anderson

WTSWW

pembrokenikki@hotmail.co.uk



Newly emerged female

Photo: Jean Hambly



Have the Traditional Orchards of Wales Gone to Seed?



Volunteers urgently needed for Welsh conservation survey

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is urgently recruiting volunteers to take part in the first-ever survey of the remaining traditional orchards in Wales.

Since the late 1950s, 94% of orchards in Wales have disappeared due to the agricultural pressures of a global market and pressure from land development. Furthermore, the state and location of the remaining traditional orchards in Wales is unknown. Thanks to funding from the Countryside Council for Wales and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, PTES is mapping and assessing the condition of Wales' remaining orchards which will result in a comprehensive inventory that will help underpin the conservation of this unique and threatened habitat.

"Traditional orchards are amazingly biodiverse," explains Steve Oram, Orchard Project Coordinator at PTES. "Where else could you encounter pignut, four-coloured cuckoo bee, little owls, comb-horned craneflies and many rare beetles, mosses, moths and lichens all in one place? Our orchards are host to an astonishing variety of over 1800 species as well as providing delicious, home-grown

people's trust for endangered species

food. These much loved and vital wildlife refuges continue to disappear as land use changes and old trees are not replaced. Unless we know what we have left and where, we have no chance of saving it."

Characteristically, traditional orchards consist of a low density of trees on grassland. They are cultivated using low-intensity methods without chemical pesticides, fertilisers or herbicides and are grazed or mown for hay. Researchers at PTES are studying aerial photographs covering all three and a half million hectares of Wales. Orchards managed with intensive modern practices can be easily spotted as they tend to be grown in narrowly spaced rows with bare earth beneath the typically smaller trees. So far over 5 000 potential traditional orchard sites have been spotted and a map of them can be viewed online at www.ptes.org/orchardmaps Volunteers are now needed to check the results and locate any orchards that have been missed.

In 2011, PTES completed a four year research project which revealed that 45% of England's remaining traditional orchards are in poor condition. The charity is hoping the picture for Wales will be better than this.

To volunteer for the traditional orchards mapping project, please contact Lauren Alexander, Orchard Project Officer.

Lauren Alexander
PTES

Tel: 020 7498 4533

Email:

lauren.alexander@ptes.org.



Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event 2012

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF) will be organising a 'Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event' this year on the evening of the 21st November at the Merlin Theatre, Pembrokeshire College. This will be the fifth wildlife sightings event organised by the PCF team with a view to celebrating the diversity of wildlife that Pembrokeshire has. The event also raises awareness about actions we can all take to ensure that our local environments and wildlife are cherished and protected for the future.

This event will be a fundraiser to support the work of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter and Marine Code groups in developing and publishing best practice advice and training for all those who wish to get out and make the most of the stunning outdoor environments and wildlife of Pembrokeshire.

Six speakers will share stories and images of their wildlife sightings in Pembrokeshire from the past two years. At previous events, presentations have covered topics including killer whales, new bat species recorded, lichens & micro biology only visible through high powered microscopes.

This year, award winning local Entomologist, Farmer & TV presenter Sarah Beynon will be speaking 'All About Beetles', and the importance of managing land to encourage wildlife. Lyndon Lomax will be sharing stories and images of his encounters with the 'Magnificent 9' (and maybe more after the summer!) - nine species of porpoise, dolphins and whales that he has seen during

the past two years around the Pembrokeshire coastline.

As part of the event PCF will be running a wildlife photography competition open to all with prizes for the winning photographs chosen by a panel of local judges. To enter, simply send in a maximum of three photos of wildlife you have seen in Pembrokeshire since 1st Jan 2011 (no more than 1Mb per photo) to pcf@mhpa.co.uk



'Early Bird' Photo: Paul Richards.
Winning entry 2010

If you have any recommendations for speakers for this year, or would like to deliver a presentation yourself, please contact the PCF team at pcf@mhpa.co.uk or 01646 696134

Booking details will be published soon - to make sure you receive an invite become a Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum member through the website www.pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk or call 01646 696171 - it's free to join!

Tom Luddington
Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group



Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

Fforwm Arfordir Sir Benfro



iSpot: Your Place to Share Nature

Increasing public engagement and understanding of local wildlife and biodiversity has long been a priority for conservation organisations, government bodies and also of the many individual experts and passionate people working out there 'in the field'. www.iSpot.org.uk is an innovative approach to public engagement with nature. It is a website operated by the Open University and was developed as part of the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) project (www.opalexplorenature.org).

iSpot aims to create a social network around biodiversity, connecting beginners with experts and encouraging a new generation of naturalists and recorders. It is open to all – from the casual watcher of wildlife programmes, community groups and schools to experts who are leaders in their chosen field. It is designed to help people share their love of wildlife, to learn more about the nature they see around them and to get help from others in identifying their wildlife observations. For organisations, professionals and 'expert' individuals, iSpot provides a forum to share their expertise with the wider public and to link with other organisations and specialist individuals throughout the UK

iSpot is still evolving. Users are able to see the distribution for any species which is identified



Buff Tip Moth Caterpillars (*Phalera bucephala*)
photographed by Clare Flynn (<http://www.iSpot.org.uk/node/216339>)



Ettlinger's hybrid orchid (*X Dactyloдения ettlingeriana*)
photographed by Tim Rich / National Museum Wales (<http://www.iSpot.org.uk/node/216123>)

and also to browse a distribution map of all iSpot observations. The site hosts an ever increasing set of interactive and user-friendly identification keys which are also available as an App for a mobile phone or other hand-held field device – check out <http://www.iSpot.org.uk/mobilekeys/>.

If you, your group or organisation would like to find out more, then go on-line and have a browse at www.iSpot.org.uk. If you already know your wildlife and are able to spend a bit of time helping others on the site that would be much appreciated. If you have any questions, then please look on the Help tab where you can find lots of helpful information and contact details for the iSpot team.

Clare Flynn
Former Biodiversity Mentor for Wales.

iSpot
.org.uk



Biodiversity Events

September - October 2012



Date	Title / Contact	Information
01 Sep 11:00 – 17:00	Mosses and Liverworts Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales (WTSWW) 01239 621600	Mosses and Liverworts with Sam Bosanquet of CCW. Meet Waungwiel Fach, Four Roads, near Kidwelly (SN450087) at 11.00 am or bring packed lunch and stay for farm walk at 2.00pm.
03 Sep 17:30	Volunteer Work Party 01646 680090	Creeping thistle removal at Holyland woods with the Pembroke Millponds Action Group
05 Sep 09:45	Seal Walk Oriol Y Parc 01834 845040	Bus and six mile walk. Catch the Celtic Coaster from Oriol y Parc in St. Davids to St. Justinian's and walk back along the Caost Path with stops. Bring binoculars and bus fare. Warm clothing, sturdy footwear. No dogs. BOOKING ESSENTIAL
13 Sep 15:00 – 17:00	Nature Garden Club Foundry House 01646 680090	Join in with the Nature Garden Club at the Foundry House with Pembroke 21C Community Association.
14 Sep 09:45	Seal Walk Oriol Y Parc 01834 845040	Bus and six mile walk. Catch the Celtic Coaster from Oriol y Parc in St. Davids to St. Justinian's and walk back along the Caost Path with stops. Bring binoculars and bus fare. Warm clothing, sturdy footwear. No dogs. BOOKING ESSENTIAL
15 Sep 10:30 – 16:00	Walk around Pwll Deri & Strumble Head WTSWW 01239 621600	A walk from Pwll Deri around Strumble Head with the Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales. Meet at 10.30am at SM893387 at the roadside by the viewpoint. Bring packed lunch – Leader Robin Taylor
19 Sep 09:45	Seal Walk Oriol Y Parc 01834 845040	Bus and six mile walk. Catch the Celtic Coaster from Oriol y Parc in St. Davids to St. Justinian's and walk back along the Caost Path with stops. Bring binoculars and bus fare. Warm clothing, sturdy footwear. No dogs. BOOKING ESSENTIAL
19 Sep Dusk	Bat Detecting Pembroke Millpond 01646 680090	Guided walk & Bat detecting at the Millpond with the Millponds Action Group. Cost £3.
28 Sep 09:45	Seal Walk Oriol Y Parc 01834 845040	Bus and six mile walk. Catch the Celtic Coaster from Oriol y Parc in St. Davids to St. Justinian's and walk back along the Caost Path with stops. Bring binoculars and bus fare. Warm clothing, sturdy footwear. No dogs. BOOKING ESSENTIAL
15 Oct 19:30	WTSWW Annual General Meeting and talk. 01239 621600	Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales Mid-Pembrokeshire Section AGM followed by a talk on Otters by Rob Parry. Furzy Park Community Centre, Haverfordwest.



Biodiversity Events

October - December 2012



Date	Title / Contact	Information
17 Oct Dusk	Bat Detecting Pembroke Millpond 01646 680090	Bat detecting for children at the Millpond with the Millponds Action Group. Cost £2 per child.
21 Oct 10:00 – 16:30	Visit to Ramsey Island WTSWW 01239 621600	A visit to Ramsey Island. Buy your tickets from The Thousand Islands office in St Davids and meet at The St Justinians lifeboat station for the 10am sailing – Leader Robin Taylor. Bring a packed lunch.
29 Oct 11:00 – 15:00	Wild Woodland Adventure 01834 811885	Watch out for woodland wildlife preparing for Winter in these Ranger-led family activities in partnership with The National Trust. Come dressed for the outdoors. £3 per person. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. The day consists of hour long outdoor sessions together with indoor craft activities and hands on science. Something for all the family.
30 Oct 11:00 – 15:00	Wild Woodland Adventure 01834 811885	Watch out for woodland wildlife preparing for Winter in these Ranger-led family activities in partnership with The National Trust. Come dressed for the outdoors. £3 per person. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. The day consists of hour long outdoor sessions together with indoor craft activities and hands on science. Something for all the family.
31 Oct 11:00 – 15:00	Wild Woodland Adventure 01834 811885	Watch out for woodland wildlife preparing for Winter in these Ranger-led family activities in partnership with The National Trust. Come dressed for the outdoors. £3 per person. BOOKING ESSENTIAL. The day consists of hour long outdoor sessions together with indoor craft activities and hands on science. Something for all the family.
31 Oct	Understanding Protected Species Stackpole Centre 01792 295379	An introduction to Protected Species ecology, legislation and survey techniques. Tutor: Dr. Gethin Thomas of Swansea University.
19 Nov 19:30 – 21:30	Marine Wildlife of our Shallow Seas. WTSWW 01239 621600	A talk by John Archer-Thomson of Dale Fort Field Studies centre. Furzy Park Community Centre, Haverfordwest.
20 Nov 19:30 – 21:30	Wildlife of the Teifi Marshes. WTSWW 01239 621600	Wildlife Trust Officer, Nathan Walton, will be talking about the wildlife of Teifi Marshes and giving an update on the Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cilgerran.
21 Nov	Wildlife Sightings Event 01646 696171	A celebration at the Merlin Theatre, Haverfordwest of all the wildlife sightings in Pembrokeshire this year. See article p5 for details.



Biodiversity Newsletters

Mae'r cylch-lythyr hwn ar gael yng Nghymraeg, cysylltwch â Ant am gopi cymraeg.

PBP would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter. If you would like to write an article for the next newsletter please contact Ant.

PBP Contact Details

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Pembrokeshire Biodiversity website:

www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk (search - biodiversity)

Wales Biodiversity website:

www.biodiversitywales.org.uk



**Year of the Bat
2011-2012**

PBP Members



County Landowners Association



Countryside Council for Wales



Environment Agency Wales



Farmers Union of Wales



Forestry Commission



Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group



Manor House Wildlife Park



National Farmers Union – Wales



Pembroke 21C Community Association Limited



Pembrokeshire County Council



Pembrokeshire Rivers Trust



Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority



Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development



Prince's Trust Cymru



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



The National Trust



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales





PEMBROKESHIRE
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Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership

36 likes · 39 talking about this

Organization
Several organizations work together in Pembrokeshire to protect and enhance biodiversity. Together, they form the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership.

36

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