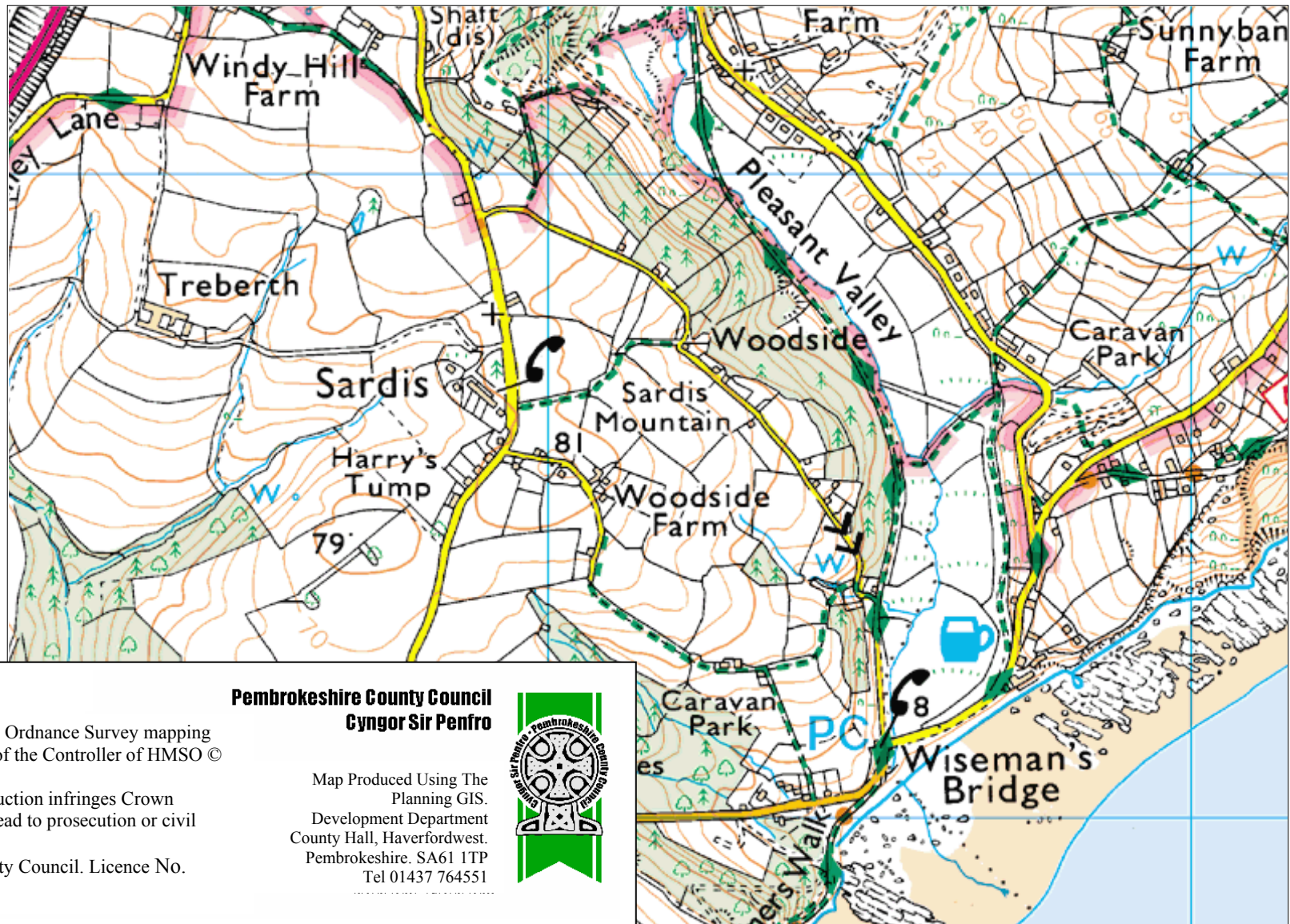


WILDLIFE ON YOUR PATCH

SARDIS WOODLAND, CHURCHYARD AND MINERS WALK



26TH MAY 2007



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1. Introduction

The Wildlife on your Patch team, along with local volunteers spent a day in Sardis, observing and recording a variety of birds, plants and insects and their habitats. This short report highlights some of the more obvious, interesting or rare species that we found and looks at the main types of habitats you have in your community.

2. Sardis Woodland

The Sardis Parks and Garden's committee have taken on the management of this small section of roadside and woodland from the Hean Castle Estate. The woodland is a mixture of native and non-native plants which vary in density across the woodland. The trees are a mixture of deciduous such as beech, ash and sycamore and coniferous species. Several species of trees and shrubs have been planted in this area, some of which are not native and care should be taken in future to source native trees of local provenance. When we visited the site the bluebells had mainly gone to seed but there were other plants in flower such as wood avens, enchanter's nightshade, herb robert, marsh marigold and red campion.



There was a good assemblage of ferns including western polypody found growing on the trees and soft-shield, scaly male, hart's tongue and broad buckler ferns growing on the ground. The marsh area had a species of sandhopper found in the mud which is originally from New Zealand. Montbretia and pendulous sedge are dominant in the southern corner of the woodland; the community is hoping to find help to dig these invasive species out.

3. Sardis Churchyard

By the time of our visit much of the churchyard had been mown but there was a small section that had been left and there were areas around individual grave stones where plants were flowering. We discussed the benefits of a variety of management techniques. Regular mowing of the back section of the churchyard has been of great benefit to fungi species, with this site being one of the most species rich fungi grassland in Pembrokeshire. However other sections such as those close to the oldest



Enchanter's Nightshade



grave stones could be cut after some of the spring flowers have had time to

set there seed with other sections being left until late spring / summer flowers have seeded. These only need to be small sections and will increase the overall diversity of the churchyard as a whole and ensure a constant nectar / food source for a variety of invertebrate and other animals.



There were several plants in flower including several species with dandelion type flowers including cat's ear hawkweed, rough hawkbit, smooth hawkbeard and mouse-ear hawkweed. There were also a variety of grasses including quaking grass and sweet vernal grass which gives off the typical smell you associate with freshly cut grass.



Mouse Ear Hawkweed



Quaking grass

There were a couple of exciting finds; Sam found a Juniper Shieldbug never recorded in Pembrokeshire before. Jon found a black poplar which maybe the rare native sub-species, this is still to be verified, it is just on the edge of the churchyard where there use to be a village pond.

4. Miners Walk

The miner's walk adheres closely to the route of the Saundersfoot Railway, which was constructed to transport coal from the local collieries for loading to vessels in Saundersfoot harbour. Relics of that industrial past now add an element of extra interest to the area's rural delights.

The road verges from the church to the top of the miner's walk are rich with flowering species, including some edible species like wood sage, and common sorrel. The area around the old mine was full of opportunistic species such as slender St John's-wort, black bryony and meadow vetchling which have recently colonised the area after CADW recently restored the site. The woods are in a good condition with several species of deciduous trees of varying ages, including grey willow, oak, beech, and ash. The ground flora was also fairly rich, with several species of fern including hard fern.



Meadow Vetchling



Hard Fern

The old coal slag heap has been colonised by pioneer species and soil has developed to a depth where shrubs and trees such as bramble and willow are beginning to establish. The old furnace also had several species associated with redundant industrial sites and looked like a good site for bats to roost, particularly due to the proximity of good feeding grounds over the woodland edges and stream. It would be interesting to carry out a bat survey in this area. The stream at the bottom of pleasant valley is used by otters although a spraint (otter faeces) wasn't found during our walk, but has been reported since our visit. Wetland species seen include yellow iris, wild angelica, meadowsweet, hemp-agrimony, and the poisonous hemlock water-dropwort.



Meadow Sweet with buttercup

There is an interesting section of wet woodland and marshland to the east of the path leading down to Wiseman's Bridge which adds to the intrinsic value of the neighbourhood creating a large area of diverse habitats. We didn't visit this area.

5. Conclusion

Many species of animal and plant are unable to travel over large areas of improved farmland within the wider countryside. These areas tend to lack food and shelter from predators, or are simply too large for small creatures to find their way across. Therefore, many species may become confined to small 'islands' of habitat. If these islands become unsuitable for a species, the population may die out and. If the next nearest population is too far away, local extinctions result.

The interlinked habitats at Sardis, provide excellent opportunities for species to move from one place to another, and create new colonies both within and beyond the areas we visited, helping avoid local extinctions. This connectivity of habitats helps maintain the richness and diversity of our wildlife at both local and national levels. Communities such as yours can play an important role in this.

Report produced by: Bethan Cox (Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership)

Species list – Woodland Garden - Plants

Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i> L.
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i> L.
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.
Bluebell	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> (L.) Chouard ex Rothm.
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Broad Buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> (Hoffm.) A. Gray
Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i> L.
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.
Common Dog-violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i> Rchb.
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> (L.) Hoffm.
Cranesbill	<i>Geranium</i> sp
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> L.
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> Agg.
Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i> L.
False-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.
Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i> (L.) DC.
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> L.
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> Cav.
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i> L.
Grey Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i> Stokes
Ground-ivy	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> L.
Hart's-tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> (L.) Newman
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq.
Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> L.
Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> L.
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> L.
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> L.
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> L.
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> L.
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i> L.
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> (L.) Schott
Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i> L.
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> L.
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> L.
Montbretia	<i>Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> sp.
Pendulous Sedge	<i>Carex pendula</i> Huds.
Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i> Huds.
Ramsons	<i>Allium ursinum</i> L.
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i> (L.) Clairv.
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i> L.
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> sp.
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i> L.
Scaly Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> (Lowe) Fraser-Jenk.
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> L.
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i> L.
Soft-shield Fern	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> L.
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.

Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i> L.
Western Polypody	<i>Polypodium interjectum</i> L.
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i> L.
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> L.
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i> L.
Wood Meadow-grass	<i>Poa Nemorails</i> L.
Wood Speedwell	<i>Veronica montana</i> L.
Wood-sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i> Huds.
Yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i> L.

Species list – Woodland Garden – road verge

Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus</i> sp.
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum</i> sp.
Lilly of the valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
Wild mustard / Jack by the hedge	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>

Species list – Woodland Garden - Invertebrates

Leaf miners
Sand hopper from New Zealand
Small square foot moth
Yellow lipped snail

Species list – Churchyard – Plants

Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i> L.
Barren Strawberry	<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>
Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i> L.
Black-poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> L.
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i> L.
Bulbous Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> L.
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i> L.
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> L.
Common Bent grass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> L.
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i> Rafn
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i> L.
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> Baumg.
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i> L.
Common Sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i> (L.) Reichard
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> (L.) Hoffm.
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i> L.
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i> L.
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> L.
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i> L.
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i> L.
Early-purple Orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i> (L.) L.
False-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.
Field Wood-rush	<i>Luzula campestris</i> (L.) DC.
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> L.
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i> Cav.

Greater Stitchwort
Hart's-tongue
Heath-grass
Herb-Robert
Italian Ryegrass
Ivy
Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Lesser Trefoil
Lords and Ladies
Male-fern
Meadow Buttercup
Meadow Vetchling
Mouse-ear-hawkweed
Oxeye Daisy
Perennial Ryegrass
Potentilla / Cinquefoil
Prickly Sow Thistle
Primrose
Quaking grass
Red Clover
Red Fescue
Ribwort Plantain
Rose
Rough Hawkbit
Rough Meadow-grass
Scarlet Pimpernel
Selfheal
Silverweed
Slender speedwell
Smooth Hawksbeard
Soft-shield Fern
Solomons seal
Spring-sedge
Sweet Vernal-grass
Tall Fescue
Timothy
Western Polypody
White Clover
Woodruff
Yarrow
Yellow Oat-grass
Yorkshire-fog

Stellaria holostea L.
Phyllitis scolopendrium (L.) Newman
Danthonia decumbens (L.) DC.
Geranium robertianum L.
Lolium multiflorum Lam.
Hedera helix L.
Cymbalaria muralis P. Gaertn., B. Mey. & Scherb.
Trifolium dubium Sibth.
Arum maculatum L.
Dryopteris filix-mas (L.) Schott
Ranunculus acris L.
Lathyrus pratensis L.
Pilosella officinarum F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.
Leucanthemum vulgare Lam.
Lolium perenne
Potentilla sp.
Sonchus asper
Primula vulgaris Huds.
Briza media
Trifolium pratense L.
Festuca rubra L.
Plantago lanceolata L.
Rosa sp.
Leontodon hispidus
Poa trivialis L.
Anagallis arvensis subsp. *arvensis* L.
Prunella vulgaris L.
Potentilla anserina L.
Veronica filiformis
Crepis capillaris
Polystichum setiferum
Polygonatum multiflorum
Carex caryophyllea Latourr.
Anthoxanthum odoratum L.
Festuca arundinacea
Phleum pratense L.
Polypodium interjectum L.
Trifolium repens L.
Galium odoratum (L.) Scop.
Achillea millefolium L.
Trisetum flavescens
Holcus lanatus L.

Species list – Woodland Walk – Plants

Agrimony
Alder
Ash
Beech
Bilberry
Black Bryony
Blackthorn
Bluebell
Bracken
Bramble
Broad Buckler-fern
Brooklime
Bugle

Agrimonia eupatoria L.
Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn.
Fraxinus excelsior L.
Fagus sylvatica L.
Vaccinium myrtillus L.
Tamus communis L.
Prunus spinosa L.
Hyacinthoides non-scripta (L.) Chouard ex Rothm.
Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn
Rubus fruticosus agg.
Dryopteris dilatata (Hoffm.) A. Gray
Veronica beccabunga
Ajuga reptans L.

Burdock	<i>Arctium</i> sp.
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i> Rafn
Common Dog-violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i> Rchb.
Common Figwort	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> Baumg.
Common Sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L.
Cow Parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> (L.) Hoffm.
Dogs mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i> Ehrh.
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.
Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i> L.
False-brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i> (Huds.) P. Beauv.
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> L.
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i> L.
Grey Sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i> Stokes
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i> L.
Ground-elder	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> L.
Guelder-rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i> L.
Hard-fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i> (L.) Roth
Hart's-tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> (L.) Newman
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq.
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.
Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> L.
Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i> L.
Hemp-agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i> L.
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> L.
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> L.
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> L.
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> L.
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> L.
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i> L.
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> (L.) Schott
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> L.
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> (L.) Maxim.
Mullein	<i>Verbascum</i> sp
Navelwort / Penny Wort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> (Salisb.) Dandy
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> sp.
Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i> L.
Perforate St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> L.
Ramsons / wild garlic	<i>Allium ursinum</i> L.
Red Campion	<i>Silene dioica</i> (L.) Clairv.
Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i> L.
Remote Sedge	<i>Carex remota</i> L.
Scaly Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i> (Lowe) Fraser-Jenk.
Slender St Johnswort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>
Soft-rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i> L.
Square-stalked St John's-wort	<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i> Fr.
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.
Teasle	<i>Dipsacus fallonum</i>
Travellers Joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i> L.
Water Figwort	<i>Scrophularia aquatica</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium Repens</i>
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i> L.
Wild rose	<i>Rosa</i> sp
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i> L.
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i> L.

Wood Speedwell
Woodruff
Wood-sedge
Wood-sorrel
Yellow Iris

Veronica montana L.
Galium odoratum (L.) Scop.
Carex sylvatica Huds.
Oxalis acetosella L.
Iris pseudacorus L.

Sam Bosanquet recorded the following at Sardis Chapel in Nov 2006:

Meadow Coral	<i>Clavulinopsis corniculata</i>
Big Blue Pinkgill	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i>
Earthtongue	<i>Geoglossum fallax</i>
Butter waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe ceracea</i>
Golden waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>
Scarlet waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>
Blackening waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>
Glutinous waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe glutinipes</i> var. <i>glutinipes</i>
Spangle waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>
Meadow waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe pratensis</i> var. <i>pratensis</i>
Parrot waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i> var. <i>psittacina</i>
Parrot waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe psittacina</i> var. <i>perplexa</i>
Crimson waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>
Oily waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe quieta</i>
Cedarwood waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>
Snowy waxcap	<i>Hygrocybe virginea</i> var. <i>virginea</i>

WILDLIFE ON YOUR PATCH SARDIS HELPERS

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership



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