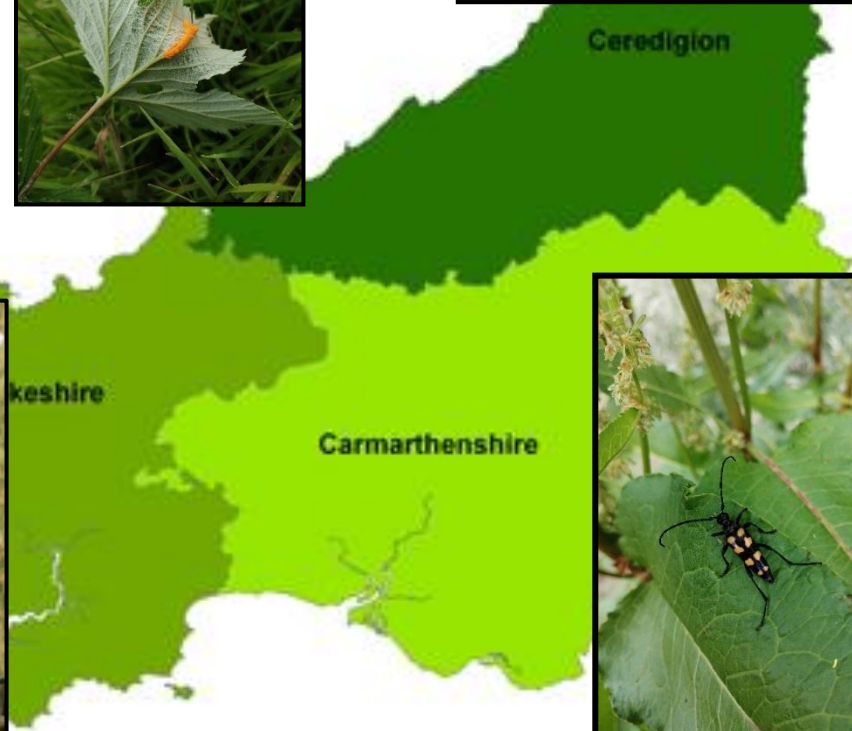




**WEST WALES**  
**BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION CENTRE**  
**CANOLFAN WYBODAETH BIOAMRYWIAETH**  
**GORLLEWIN CYMRU**

## Managers Annual Report

2021-22



## INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period April 2021 to March 2022. West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC) is a Local Environmental Record Centre, a not for profit company limited by guarantee, Company No. 5741787. Our mission is to, “collect, collate, disseminate and manage the biodiversity information of the West Wales region for the public benefit”

WWBIC is based in Whitland, Carmarthenshire, employs four staff, and is governed by a voluntary board of directors who meet quarterly. The Board members during the year were as the table below. Fiona Lanc resigned in July of the year creating a vacancy on the Board.

Name	Role
Jane Hodges	Director, Chairperson
Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Director, Company Secretary
Trevor Theobald	Director
Annie Haycock	Director
Lizzie Wilberforce	Director
Bob Haycock	Director
Huw Jones	Director
Chloe Griffiths	Director
Diana Clark	Director

Throughout the year we continued home working for staff and introduced a flexible approach to working in the office, with staff attending in restricted numbers indoors and all-staff meetings held outdoors. Covid continued to affect individual members of staff, directors and key staff in other organisations and therefore continued to have an impact on our work. A lifting of restrictions on outdoor gatherings meant that we were able to arrange three outdoor recording days with VC recorders. The WWBIC Board of Directors continued to meet virtually.



## PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND ACCESS TO DATA

WWBIC is supported financially by public sector partners from the West Wales region and nationally in Wales. Our information and services are used by these organisations in making land use decisions for such as development control, planning, land use management, and in meeting their statutory obligations under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. In addition to our public sector support, we have agreements with utility and infrastructure companies, Dŵr Cymru and Network Rail. All our national agreements are negotiated and administered by LERC Wales, (The Consortium of Local Environmental Records Centres Wales).

Organisation	Regional (WWBIC)/National (LERC Wales) Partner	Type of Agreement
Pembrokeshire County Council	WWBIC	Data Licence Agreement
Carmarthenshire County Council	WWBIC	Service Level Agreement
Ceredigion County Council	WWBIC	Service Level Agreement
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	WWBIC	Service Level Agreement
Natural Resources Wales	LERC Wales	Data Licence Agreement
Welsh Government	LERC Wales	Data Licence and Partnership Funding Agreement
South Wales and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Roads Agents	LERC Wales	Service Level Agreement
Dwr Cymru	LERC Wales	Service Level Agreement
Network Rail	LERC Wales	Service Level Agreement
Wildlife Trusts Wales	LERC Wales	Memorandum of Understanding

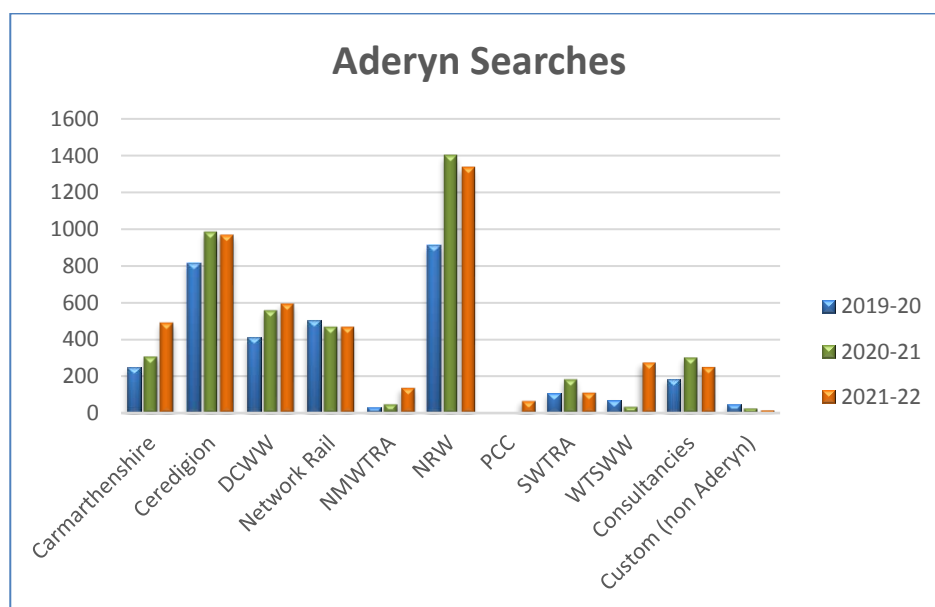
A significant part of the business is individual site related data searches for consultant ecologists from the commercial sector which increased 257 in 2020 to 297 from April 2021 to March 2022.

In addition to these searches, we occasionally receive requests from conservation organisations, students and academics who require species data for their work and research however in this year we received only one request for data for research and no public requests. The latter can be attributed to the public access to data through Aderyn. Members of the public are directed in the first instance to Aderyn to get a list of non-sensitive species sightings in their area and view distribution maps of individual species.

### **Core Data Products and Services**

Aderyn, the Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database managed by LERC Wales, is now the principal product through which our partners and commercial customers access data. We continue to provide species data in GIS form for some partners who may also have access to Aderyn as part of their agreement. Customised data enquiries are still carried out by WWBIC staff when required by the customer.

The chart below illustrates the extensive use of Aderyn by those organisations listed in the table above, 4,712 searches in total compared to 4,296 last year. The table does not include searches and queries carried out where LERC data supplied is incorporated into their internal systems. For comparison, non-Aderyn custom searches for consultants are included. The numbers for national partners are searches across all Wales. For Local Authorities, Consultancies and Custom searches, these are for WWBIC region only.



Data mobilisation and management is the core service which underpins all the species data outputs we provide and this continues to form the major part of our work. The digitisation, validation and verification of data arriving with us from many sources requires rigorous management and considerable staff time to maintain quality and confidence in the products used by the many organisations mentioned above. With the appointment of Biodiversity Information Officer Laura Moss, in October 2021, the import of records into our main biological records database accelerated and has helped to bring this important aspect of the work more up to date with records from the multiple sources we receive in the course of each year. (Appendix 1)

**SUPPORT FOR BIOLOGICAL RECORDING**

With the gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions during this year, we began to do more of our usual programme of activities supporting the community of biological recorders. Training sessions were a mix of virtual and WWBIC working with others to facilitate face to face events. The latter included “Skills for Bees” with Clare Flynn of Bumblebee Conservation Trust, a Dune Plant training session as part of the Sands of Life project run by NRW, and Diana Clark of Koru Ecology who delivered sessions on the preparation of hazel dormouse tracking tunnels, a relatively new survey method for the species. Carys Williams from the WWBIC team delivered several courses introducing groups to biological recording and what constitutes a record and she continued to curate the Common or Garden recording project on our website, introducing new species as the seasons changed. When Natur Cymru was started up by INCC, the LERCs were asked if they would like to contribute and these articles have become a regular feature in the journal. WWBIC

staff also supported Denise Plume by providing data for the Carmarthenshire Bat Atlas and created website pages with maps for Richard Smith of Butterfly Conservation to target Brown Hairstreak egg hunts in areas under recorded in recent years.

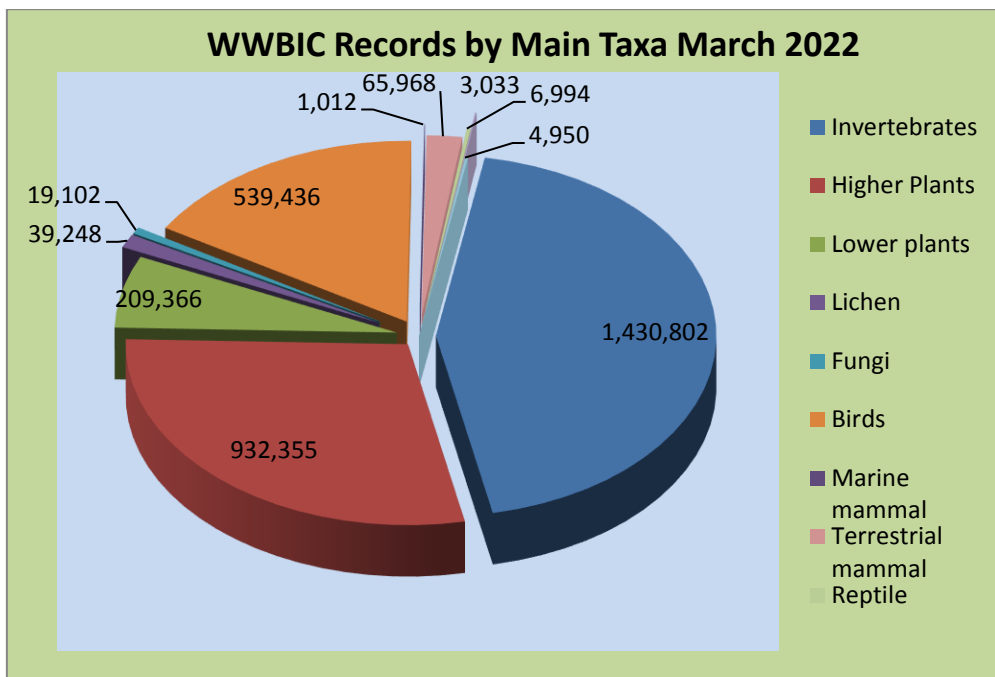
We held three recording days for VC recorders rather than our usual target of six; Llethermadin in Pembrokeshire, Blaengors in Ceredigion and Blaengilfach in Carmarthenshire. These were face to face events held within the regulations current at the time but this did not extend to our annual Recorders Forum which was a virtual event for the second consecutive year and well attended with over 30 joining us to listen to an interesting programme of talks from around the region.

Staff continue to support groups such as the Carmarthenshire Meadows Group and Pembrokeshire Recording Group and through social media channels, encourage recording, species identification and promote events and the LERC Wales App to a wider audience.

#### **SPECIES DATA**

Species records in the reporting database stood at 3,112,669 at the beginning of the period and had increased to 3,252,588 by the end of March 2021. These records held in our own Recorder 6 database are merged with those of the other LERCs in Wales in another database serving Aderyn and which held over 15 million records in March 2022. As well as accessing data through searches on Aderyn, some partners (e.g. NRW) are able to access tailored datasets directly from this database for use on their own systems. NRW have increased their data exposure on the NBN Atlas and as a result we have been able to download species data which has been held by them and until recently inaccessible however volunteer recorders remain the most significant source of data. (Appendix 1)

In the period covered by this report, we have received records from Vice-county recorders, David Redhead, David Bannister, Sam Bosanquet, Emily Foot, David Harries, Lin Gander, Steve Chambers, Stephen Evans, Russell Jones, Paul Taylor, and Theresa Greenaway as well as many other voluntary recorders. (See Appendix 1) .



## PROJECTS

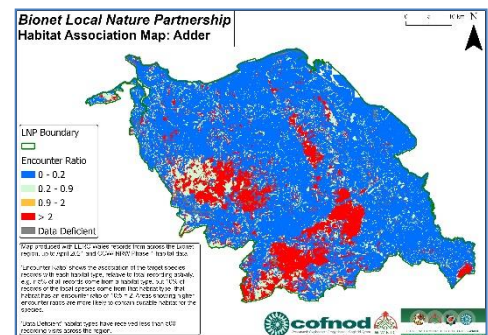
### Welsh Landscapes for Rare Bumblebees

A collaboration across all four Welsh LERCs for Bumblebee Conservation Trust. This project collated records for 7 rare bumblebee species, from all known sources across Wales, to provide an up-to-date assessment Welsh status. Habitat suitability analysis was performed, distribution maps were created and key stakeholders, with large land holdings within the species' known ranges, were identified. An extensive policy review was also carried out alongside this. The results will be used to inform future survey, conservation, research and policy work across Wales.

Report Link: <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/WLfRB-Final-Report-2021-ENGLISH.pdf>

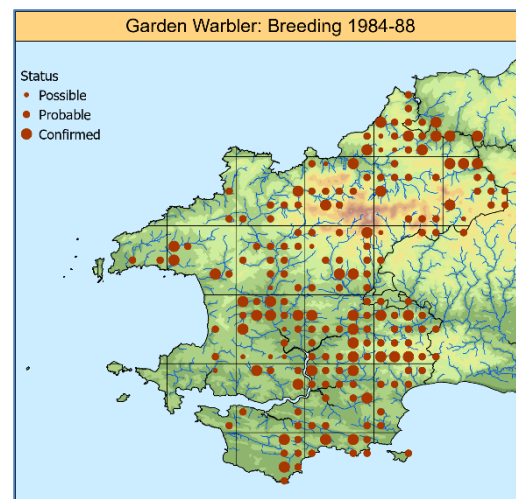
### Habitat Association Maps

These maps highlight areas that are likely to contain suitable habitat for a species, and can be used to plan conservation work, target recorder effort or as evidence to support need for species surveys, e.g. in a planning context. They are based on spatial associations between species records and land cover classes, relative to overall recording effort. We have produced these maps for a variety of organisations and functions, including Bionet Local Nature Partnership in Northeast Wales, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Carmarthenshire County Council.



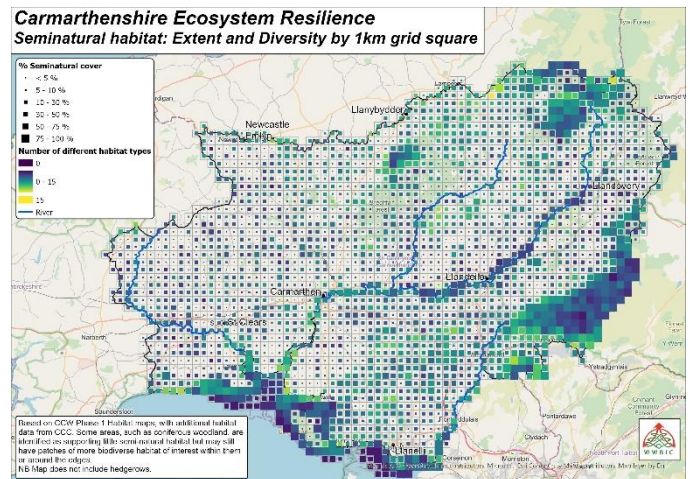
### Pembrokeshire Avifauna

Distribution maps produced for all birds surveyed in three different Pembrokeshire atlas recording projects. This project was in partnership with Pembrokeshire Bird Group for their online Pembrokeshire Avifauna. Link: <https://pembsavifauna.co.uk/>



## Carmarthenshire Ecosystem Resilience Mapping

In partnership with Carmarthenshire County Council, WWBIC designed maps showing the extent and diversity of seminatural habitat per sq km across Carmarthenshire. Extent and Diversity of habitat are defined as key features of Ecosystem Resilience under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act. These maps will form a key component of the Carmarthenshire State of Nature Report.



### STAFFING

The staffing level for the year increased to five with Laura Moss joining us in October to work two days per week primarily on data entry tasks. Demand for our services kept up throughout the year not only in our data services but in the range of projects we were asked to undertake and everyone was kept very busy. Working from home remains a strong element of the working balance and this is likely to continue in the future.



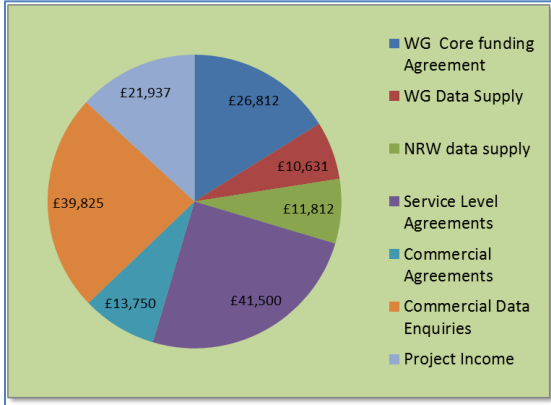
## **PRIORITIES FOR 2022-23**

In this coming year we hope to return to a routine we will recognise as pre-pandemic with more outdoor meetings and events and will be planning six recording days, two in each county as well as taking other opportunities for engagement during the recording season. Covid 19 is still with us and is likely to still affect the working environment therefore the situation will continue to be monitored and we will take into account the health and well being of ourselves and others in planning work activities

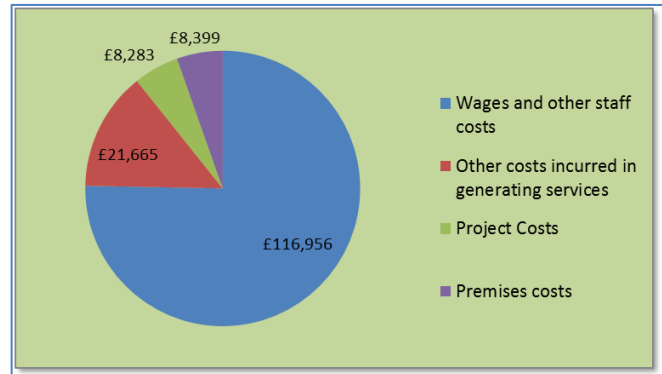
Our work priorities will be directed towards catching up with data backlogs within WWBIC and building a stronger network across Wales. This will mean joint meetings of staff performing similar roles in, for example, data management, IT, as well as the regular meetings of the LERC managers. Following on from ongoing LERC Wales work, we will be developing a risk register for the company with the input of WWBIC directors and staff. At the time of writing, project work for next year is extending the work done previously on ecosystem resilience and habitat association, in the latter, focusing on Curlew and the Important Curlew Areas of the Usk valley, and for a suite of several species selected by our Carmarthenshire partners.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Income - Analysis by Group



### Expenditure Analysis



### BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2022

	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets			1,775	1,713
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors		6,752		13,702
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>119,820</u>		<u>133,089</u>
		126,572		146,791
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(12,929)</u>		<u>(21,889)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		113,643		127,902
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>115,418</u>		<u>126,615</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due after one year		(-----)		<u>(21,667)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>115,418</u>		<u>104,948</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>				
Reserve for future expenditure		<u>115,418</u>		<u>104,948</u>

## APPENDIX 1.

### *Species Datasets received by WWBIC (from April 2021)*

Dataset Name	Supplied By	Date
Butterflyrecords2020	Dave Bannister	07/04/2021
Water vole survey Morfa Berwig LNR 14.4.21	Simeon Jones	19/04/2021
Duplicate otter records identified	Kate	27/04/2021
LERC Wales App records for WWBIC region 1st Jan 21 - 31st Mar	Download	28/04/2021
WWBIC online records 1st Jan 21 - 31st Mar 2021	Download	28/04/2021
WWBIC recording form VM March & April 21	Vaughn Matthews	30/04/2021
RAW WWBIC data - BBCT, NRW 04052021	Jo @ BIS	04/05/2021
Records from Ian Morgan	Ian Morgan	05/05/2021
World Museum Bumblebees for Aisling_divided by LERC	Tony Hunter (via	14/05/2021
Bombus Records 2018		18/05/2021
Bombus Records 2019		18/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. humilis		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. monticola		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. muscorum		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. ruderarius		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. ruderatus		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. soroensis		19/05/2021
records-2021-05-19 B. sylvarum		19/05/2021
D2006_002_01 WWBIC records sent	via Aisling @ cofnod	20/05/2021
Records from Nigel Ajax-Lewis	Nigel Ajax-Lewis	21/05/2021
BBCT project - Download - all iRecord records (including LERC		25/05/2021
wwbic online last edited 01012021 to 25052021		25/05/2021
WWBIC BBCT project species - unassessed		27/05/2021
records-2021-05-27		27/05/2021
S Beynon SA313NY Carms Moth Records.numbers		09/06/2021
download 26		15/06/2021
S Beynon SA313NY Carms Moth Records 2	Simon Beynon	19/06/2021
Carew Quarry 2021 Final	Richard Ellis	20/06/2021
Emailed watervole record	Jackie Fardouly	23/06/2021
Re WWBIC Pembrokeshire Recording Day 2021 - Llethermadin	David Redhead	02/07/2021
Re WWBIC Pembrokeshire Recording Day 2021 - Llethermadin	David Harries	03/07/2021
1968-2019 Recording Cards	Russell Jones	07/07/2021
Pembrokeshire Marine Code App sightings	Jo Jones	07/07/2021
Blaen-gors	Tom Ottley	09/07/2021
Blaengors microfungi	Arthur Chater	11/07/2021
Blaengors - Wilderness Bio Blitz	Paul Taylor	11/07/2021
Blaengors	Lin Gander	13/07/2021
SWTRA_OtterRecords_ForWWBIC_2016-20	Rosie Jackson (via	14/07/2021
Bird record 1	Kevin Reader	16/07/2021
WWBIC Ceredigion recording day, Blaengors, SN485545, 8 July	Steve Chambers	17/07/2021
Pine marten records for WWBIC	Lizzie Croose via	02/08/2021
WWBIC - ATI Dataset - All Trees Wales	via Jo at Bis	05/08/2021
National Dormouse Database (NDD)	via Jo at Bis	11/08/2021

Other mammal records from the National Dormouse Monitoring	via Jo at Bis	11/08/2021
Big Hedgehog Map (BHM) (June 2020-Jan 2021)	via Jo at Bis	11/08/2021
Great Stag Hunt (GSH)	via Jo at Bis	11/08/2021
National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP)	via Jo at Bis	11/08/2021
WWBIC recording form VM May, June & July 21	Vaughn Matthews	13/08/2021
LRC Record Form CURRENT	Em Foot	06/09/2021
Download (27) LERC Wales App records download from iRecord		21/09/2021
download (28)		22/09/2021
download (29) WWBIC online records input in June, July, August		21/9/2020
Paul_Taylor_Wildlife_Trust_Bat_and_Moth_Event_Records_Cilge	Paul Taylor	23/09/2021
WWBIC recording form VM August & September 21	Vaughn Matthews	30/9/2021
Fungi records from Paul Aubrey	Paul Aubrey	20/10/2021
Pembrey Forest invert recs GMT	Georg Tordoff (vis	21/10/2021
Himalayan Balsalm and Japanese knotweed records via website	Andrew Wallace	01/11/2021
2021 records fro WWBIC	Theresa Greenaway	02/11/2021
SR0004070000L7QS incorrect GR (Larus argentatus)	Laura	02/11/2021
Wales BHM records Jan-Jul2021	via Jo @BIS	03/11/2021
Carmarthen Museum Records		03/11/2021
Mainly moth records to check	Kate	16/11/2021
IOSF Otter Sightings Table 2020 October-2021 September	via Jen @Cofnod	18/11/2021
Dormouse_Records_ForWWBIC_2021	Rosie Jackson	17/12/2021
West wales species records 2021	Richard Gould	08/12/2021
Copy of Carmarthenshire_Bat_Records_Aderyn_2021_11_15 SL	Steve Lucas	21/12/2021
14 bat records with the GR SM8672120706 and location name		22/12/2021
8 bat records with the GR SM8650224555 and location name		22/12/2021
BioBlitz 2021 records Red Liford	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
BioBlitz 2021 records	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
BioBlitz Records 2021 George Ryley	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
Bio-blitz results 2021 Paul Taylor	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
Chloe Griffiths & Helena Garland Denmark Farm botanical species	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
George Ryley Denmark Farm Survey Records 2021 (1) (2)	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
Wildlife Records 2021	Linda Bradshaw-	01/10/2021
Butterflies PB 2021 scanned	Paul Aubrey	31/12/2021
Butterflies PB by area 2021 scanned	Paul Aubrey	31/12/2021
Bat records 2021 sent to WWBIC	Steve Lucas	01/01/2022
WWBIC Simeon Jones bat RECORDS 2021	Simeon Jones	04/01/2022
S Jones WWBIC bat RECORDS 2020	Simeon Jones	04/01/2022
Wildlife Records 2021 mail copy	Ron Elliott	04/01/2022
download (34)		06/01/2022
Wolverole records	Sian Musgrave	15/01/2022
Total plant species list for Llethymadin 1st July 20221 S.B.Evans	Stephen Evans	16/01/2022
Eleven text files from Stephen about Llethermadin	Stephen Evans	16/01/2022
WWBIC recording form VM November & December 21	Vaughn Matthews	21/01/2022
eBird Wales 2020	via Aisling @	25/01/2022
CofnodTransfer_Jan2022		25/01/2022
Data for environmental centre - kidwelly	Abbie Jenkins	01/02/2022
WWBIC recording form VM January 22	Vaughn Matthew	07/02/2022
records-2022-02-15	NBN Atlas	15/02/2022
Bat records Cross Hands	Jacqueline Bond	15/02/2022
All LERC Wales App records downloaded from iRecord24/02/2022	Download	24/02/2022

C&W_WestWales_Records_2020	Matt Jones	04/03/2022
bt (BirdTrack) 2018	via Aisling @	17/03/2022
bt 2019	via Aisling @	17/03/2022
bt 2020	via Aisling @	17/03/2022
Spreadsheet 2021 - RH	Adam Dare	21/03/2022
Jeremy Wadia - iNaturalist Observations for WWBIC	Jeremy Wadia	23/03/2022
Notable records in BLS format	Sam Bosanquet	24/03/2022
NDD records from 2021 in Wales	Jo @ BIS	24/03/2022
NWVMP 2021 data Wales	Jo @ BIS	24/03/2022
Other mammal data records in Wales 2021	Jo @ BIS	24/03/2022
S Beynon SA313NY Carms Moth Records 2	Simon Beynon	30/03/2022
Peter_Sturgess_Records_03_08_2022	Peter Sturgess	30/03/2022
bt 2001-2014 (multiple datasets)	via Aisling @	31/03/2022