

A Toolkit for Community Wildlife Recording

Project Summary

15/03/2025

Produced by

West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre



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This document provides a summary of the project "A Toolkit for Community Wildlife Recording", funded by the Local Nature Partnerships of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, from August 2023 – March 2025, through the Welsh Government 'Local Places for Nature' funding scheme. An extended report, featuring case studies of engaging different groups with wildlife recording, will follow before April 2025.

This project brought together existing resources on biological recording and species identification, alongside new resources created by WWBIC, into one accessible 'Wildlife Recording Toolkit', hosted on the WWBIC website, to help individuals and communities get started in monitoring and recording their local wildlife. This was accompanied by a series of 20 training events throughout the two counties, that gave training in both species identification and biological recording, as well as having outdoor practical elements.

Core outputs from the project include:

1. A new 'Wildlife Recording Toolkit' section of the WWBIC website, that brings together a wide variety information on biological recording, monitoring schemes and species identification, for a variety of different taxonomic groups.
2. A growing collection of new ID resources created by WWBIC, tailored to West Wales, that can be used for future training. Most of these are in downloadable, printable pdf format, including a beginners guide to mosses, a guide to common species growing with plants, (e.g. galls, fungi), a guide to moths and a beginners ID sheet for plants.
3. A 76-page 'Wild Plants in West Wales' booklet, featuring 120 common species, that can be used for future training events. A print run of 60 copies was first produced by WWBIC to be used in field testing on the training events for this project. A run of 1000 printed copies of a revised edition has been funded by Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership.
4. New methods for WWBIC to produce target 'hitlists' of species to try to find and record in their local area, including species that are easily identifiable to the beginner, species of conservation importance and species for which recent records from the area are lacking.
5. 20 training and engagement events run during the project period, working with 12 different groups at 10 different locations throughout the two counties. Over 120 individuals were engaged over the project period and feedback from the events was 100% positive.
6. Over 1000 new records submitted to WWBIC by participants throughout the project and over 10 new keen, regular, ongoing biological recorders. The project also led to one participant submitting an existing dataset of 600+ records to WWBIC.

WWBIC will use the resources, skills and links developed in this project as a platform to further engage, support and grow the wildlife recording community in West Wales, and ensure their efforts are best used to support local wildlife conservation.