

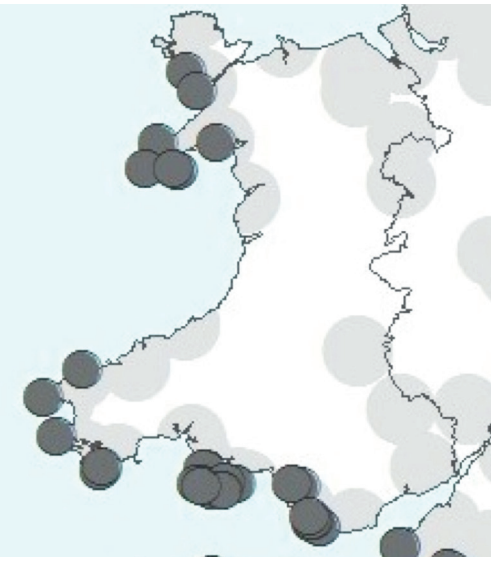

Species Champion



Rebecca Evans MS
Party: Welsh Labour
Region: Gower

Rebecca Evans.

More information

- buglife.org.uk

Lead member

buglife Cymru

Black oil beetle

Description and status

Four species of oil beetles have been historically recorded in Wales, the Black oil beetle (*Meloe proscarabaeus*), Violet oil beetle (*Meloe violaceus*), Rugged oil beetle (*Meloe rugosus*) and Short-necked oil beetle (*Meloe brevicollis*) – all of which have suffered significant declines in their abundance and distribution. South and West Wales remain national strongholds for the Black oil beetle, however up-to-date data is urgently needed to inform conservation work. Black oil beetles are large, conspicuous beetles, often encountered when on a walk along coastal paths.

Oil beetles, so called because they secrete oil from their joints to deter predators, have one of the most extraordinary life cycles of any British insect – they have an intricate relationship with wild bees. In order to complete its life cycle, the oil beetle larva must gain access to the nest burrow of a mining bee, inside which the beetle larva grows and develops into an adult.

The Black oil beetle is listed on the Section 7 list of Species of Principle Importance in Wales.

Threats

Oil beetles are reliant on solitary bees to compete their life-cycles. The health of oil beetle populations is therefore dependent on the health and diversity of wild bees. The wildflower-rich habitats that oil beetles rely upon have declined in quantity and quality due to intensive management of the countryside. Oil beetles are sensitive to changes in land management and are a good indicator of the health of our countryside.

Actions required

- Increasing the abundance of wildflowers in the countryside will be beneficial to the solitary bee hosts of oil beetles, as well as other pollinators.
- Extending and reconnecting areas of wildflower-rich grassland may also allow oil beetle populations to expand and could help to reconnect fragmented populations.
- Better information on the distribution of oil beetles in Wales will help us to target conservation work.

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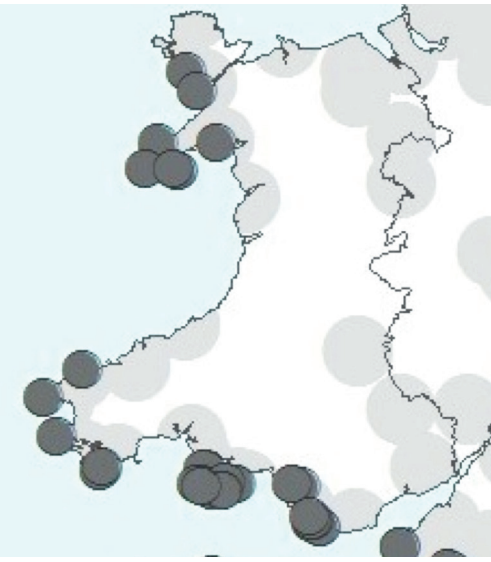

Pencampwr Rhywogaeth



Rebecca Evans AS
Plaid: Welsh Labour
Bro: Gŵyr

Mwy o wybodaeth

- buglife.org.uk

Prif aelod

buglife Cymru

Chwilen olew ddu

Disgrifiad a statws

Yn hanesyddol, cofnodwyd tair rhywogaeth o chwilod olew yng Nghymru, y Chwilen olew ddu (*Meloe proscarabaeus*), y Chwilen olew borffor (*Meloe violaceus*) a'r Chwilen olew arw (*Meloe rugosus*) a Chwilen olew gwddf byr (*Meloe brevicollis*) – y mae pob un ohonynt wedi dioddef dirywiad sylweddol yn eu niferoedd a'u gwasgariad. Mae De a Gorllewin Cymru'n parhau i fod yn gadarnleoedd cenedlaethol i'r Chwilen Olew Ddu, ond mae angen data wedi ei ddiweddaru ar fyrder er mwyn hysbysu gwaith cadwraeth.

Mae Chwilod Olew Du yn chwilod mawr, amlwg, y dewch ar eu traws yn aml wrth gerdded ar hyd lwybrau'r arfordir. Mae gan Chwilod Olew, gafodd eu henwi oherwydd yr olew y maent yn ei secretu o'u cymalau i atal ysglyfaethwyr, un o gylchoedd bywyd mwyaf hynod unrhyw drychfil ym Mhrydain – mae ganddynt berthynas ryfeddol â gwenyn gwyllt. Er mwyn cwblhau eu cylch bywyd mae rhaid i larfa'r chwilen olew fynd i mewn i dwll gwâl y wenynen durio, ble bydd y larfa'n tyfu ac aeddfedu.

Mae'r Chwilen olew ddu wedi ei chynnwys ar restr Adran 7 o Rywogaethau Pwysig lawn yng Nghymru.

Bygythiadau

Mae Chwilod Olew yn dibynnu ar wenyn unig i gwblhau eu cylchoedd bywyd. Felly mae iechyd poblogaethau Chwilod Olew yn ddibynnol ar iechyd ac amrywiaeth gwenyn gwyllt. Mae'r cynefinoedd sy'n gyfoeth o flodau gwyllt, y mae'r chwilod olew yn dibynnu arnynt, wedi dirywio mewn nifer a safon o ganlyniad i reolaeth ddwys ar gefn gwlad. Mae Chwilod Olew yn sensitif i newidiadau mewn rheoli tir ac maent yn ddangosyddion da o iechyd cefn gwlad.

Gweithredu angenrheidiol

- Bydd cynyddu'r nifer o flodau gwyllt yng nghefn gwlad yn fuddiol i'r gwenyn unig sy'n cynnal y Chwilod Olew, yn ogystal ag i beillwyr eraill.
- Gall ymestyn ac ailgysylltu ardaloedd o laswelltir sy'n gyfoeth o flodau gwyllt ganiatáu i boblogaethau o Chwilod Olew ehangu a gallai helpu i ail-ymgysylltu poblogaethau sydd ar chwâl.
- Bydd gwell gwybodaeth am ddosbarthiad Chwilod Olew yng Nghymru'n ein helpu i dargedu gwaith cadwraeth.

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