

Ecology

Harbour porpoises are less than two metres long, making them the smallest marine mammal found in UK waters. You can tell them apart from dolphins as they don't come out very far when they surface, and their dorsal fin is triangular not curved. On average, porpoises live for 12 years. They occur year-round but numbers are greatest between August and October. They give birth to a single calf in the early summer.

The harbour porpoise is an exclusively marine species, although they may occasionally enter estuaries. They use a wide range of coastal habitats, generally in water of 100m depth or less where they feed on small fish such as whiting, sprat, sand eel, cod and herring.



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Where in Pembrokeshire?

Harbour porpoises are found all around the Pembrokeshire coast, both inshore and offshore beyond the outlying reefs and islands, but no accurate count of numbers has yet been made. They favour particular areas including Cemaes Head, Strumble Head, Ramsey Sound, Jack Sound, Skomer and Skokholm islands. In well-watched areas, observers have identified strong links with tidal cycles, with most activity seen a few hours before and after high tide.

What might affect their survival?

Over the last fifty years, porpoises have experienced declines in various parts of their range. They face a number of modern pressures:

- Entanglement in fishing gear, especially in bottom-set gill or tangle nets.
- Pollution of the marine environment and build-up of pollutants in porpoise tissue.
- Disturbance, caused by increased underwater noise and boat traffic.
- Availability of prey - affected by fishing due to the increase in competition with other predators.
- Attacks from bottlenose dolphins have killed harbour porpoises; it is unclear why they attack.

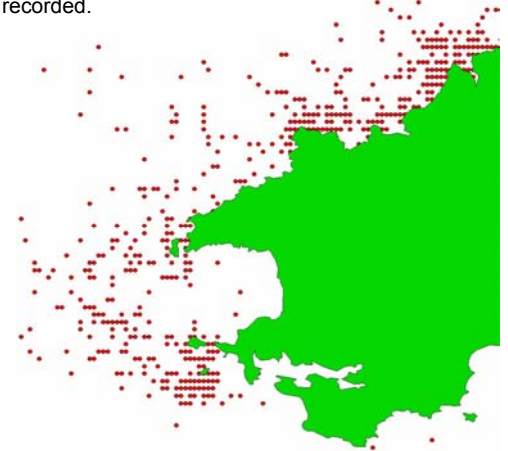
What can you do to help?

- Look out for porpoise and report any unusual sightings in Pembrokeshire (areas not on the map) to the Sea Trust 01348 875639 www.seatrust.org.uk.
- Report any sightings in Wales to the national database run by Sea Watch, 01865-717276 www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk
- Report any live stranded porpoise to the RSPCA immediately on 08705 555999
- Report any dead stranded porpoise to Marine Environmental Monitoring on 01348 875000
- Support Pembrokeshire's Voluntary Marine Code to avoid disturbing wildlife on the water or choose a WiSe accredited boat operator for trips (WiSe 'Wildlife Safe' is a sustainable marine ecotourism training and accreditation scheme).
- If you see a boat recklessly disturbing porpoises try to get evidence and report it to the police.
- Don't leave rubbish on beaches or throw over-board.

For more information on how you can get involved with specific projects see part 2 of the plan.

Outline Distribution Map (1993 – 2003)

Areas where harbour porpoise have been recorded.



What's being done?

European and International law protect harbour porpoises, and it is an offence to recklessly or intentionally disturb them. The Sea Trust carries out regular counts from land and sea and collates local records. The Sea Watch Foundation monitors coastal waters and collates porpoise sightings for Welsh waters. Acoustic monitoring of some areas is being carried out. A voluntary Marine Code has been trialed in Pembrokeshire this is aimed at minimising disturbance to harbour porpoises at sea by boat operators.

FREEPOST

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Ecolog

Mae llamhidyddion yr harbwr yn llai na dau fetr o hyd, sy'n golygu mai hwy yw'r mamaliaid môr lleiaf sydd i'w cael yn nyfroedd y DU. Maent yn wahanol i ddolffiniaid – ar ôl codi i wyneb y môr nid ydynt yn dod allan yn bell iawn, a siâp triogl, nid crwn, yw eu hesgyll cefn. Ar gyfartaledd, bydd llamhidyddion yn byw am 12 mlynedd. Maent i'w gweld trwy gydol y flwyddyn, ond yn Awst a Hydref y gwelir y niferoedd mwyaf. Byddant yn bwrw un llo yn rhan gyntaf yr haf.

Rhywogaeth forol yn unig yw llamhidyddion yr harbwr, er y gallent ddod i aberoedd ar brydiau. Byddant yn defnyddio amrywiaeth eang o gynefinoedd arfordirol, yn gyffredinol mewn dŵr 100 metr neu lai o ddyfnder lle byddant yn bwydo ar bysgod bach fel gwyniaid, corbenwaig, llymrïod, penfreision a sgadan.



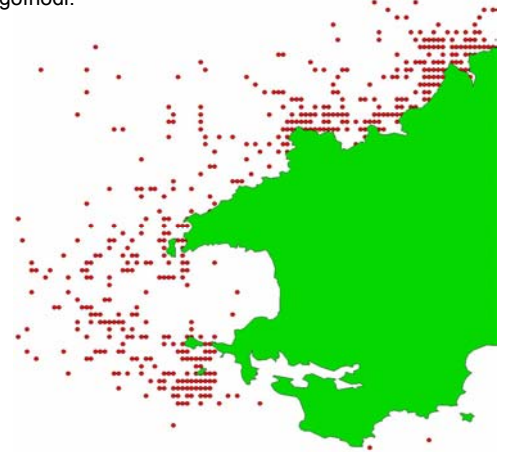
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Ble yn Sir Benfro?

Mae llamhidyddion yr harbwr i'w gweld ym mhobman o amgylch arfordir Sir Benfro, gyda'r lan ac ymhell o'r lan, y tu hwnt i'r creigiau a'r ynnysoedd pellaf; hyd yma, fodd bynnag, ni chadwyd cyfrif manwl gywir o'u niferoedd. Ymysg eu hoff fannau mae Cemaes Head, Swnt Dewi, Jack Sound, ynnysoedd Sgomer a Sgogwm. Mewn mannau sy'n cael eu gwyllo gyda llawer o bobl, dywedwyd bod cysylltiadau cryf yn bodoli â chylchoedd y llanw; mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gweithgarwch yn digwydd awr neu ddwy cyn ac ar ôl y penllanw.

Map Dosbarthiad Amlinellol (1993 – 2003)

Mannau lle mae llamhidydd yr harbwr wedi cael ei gofnodi.

**Beth allai effeithio ar ei gallu i oroesi?**

Yn ystod yr hanner can mlynedd diwethaf, mae niferoedd y llamhidyddion wedi gostwng mewn amryw rannau o'u dalgylch. Mae pwysau'r oes sydd ohoni yn pwysu'n drwm arnynt:

- Mynd yn sownd mewn gêr pysgota, yn enwedig mewn rhwydi drysu neu rwydi clymau wedi'u doddi ar waelod y môr.
- Difwyno amgylchedd y môr a difwynyddion yn cynyddu ym meinweoedd y llamhidydd.
- Rhagor o sŵn tanddwr a chychod yn achosi aflonyddwch iddynt.
- Y prae sydd ar gael – yn cael ei effeithio gyda physgota am eu bod yn gorfod cystadlu rhagor ag ysglyfaethwyr eraill.
- Mae dolffiniaid trwynbwl wedi ymosod ar a lladd llamhidyddion yr harbwr; nid yw'n amlwg pam y maent yn ymosod.

Beth sy'n cael ei wneud?

Mae cyfraith Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol yn gwarchod llamhidyddion yr harbwr ac mae aflonyddu arnynt, yn fyrbwyll neu'n fwriadol, yn drosedd. Bydd Ymddiriedolaeth y Môr yn cynnal sesiynau cyfrif yn rheolaidd o'r tir a'r môr ac yn coladu cofnodion lleol. Bydd Sefydliad 'Sea Watch' yn monitro dyfroedd yr arfordir ac yn coladu niferoedd y llamhidyddion sy'n cael eu gweld, ar gyfer dyfroedd Cymru. Mae monitro acwstig yn cael ei gynnal mewn rhai mannau. Cafodd Cod y Môr ei ragbrofi yn Sir Benfro a'i nod yw lleihau'r aflonyddwch a achosir gyda chwmnïau cychod i lamhidyddion yr harbwr ar y môr.

Beth fedrwyd chi ei wneud i helpu?

Cadwch eich llygaid ar agor ac os gwelwch rywbeth anarferol yn Sir Benfro (mannau nad ydynt ar y map) rhowch wybod i Ymddiriedolaeth y Môr ar 01348 875639 www.seatrust.org.uk.

- Rhoi gwybod i'r gronfa ddata genedlaethol a gynhelir gyda Sea Watch, 01865-717276, am unrhyw lamhidyddion a welwch yng Nghymru. www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk
- Rhoi gwybod i'r RSPCA ar unwaith am unrhyw lamhidydd a welwch sydd wedi'i olchi i'r lan ac sy'n dal i fyw, ar 08705 555999
- Rhoi gwybod i Adran Monitro Amgylchedd y Môr am unrhyw lamhidydd a welwch sydd wedi'i olchi i'r lan ac sydd wedi marw, ar 01348 875000

Cefnogi Cod Môr Gwirfoddol Sir Benfro er mwyn peidio ag aflonyddu ar fywyd gwylt ar y dŵr neu ceisiwch ddewis cwmni cychod sydd ag achrediad WiSE (cynllun hyfforddi ac achredu eco-dwrstiaeth forol gynaliadwy yw WiSe 'Wildlife Safe').

- Os gwelwch gwch sy'n aflonyddu, yn fyrbwyll, ar lamhidyddion, ceisiwch gael tystiolaeth a hysbysu'r heddlu yn ei gylch.
- Peidiwch â gadael sbwriel ar draethau na'i daflu oddi ar gwch chwaith.

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am sut y gallwch gymryd rhan mewn prosiectau penodol, edrychwch ar ran 2 y cynllun neu cysylltwch â'r Swyddog Bioamrywiaeth

RHADBOST

Rhadbost RLXJ-HAHU - BCAF Partneriaeth Bioamrywiaeth Sir Benfro, t/l Uned Cefn Gwlad, Cynllunio Datblygu, 1B Neuadd y Sir, Hwlfordd, Sir Benfro, SA61 1TP

Ffôn: 0790 154 1728

Ffacs: 01437 776496

www.bioamrywiaethcymru.org.uk

HARBOUR PORPOISE ● LLAMHIDYDD ● PHOCOENA PHOCOENA

The actions listed below are aiming to ensure that there is/are

- maintain the current geographical range of the harbour porpoise in Pembrokeshire, subject to natural processes.
- maintain the abundance of the harbour porpoise in Pembrokeshire, subject to natural processes..
- no anthropogenic factors inhibit a return to waters in plan area previously occupied by the harbour porpoise.



	ACTION	PARTNERS	DATE	DETAILS	Link to
1	Raise awareness of harbour porpoise ecology and distribution to recreational, commercial and industrial users of Pembrokeshire waters	PDSF, STSWW, CCW, PCNPA, SWF.	Launch 04 Ongoing	Through launch & other events, e.g. porpoise watches/walks. National Watches Press Release to coincide with launch of plan - Western Telegraph/ Pembs Radio / Wildlife Trust	PBP AWG
2	Prevent disturbance and harassment of harbour porpoise by boat operators.	PCF / PMCG Dyfed Police STSWW	2005 Ongoing	Publicise and promote Pembrokeshire Voluntary Marine Codes and CCW Sea Wise Code amongst the public and boat operators, to include what constitutes criminal activity against harbour porpoise.	POCG PBP AWG
				Encourage the collation of evidence and reporting of criminal activity to the police.	POCG PBP AWG
				Maintain a record of alleged disturbance and prosecute where evidence exists	Individual
				Encourage the continued surveillance of harbour porpoise encounters with local passenger ferry companies.	PBP BAG
3	Ensure conservation needs of harbour porpoise are taken into account when assessing marine developments or changes in activities.	CCW, EAW, PCNPA, PCC, SWSFC, WAG, Crown Estate, DTI.	On going	Ensure that any environment assessment carried out in support of a development proposal sufficiently addresses potential impacts on harbour porpoise, and any relevant mitigation measures required.	PBP DAG
				Ensure that advice on the potential impacts of development proposals or activities addresses potential impacts on harbour porpoise.	PBP DAG
				Ensure that before consent is granted, that advice from statutory bodies and supporting environmental information properly considered.	EAW
4	Reduce both land and marine sources of pollution, including rubbish.	EAW, DCWW Keep Wales Tidy, CCW,	2010	Completion of Environment Agency review of all existing discharge consents.	Individual
			On going	Continued improvement to waste water treatment and outfalls by the Environment Agency and Dwr Cymru.	EAW
				Continued work of Keep Wales Tidy (Coast Care Groups, Tidy Tackle campaign and promotion of waste management systems for ports and marinas).	Community PBP AWG
				Promotion of measures, that address reduced water quality as a result of agricultural run-off into water courses, through the Tir Gofal and other schemes.	PBP FAG
				Local implementation of the Water Framework Directive.	EAW

	ACTION	PARTNERS	DATE	DETAILS	Link to
5	Reduce by-catch in local waters.	SWSFC, CCW, DEFRA	2010	Consider the scope for implementing preventative measures.	PBP BAG
6	Ensure that Marine pollution contingency plans take full account of the conservation requirements of harbour porpoise	PCNPA, CCW, EAW, MCA, WAG, PCC (i.e. WWEG)	On going	Preparation and regular review of WWEG marine pollution contingency plan, including maintenance of resources and sensitivity database.	WWEG
7a	Gather baseline data on the Harbour Porpoise population size, distribution, behaviour, prey, and impacts of human activities, under licence issued by CCW where appropriate and using a standardised methodology.	STSWW, CCW, SWF	2004 – 2006	Seasonal Cetacean Observer Transect Survey – to record seasonal abundance of small cetaceans and to record group make-up including neonate/juvenile numbers. (STSWW 01348 875639). Seasonal Distribution Abundance of Common Dolphins and other Cetaceans in offshore areas of the southern Irish Sea. (SWF)	PBP BDAG
7b	On completion of baseline survey, commence a monitoring programme, using a standardised methodology.	STSWW, CCW, SWF	2004 – 2007	Commence base-line and monitoring study for harbour porpoise in Pembrokeshire (through Species Challenge or other funding source).	PBP BDAG
8	Promote research into the causes of death of the Harbour Porpoise to determine the context and need for future conservation action.	CCW, Marine Environmental Monitoring (MEM)	On going	Continue to support and publicise the operation of the strandings research project (01348 875000) through dissemination of leaflets, posters, radio interviews, annual workshop with local authority coastal employees etc.	PBP AWG PBP BDAG
9	Continue to support local and national cetacean sightings databases for Wales.	CCW, STSWW, SWF	On going	Publicise recording schemes through dissemination of leaflets, posters, slide shows, radio interviews, on cetacean watches and annual workshop with local authority coastal employees etc.	PBP AWG PBP BDAG
10	Support the inclusion of harbour porpoise as a feature of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	CCW, STSWW	On going	Provide data supporting the case for inclusion as a marine SAC feature, e.g. through species challenge project (7a)	PBP BDAG

This plan contains all known information on May 2004, future schemes will be updated on the website plans. The whole plan will be reviewed in 2010.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER HAPs AND SAPs

Management for many species and habitats is compatible with that for the Harbour Porpoise, eg tidal rapids, sublittoral sands and gravels, small dolphin species, commercial fish species.

A glossary for the abbreviations used in this plan can be found in the full Local Biodiversity Action Plan available from the website or the biodiversity officer.

Website: www.biodiversitywales.org.uk

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