

ABERPORTH BIODIVERSITY STATUS REPORT 2

November 2025 Update; based on April 2024 Baseline



Introduction

This report is meant as a guide to the wildlife and biodiversity of Aberporth. It is not intended as an identification guide, nor is it the result of rigorous expert, scientific surveys. Species status reports are based on sightings and experience of amateur naturalists over several years in and around the village, and therefore may not be entirely accurate or complete. The aim is to provide an update at the end of 2025 based on the April 2024 baseline report of the current status of biodiversity in our local area. It is hoped that the local community will find this useful and inspiring, and that it may provide a valuable baseline for understanding future changes, good and bad, in the local natural environment around Aberporth.

It is also an objective to include updates from the whole community. We hope and anticipate that others will have their own complementary, contradictory, or additional information on wildlife in our local area, through their own sightings, gardens, knowledge, etc. It would be great if anyone with other information, no matter how significant, that should be included in future updates of this report would forward updates to one of the compilers below, so we can all benefit and better understand the biodiversity in our area. We are blessed to live in such a spectacular natural environment as here in Aberporth, and we need to do what we can to preserve this environment as appropriate for future generations. We hope that this report, and future editions, will contribute to our understanding, care and nurturing of the area.

Thanks for your attention.

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Contents (all photos copyright D. Tudor)

- Birds
- Mammals
- Butterflies/ Moths
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- Fish / Sealife



Dolphins and Manx Shearwaters feeding off Aberporth

Note that local Flora is not included in the report.

BIRDS

Summary

From a conservation / biodiversity perspective, if nothing is done to correct their declining trend and the trend then these 4 bird species may be lost as Aberporth area breeding birds in the short term:

- Fulmar
- Spotted Flycatcher
- Common Swift
- Greenfinch
- Skylark

Although not necessarily declining, the following bird species are considered vulnerable in the Aberporth area due to their small local population, or susceptibility to disturbance :

- Starling
- Tawny Owl
- Kestrel
- Stonechat
- Grey Wagtail
- Chough
- Peregrine Falcon
- Oystercatcher
- Raven

The following bird species bred in the Aberporth area until recently but have probably already been lost in the local area as breeding residents:

- Yellowhammer
- Willow Warbler
- Marsh Tit
- Willow Tit



Kestrel hovering over Aberporth seafront

Status of birds present in the Aberporth area in 2022/23/24/25:

Canada Goose, Gwydd Canada [*Branta canadensis*] ; Seen and heard flying overhead in flocks in spring and autumn movement and occasionally pairs or groups will land on the sea in Aberporth Bay if it is calm.

Mute Swan, Alarch Dof [*Cynus olor*] ; Occasionally seen flying overhead, often in pairs, and an adult with 3 cygnets were swimming on Aberporth Bay in September 2023.

Mallard, Hwyaeden Wyllt [*Anas platyrhynchos*]; Resident breeder on the local streams – with families of ducklings sometimes seen being led through the village by the mother duck.

Common Scoter, Mor-hwyaeden ddu [*Melanitta nigra*]; Rafts of up to 30 overwintering adults usually present on the sea offshore between Aberporth and Tresaith. They migrate north to breed in Northern Scotland and further north in early spring, returning to feed in the bay in Autumn. The first large raft of some 18 birds (mainly male) was seen off Aberporth on September 9th 2025.



Goosander, Hwyaeden danheddog [*Mergus merganser*]; Occasionally seen offshore and also feeding on the seasonal lagoon at the back of Aberporth Big Beach.

Common Pheasant, Ffesant [*Phasianus colchicus*]; Resident in fields and undergrowth around Aberporth, and often seen or heard from local footpaths.

Red-throated Diver, Trochydd Gyddfgoch [*Gavia stellata*]; Occasional winter visitor seen in winter plumage fishing offshore between Aberporth and Tresaith.



Northern Fulmar, Aderyn Drych y Graig [*Fulmarus glaciarus*]; Seen soaring along the cliffs on stiff wings during summer when it breeds in small numbers on the cliffs north of Aberporth. Breeding numbers have declined steadily and only 2-3 pairs were present on local cliffs in 2025.



Manx Shearwater, Aderyn Drycin Manaw [*Puffinus puffinus*]; Regularly seen over the bay during the summer – probably birds breeding on Skokholm/Skomer. Forms large flocks and rafts in feeding frenzies in the bay in August/September, and can sometime be heard calling close to shore on dark, calm summer nights. Occasional strandings have occurred in the village in late summer – probably youngsters disoriented by the village lights while learning to fly at night over the bay.

Great Crested Grebe, Gwyach Fawr Gopog [*Podiceps cristatus*]; Regular winter visitor feeding in the bay in winter plumage.

Grey Heron, Creyr Glas [*Ardea cinerea*]; Regular visitor to the shoreline to feed, so sometimes seen flying overhead. During the gull breeding season the local gulls will mob any herons to drive away this potential predator of gull chicks.



Little Egret, Creyr Bach [*Egret tagarzetta*]; Irregular visitor, usually in winter to feed on the beach streams, but easily disturbed by people and dogs.



Northern Gannet, Hugan [*Morus bassanus*]; Regularly seen flying and dive fishing from Spring through Autumn, at times quite close in to the shoreline during the summer months. These are probably breeding birds from the Grassholm colony and unfortunately there has been a

noticeable reduction in numbers since bird flu decimated the Grassholm colony starting in 2022. Do not approach any stranded birds as they may have bird flu, and also may still be capable of inflicting nasty wounds with their dagger like beaks if not handled carefully.



European Shag, Mulfran Werdd [*Phalacrocorax aristotellus*]; Can be seen year round flying past over the sea and swimming and fishing close to the shore.

Great Cormorant, Mulfran [*Phalacrocorax carbo*]; Can be seen year round flying across the sea and fishing near the shore. Also often uses the rocky headlands north and south of Aberporth as perches on which to spread their wings out to dry between fishing sessions.



Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Gwalch Glas [*Accipiter nisus*]; Regularly observed around the village and gardens ambushing small birds at birdfeeders etc.



Red Kite, Barcud [*Milvus milvus*]; Much increased in recent years and now regularly seen year round soaring over the Aberporth area looking for carrion etc. Interestingly, the local breeding gulls do not mob the flying kites as they do the local Buzzards. Easily differentiated from the similar sized buzzard by it's deeply forked tail.

Common Buzzard, Bwncath [*Buteo buteo*]; Regularly seen soaring over the Aberporth area and known to breed in the area. Interestingly, unlike the kites, the local Gulls will vociferously mob and chase away any buzzards that soar over the gulls nests.

Eurasian Oystercatcher, Pioden y Mor [*Haematopus ostralegus*]; Resident on the local coastline throughout the year, feeding and roosting in noisy flocks on the rocky foreshore. Disturbance means typical breeding on local beaches is no longer feasible, but recently they have taken to attempting to breed on inaccessible cliff faces near Aberporth, with mixed degrees of success, given the risks to the cliff hatched chicks. At least one cliff reared chick fledged successfully during 2025.



Northern Lapwing, Cornchwiglen [*Vanellus vanellus*]; Occasionally seen in the local area; for example in very cold weather may be found on the beach or streams near the shoreline.



Common Ringed Plover, Cwtiad Torchog [*Charadrius hiaticula*]; Occasional passage visitor to the sandy beaches and rocky foreshore. For example the individual pictured here and on the report cover was found feeding on the strand line on Dolwen Beach during a quiet evening high tide in July 2025. Ringed Plover no longer breeds on local beaches due to disturbance levels.

Whimbrel, Coegylfinir [*Numenius phaeopus*]; Occasional passage visitor to the rocky headlands and foreshore.

Eurasian Curlew, Gylfinir [*Numenius arquata*]; Occasionally seen on the foreshore of the rocky headlands, or heard calling when flying over the village, apparently heading inland to feed or roost.

Eurasian Woodcock, Cyffyllog [*Scolopax rusticola*]; Resident in local damp woods and fields and can sometimes be flushed while walking damp footpaths.

Black Legged Kittiwake, Gwylan Goesddu [*Rissa tridactyla*]; Can be seen feeding and roosting around the bay, but does not breed locally.



Black-headed Gull, Gwylan Benddu [*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*]; Seen feeding near the shore in the bay but does not breed nearby. This photograph is an adult in winter plumage.

Mediterranean Gull, Gwylan Mor y Canoldir [*Ichthyophaga melanocephala*]; Occasionally seen mixing with other gulls around the bay, especially in summer months.

Mew (Common) Gull, Gwylan y Gweunydd [*Larus canus*]; Can be seen feeding and roosting around the bay but does not breed nearby.

Great Black-backed Gull, Gwylan Gefnddu Fwyaf [*Larus marinus*]; A couple of pairs can be seen patrolling the cliffs and shoreline around Aberporth. In 2025 at least one pair took up residence on the cliffs between Aberporth and Tresaith and were observed by kayak apparently incubating.



European Herring Gull, Gwylan y Penwaig [*Larus argentatus*]; Commonest gull seen around Aberporth and foraging along the shoreline and in coastal fields. Breeds on inaccessible cliffs to the north and south of Aberporth.

Lesser Black-backed Gull, Gwylan Gefnddu Leiaf [*Larus fuscus*]; Can be seen mixed with other gull flocks around the bay and has recently started breeding in small numbers on local cliffs.

Sandwich Tern, Morwennol Bigddu [*Thalasseus sandvicensis*]; Commonest tern here and can be seen and heard feeding close to shore and resting on rocky headlands on either side of Aberporth Bay on migration (typically between March and September, with highest numbers in late summer when juveniles are also passing through).

Common / Arctic Tern, Morwennol Gyffredin/ y Gogledd [*Sterna hirundo/paradisarea*]; Scarce migrants but sometimes occur, often in association with Sandwich Tern flocks.

Little Tern, Morwennol Fach [Sternula albifrons]; Very scarce visitor that still breeds in North Wales. One was present for several days in Aberporth Bay in October 2025, presumably on migration south. It could be seen fishing close to the shore and roosting on the foreshore amongst a mixed group of Sandwich Terns and Gulls.

Great Skua, Sgiwen Fawr [*Stercorarius skua*]; Sometimes observed harrying Terns, Gulls and Shearwaters over the bay in late summer.

Arctic Skua, Sgiwen y Gogledd [*Parasiticus skua*]; Sometimes observed flying across the bay or harrying Terns, Gulls and Shearwaters over the bay in late summer.



Guillemot, Gwylog [*Uria aalge*]; Can be seen fishing in the bay through most of the year. Breeds in colonies on inaccessible cliff ledges north and south of the Aberporth area.



Razorbill, Llurs [*Alca torda*]; Can be seen fishing offshore through most of the year, but higher numbers including juveniles collect in rafts in late summer. Breeds on cliffs north and south of the Aberporth area.

Rock/Feral Pigeon, Colomen y Graig [*Columba livia*]; Common along the cliffs where flocks congregate for shelter, and apparently nests inside local sea caves.

Stock Dove, Colomen Wylt [*Columba oenas*]; Can occasionally be heard calling in the local wooded valleys where it presumably breeds.

Wood Pigeon, Ysguthan [*Columba palumbus*]; Very common breeding resident throughout the area.

Collared Dove, Turtur Dorchog [*Streptopelia decaocta*]; Resident and breeds in local gardens.

Barn Owl, Tylluan Wen [*Tyto alba*]; Uncommonly seen, usually late on summer evenings, hunting over inland field verges. Provision of artificial nest boxes at suitable sites would increase the attraction of the area to breeding adults.

Tawny Owl, Tylluan Frech [*Strix aluco*]; Several pairs suspected of breeding in the local wooded valleys, and can be heard at several sites around the village at dusk especially on spring and summer evenings, probably most vocal as young fledglings start to disperse from nest sites. Provision of artificial nest boxes at suitable sites would increase the attraction of the area to breeding adults.

Nightjar, Nyddwr [*Caprimulgus europaeus*]; Although not known to breed around the village there have been reports in 2025 of this summer visitor being heard calling after dark along the local valleys. It is possible that these birds may be present but overlooked in suitable local locations.

Common Swift, Gwennol Ddu [*Apus apus*]; Family parties can be heard screaming around the area on still, late summer evenings, but appears to be significantly declining as a breeding resident in the local area. This is probably partly due to the loss of nesting sites as older buildings are renovated. The breeding population would probably be helped by the proper provision of artificial nest boxes on suitable buildings, and provision of nestboxes on new builds or renovations, otherwise there is a risk that Aberporth will not have breeding swifts in the near future.

Kingfisher, Glas y Dorlan [*Alcedo atthis*]; Regular visitor to beach streams and foreshore, especially in severe cold weather, but also seen along foreshore throughout the year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker, Cnocell Fraith Fwyaf [*Dendrocopos major*]; Resident breeder in the local woodlands can be heard drumming in springtime and feeding noisy chicks in holes later in the spring. Regularly a destructive predator of young tits using unprotected nest boxes.

Green Woodpecker, Cnocell Werdd [*Picus viridis*]; Rarely heard in local fields and gardens.

Common Kestrel, Cudyll Coch [*Falco tinnunculus*]; This is a positive story as in both the 2024 and 2025 breeding seasons a pair has successfully fledged 4 chicks each year at a site on Aberporth's sea cliffs. It is hoped they will continue to breed if not disturbed. Generally the Kestrel is no longer common but occasionally seen hunting and hovering above the clifftop undergrowth north and south of Aberporth. This is another bird that would probably benefit from more artificial nest boxes to augment naturally occurring nest sites in the local area.

Eurasian Hobby, Hebog yr Ehedydd [*Falco subbuteo*]; Recent expansion of range westwards from its main stronghold area in the south of England means that the Hobby is occasionally seen hunting hirundines over inland fields in the area in summer months. Of particular note on 8th September 2025, an unmistakeable Hobby was observed chasing the local House Martins back and fore across Aberporth beach, before flying off south over the MOD headland. It is anticipated that this exciting falcon could be seen more often in the area, so keep your eyes to the skies in the summer months

Peregrine Falcon, Hebog Tramor [*Falco peregrinus*]; Can be seen and/or heard soaring over the bay headlands or hunting lower around the shoreline cliffs, particularly over the MOD headland where it is probably attracted by the local cliff roosting pigeons as prey, and the lack of disturbance on the MOD lands due to restricted public access. A pair was regularly seen and heard soaring high over Aberporth during 2025.

Eurasian Jay, Sgrech y coed [*Glandarius garrulous*]; Resident in the local woods, sometimes visiting larger gardens and often heard before they are seen.

Eurasian Magpie, Pioden [*Pica pica*]; Common throughout the area, with numerous spherical stick nests seen, typically in hedgerow trees.



Red-billed Chough, Bran Goesgoch [*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*]; Resident on the cliffs north and south of Aberporth and often seen and heard flying, typically in pairs or family parties, across the sandy beach to get to feeding areas on short grass high up on cliff tops. Ringing records show one of the individuals present around Aberporth was ringed as a chick in a nest near Mwnt.

Jackdaw, Jac-y-do [*Corvus monedula*]; Common year round resident in Aberporth area. Breeds in holes in local buildings and also in cliff crevices. An impressive Jackdaw murmuration (twilight flocking in large numbers to roost) can often be seen and heard in the trees behind Dolwen Beach.

Rook, Ydfran [*Corvus frugilegus*]; Year round resident in local farmland, venturing in to the village to feed in gardens in winter. In 2023 there were six significant and accessible local rookeries in the Aberporth area in established locations and these are monitored each season. 2025 showed a very significant increase in the total number of local Rook nests.

The following collates the count of apparently active local Rook nests for the last 3 seasons. It can be seen that 2025 showed a significant increase (> 40%) over 2024, which itself was a slight reduction on the 2023 number of Rook nests.

Detailed counts are listed below:

2025: Count date = April 15th

Ffordd yr Felin rookery :	36 south of road + 26 north of road =	62
Penyrallt Hotel grounds :		23
Top Lane :		26
Top Main Road :		46
Top Rhiw Toft :		37

Dolwen	:	84
Total active Rook nests 2025	=	278

2024: Count date = April 26th

Ffordd yr Felin rookery	:	30 south of road + 19 north of road =	49
Penyrallt Hotel grounds	:		16
Top Lane	:		16
Top Main Road	:		38
Top Rhiw Toft	:		24
Dolwen	:		51
Total active Rook nests 2024	=		194

2023: Count date = April 25th

Ffordd yr Felin rookery	:	25 south of road + 18 north of road =	43
Penyrallt Hotel grounds	:		23
Top Lane	:		22
Top Main Road	:		39
Top Rhiw Toft	:		26
Dolwen	:		53
Total active Rook nests 2023	=		206

Carrion Crow, Bran Dyddyn [Corvus corone]; Common in local farmland, and also feeds on foreshore.



Raven, Cigfran [*Corvus corax*]; Regularly seen and heard flying over the coastline. Has bred on the local cliffs but is susceptible to disturbance and early season storm damage.

Coal Tit, Titw Penddu [*Parus ater*]; Not the commonest tit in the area, but is resident in local woodlands and larger gardens and does use garden bird feeders at times.



Blue Tit, Titw Tomos Las [*Parus caeruleus*]; Common resident in local woodland and gardens and regularly comes to bird feeders and is a regular user of suitable nest boxes. 20+ new tit bird boxes were installed in local woodlands in 2023/24 as part of an initiative to support the number of breeding pairs in the area, and a majority of these were quickly adopted and successfully used by Blue tits. The success of this small woodland bird nestbox scheme

has been notable, and in addition to increasing local tit populations into areas previously lacking in suitable nest holes, should play a role in increasing the number of predators supported in these woods. It is planned to extend the nestbox scheme to additional suitable local areas, and look at supporting other types of birds that also suffer from a shortage of suitable nest sites.

Great Tit, Titw Mawr [*Parus major*]; Common resident in local woodland and gardens- though less abundant than the Blue Tit. Also readily took to nest boxes installed in local woodlands in 2023/24.

Skylark, Ehedydd [*Alauda arvensis*]; Reduced in numbers and now only regularly heard singing over territories within the restricted access MOD headland fields.

Sand Martin, Gwennol y Glennydd [*Riparia riparia*]; Reduced in numbers recently and only regularly seen as a passage migrant flying along the coast.



Barn Swallow, Gwennol [*Hirundo rustica*]; Regular visitor usually arriving in early April and can be seen feeding on insects along the tideline. Regularly breeds in suitable structures in the village and surrounding farms.



House Martin, Gwennol y Bondo [*Delichon urbicum*]; Regular visitor arriving in early April and breeds under the eaves of local houses throughout the area. Also notable for small numbers that breed under overhanging ledges on the cliffs between Aberporth and Tresaith. Anecdotally, the 2025 breeding season appears to have been a good one for our local House Martins, with increased numbers of nests, and more abundant late summer flying birds around the area.

Long-Tailed Tit, TitwCynffon-hir [*Aegithalos caudatus*]; Common resident in the area, coming to bird tables, often seen and heard in foraging groups. Unique spherical nest of cobwebs and lichen found in local gardens and hedgerows.

Willow Warbler, Telor yr Helyg [*Phylloscopus trochilus*]; Now very rarely, if ever, breeds in the area, but occasionally heard singing from scrub along the coast path and in the area during spring migration.

Chiffchaff, siff-siaff [*Phylloscopus collybita*]; Relatively common summer visitor to the woodland edges and scrubland in the area and regularly breeds in suitable vegetation.



Sedge Warbler, Telor yr Hesg [*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*]; Limited suitable habitat for breeding, but can occasionally be seen or heard on passage migration, particularly along damper sections of the coast path scrub.

Eurasian Blackcap, Telor Penddu [*Sylvia atricapilla*]; Resident of the local woodlands can be heard and seen, particularly in springtime.



Lesser Whitethroat, Llwydfron Fach [*Sylvia curruca*]; Uncommon summer visitor can occasionally be heard singing in clifftop scrub.

Common Whitethroat, Llwydron [*Sylvia communis*]; Can be found in summer months in local hedgerows and scrubland and along the coast path.

Goldcrest, Dryw Eurben [*Regulus regulus*]; Relatively common breeding bird in local woodland and larger gardens.

Eurasian Wren, Dryw [*Troglodytes troglodytes*]; Abundant resident breeder.

Eurasian Nuthatch, Delor y Cnau [*Sitta europea*]; Resident breeder in suitable woodlands in the area.

Treecreeper, Dringwr Bach [*Certhia familiaris*]; Breeds in local woodlands.

Common Starling, Drudwen [*Sturnus vulgaris*]; Declining breeding resident with nest sites becoming scarcer as houses are renovated. The local population is augmented in winter by significant numbers of European migrant visitors feeding in local fields and murmuring nearby.



Common Blackbird, Mwyalchen [*Turdus merula*]; Numerous resident breeding in local gardens and hedgerows.

Fieldfare, Socan Eira [*Turdus pilaris*]; Winter visitor can be found feeding in local damp fields and on hedgerow berries.

Redwing, Coch dan Adain [*Turdus iliacus*]; Winter visitor can be found feeding in local damp fields and on hedgerow berries, and heard migrating overhead on quiet winter nights.

Song Thrush, Bronfraith [*Turdus philomelos*]; resident breeder can be heard singing it's wonderful song across the area.

Mistle Thrush, Brych y Coed [*Turdus viscivorus*]; Not abundant but can be heard singing in local woodlands in early spring, and in winter mixes with flocks of other thrushes to feed in local fields and hedgerows.

Spotted Flycatcher, Gwybedog Mannog [*Muscicapa striata*]; Declining summer visitor prone to disturbance, but also seen on passage in clifftop scrub. In positive news a family of fledged babies was seen in a local wood in summer 2025, which may indicate successful breeding in the area.



European Robin, Robin Goch [*Erithacus rubecula*]; Ubiquitous bird of gardens and woodlands, breeding and present throughout the year.

Pied Flycatcher, GwybedogBrith [*Ficedula hypoleuca*]; Not known to breed locally at present but can be seen on passage in local woods. There is potential to increase local biodiversity if these birds can be encouraged to establish a breeding population, which has been achieved in other areas by the provision of suitable nest boxes.



Stonechat, Clochdar y Cerrig [*Saxicola torquata*]; Scarce but regular breeding resident in cliff top scrub between Aberporth and Tresaith, and can be seen anywhere along the coast path in winter months. Probably due to recent initiatives to allow local clifftop land to rewild during the spring, Stonechat's have now been observed extending their range into the village making use of the denser undergrowth.



Wheatear, Tinwen y Garn [*Oenanthe oenanthe*]; Does not now appear to breed locally but does occur on the coastal headlands on migration in spring and autumn.

House Sparrow, Aderyn y To [*Passer domesticus*]; Relatively common resident breeder that comes to bird feeders and will use nest boxes attached to buildings.



Dunnock, Llwyd y Grych [*Punella modularis*]; Common breeding bird of local hedgerows and gardens.

Grey Wagtail, Siglen Lwyd [*Motacilla cinerea*]; Regularly seen on both streams that run into Aberporth Bay, and feeding along the adjacent shoreline.



Pied Wagtail, Siglen Fraith [*Motacilla alba*]; Relatively shy resident in the area, coming to bird feeders in the winter, then dispersing to inland breeding territories in spring.

Meadow Pipit, Corhedydd y Waun [*Anthus pratensis*]; Year round resident in and around cliff top scrubland and associated pastures.

Rock Pipit, Corhedydd y Graig [*Anthus petrosus*]; Breeding resident in cliffs either side of Aberporth and can be found feeding on the foreshore and tideline.



Common Chaffinch, Ji-binc [*Fringilla coelebs*]; Apparently declining breeding resident of local hedgerows, woodland edges and larger gardens.

Eurasian Bullfinch, Coch y Berllan [*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*]; Resident breeder in local hedgerows and larger gardens.

European Greenfinch, Llinos Werdd [*Chloris chloris*]; Declining breeding resident of local hedgerows, woodland edges and larger gardens.

Common Linnet, Llinos [*Linaria cannabina*]; Scarce but can be found in local coastal scrub and heath, but may be on passage rather than breeding.

European Goldfinch, Nico [*Carduelis carduelis*]; Especially common in the summer when it breeds in local hedgerows and larger gardens and can be seen in small family flocks along the coast.

MAMMALS

Listing and status of mammals present in the Aberporth area : (note, cetaceans and seals are included in the “sea-life” listing)

Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)

Common resident in local woodlands has likely displaced any Red Squirrels that may have been resident previously.

Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*)

Local status unknown

Bank Vole (*Myodes glareolus*)

Local status unknown

Field Vole (*Microtus agrestis*)

Often disturbed in local gardens etc.

Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibus*)

Local status unknown

Wood Mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*)

Local status unknown

House Mouse (*Mus domesticus*)

Commonly found in local buildings, especially keen to be indoors in colder months.

Common Rat, Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Probably a common resident in suitable habitats, with dead bodies sometimes found along local paths. Can occasionally be seen just above the high water tideline where suitable cover exists.

Common Shrew (*Sorex araneus*)

Sometimes found in local gardens.

Pygmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*)

Local status unknown

Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens*)

Local status unknown

Mole (*Talpa europaea*)

Common resident with obvious molehills seen in many grassy areas.

Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*)

Seems to be declining as a local resident. Used to be a regular visitor to local gardens, with many roadkill bodies obvious, but now relatively rare to see one alive or dead. It will visit local gardens for food and water if safe and encouraged.

Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Common resident can often be seen grazing local grassy areas with several large warrens around the local area. Has also been seen running across the sand on the beach near the beach streams. Local warrens appear to have declined significantly in 2025.

Brown Hare (*Lepus europaeus*)

Local status unknown.

Bats:

Bats are reasonably common in the village once hibernation finishes, but details of which bat species live where need to be confirmed through additional surveying. Possible species in the area are:

Greater Horseshoe Bat

Lesser Horseshoe Bat

Serotine

Noctule

Common Pipistrelle

Soprano Pipistrelle

Brown Long-eared Bat**Natterers Bat****Daubenton's Bat****Whiskered / Brandt's Bat****Feral Cats (*Felis catus*)**

Commonly seen moving between gardens, and these may be domestic pets.

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Can be heard calling in winter, and commonly seen running across local roads, especially at night, with occasional dead foxes seen as roadkill victims on the local roads. There are probably numerous local dens established in larger gardens and local woodlands.

Badger (*Meles meles*)

Regularly seen coming to some local gardens and on local roads at night, with occasional roadkill victims on local roads. Setts can be established in local wooded valleys and along coast path scrubby areas.

Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Has been reported fishing and swimming around Aberporth rocky headlands and probably uses local freshwater streams as access and as cleaning points. Exact status as a resident is unclear.

American Mink (*Neovison vison*)

Local status unknown. They are secretive if they are resident here.

Polecat (*Mustela putorius*)

Local status unknown

Stoat (*Mustela erminea*)

Black tip to tail. Can sometimes be seen on roadsides, or if walking quietly near the edge of woods. Local status unknown.

Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

No black tip to tail. Can sometimes be seen on roadsides or while walking quietly near the edge of woods. Local status unknown, but has been seen coming to a local garden to steal bird food, so is probably more common than we are aware?

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Local status unknown, but not known to be locally resident.

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)

Local status unknown, but not known to be locally resident.

Reeves' Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*)

Local status unknown, but not known to be locally resident.

BUTTERFLIES / MOTHS / INSECTS

Listing and status of the butterflies / moths likely to be encountered in the Aberporth area:

Butterflies :

Despite a sunny 2025 spring and summer there seems to have been fewer butterflies present in local village gardens and verges.

Butterflies generally encountered around Aberporth are:



Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Commonly found feeding on nectar rich plants in sunny summer periods.

Small Tortoiseshell (*Anglais urticae*)

Commonly found on nectar rich plants in sunny summer periods.



Peacock (*Inachis io*)

Commonly found feeding on nectar rich plants in sunny summer periods.

Comma (*Polytonia c-album*)

Less common but occasionally found on local nectar rich plants and nettles.

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Summer migrant that can be very common after a summer influx but usually does not survive the winter in the UK.



Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus britanniae*)

Can be seen along the coast path.

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)

Found in the area, typically in sunny spots in local woods.

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*)

Sometimes encountered along coast paths.

Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)

Commonest brown butterfly in local grassy areas.

Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*)

Looks like a smaller Meadow Brown.

Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)

Most often seen small blue/brown butterfly in open gardens and grassland.

Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)

Small copper coloured butterfly of open grassland.

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)

Small White (*Pieris rapae*)

Typical white butterflies seen in the area.

Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines britannica*)

Less common “white” butterfly seen in the area.

Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*)

Large Skipper (*Ochlodes faunus*)

Relatively small butterflies that can be found locally, particularly around thistles in open areas.

Moths:

This is not an exhaustive list as many more moth species live locally and will come to light if specialist moth traps are used. However those night flying moths are unlikely to be encountered unless using a moth trap. Day flying moths that may be encountered include:

Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*)

Can be found flying during daytime around the village and on the coast path, feeding on nectar rich plants in sunny spots during summer.



Convolvulus Hawkmoth (*Agrius convolvuli*)

Occasionally found around the village either feeding at dusk, or resting during the day time on fence posts etc.

Six-spot Burnet (*Zygaena filipendulae*)

Can be found flying during daylight between late June and August on grassy headland plants along the coast path.

Scarlet Tiger (*Callimorpha dominula*)

Can be found flying during daylight in June or July, often resting on leaves of larval food plants such as hemp agrimony.



Cinnabar (*Tyria jacobaeae*)

Can be found flying during the day in June – August. Especially associated with larval food plants such as Ragwort.



Obviously there are many other insects including bees and wasps and ant species etc that inhabit the local area, but a detailed listing has not been compiled for this report. Anecdotally, bees seem to have done well this year around the village. Of note in 2025 was a large colony of Ivy Bee (left) found in the sandy banks of a local lane which was very active and not noticed before. This would fit with the national expansion of this interesting little bee (*Colletes Hederae*) and the colony was very active through September and early October.

REPTILES / AMPHIBIANS

Listing and status of reptiles and amphibians in the Aberporth area:

Grass Snake (*Natrix helvetica*)

Can be found in local gardens, grassland and woodland edges, particularly damper areas.

Common Adder (*Vipera berus*)

Resident in the local area and can be found basking in the sun along path verges in summer months, but easily disturbed by dogs etc.



Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)

Present in the local area and can be found washed down to the foot of local coastal and footpath banks, especially after heavy summer rains.

Viviparous Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)

Locally resident and can be found basking in summer sun, for example along the coast path verges, but easily disturbed by dogs etc.



Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*)

Local resident with spawning in local ponds and still water in early spring.





Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

Local resident.

Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*); Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*); Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

Local status unknown, but clear that newts quickly colonise suitable freshwater ponds, for example in local gardens.

FISH / SEALIFE

Listing and status of fish / sea-life in the Aberporth area:



Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)



These are the Dolphins seen regularly off Aberporth, especially when the sea is warmer from April to November. The Dolphins seen here are likely part of the significant Cardigan Bay pod. The Dolphins are vulnerable to disturbance from fast, noisy inshore motor boats and jet-skis. Unfortunately dead bodies occasionally wash ashore. Please report any bodies or strandings, and please do not disturb or try to get close to the Dolphins out at sea.



Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Not as commonly around Aberporth as the local resident Bottlenose Dolphins, but occasionally seen, especially when there are fewer of the larger Bottlenose Dolphins in the Bay. For example a pair of Common Dolphins were observed very close to the beach in Aberporth Bay feeding on shoals of smaller fish and apparently unconcerned by nearby swimmers. This was a March sighting.

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Compared to the larger and more regularly seen bottlenose dolphins, these porpoises appear relatively small and dark, with a diagnostic small, triangular, blunt dorsal fin. They can sometimes be seen from the coast path near to shore patrolling along rocky outcrops, but porpoises are shy and don't breach like the local dolphins.

Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

The other seal commonly seen in UK waters is the Common Seal, but the Common Seal is not normally found in Cardigan Bay, so any seal seen here is very likely to be one of the areas' resident Grey Seals. Around Aberporth, seals are most likely to be seen swimming along the coast or head bobbing in the bay. There have been seal pups on Aberporth beach (not usually born on the beach, but youngsters coming to shore to rest, usually soon after taking to the sea in October), but the pups do not normally remain on the beach – usually disturbed by people and dogs.



Whales

A Humpback Whale spent some time in nearby Fishguard Harbour during January 2024, and an unidentified whale (conjectured to be a Sowerby's beaked whale) was observed swimming parallel to the coast between Aberporth and Tresaith in the summer of 2023. So other cetaceans may visit and be seen in the local coastal waters.

Herring (*Clupea harengus*)

Historically, one of the earlier industries that supported Aberporth was its Herring fishery. While stocks previously declined, they appear to have recovered recently and can now be caught inshore when the water is at its coldest during the winter.

Mackerel (*Scomber scombus*)

Shoals of Mackerel arrive in Cardigan Bay in late summer in varying size and abundance, with numbers probably dependent on the amount of commercial fishing in other areas.

Pollock (*Pollachius pollachius*)

A classic fish of rocky coasts which is found on the rocky headlands around Aberporth.

Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*)

Typically visits the seas around Aberporth in winter months when the sea is at its coldest.

Sea Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

Typically visits the seas around Aberporth in summer months when the sea temperature rises above 11 degrees, and can then be found around the rocky, weedy coast predating smaller fish shoals.

Thick-lipped Grey Mullet (*Chelon labrosus*)

Typically shoals near the shore especially in warmer months.

**Small-spotted Catshark or Dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicular*)**

Resident in Cardigan Bay inshore areas, and spent egg cases ("mermaid's purses") can be found on the local beaches along the tide line.

Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*)

Resident in Cardigan Bay, and spent egg cases can be found on the local beaches along the tide line.

Red Gurnard (*Aspitrigla cuculus*)

Comes to inshore waters around Aberporth in warmer months.

Lesser Weaver (*Echiichthys vipera*)

Notorious small fish capable of inflicting a painful sting via the dorsal spines if trodden on in bare feet. Typically this fish lies hidden, buried, in sand in shallow water. Present in summer months in the Aberporth area.

Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)

Comes to inshore waters around Aberporth, usually avoiding the warmer months.

Flounder (*Platichthys flesus*)

Comes to inshore waters around Aberporth.

Dab (*Limanda limanda*)

Comes to inshore waters around Aberporth.



Shanny (*Lipophrys pholis*)

Commonest blenny found in local rock pools and under rocks in damp conditions.

Tompot Blenny (*Parablennius gattorugine*)

Colourful blenny that can be found in local rockpools at low tide.

Common Spider Crab (*Maja squinado*)

Resident in Cardigan Bay and comes inshore during summer months into shallow, rocky headland waters. Disused spider crab shells often washed on to the local Aberporth beaches, and live crabs often caught by local fisherfolk in pots laid close to the rocky shores.



Velvet Swimming Crab (*Necora puber*)

Common purple looking crab of local Aberporth shoreline.

Edible Crab (*Cancer pagurus*)

Younger, smaller crabs can be found on the local Aberporth shoreline, while larger specimens are caught commercially further offshore.

Green Shore Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

The commonest crab on Aberporth's beaches.



Common Hermit Crab (*Pagurus bernhardus*)

Can be found in local rockpools.

Common Lobster (*Homarus vulgaris*)

Present in the sea around Aberporth but seldom seen alive in shallow water except in local lobster pots.

Common Prawn (*Palaemon serratus*)

Can be found in local rockpools, especially in warmer months.



Honeycomb Worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*)

Worms that live in a sandy tube which form tightly packed honeycomb masses uncovered at low tide. Easily damaged if walked over and trodden on and crushed, so please try not to damage the honeycombs on the beach rocks.



Anemone; Beadlet (*Actinia equina*), Dahlia (*Urticina felina*), Snakelocks (*Anemonia viridis*), Daisy (*Cereus pedunculatus*)

All these different types of anemone can be found in local Aberporth rocky foreshore areas.



Common Starfish (*Asterias rubens*)

Can be found in local rockpools.



Compass Jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*)

Common brown and white bell jellyfish found inshore in Cardigan Bay in summer months, and unfortunately often stranded on the beaches.

Moon Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*)

Another common locally seen jellyfish in summer months and also often stranded on Aberporth beaches.

Barrel Jellyfish (*Rhizostoma octopus*)

Largest jellyfish seen in local waters. This jellyfish also often gets stranded on local beaches.





By-the-wind-sailor (*Velella velella*)

Distinctive pelagic hydroid sometimes blown inshore on to Aberporth beaches in large numbers leaving a small paper-thin translucent, blue carapace.

Portuguese Man-of-war (*Physalia physalis*)

Pelagic colonial hydrozoan occasionally blown to shore here after gales in the western approaches. Long tentacles can sting so be careful if you find one stranded on the beach.

Area Covered by this report :

