



Gwent Wildlife Trust

- Home
 - Who we are
 - What we do**
 - How you can help
 - Nature Reserves
 - Wildlife
 - Volunteering
 - What's on
 - Discover & learn
- Holiday cottage
 - Wilder Future
 - Bridewell Appeal

- Living Landscapes
- Living Seas
- Projects
- Planning and Policy
- News**
- Blogs
- Staff speakers
- Wild About Gwent
- GWT Annual Review
- Welsh Wildlife magazine
- Iolo Williams and the State of Nature Report 2013
- LEMUR Training Project
- Circuit of Wales
- Severn Barrage
- Nature Matters - The importance of a healthy natural environment
- Badgers and Bovine TB

[Back to news listings](#)

Rare King Diving Beetle caught on camera at Magor Marsh

Friday 11th September 2015

As the M4 Relief road public events continue, a rare glimpse of a King Diving Beetle at Magor Marsh highlights the incredible value of Magor Marsh and the Gwent Levels for wildlife.

This rare sighting of one of the UK's largest beetles is hugely significant with the Gwent Levels population being the only known in Wales, with most records coming from Gwent Wildlife Trust's Magor Marsh Nature Reserve. Magor Marsh is known as one of the best sites in the UK for its diversity of water beetle species as Gwent's invertebrate specialist Mike Kilner explained, "Any sighting is considered highly significant as there have been no more than twelve sightings ever in Wales!"

The recent sighting was captured by volunteer and keen photographer, David Sankson. GWT hope that aquatic invertebrates and plants will continue to thrive at Magor Marsh, but elsewhere, the greatest threat to this species is posed by the conversion of grazing fen to arable land and an increasing lack of field ditch management. Careful maintenance of ditch and reed margins is vital to ensure that the wildlife-rich interface between water, land and air continues to feed, protect and nourish the resident wildlife.

GWT's Gwent Levels Living Landscape Manager, Gemma Bodé, said "This sighting underlines the incredible rich biodiversity of the Gwent Levels and why Gwent Wildlife Trust will stand up and defend it when under threat from proposals such as the new M4 motorway that will pass within metres of our Magor Marsh Nature Reserve."

Thank you to David Sankson for capturing this wonderful shot at Magor Marsh and to Mike Kilner for identifying this male King Diving Beetle.



Follow us

- View page as PDF
- Printer friendly version
- Share

Our RSS feed



[Accessibility](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [Contact us](#)

Be part of it →



Protecting Gwent's Wildlife for the Future Gwent Wildlife Trust Registered Charity Number 242619

Website by [Precedent](#)