

Amman Valley Wildlife Update Number 27 (March 2022)

**MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU**



**INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU**



The recent wildfires have been the worse fires in many years. Most of the beautiful heather habitat in the valley has been burnt away, along with the reptiles, insects, small mammals and breeding birds that the habitat supports. It's a real tragedy for such a beautiful landscape.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



The hope is that the fire was so quick that it did not cause too much of an impact on the roots of many of the plant species present in the area. Time will tell.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

The tragic wildfires would have killed lots of wildlife outright. The other damaging consequence is that they destroy habitat, preventing animals from living there. This destroys hunting grounds for species such as Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).

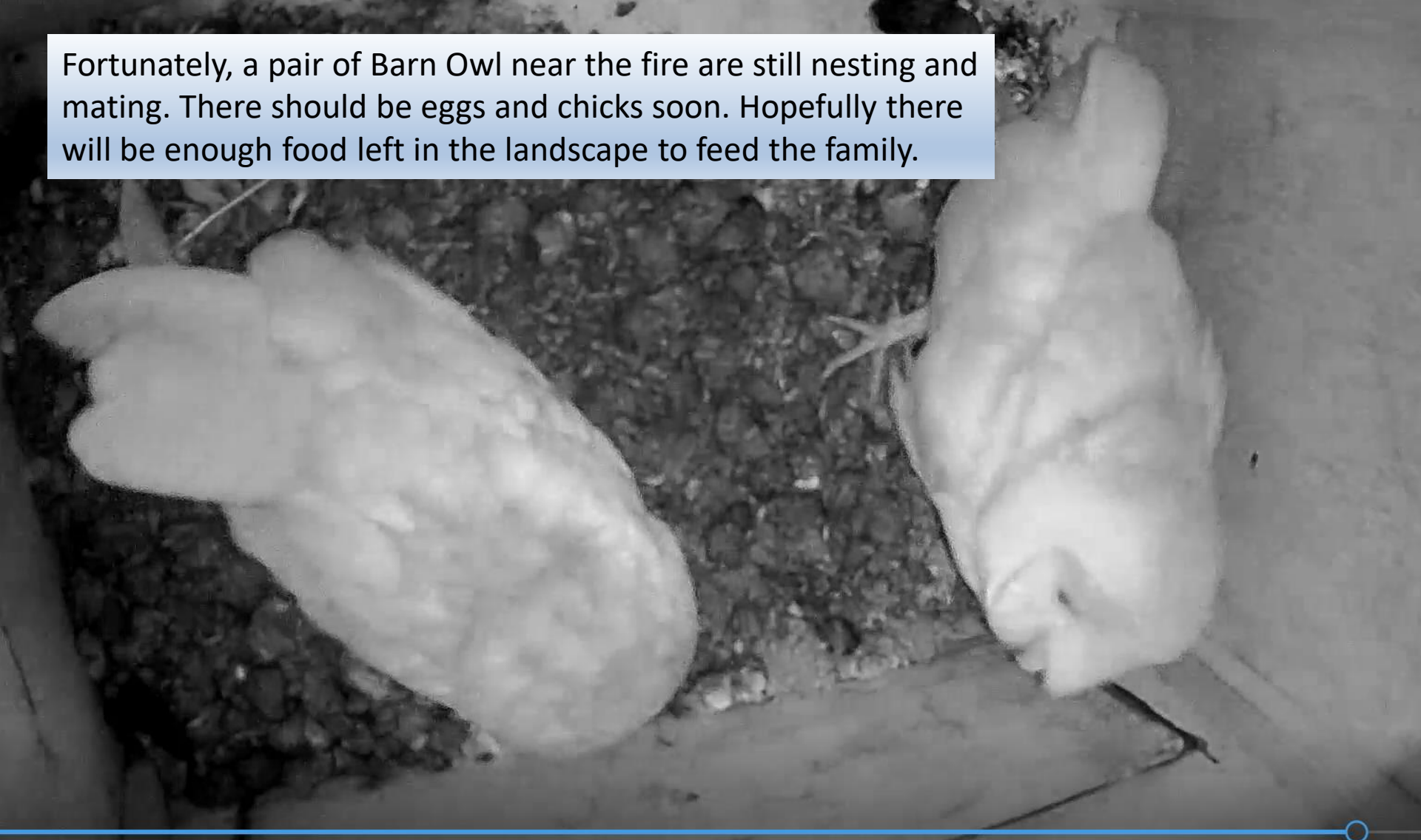


MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

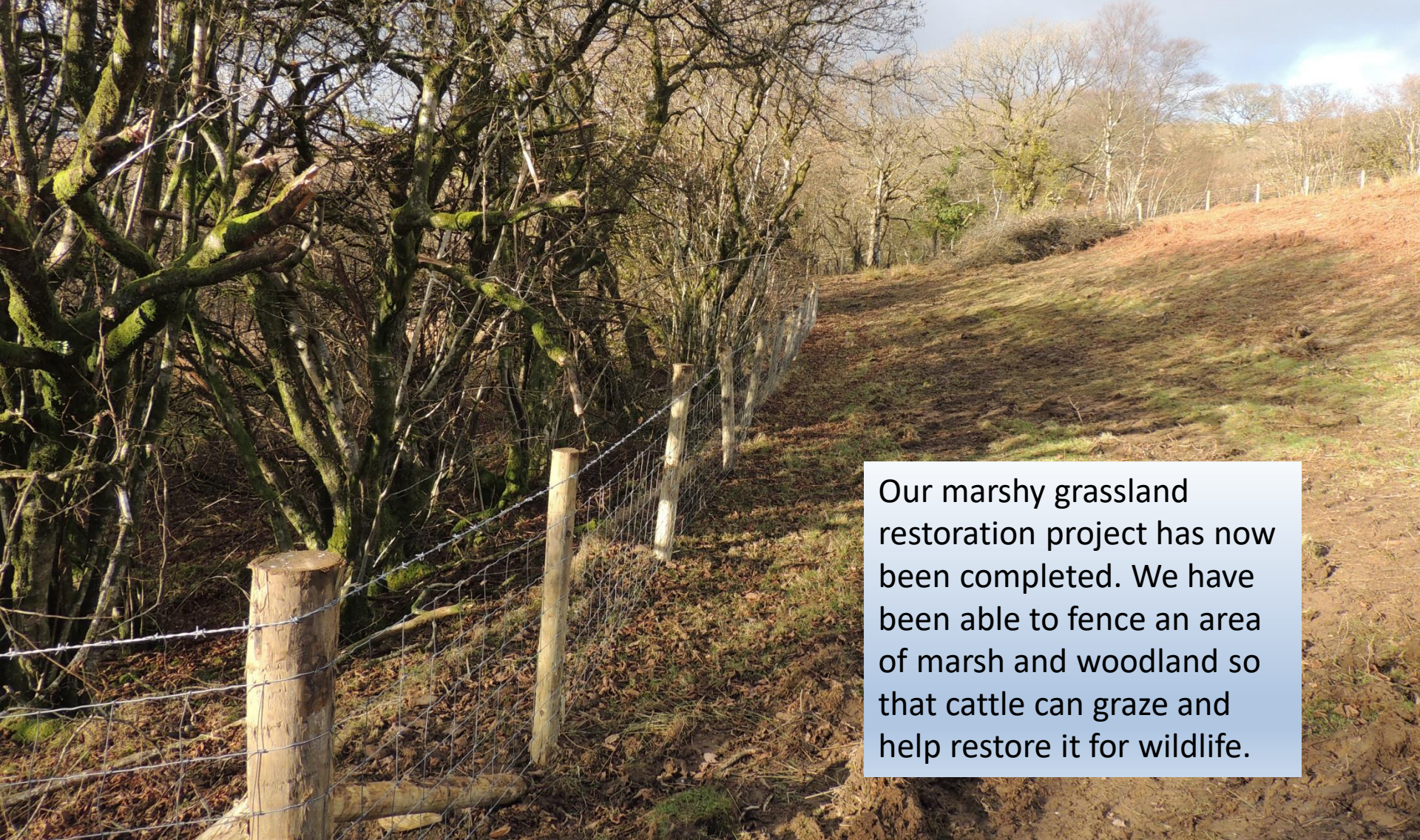
Fortunately, a pair of Barn Owl near the fire are still nesting and mating. There should be eggs and chicks soon. Hopefully there will be enough food left in the landscape to feed the family.



MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



Our marshy grassland restoration project has now been completed. We have been able to fence an area of marsh and woodland so that cattle can graze and help restore it for wildlife.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



The marsh now has its two new residents who will help clear some of the old vegetation so more wildflowers can germinate and attract insects.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



They even helped us install some pied flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) nest boxes in the woodland.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

We have 500 pied
flycatcher nest boxes to
install in the valley.



MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

The new boxes will give a boost to our pied flycatchers. This tiny bird will fly all the way from West Africa to breed in our woodlands.

The more boxes we can install in the right places the greater the chances birds will breed and raise a family.

We will be monitoring the boxes throughout the summer.



MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU




Some boxes are already being used by our resident woodland birds – especially Blue Tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). This Blue Tit started to investigate the box less than 5 minutes after it was installed.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



To give the marsh a bit of a botanical boost – volunteers have been helping to plant plug plants such as Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*) was planted in the wetter, boggier areas of the site. Thanks to all the volunteers for helping and to Rufus the dog for overseeing the activities.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



Volunteers have also been crucial to the installation of Bat Night Roosts across the valley. The 'bat houses' are particularly important for horseshoe bats but will hopefully attract other bat species too. Monitoring over the summer period will hopefully find bats using the roosts.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



As well as helping wildlife, the 'Bat Houses' have enabled us to work on some wonderful wildlife rich land.....

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

With great views.

Huge thanks to:

Dave, Sylvia, Zoe, John, Richard A, Joe, Tamara, Vaughn and John D and Jan for helping out – and to all the landowners for taking part.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU




Orange Ladybird (*Halyzia sedecimguttata*) are out and about at the moment. They are quite common and easily recognised by their orange colour and cream spots. They feed on leaves, mildew and sometimes aphids in the tree canopy.

Thanks to Laura Paulssen for the photo.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATURE CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

A close-up photograph of an Orange-striped Stonefly (Perlodes mortoni) resting on the tip of a human finger. The insect has a dark, segmented body with two distinct orange-yellow spots on its thorax. Its wings are large, translucent, and show a network of veins. The background is a blurred, greyish surface.

Another 'orange' species to look out for is the Orange-striped Stonefly (*Perlodes mortoni*). Thanks to Phil for the photo.

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU

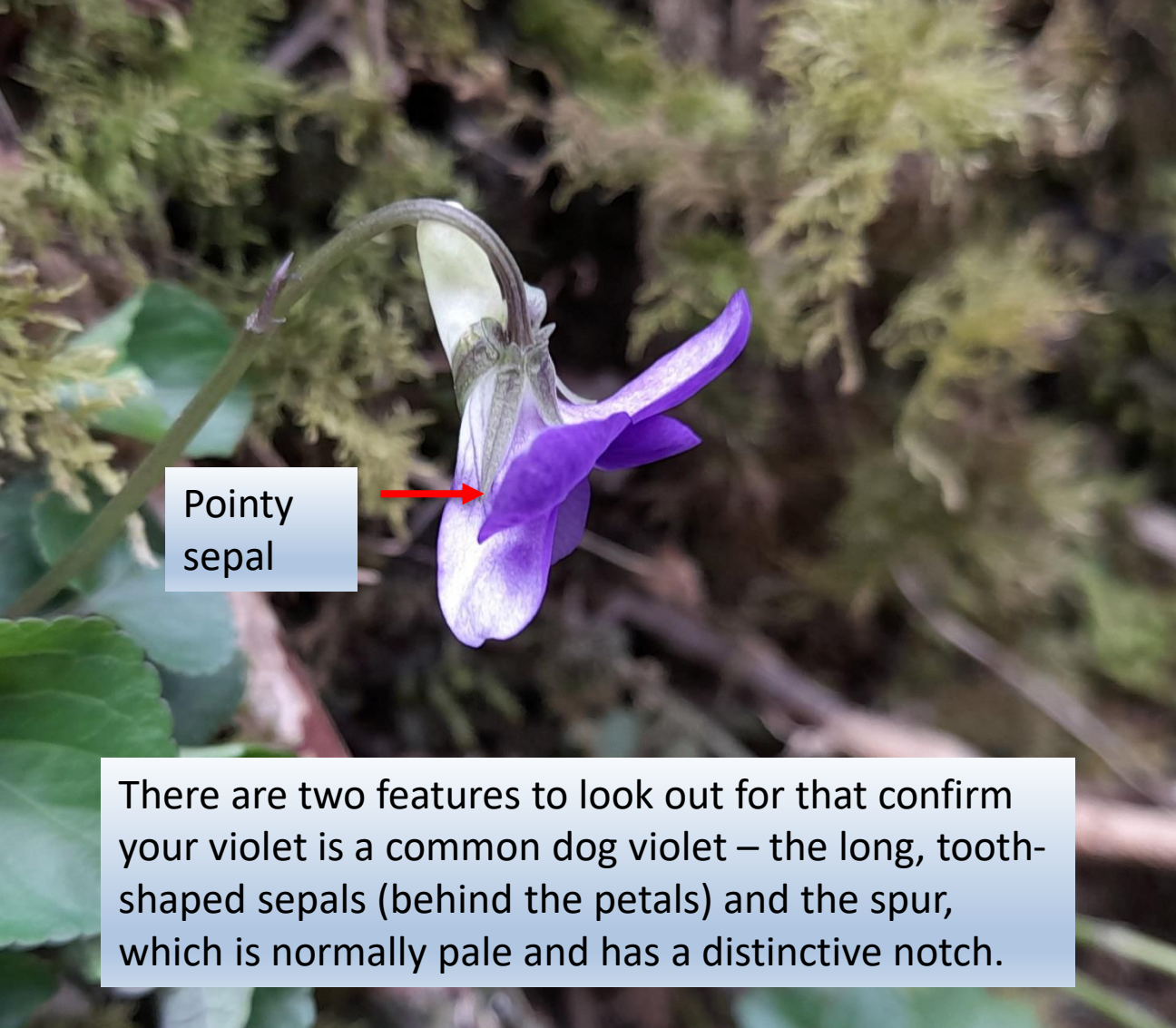


INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



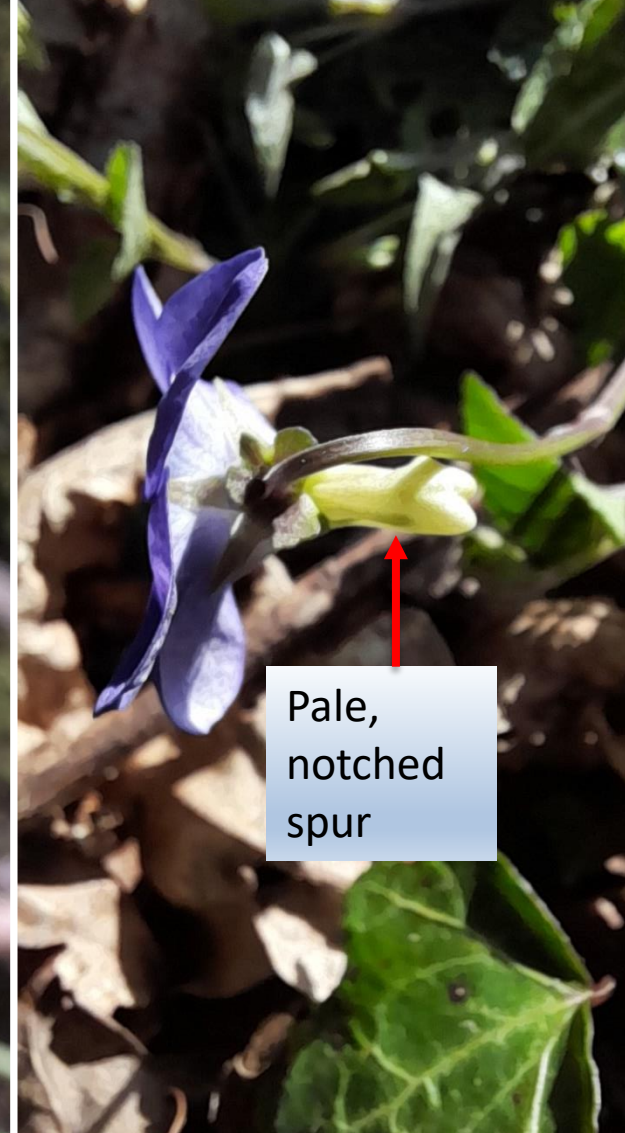
There are five or so relatively widespread violet species in Wales but the Common Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*) is the most commonly occurring in the Amman Valley and it is flowering in our hedgebanks at the moment.





Pointy
sepal

There are two features to look out for that confirm your violet is a common dog violet – the long, tooth-shaped sepals (behind the petals) and the spur, which is normally pale and has a distinctive notch.



Pale,
notched
spur



Laura Paulssen sent in this lovely photo of an Engrailed (*Ectropis crepuscularia*). Just one of the moths flying at the moment. Other moths to look out for include.....

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU

Shoulder-stripe



Pine Beauty



Streamer

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



Our wildlife garden project is coming along nicely. Thank you to everyone for donating.


Please could you send the Just Giving link to your contacts that you think might be interested in supporting the project – Thank you.

[Crowdfunding to Help a local nature group put up fencing and a floor into a polytunnel that will be used to grow plants to attract butterflies and wildlife. on JustGiving](#)

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU



Please do keep
sending me your
wildlife sightings,
photos and queries.
Thank you.

Thank You
Rob
rob.parry@incc.wales

MENTER AR GYFER
CADWRAETH NATUR CYMRU



INITIATIVE FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION CYMRU