



Ymddiriedolaeth  
Natur  
Gwent  
Wildlife Trust

# Pine Marten

## *Martes martes*

## Species Action Plan



The pine marten is one of the rarest mammals in Great Britain. They typically live in woodlands, but can use denning sites and forage elsewhere, with a mosaic of habitats crucial to their survival. They have been recorded from upland montane, semi-natural grassland and heathland habitats. Their diet varies according to the availability of different food sources, including small mammals, carrion, berries and insects. Territory size varies between the sexes and according to food and habitat availability, ranging between c.5-25 square kilometres. They mark their territories with droppings (scat) in conspicuous places and these can be used to monitor for their presence. Pine marten populations have undergone decline and range contraction since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today they're stronghold is the Scottish Highlands, with isolated populations occurring elsewhere in Britain. There are very low population levels in Wales, however, reintroductions are helping to improve this.

### Status

- ❖ Critically Endangered (Wales) | Least Concern (GB) – Red List of British Mammals (2020)
- ❖ Schedule 5 Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) as amended
- ❖ Species of Principal Importance - Section 7 - Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- ❖ Priority Species - UK Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)

### Threats

- ❖ Historically, heavily persecuted by gamekeepers
- ❖ Low population levels can lead to inbreeding
- ❖ Mortality from road traffic accidents is a threat to recovering populations
- ❖ Deforestation
- ❖ Habitat fragmentation

### Current Action

- ❖ Gloucestershire WT reintroduction project in Forest of Dean
- ❖ Volunteer monitoring - scat & trail cams in Gwent
- ❖ Installation of denning boxes

	Objectives	Action
A	Expansion of population throughout suitable habitats in Gwent and further afield.	1,2,3,5
B	Populations increasing in occupied area, abundance and viability	1,2,3,5
C	Pine marten habitats increased in size, quality, resilience and connectivity	2,3,4,5
D	Knowledge and understanding of the species increased, leading to appreciation, sense of responsibility and action	1,2,3,4

	Key Actions	Target
1	Continuing and strengthening volunteer surveying (scats and trail-cams). Establish training programme.	2025
2	Produce/distribute advice booklet and work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate habitat management	2025
3	Undertake survey and mapping to identify populations, key areas and opportunities to build connectivity e.g. restoring hedgerow links	2027
4	Increase awareness through media and publishing platforms, talks, events, training	2030
5	Facilitate the provision and protection of natural and artificial (boxes) denning sites in Gwent	2030

**Lead:** Gwent Wildlife Trust

**Key partners:** TBC