

# A all y Gath Wylt Weithio dros Gymru?

*Could the Wildcat Work for Wales?*

**Asesu dichonoldeb cymdeithasol adfer  
Cathod Gwylt yng Nghymru**

*Assessing the social feasibility  
of restoring Wildcats to Wales*

## Cyflwyniad

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Fywyd Gwyllt Vincent (VWT) yn cydweithio gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Gadwraeth Durrell i archwilio dichonoldeb adfer y gath goed (*Felis silvestris silvestris* – enw arall arni yw y gath wyllt Ewropeaidd) yn y dyfodol yn ardaloedd ei chynffwrdd blaenorol yng Nghymru.

Yn gynnar yn 2024, bydd Swyddog Project Cath Wyllt VWT, Max Henderson, yn dechrau cyfweld busnesau lleol (yn cynnwys arbenigwyr ffermio, diddordebau hela, a choedwigaeth), perchnogion cathod a chadwraethwyr fel rhan o astudiaeth ddichonoldeb cymdeithasol er mwyn cael gwybod barn pobl am y posibilrwydd o ddychwelyd y gath wyllt i Gymru.

Pe bai'r canlyniadau, a ddisgwylir yng nghanol 2025, yn awgrymu ei bod yn briodol parhau â'r drafodaeth, gwahoddir y sawl sy'n cymryd rhan i helpu i sefydlu grwpiau cydweithredol eraill i archwilio adfer y rhywogaeth frodorol hon yng Nghymru.

## Introduction

Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) is working with Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to investigate the feasibility of restoring the European wildcat (*Felis silvestris silvestris* – also known as Cath Goed) to areas of its former Welsh range in the future.

In early 2024, VWT's Wildcat Project Officer, Max Henderson, will begin interviewing local businesses (including farming, field sports and forestry specialists), cat owners and conservationists as part of an 18-month social feasibility study to find out how people feel about the possibility of the wildcat returning to Wales.

If results, which are expected by mid-2025, indicate that it is appropriate to continue the discussion, participants will be invited to help set up further collaborative groups to investigate restoring this native species to Wales.



# Y gath wyllt

## Beth yw cath wyllt?

Y gath wyllt yw'r olaf o gathod brodorol gwledydd Prydain. Yn aml yn cael ei drysu â chathod brych dof, mae'r gath wyllt tua'r un maint neu ychydig yn fwy na chath ddo (tua 4-5 cilogram ar gyfartaledd).

Mae'r gath wyllt yn arbenigo mewn mamaliaid bychan, gan ysglyfaethau'n bennaf ar gwningod a chnofilod; fe'u cysylltir yn bennaf â chynefinoedd y goedlan.

Roedd y gath wyllt i'w gweld ledled gwledydd Prydain hyd yr 1880au pan ddiflannodd o dir Cymru a Lloegr yn dilyn canrifoedd o erledigaeth a cholli cynefin.

Ar hyn o bryd mae archwiliadau ar y gweill i ailgyflwyno'r gath wyllt i rannau o'i chynefin blaenorol fel ffordd o wella'r rhagolygon ar gyfer y cathod hyn yng ngwledydd Prydain. **Heb ymyrraeth o ran cadwraeth, byddai'r gath wyllt yn diflannu o wledydd Prydain.**

## Ydy cathod gwyllt yn fygythiad i dda byw?

Dydy'r cathod bach hyn ddim yn peri bygythiad i ddefaid na gwartheg. Gellir gwarchod dofednod ac adar hela wrth ddefnyddio'r un mesurau â'r rhai yn erbyn llwynogod/cadnoaid ac ysglyfaethwyr mwy cyffredin eraill.

## Sut fydden nhw'n gallu effeithio ar rywogaethau eraill?

Byddem yn disgwyl i'w presenoldeb gael effaith bositif clir ar fioamrywiaeth, ac yn sicrhau cydbwysedd rhwng effeithiau ysglyfaethwyr eraill fel llwynogod/cadnoaid a'r ffwlbart. Fodd bynnag, byddai angen rhoi asesiad o'r effaith lawn ar waith cyn bwrw ymlaen ag unrhyw ail-gyflwyniadau.



## About wildcats

### What is a wildcat?

The wildcat is Britain's last remaining native cat. Often mistaken for domestic tabby cats, wildcats are around the same size as or slightly larger than a domestic cat (average 4-5 kgs).

Wildcats are small mammal specialists preying mostly on rabbits and rodents, and are mainly associated with woodland habitats.

The wildcat was found all over Britain until the 1800s when it was wiped out in England and Wales after centuries of persecution and habitat loss.

Re-introductions into parts of its former range are now being investigated as a way to improve the outlook for these cats in Britain. **Without conservation interventions, the wildcat would be lost from Britain.**

### Are wildcats a threat to livestock?

These small cats don't pose a threat to sheep or cattle. Poultry and game birds can be protected using the same measures as for foxes and other more common predators.

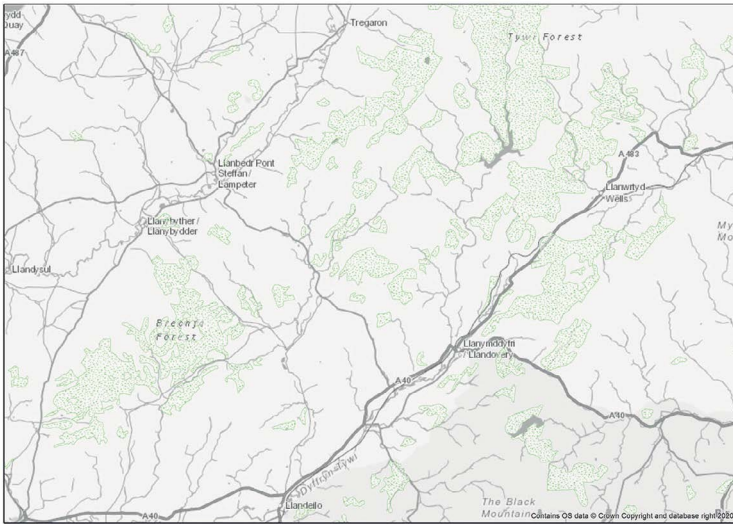
### How might they affect other species?

We would expect their presence to have a net positive impact on biodiversity, balancing the impacts of other predators such as foxes and polecats. However, a full impact assessment would need to be carried out before any re-introductions were to go ahead.



# Y Gath Wyllt Project/About the Wildcat Project

## Ardal Astudiaeth/Study Area



### Mewnbyn cymunedol

Gobeithiwn y bydd canlyniadau'r cyfweiliadau a gynhelir yn darparu gwybodaeth a fydd yn helpu i ateb y cwestiynau ymchwil canlynol.

### Community input

We are hoping that the outcomes from the interviews will provide information to help answer the following research questions.

- Sut fyddai ailgyflwyno cathod gwyllt yn gweddu o fewn cyd-destun cymdeithasol-economaidd Cymru heddiw?
- Beth yw'r farn gyhoeddus am y rhywogaeth a'r potensial ar gyfer ei hailgyflwyno?
- Oes diddordeb mewn parhau â thrafodaethau parthed ailgyflwyno'r gath wyllt?
- How would a wildcat reintroduction fit within the socio-economic context of modern-day Wales?
- What are public opinions on the species and the potential for its reintroduction?
- Is there an interest in continuing conversations about wildcat reintroduction?

# Llinell Amser y Project/Project Timeline

## Cyfweliadau Interviews

### Gwanwyn–Haf 2024/Spring-Summer 2024

Lle bydd y sawl sy'n cymryd rhan yn gallu mynegi eu barn ar adfer y gath wyllt mewn rhannau o Gymru.

Where participants will be able to express their views on the restoration of wildcats to parts of Wales.

## Digwyddiadau Cyhoeddus Public Events

### Haf 2024/Summer 2024

Bydd y rhain yn cynnig cyfle i rannu canlyniadau dechreuol o'r cyfweliadau ac adnabod lle bydd angen mwy o waith. Er enghraifft, adnabod cwestiynau pellach gan y gymuned neu gyfleoedd newydd i gydweithio.

These will offer the chance to share initial results from interviews and identify where more work is needed. For example, identifying further questions from the community or new opportunities for collaborations.

## Dadansoddi Data Data Analysis

### Hydref-Gaeaf 2024/Autumn-Winter 2024

I adnabod themâu a barn allweddol o'r cyfweliadau.

To identify key themes and viewpoints from the interviews.

## Rhannu canlyniadau Share Findings

### Yn gynnar yn 2025/Early 2025

I'w cyhoeddi fel adroddiad gwyddonol terfynol ochr yn ochr â chrynodeb mewn iaith glir.

To be published as a final scientific report alongside a plain-language summary.

Dod â'r astudiaeth  
i ben  
Conclude Study

NEU  
OR

Ddatblygu Fframwaith  
Cydweithredu  
Develop a  
Collaboration Framework



## Gwybodaeth bellach/Further Information

### Cyswllt/Contact

Max Henderson

Swyddog Project Cathod Gwyllt VWT/VWT's Wildcat Project Officer

Cydweithio â chymunedau lleol ar yr astudiaeth ddichonoldeb cymdeithasol

Working with local communities on the social feasibility study

Ebost/Email: [max.henderson@vwt.org.uk](mailto:max.henderson@vwt.org.uk)

Ffôn/Phone: +44 7890 324 349

### Darllen Ychwanegol/Additional Reading

Cathod gwyllt/Wildcats

- [www.vwt.org.uk/species/wildcat/](http://www.vwt.org.uk/species/wildcat/)
- [www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/mammals/land-mammals/wildcats](http://www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/mammals/land-mammals/wildcats)
- [kent.wildwoodtrust.org/explore/list-of-animals/european-wildcat/](http://kent.wildwoodtrust.org/explore/list-of-animals/european-wildcat/)

Gwaith arall y VWT /VWT's other work

- [www.vwt.org.uk/projects-all/](http://www.vwt.org.uk/projects-all/)





©Vincent Wildlife Trust 2024

[www.vwt.org.uk](http://www.vwt.org.uk)

Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, Company Registered in England No. 05598716

Charity Numbers 1112100 (England and Wales), SC043066 (Scotland),

20100841 (Republic of Ireland)

Cover photographs: ©Mark Williams (front) ©Helen Haden (back)