

Sort it Out! Stripy Snails

Identifying stripy snails can be a puzzle. Their patterns vary, and their shapes change as they grow. Finding more shells makes sorting easier.

Find more nature guides or get in touch with our museum scientists for help with identification: museum.wales/collections/on-your-doorstep



White-lipped Snail
Cepaea hortensis

Brown-lipped Snail
Cepaea nemoralis

Sandhill Snail
Theba pisana

- ★ Yellow or brown.
- ★ Large (20 mm wide), pumpkin-shaped, smooth.
- ★ Has a thick, white lip around the opening when fully grown.
- ★ Common in gardens, woods and most other habitats.

- ★ Yellow, beige, brown, or pink.
- ★ Very large (25 mm wide), apple-shaped, smooth.
- ★ Has a thick, brown lip around the opening when fully grown.
- ★ Common in gardens, woods and most other habitats.

- ★ Yellow, beige or white. Stripes often broken into blotches.
- ★ Large (22 mm wide), fairly flat, smooth.
- ★ Babies have a sharp edge to the shell.
- ★ Rare in Wales: only in certain sand dunes.



Wrinkled Snail
Xeroplexa intersecta

Zoned Snail
Cernuella virgata

Heath Snail
Helicella itala

- ★ Beige, grey or white. Stripes often broken into blotches.
- ★ Small (10 mm wide), flat, button-shaped, with a rough, wrinkled surface.
- ★ Small hole (umbilicus) on the underside.
- ★ Fairly common in unshaded places, including sand dunes, spoil heaps and quarries.

- ★ Beige, grey or white.
- ★ Medium-sized (12-15 mm wide), conical on top, with a rough surface.
- ★ Tiny hole (umbilicus) on the underside.
- ★ Often has a red-brown blush around the opening.
- ★ Fairly common in sand dunes and other coastal places.

- ★ Beige, grey or white.
- ★ Large (18 mm wide), flat, tyre-shaped, smooth.
- ★ Very large hole (umbilicus) on the underside.
- ★ Rare in Wales: only in certain limestone and sand dune areas.