CPERC

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE

www.cperc.org.uk | www.cperc-record.org.uk
data@cperc.org.uk


Bluebells © Louisa Carlisle

Annual Report 2024/25

Dr Jo Wright
Environmental Record Centre Manager (CPERC)

May 2025

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Team Day @ Castor Water Meadows © Jo Wright

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Introduction & Background

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) is a not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to collate, manage and make available information about the natural environment of the administrative areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

CPERC works with a wide range of related organisations and individuals to achieve this, and this report is designed to update those with an interest in CPERC about the current state of our data holdings, finances, projects and progress in recent years. 2025 marks 20 years since our foundation.

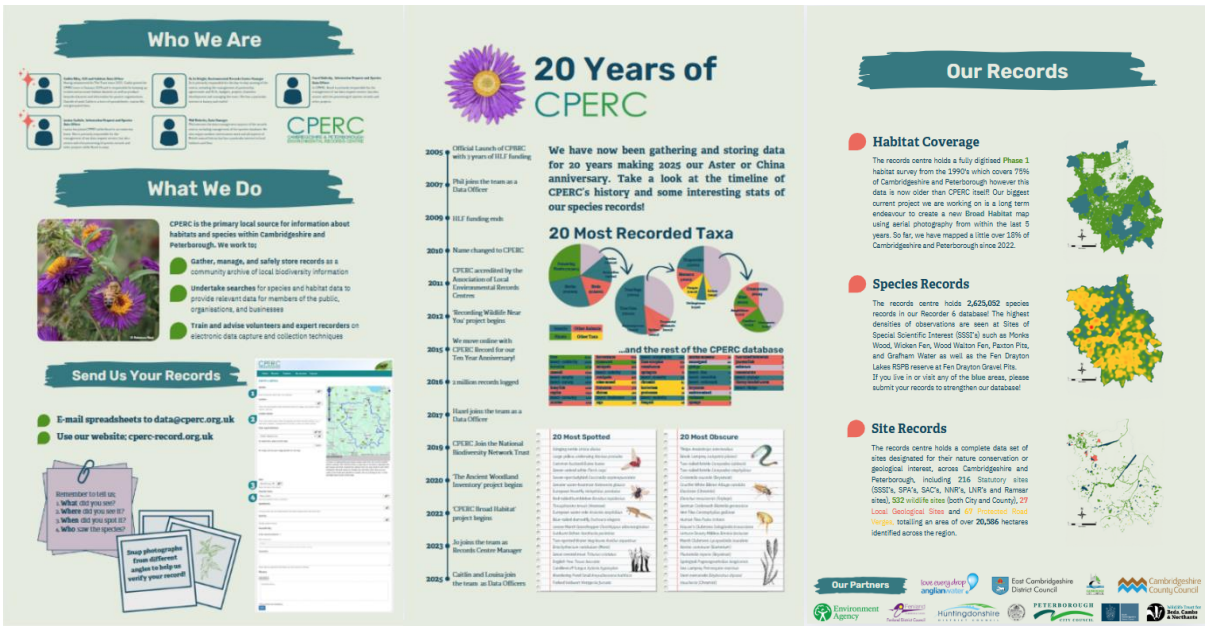

Figure 1. '20 Years of CPERC' poster displayed at the Conservation Conference

CPERC is hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (Wildlife Trust BCN) at their offices in Cambourne, Cambridgeshire. The postal address and contact details for CPERC are below.

Address: The Manor House, Broad Street, Greater Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, CB23 6DH

Phone: 01954 713570

Email: data@cperc.org.uk

Websites: www.cperc.org.uk | www.cperc-record.org.uk

CPERC is a part of a national network of Local Environmental Records Centres and as such is a member of and is accredited by the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC). CPERC was accredited in 2011 and re-accredited in 2016. It is undergoing the process of re-accreditation in 2025/6.

All CPERC staff have contributed to the data analysis and writing of this report.

Staff Details

Current staff details are listed below.

Dr Jo Wright
Environmental Records Centre Manager
Started February 2023
1.0 FTE
jo.wright@cperc.org.uk
Jo is primarily responsible for the day-to-day running of the records centre, including the management of partnership agreements and SLAs, budgets, projects, business development and managing the team. She has a particular interest in botany and moths.

Phil Ricketts
Data Manager
Started September 2007
1.0 FTE
phil.ricketts@cperc.org.uk
Having previously managed the centre, in February 2023 Phil moved to a more specialist role overseeing the data management aspects of the records centre, including management of the database. Phil has an interest in all aspects of British natural history, in particular, local habitats and flora.

Hazel Enderby
Information Request & Species Data Officer
Started September 2017
1.0 FTE
hazel.enderby@cperc.org.uk
Hazel is primarily responsible for the management of our data request service, but also assists with the processing of species records and other projects. Hazel went on maternity leave in March 2025.

Caitlin Riley
GIS & Habitats Data Officer
Started January 2025
1.0 FTE
caitlin.riley@cperc.org.uk
Caitlin takes the lead on GIS projects for CPERC. Her primary role is now mapping all habitats across our area to improve the accuracy and coverage of the habitat information that we hold. They have a love of marine ecology.

Louisa Carlisle
Information Request & Species Data Officer *(Maternity Cover)*
Started February 2025
1.0 FTE
louisa.carlisle@cperc.org.uk
Louisa moved over from Beds Record Centre (BRMC) in February 2025 to cover Hazel's role in responding to data requests while Hazel is on maternity leave. She is currently with us until March 2026.

Summary of Activities 2024/25

Staff Changes

In September 2024 Daniel Marshall left CPERC for a new job and following a successful interview Caitlin Riley was hired as his replacement, starting full time in January 2025. Hazel Enderby went on maternity leave in late March 2025 and her post is being covered by Louisa Carlisle, who is currently contracted until March 2026.

Service Level Agreements

In 2024/25 Jo was responsible for renegotiating one new Service Level Agreement with one Local Authority Partner, which ran for one year. She is currently renegotiating this and two other SLA's with three individual Partners.

Data Request Service

The Data Search Service is still an important part of CPERC's core work. The majority of data search work is completing Standard Data Searches for commercial clients, along with the associated administration and invoicing.

The Standard Data Search package includes a search within a certain radius around a site, for records for protected and notable species, a list of statutory and non-statutory designated sites, which includes the reason for their designation, and a PDF map showing these site boundaries along with a cover letter. A scan of the 1990s Phase I Habitat Map can be included to highlight areas of interest when appropriate and County Wildlife Site (CWS) or City Wildlife Site (CiWS) citations are included if a site of interest overlaps or is immediately adjacent to a CWS or CiWS. Search areas are typically 2km radius or 1km, though clients can choose a different size.

Data Searches for non-commercial clients, such as students and members of the public, can be more varied and could be, for example, a species list for a nature reserve or all records for a particular species or group in a parish. The number of non-commercial requests has increased slightly in 2024/25.

While the total number of data requests has increased in 2024/25, this was mainly due to a large number of cross-boundary searches which were not charged for. The total number of commercial charged data requests was only two higher than in 2023/24.

Broad Habitat Mapping & Parish Plans

CPERC's Broad Habitat mapping project has now been in progress for nearly 3 years with almost a 25% of the county now digitised. In total 83 parishes have been fully digitised, the bulk of which are in South Cambridgeshire (48). This data is feeding into the Wildlife Trust BCN's habitat surveying project which itself is now starting its third year.

In addition to the Wildlife Trust's habitat project, the Broad Habitat data is being used to create maps to be used in Parish Plans and has fed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire. Six parishes have now requested data to be used as part of these Parish Plans including Deeping Gate and Comberton in 2024/25.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

CPERC were approached by the Responsible Authority back in October 2023 to both provide data and to undertake and co-ordinate some species work to feed into the LNRS. In December we drafted a license for use and provided habitat and sites data. In January 2024 we began negotiations for Phil to undertake a significant amount of work regarding the LNRS Priority Species data shortlisting, which continued throughout much of 2024. Work is continuing into the 2025/26 financial year, with publication of the LNRS currently due in December 2025.

Annual Recorders Meeting

In February 2025, CPERC held its Annual Recorders Meeting. It was well attended, with 11 recorders joining either in person or online, as well as representation from the Wildlife Trust.

This year CPERC will attempt to arrange a BioBlitz event in May/June and are currently contacting landowners to request permission and access. The Recorder's Grant Fund (suggested in the last meeting) was also met with approval and Jo is now working towards getting it up and running.

Fens Biodiversity Audit

In late 2024 CPERC were approached by Brian Eversham (CEO of the Wildlife Trust BCN) for input into an updated version of the Fens Biodiversity Audit, last completed in 2012. We co-ordinated the supply of data from ourselves and records centres in Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire to experts at the University of East Anglia (UEA) who will be writing the report. We expect to co-ordinate efforts with input from local recorders later in 2025.

Conservation Conference

CPERC staff attended the first Wildlife Trust BCN Conservation Conference which is an amalgamation of the former Monitoring and Research Conference and the Wardens Conference. Over 100 Wildlife Trust volunteers enjoyed posters and displays from across the Trust, as well as presentations on water voles and beavers, slow worms, the Great Fen, reserve management trials and a keynote presentation on 'A Mink Free Britain', part of the Waterlife Recovery project. CPERC presented a display board detailing '20 Years of CPERC'.

Figure 2. Caitlin attending the Conservation Conference with the CPERC display

Staff Training, Conferences & Meetings

CPERC staff are encouraged to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – to learn and improve their professional practice. Therefore, appropriate training takes place throughout the year, either on technical aspects of the job such as GIS training or improving identification skills to understand the subject matter more fully.

In 2024/25 the following external training sessions and activities took place

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS); various workshops and stakeholder meetings (2024-25), Jo Wright, Phil Ricketts
Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI): Identiplant (Feb-Oct 2024), Jo Wright, Daniel Marshall
MapInfo Foundation (Apr 2024), Phil Ricketts, Hazel Enderby, Daniel Marshall
CPERC Team Day, Castor Water Meadows (Jun 2024), all staff
Confidence to Succeed: Assertiveness for Women (Sep 2024), Hazel Enderby
Menopause and Mental Health for Managers workshop (Oct 2024), Jo Wright
Mandatory Harassment Training for Managers (Nov 2024), Jo Wright
Molluscs on the March: Engaging the Public with Mollusc Collections (Jan 2025), Caitlin Riley
How Many Moths and Butterflies? The Importance of Taxonomy (Jan 2025), Jo Wright
MapInfo Foundation (Jan 2025), Caitlin Riley

Wildlife Trust BCN training workshops and other activities

QGIS user group sessions (2024/25), Hazel Enderby, Daniel Marshall, Caitlin Riley
Breeding Bird surveys (Apr 2024), Daniel Marshall
Charcoal Making (May 2024), Jo Wright
Grafham Woodland Condition Monitoring (May 2024), Jo Wright
Introduction to the Geology of the Great Fen (May 2024), Hazel Enderby, Daniel Marshall
Introduction to British Moth Species (Jun 2024), Jo Wright
Introduction to Grasses I & II (Jun 2024), Hazel Enderby

Brampton Woodland Ride Monitoring (Jun 2024), Jo Wright, Hazel Enderby, Daniel Marshall
Rapid Grassland Assessments (various) (Jun-Jul 2024), Jo Wright, Daniel Marshall
Butterfly Transects (Jul 2024), Daniel Marshall
Lunchtime Talk: Digital Transformation (Jul 2024), Jo Wright
Tree Planting session (Dec 2024), Hazel Enderby
Introduction to Winter Tree Identification (Jan 2025), Caitlin Riley
Introduction to Raptor Identification (Jan 2025), Jo Wright
Engagement Induction (Feb 2025), Caitlin Riley, Louisa Carlisle
Conservation Induction (Mar 2025), Caitlin Riley, Louisa Carlisle
Document Management (Mar 2025), Caitlin Riley, Louisa Carlisle, Phil Ricketts

Staff attended the following conferences and talks in 2023/24

ALERC (Association of Local Environmental Records Centres) Conference (Oct 2024)
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts Open Day (Mar 2025)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Recorders Annual Meeting (Feb 2025)
Various '*Wild Live*' (The Wildlife Trusts) online talks, 2024/25
Various '*Town Hall Live*' (The Wildlife Trusts) online talks, 2024/25
Wildlife Trust BCN Conservation Conference, February 2025

CPERC is also a partnership and collaborative organisation and as such is represented at the following meetings

Natural Cambridgeshire Partnership Forum meetings (quarterly)
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County Wildlife Sites Panel Meeting
East of England Regional Local Records Centres meetings
Various Wildlife Trust BCN operational meetings and All Staff Days

CPERC staff searching for pond skaters at Cambourne © Rebecca Neal

Steering Group & Partnerships

Strategic direction and support of CPERC is provided by a Steering Group which meets twice a year. The Steering Group is currently chaired by Deborah Ahmad, at Cambridgeshire County Council. Organisations with Service Level Agreements which help to support the work of CPERC have the opportunity of representation on the Steering Group, but other interested organisations and individuals may also be invited onto the group.

Many organisations have worked with CPERC in the past including local authorities, national government agencies, wildlife charities, environmental consultancies and local natural history/wildlife interest groups.

In 2024/25 CPERC was supported through Service Level Agreements with the following Partners

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Peterborough City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Environment Agency
Anglian Water
The Middle Level Commissioners
The Wildlife Trust BCN

Organisations that CPERC has worked with since it started through agreements, on projects or through data sharing have included the following

Abington Naturewatch, Bat Conservation Trust, Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI), Buglife, Cambridge Bryology Group, Cambridge Lichen Group, Cambridge Moth Group, Cambridge Natural History Society (CNHS), Cambridgeshire and Essex Branch of Butterfly Conservation, Cambridgeshire Badger Group, Cambridgeshire Bat Group, Cambridgeshire Bird Club, Cambridgeshire Flora Group, Cambridgeshire Geological Society, Cambridgeshire Mammal Group, Cambridgeshire Traditional Orchard Group, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Amphibian and Reptile Group (CPARG), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, Countryside Restoration Trust, Curculionoidea Recording Scheme, Greater Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership (Natural Cambridgeshire), Cheveley Biodiversity Group, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Friends of Fleam Dyke and Roman Road, Friends of Paxton Pits, Froglife, Haddenham Conservation Society, GeoPeterborough, Great Fen Project, Huntingdonshire Fauna and Flora Society (HFFS), March Wildlife Group, National Trust, Nene Park Trust, Ouse Washes, Landscape Partnership, Peterborough Bird Club, Peterborough Museum, People's Trust for Endangered species (PTES), The Woodland Trust, and various environmental consultancies (both local and national).

As such CPERC can be seen as very much a partnership organisation which works to fulfil the needs of its users and partners regarding reliable local biodiversity and environmental information.

Blue Roundhead fungi @ Woodwalton Fen © Louisa Carlisle

Data Requests

CPERC charges for commercial requests relating to proposed developments. We do not charge for student queries, research queries and, at our discretion, some other non-commercial requests. Where CPERC does charge, we charge for our time to do the search and related administration to cover our costs and not for the data itself.

CPERC also has cross boundary agreements with other records centres in the region, such that if a search is cross boundary, only one of the records centres will charge even though data is received from both. Usually, it is the centre with the larger area coverage that will charge. In some cases, we receive data requests which we quote for, but the client chooses not to proceed with the request.

Figure 3. Data requests in 2024/25

Type of Data Request	**Totals**
Total number of requests (excluding Parish Plans)	624 requested, 608 confirmed
Total number of commercial requests	590 requested, 574 confirmed
Total number of commercial requests charged for	516
Total number of commercial requests not charged for *(either cross boundary or no data found under parameters of search)*	57
Total income generated from charged for requests	£70,641
Total number of other requests *(not charged for, including research queries and ad-hoc queries for local authorities and conservation charities who already have a Service Level Agreement)*	34 requested, 33 confirmed

Data requests had been increasing year-on-year, but since 2022 the number of chargeable commercial requests has levelled off. Meanwhile the number of non-chargeable commercial requests (cross-boundary requests from other records centres and requests with no results), non-commercial requests and requests from our partners, has seen a slight decrease in the last couple of years, although were higher in 2024/25 than 2023/24. Figure 4 illustrates the changes in data request numbers over the last five years.

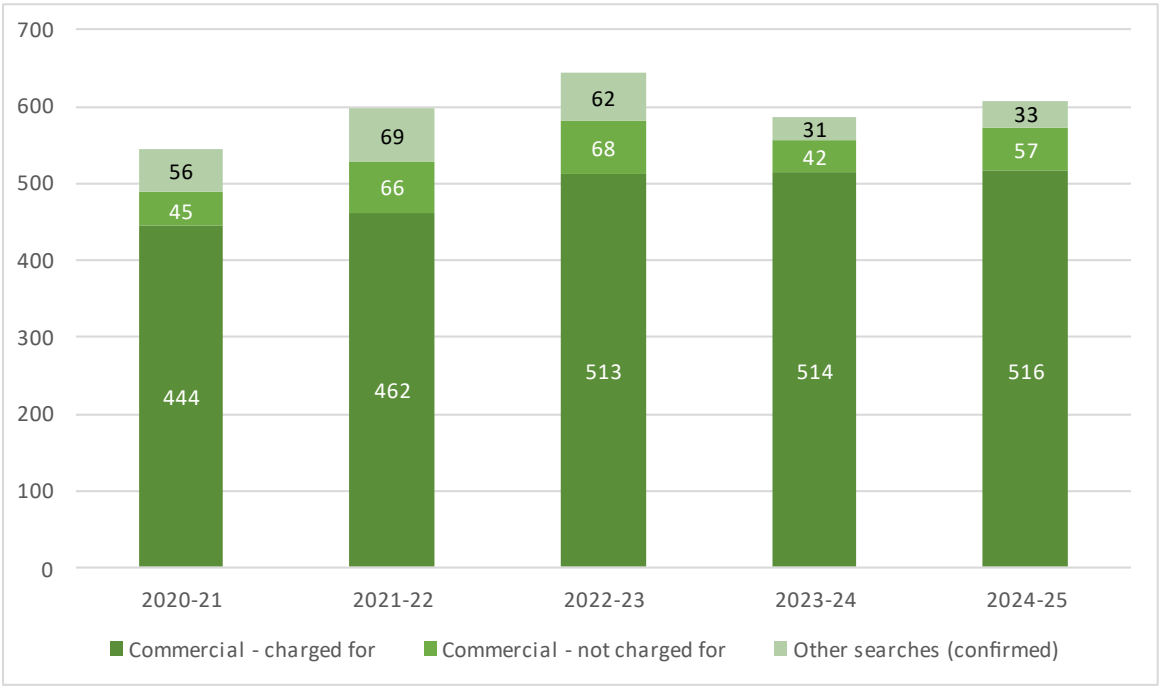

Figure 4. Numbers of confirmed data requests over the last five years, by category. "Other searches" includes non-commercial requests and requests from our partners.

Figure 5 shows our response time for commercial data requests during 2024/25. This is the period calculated between receiving conformation from the client and supplying the data to them. We aim to complete all requests within five working days. As illustrated in the graph, this was achieved for 98.4% of requests in 2024/25, an increase on the 96.9% 5-day response rate in 2023/24. Furthermore, 13.1% of requests were completed on the same day and 82.2% of requests were completed within three working days.

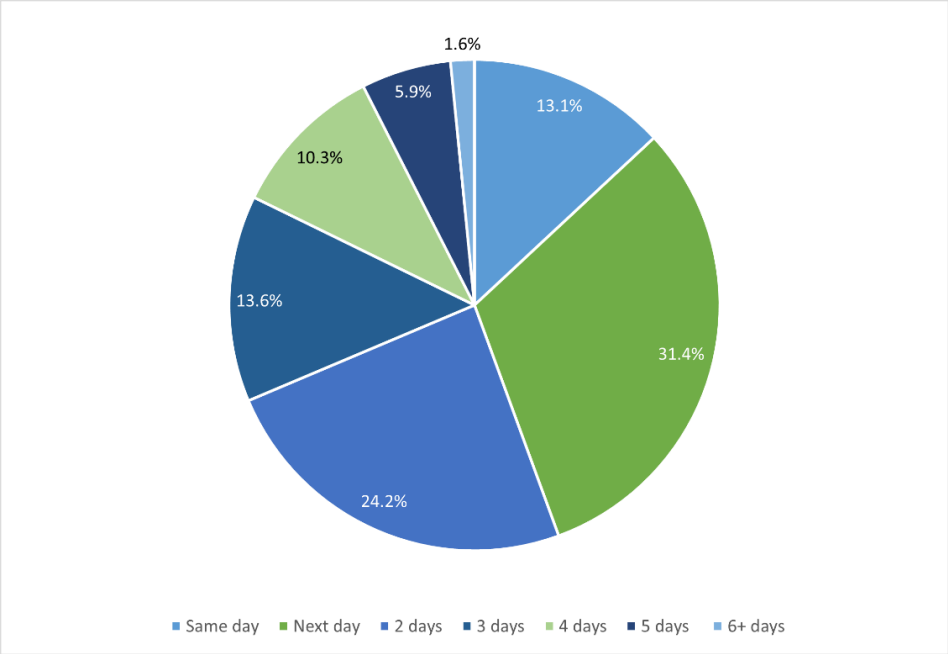

Figure 5. Length of time taken to complete data supply requests in 2024/25

Monitoring Data for Local Authorities

CPERC provides data for local authority Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) and has been doing this since at least 2006 as part of our Service Level Agreements (SLAs). AMRs are primarily related to monitoring the effectiveness of local plans and policies. In 2024/25 we reported information on the 2023/24 year.

The data we provide consists largely of information on the status of, and changes to, statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites within the authority areas. The assessed condition of designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) land for 2023/24 is shown in Figure 6. SSSIs are statutory sites and represent the majority of the most important sites for nature conservation in our area. The information in Figure 6 has been calculated from Natural England condition assessment survey data for SSSIs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This shows that the majority of SSSI land is considered to be in 'unfavourable' condition (approximately 60% unfavourable, 40% favourable). The majority of land deemed to be 'unfavourable' has been assessed to be in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

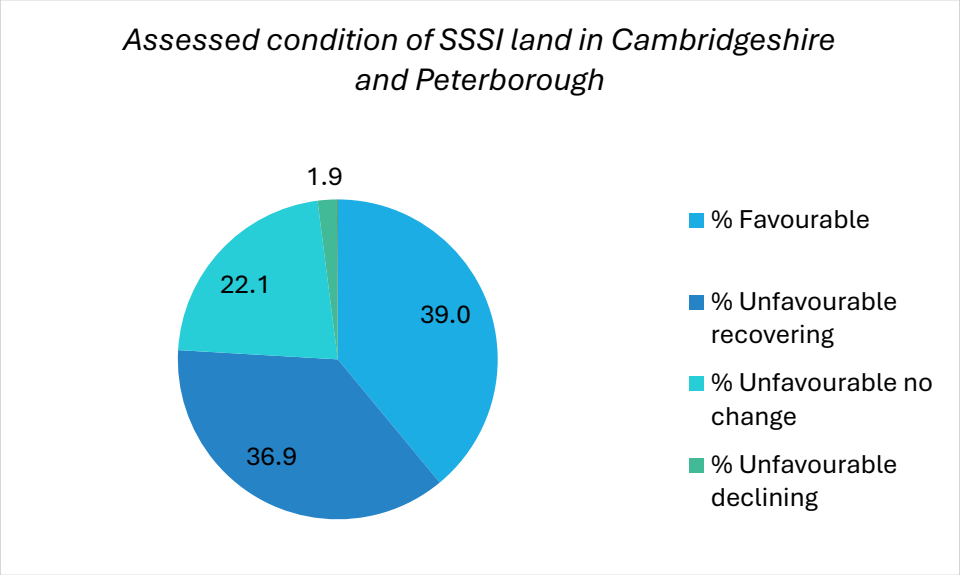

Figure 6. Assessed condition of SSSI land in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

These proportions have not changed significantly over the past ten years, however during this time the number of site condition surveys carried out by Natural England to inform this indicator have declined.

For Local Sites (including County Wildlife Sites, City Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites) CPERC calculates the SDL160 indicator every year on behalf of the local authorities. SDL160 is an indicator on the government Single Data List, which is a list of datasets that local government are required to submit to central government. SDL160 is the percentage of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented within the last five years. This is where we have evidence of positive management within that time period relating to the reasons why the site is designated.

This indicator is important to help the relevant bodies involved, including the local authorities and the Wildlife Trust, understand which sites are in positive management and which sites need

more or different management, or at least new surveys to understand their current status. Figure 7 shows the SDL160 scores over time since the indicator started. The results are compiled separately for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and for the districts within Cambridgeshire.

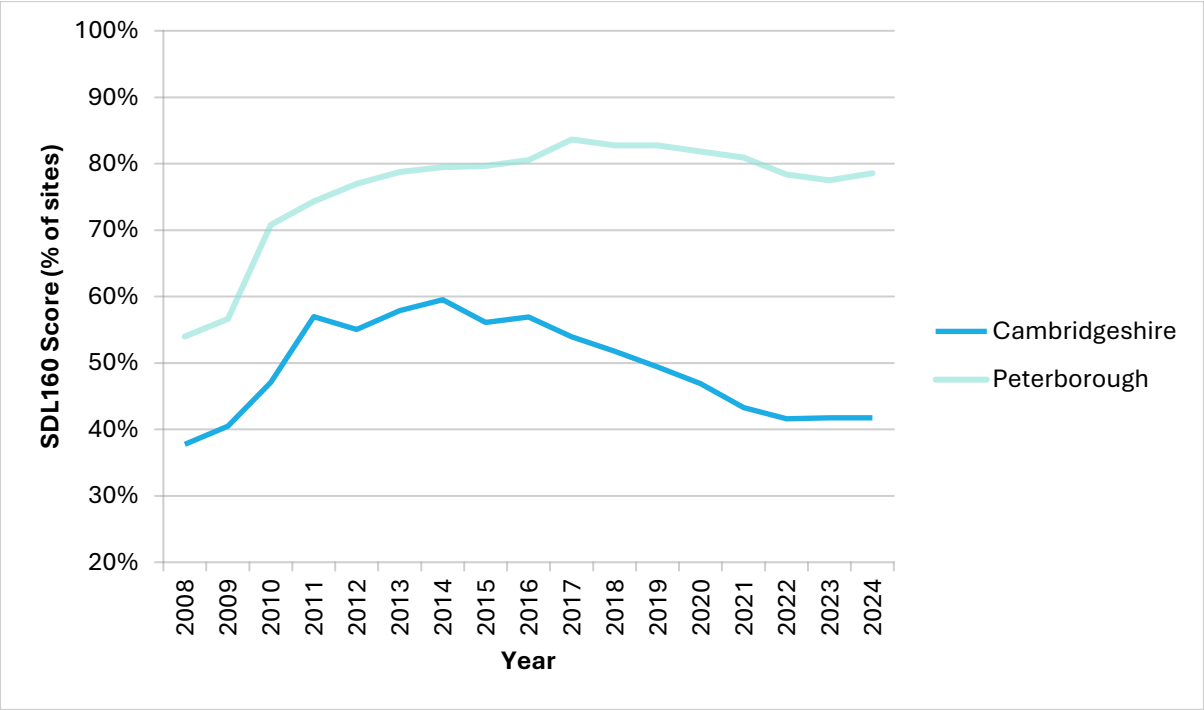

Figure 7. SDL160 scores over time

Figure 7 also demonstrates that the score for Peterborough has been relatively high and consistent over the past ten years, whereas the score for Cambridgeshire has declined. This is at least in part due to a decline in the number of surveys on Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Sites in the past ten years, leading to a lack of evidence, although a genuine decline in positive management is also likely to be one of the primary reasons.

The monitoring information CPERC provides also includes a reference to any evidence we have of significant impacts on designated sites due to development in the monitoring year. Again, this information is important to monitor, in order to highlight and keep track of where instances occur to the relevant authorities and conservation bodies.

As with any monitoring information, the value of it will increase with time as more trends and patterns can be seen. Therefore, CPERC plans to continue to monitor this information into the future and add new sets of monitoring data where possible.

Data Holdings Summary

CPERC holds three main types of information - species records, habitat information and designated site information. The following section gives a summary of the current status of CPERC's data holdings in April 2025.

Please note that although many of the figures below relate to numbers of species records, this is just one way of measuring the value of the data holdings of a records centre and its progress. The quality of the records in terms of their accuracy and what they tell us is of more significance than the numbers themselves.

Species records on the CPERC Recorder database by taxonomic group

Figure 8 demonstrates that CPERC now holds over 2.6 million species records on its database covering a wide variety of taxonomic groups.

The coverage of records for different taxonomic groups varies greatly due to a number of factors such as recording effort, different methods of recording for different groups, number of species within a group, ease of identification and likelihood that those species are to be found in Cambridgeshire (groups where the species are largely marine are not likely to be covered for example).

Figure 8. Breakdown of the species records held by taxonomic group

Taxon Group	**Number of Records**
flowering plant	744,352
insect - moth	698,502
bird	436,455
insect - butterfly	218,956
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	163,092
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	78,769
insect - true fly (Diptera)	74,356
insect - hymenopteran	35,718
spider (Araneae)	28,924
terrestrial mammal	28,375
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	26,735
mollusc	16,165
fungus	12,420
insect - orthopteran	7,359
lichen	6,858
crustacean	6,631
moss	6,030
amphibian	5,579
conifer	4,306
liverwort	4,105

fern	4,022
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	3,006
horsetail	2,741
annelid	1,590
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	1,472
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)	1,447
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	1,267
reptile	1,243
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	1,218
acarine (Acari)	1,214
harvestman (Opiliones)	772
stonewort	708
millipede	687
insect - alderfly (Megaloptera)	559
centipede	486
slime mould	460
flatworm (Turbellaria)	374
diatom	369
insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	327
alga	319
insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	299
false scorpion (Pseudoscorpiones)	192
roundworm (Nematoda)	157
springtail (Collembola)	93
insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	56
marine mammal	55
chromist	43
bacterium	41
protozoan	36
insect - snakefly (Raphidioptera)	33
fungoid	24
unassigned	20
ginkgo	14
insect - flea (Siphonaptera)	13
insect - silverfish (Thysanura)	9
undetermined	8
insect - cockroach (Dictyoptera)	7
bryozoan	6
clubmoss	4
jawless fish (Agnatha)	4
sponge (Porifera)	4
two-tailed bristletail (Diplura)	4
coelenterate (=cnidarian)	3
insect - stylops (Strepsiptera)	3

insect - thrips (Thysanoptera)	2
thorny-headed worm (Acanthocephala)	2
Total	**2,629,100**

Verification Status

Figure 9 details the verification status of the records. For an explanation of the Determination Types please see our Data Management Policy.

Figure 9. The verification status of species records

Determination Type	Number of Records
Correct/Considered Correct	2,329,637
Requires Confirmation	292,799
Cannot Confirm	1,952
Considered Incorrect	339
Incorrect	35
Invalid	4,338
Total	**2,629,100**

Species records with Protected or UKBAP/NERC S41/CPASI designations

Figure 10 shows the number of verified records in the database for species which are protected in UK law, primarily by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The majority of these records are for birds which are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Figure 10. Number of verified records in the database for species which are protected in UK law

Taxon group	Number of Records
amphibian	2,224
bird	81,254
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	3
crustacean	20
flowering plant	1,869
fungus	4
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1
insect - butterfly	144
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	12
insect - moth	4
insect - orthopteran	1
lichen	2
marine mammal	48
mollusc	6
reptile	1,200

stonewort	27
terrestrial mammal	21,185
Total	**108,004**

Figure 11 shows the number of verified species records in the database for species which are on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority list and/or on Section 41 of the NERC (Natural Environment and Rural Communities) Act 2006 or are a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Additional Species of Interest (CPASI). The CPASI list includes species that are not on the UKBAP Priority or NERC S41 lists but are still deemed to be of local nature conservation significance.

Figure 11. Number of verified species records in the database for species which are on the UK BAP list and/or on the NERC

Taxon group	**Number of Records**
amphibian	2,932
bird	72,581
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	77
clubmoss	1
conifer	37
crustacean	19
fern	580
flowering plant	26,844
fungus	12
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	230
insect - butterfly	12,618
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	12
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)	34
insect - hymenopteran	85
insect - moth	65,343
insect - orthopteran	270
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	14
insect - true fly (Diptera)	31
jawless fish (Agnatha)	1
lichen	6
marine mammal	30
mollusc	13
reptile	1,200
spider (Araneae)	17
stonewort	93
terrestrial mammal	15,220
Total	**198,300**

As can be seen, the majority of the records are for species which are either birds or moths, which reflects the number of records we have for these groups, and the nature of the

Biodiversity Action Plan priority list which includes many relatively common species for these taxa.

Number of records imported over time

Figure 12 shows the number of records imported into Recorder per year for the last five full years (2020-2024). This can fluctuate widely between years depending on the work that is taking place and the type of datasets we have processed.

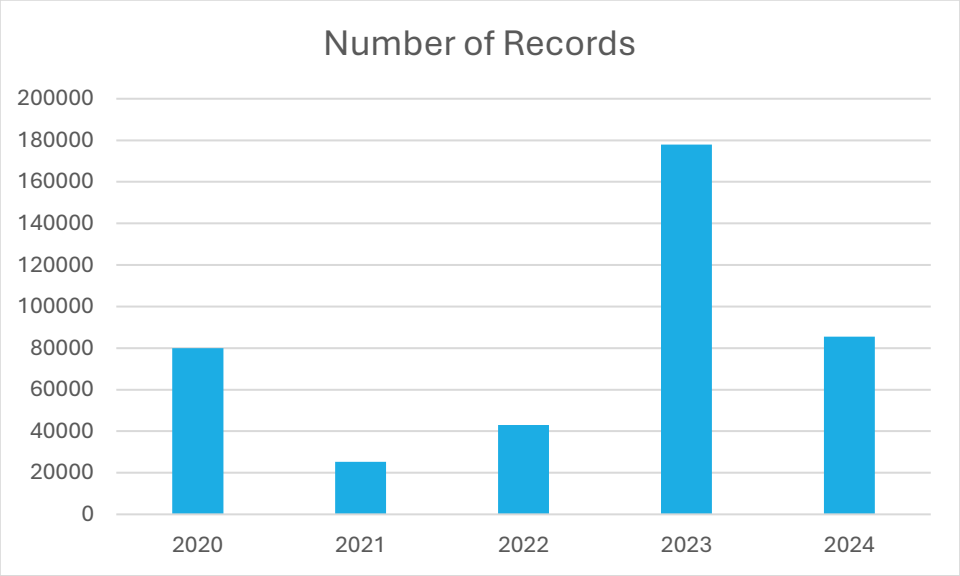

Figure 12. Number of records annually imported into Recorder since 2020

In the 2024/25 financial year 74,830 records were imported into the database. This comprised records from over 200 different recorders. The largest contributing data sources in terms of numbers were Peter Kirby invertebrate surveys, Wildlife Trust County Wildlife Site surveys and environmental consultancy records. Approximately 20 different environmental consultancies provided records. Other significant data sources in 2024/25 included the Cambridgeshire Bat Group, the New Life on the Old West Project and the Nene Park Trust.

Record dates over time (currency)

Figure 13 shows a summary of what years the records were actually recorded in since 1970. Only a small proportion of the species records in the database have dates for years prior to 1970, so these are not displayed on the chart. As can be seen from the chart the majority of the records are post 2000. The fewer number of records in the most recent years is largely due to the time lag for records to be passed on to CPERC and processed.

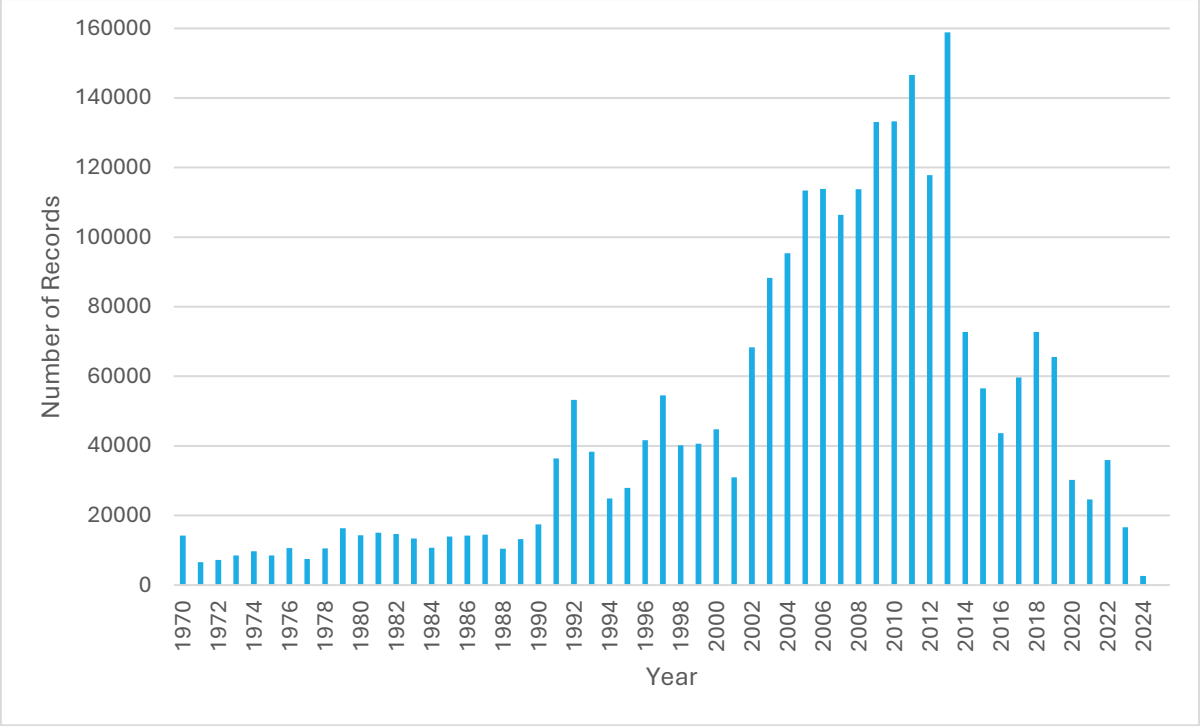

Figure 13. Years the records were actually recorded in since 1970

Record Precision

Figure 14 shows a summary of the precision of records in the database. The majority of records in the database are at either 1km or 100m precision, with the highest figure for 100m records.

It is expected that the proportion of records with a precision of 100m or higher will increase over time with greater use of GPS technology and more accurate recording using on-line tools. The proportion of records with a precision of 100m or higher is currently at approximately 56%, and this figure has increased slightly since last year.

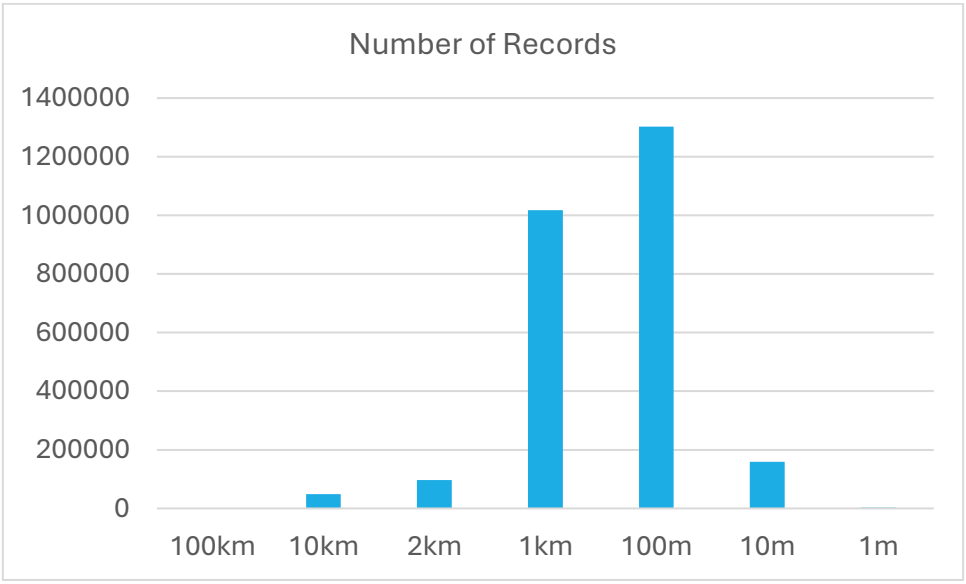

Figure 14. Precision of records in the database

Record Distribution

Figure 15 shows the geographical distribution of records on the database, with areas with the highest density of records in red and then yellow and those with the lowest in blue. Looking at previous distribution maps we have produced, the overall trend appears to be the same as before, with the highest density in those areas of greatest population and at those locations where more systematic recording has taken place over a number of years such as some large nature reserves (e.g. Wicken Fen, Monks Wood). The fenland areas of Cambridgeshire in the north-east tend to have a lower density of records than South Cambridgeshire.

The 2025 density map has not changed significantly from the 2024 one with the exception of a few areas where more surveys have been done in recent years showing a greater density.

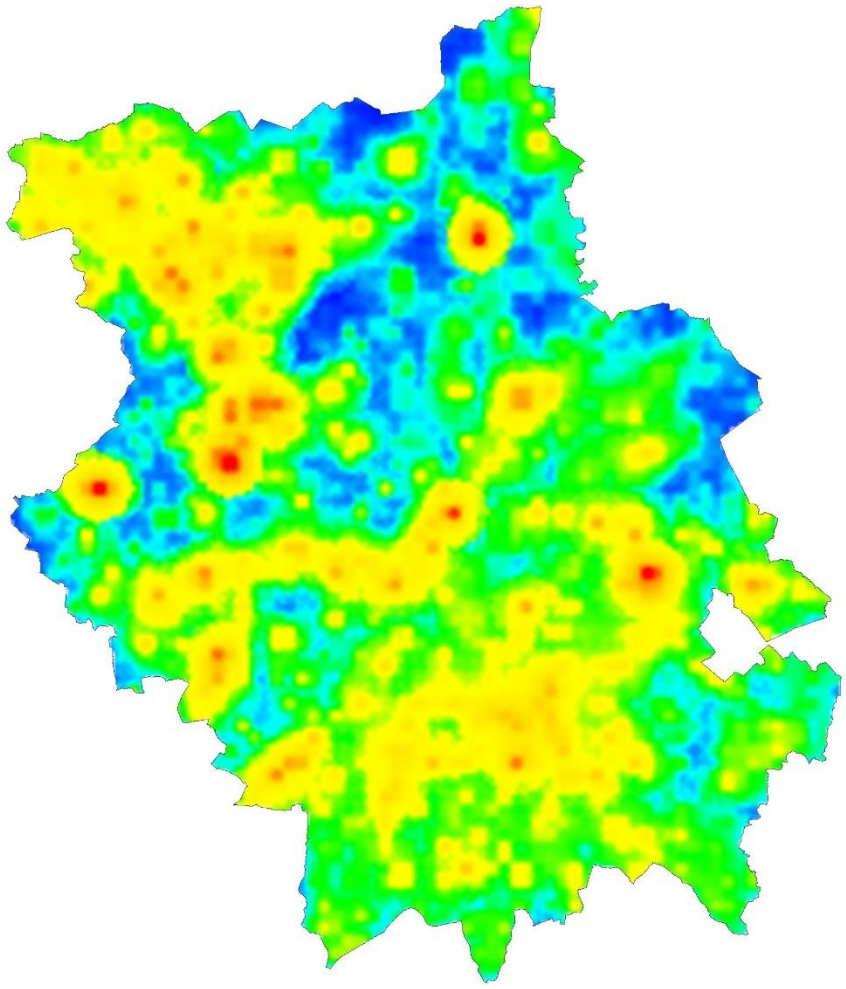

Figure 15 . Geographical distribution of CPERC records

Habitat Coverage


Cowslips at Cambourne © Jo Wright

CPERC Broad Habitat Mapping

The CPERC Broad Habitat project is now entering its third year. Having been put on hold in September 2024 due to staff changes, work resumed in January 2025 and the project is on track for 75% completion by 2030 (*Figure 16*). Figures now stand at 74,453 polygons drawn, covering 88,951 hectares of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This totals 83 Parishes and 25% of the county, mapped in full. Since the publication of the last annual report, there has been an addition of 20,194 polygons drawn, with current mapping effort focused on the Peterborough and northeast Huntingdonshire areas to accommodate the Wildlife Trusts capacity for ground truthing. Figure 17 shows the mapping progress over the course of the project.

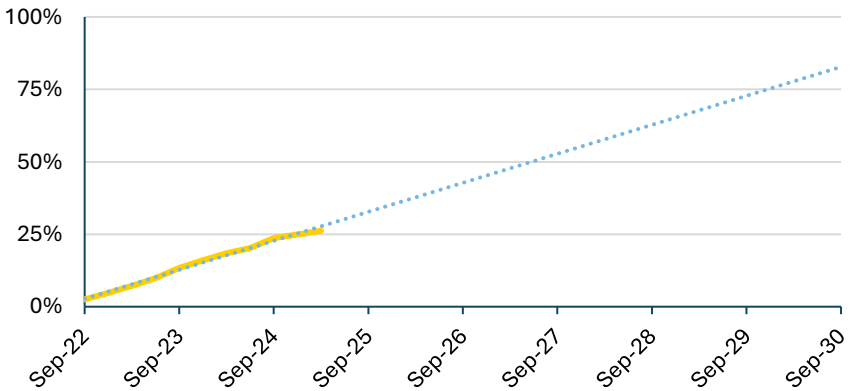

Figure 16. Total percentage coverage of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mapped using CBH with linear trend line forecast for the next 5 years

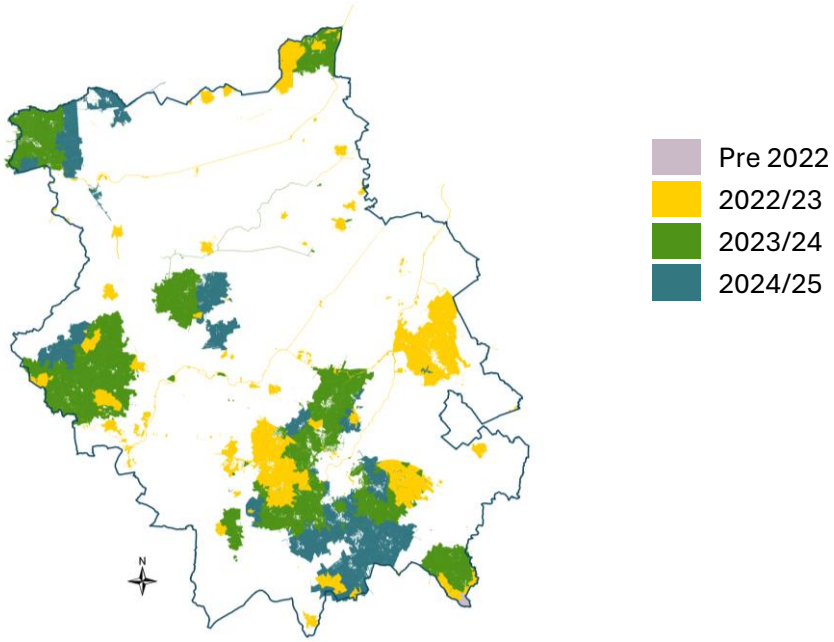

Figure 17. The extent of CPERC area digitised, categorised by financial year. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Peterborough City Council 100024236 (2025). Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 (2025)

Figure 18. Coverage by district

	Area Mapped	% Covered	Parishes Complete		
Cambridge City	951ha	23%	N/A		
East Cambridgeshire	8,202ha	13%	Soham		
Fenland	5,133ha	9%	Newton-in-the-Isle	Tydd St Giles	
Huntingdonshire	23,180ha	25%	**18 Parishes**		
			Alwalton	Easton	Perry
			Barham and Woolley	Ellington	Spaldwick
			Buckworth	Grafham	Stow Longa
			Bury	Kimbolton	Tilbrook
			Catworth	Leighton	Upwood and the Raveleys
			Covington	Old Hurst	Wistow
Peterborough	9,319ha	27%	**14 Parishes**		
			Bainton	Southorpe	Upton
			Barnack	St. Martin's without	Wansford
			Deeping Gate	Sutton (Peterborough)	Wittering
			Northborough	Thornhaugh	Wothorpe
			Peakirk	Ufford	
South Cambridgeshire	42,169ha	47%	**48 Parishes**		
			Arrington	Great Abington	Little Abington
			Babraham	Great Eversden	Little Eversden
			Bar Hill	Great Shelford	Little Shelford
			Bartlow	Great Wilbraham	Little Wilbraham
			Barton	Hardwick	Lolworth
			Castle Camps	Harlton	Madingley
			Childerley	Harston	Newton
			Comberton	Haslingfield	Oakington and Westwick
			Coton	Hauxton	Orchard Park
			Cottenham	Hildersham	Pampisford
			Dry Drayton	Hinxton	Sawston
			Duxford	Histon	Shudy Camps
			Foxton	Horseheath	South Trumpington
			Fulbourn	Ickleton	Stapleford
			Girton	Impington	Teversham
			Grantchester	Landbeach	Toft

In addition to the CPERC Broad Habitat data, we also hold the following habitat information for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area:

- **1990s Phase 1 surveys maps** scanned from paper files. It is estimated that approximately 85% of the CPERC area was surveyed at this time. Cambridge and Peterborough City centres, as well as large parts of the Fenland area, were not surveyed as part of this project.

- **1990s Phase 1 surveys maps digitised into GIS polygons**. *Figure 18* shows the extent of the CPERC area covered by the Phase 1 surveys.

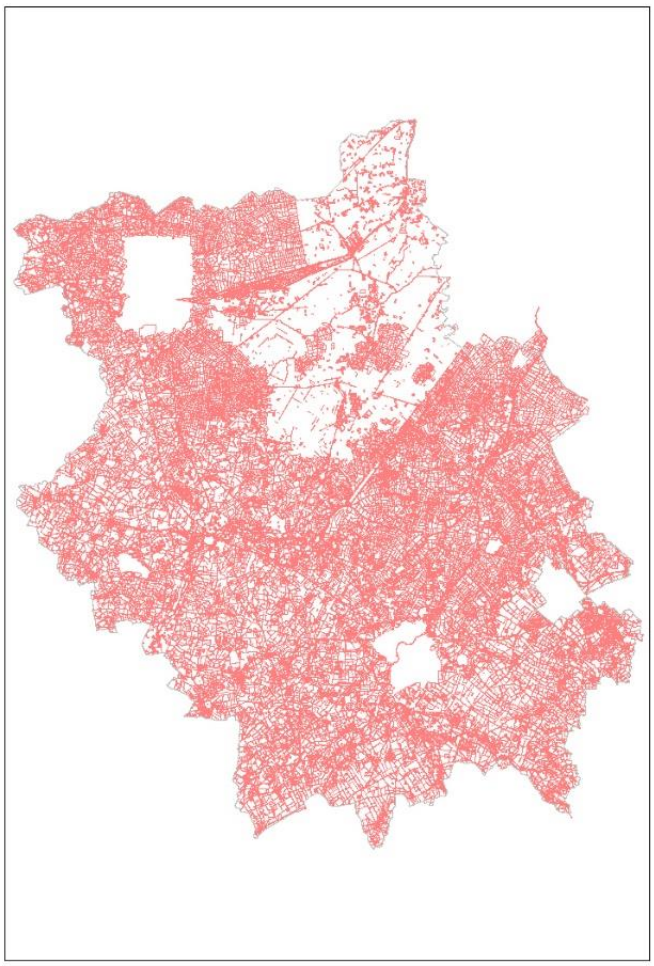

Figure 19. The extent of the CPERC area covered by the Phase 1 surveys. © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS 100023205, 100024236.

- Orchard data. This is data that we have accumulated from several different sources including our own CPERC Orchards Project, conducted between 2013 and 2015, and a Cambridgeshire Traditional Orchard Group project in 2005.

- Long Established Woodland and Wood Pasture, and Lost Woodland data. During Phase 1 of the Ancient Woodland Inventory update we recorded areas of woodland and wood pasture present on both the original Epoch 1 Ordnance Survey map and recent aerial photography, creating Long Established Woodland and Wood Pasture data sets. The

process of checking the presence of woodland in the modern day also allowed us to create a Lost Woodland dataset of areas of woodland lost since Epoch 1.

- Habitat information from the 2019 Natural Capital Solutions project. This was a project conducted to map natural capital and the opportunities for habitat creation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. More information can be found on our website. https://www.cperc.org.uk/downloads/Cambridgeshire%20habitat%20mapping%20-%20final%20report.pdf

- Digitised and detailed Phase 1 GIS information for County Wildlife Sites (CWS). This is from Wildlife Trust survey information, though not all CWSs have been surveyed or digitised.

- NVC (National Vegetation Classification) Survey information for selected SSSIs from Natural England survey information and for some Wildlife Trust reserves. This has not been digitised into GIS.

- Natural England Priority Habitats Inventory data. As much of this information has not been compiled or checked at a local level, it is not considered suitable for use by CPERC in most of our areas of work for the level of detail that we need. CPERC has however contributed to the Priority Habitats Inventories through projects in the past, including Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Tradition Orchards, and Ancient Woodland.

Local Wildlife Sites

CPERC manages the Local Wildlife Site (County Wildlife Site and City Wildlife Site) GIS layers for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Sites Group. This includes adding sites, deleting sites and amending boundaries as recommended by the Local Sites panel.

At the end of 2024/25 one new County Wildlife Site was selected, four CWS boundaries were amended and qualifying criteria updated for three sites. There are now 483 County Wildlife Sites in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 50 City Wildlife Sites in Cambridge City.

Local Geological Sites

CPERC also manages the Local Geological Site GIS layers for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

At the end of 2024/25 no new Local Geological Sites (LGSs) were selected, but three new candidate Local Geological Sites (cLGSs) were. There are now 27 LGSs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 11 cLGSs.

The Cambs Geosites team of the Cambridgeshire Geological Society have been active in recent years designating new sites to make up for a historic deficit in locally designated geological sites in the county. GeoPeterborough coordinate information on sites in the Peterborough authority area.

Financial Summary

As a not-for-profit organisation CPERC aims to at least bring in enough income to cover its costs each year and aims for Full Cost Recovery. However, the majority of CPERC's income is not certain at the start of each financial year. Most of our long-term Service Level Agreements (SLAs) currently run until at least March 2026, which provides us with some guaranteed stable income over the next year. Data requests and project income are harder to predict and are not guaranteed, but our data request trends indicate they do not appear to be dropping.

All CPERC charges are now subject to annual inflation from April in each year. Charges will be set at a minimum of 3% or in line with CPI, whichever is higher. If CPI is considered extremely high, then the Steering Group will be consulted to agree a reasonable amount before charges are set for the following year. SLA and non-commercial charges will be set by January (in order to give enough time for Local Authorities to budget for the coming year – this can be sooner on request) and commercial charges will be determined in March of each year. They are benchmarked at least annually against neighbouring LERC's (and at least every three years across the country) to ensure we are offering a fair and comparable value for our services.

Figure 20. CPERC charges 2025/26

	Non-commercial		**Commercial**		
	Hourly	Daily	Hourly	Daily	Small
2024/25	£48	£361	£125	£575	£65
2025/26	£50	£375	£130	£595	£65

As noted in section 3, our data request numbers increased slightly during 2024/25 compared to 2023/24, although charged-for requests increased by only two searches. Our reciprocal charges with the Wildlife Trust BCN were also raised to better reflect current costs and longer-term SLAs are still encouraged to improve the financial stability of CPERC. The 2024/25 figures are shown in Figure 2 and the original forecast was undertaken in October 2023.

Figure 21. Forecast vs actual income, expenditure and surplus for 2024/25

Income	**Forecast**	**Actual**
Service Level Agreements	£56,188	£57,345
Data Requests	£60,000	£70,641
Projects	£16,570	£32,874
WTBCN Income	£15,504	£15,504
Total	**£148,262**	**£176,364**
Expenditure	**Forecast**	**Actual**
Staffing Costs (Salaries/NI/Pensions)	£152,445	£141,545
Other costs	£25,954	£30,170
Total	**£178,399**	**£171,716**
Deficit/Surplus	**-£30,137**	**£4,713**

The difference between our forecast deficit before the start of the financial year, and the surplus by the end of the year was £34,850 – meaning we bought in nearly £35k more than forecast. This increase in income was mainly generated by additional project work (LNRS and the Fens Biodiversity Audit) and increased charges, which are now keeping in line with inflation. We had higher data search income than predicted and our staffing costs were also considerably lower.

In 2024/25, as in previous recent years (since 2017), more income is now generated from data search requests rather than SLAs, and the vast majority of expenditure (82.4%) is on staffing costs. SLA income increased on the previous year, but solely due to inflationary price increases. Staff costs were lower than expected due to the GIS & Habitats Data Officer role becoming vacant for three months, however, this was offset slightly by additional recruitment costs and one member of staff going on maternity leave, with her cover overlapping by three weeks.

The CPERC reserves are stored for times when income may be lower than expenditure, which is forecast to be the case in 2025/26 due to higher staff costs and lower project income than previous years.

Figures 22 and 23 show a breakdown of CPERC income over the last five years, since 2020/21, excluding that from the Wildlife Trust BCN which is effectively cancelled out by payment in kind (in the form of hours of staff time) from CPERC.

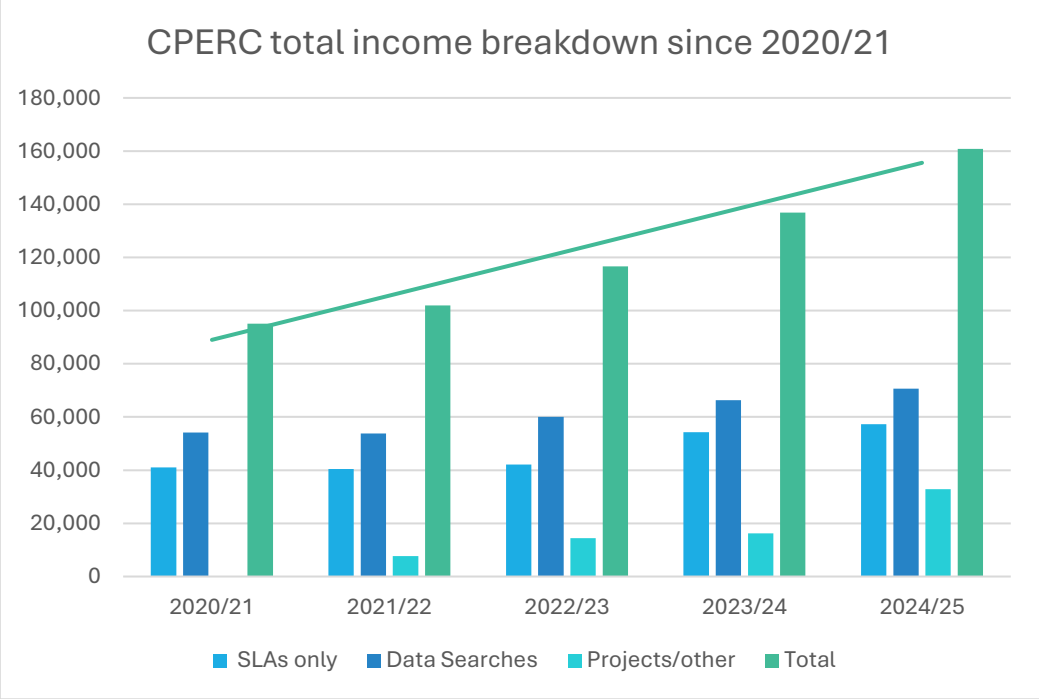

Figure 22. Income breakdown over the last five years

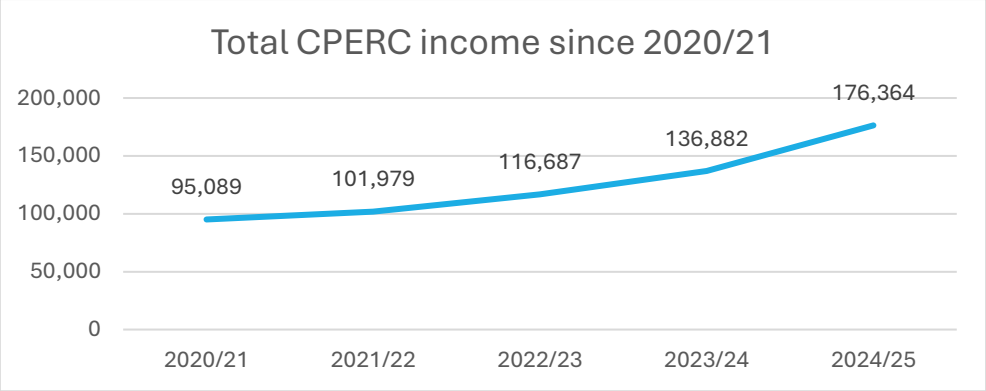

Figure 23. Total income over the last five years

Figure 24 depicts the income, expenditure and surplus/deficit of CPERC over the last five years, including that to/from the Wildlife Trust BCN.

Figure 24. Income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Income	£95,089	£101,979	£116,687	£136,882	£176,364
Expenditure	£73,847	£64,190	£92,751	£143,397	£171,716
Surplus/deficit	**£22,242**	**£37,789**	**£23,936**	**£5,468**	**£4,713**

Figure 25 shows the total income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years. The dip in expenditure in 2020/21 and 2021/22 can largely be accounted for by reduced staff and reduced spending during the pandemic. The dip in surplus in 2022/23 is due to the staff restructure and was initially predicted to be a small deficit that year. While income has slowly increased year-on-year, expenditure has increased more rapidly and CPERC are currently forecasting a deficit due to the increased staffing levels, reduced project income and continuing inflation in 2025/26. In this scenario, some of our reserve funds will be reinvested in covering those costs.

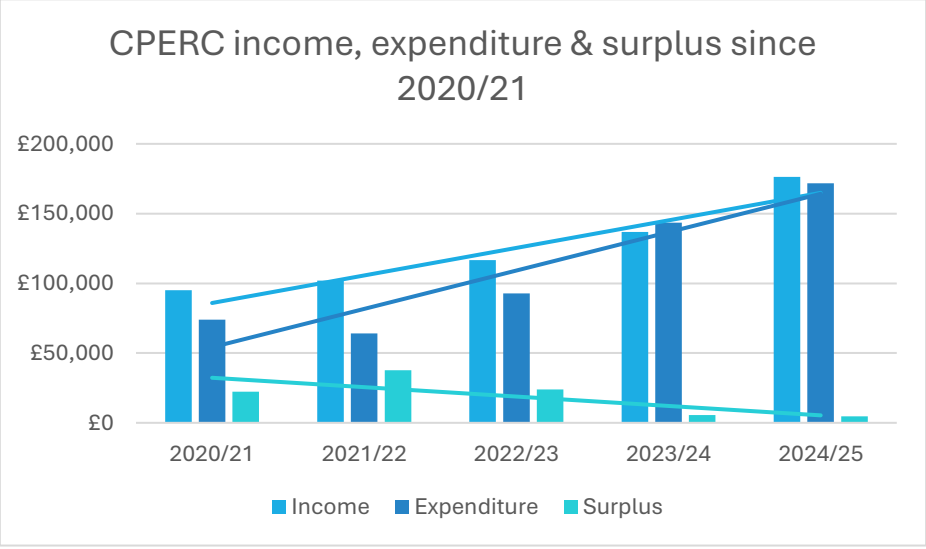

Figure 25. Trend in income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years