CPERC

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE

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Poppy field @ Flack Field, Fleam Dyke © Louisa Carlisle

Annual Report 2025/26

Dr Jo Wright
Environmental Record Centre Manager (CPERC)
April 2026

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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.

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 started undergoing the process of re-accreditation in late 2026 and hope to complete this in April/May 2027.

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

Team Day @ Chippenham Fen © Jo Wright

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
0.48 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 returned from maternity leave in March 2026 on a part-time basis.

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. Their 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 *(temporary contract)*
Started February 2025
0.9 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 was on maternity leave. This has been extended and she is currently with us until September 2026.

Summary of Activities 2025/26

Staff Changes

Hazel Enderby went on maternity leave in late March 2025 and returned part-time in March 2026. Her maternity leave was covered by Louisa Carlisle, who is staying on alongside Hazel and is currently contracted at 0.9 FTE until September 2026.

Service Level Agreements

In 2025/26 Jo was responsible for renegotiating two new Service Level Agreement Local Authority Partners, which run for two and three years. She is currently renegotiating four SLA's which expired in March 2026 with three Local Authorities and one other Partner.

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 confirmed non-commercial requests has increased by 24% percent in the last year.

The total number of data requests has increased in 2025/26 by 5.9%. Although the reasons for this are unclear at present it may reflect an increase in planned or proposed construction projects across the region.

Broad Habitat Mapping & Parish Plans

CPERC's Broad Habitat mapping project has now been in progress for nearly 4 years with almost a 30% of the county now digitised. In total 88 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 fourth 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 although none in the past financial year.

We have also been approached by Cambridgeshire County Council for data to support a new project; Nature Recovery - From the Ground Up. A limited amount of County Wildlife Sites data has been provided for the former and we are awaiting decisions about what further data is needed from us, and this will be included in the new SLA.

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 continued into the 2025/26 financial year and culminated with the publication of the LNRS Strategy in December 2025. Some omissions and corrections have been flagged with the Responsible Authority, and we are still awaiting a response to this.

Annual Recorders Meeting

In February 2026, CPERC held its Annual Recorders Meeting. It was well attended, with 12 recorders joining either in person or online, as well as representation from the Wildlife Trust.

This year CPERC's Recorders have been invited to attend a BioBlitz event in early June at Westling's Meadow/Christ's College NR, organised by the Langdyke Trust. In addition, CPERC will be holding their own Bioblitz for Recorders at Chippenham Park CWS on Thursday 11th June. Jo has the permission of the landowners and there is a good amount of interest in attending, and she is currently working our further logistics for the day.

Annual Recorders Bioblitz 2025

In June 2026 CPERC held a Bioblitz for their county recorders and verifiers at Southorpe Roughs, a Natural England managed SSSI owned by the Walcot Estate. Despite soaring temperatures, over 1000 species were recorded on the day.


Recording at Southorpe Roughs © Jo Wright

Accreditation

In 2025/26 we have been working on renewing our Accreditation status. CPERC were last accredited in 2016 and were given a reprieve due to the pandemic and then a change in management staff, so the process has been overdue for some time. The process involved the updating of all significant documentation, policies, reports and management plans. These documents were then sent to the ALERC National Coordinator for approval. The majority of documents have been approved and we are currently waiting to hear if any final changes are needed.

Habitat Changes since the 1990s

Since January 2026, work has temporarily halted on the Broad Habitat Mapping project to focus on the compilation and analysis of work that has been done so far. This is in order to measure any change in habitats across the county between the 1990s Phase 1 habitat mapping and the present day. Initial analysis suggests a significant loss and/or change has occurred, particularly to grassland and orchard habitats. More details will be given in the forthcoming report which is currently being finalised in conjunction with Martin Baker at the Wildlife Trust BCN.

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 2025/26 the following external training sessions and activities took place

Project Based Course on Excel VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) and Excel Macros	Apr 25	LC
Finance for Non-Finance Managers	May 25	JW
Lunch and Learn: QGIS Plugins	Jul 25	LC
Intermediate QGIS	July25	LC
Fungi Field Recorder Day	Oct 25	CR
FSC Discovering the Biodiversity Metric & BNG	Oct 25	LC
County Habitat Survey Analysis	Jan 26	JW
Lunch and Learn: NatureSpace update and Great Crested Newt Data	Feb 26	CR, JW
PyQGIS Masterclass	Feb 26	LC

Caitlin at the Hedgelaying workshop

Wildlife Trust BCN training workshops and other activities

Introduction to Sawflies	May 25	LC
Grasses 1 – A Beginner's Introduction with Brian Eversham	Jun 25	LC
Introduction to Willows with Brian Eversham	Aug 25	CR, JW, LC
Small Mammals - identification and surveying with Peter Pilbeam	Oct 25	CR
Sexual Harassment Awareness (refresher)	Oct 25	LC
Hedgelaying	Dec 25	CR
Spoon Carving Workshop	Feb 26	JW, CR, LC
Manual Handling	Feb 26	LC
GDPR UK Essentials (refresher)	Feb 26	LC

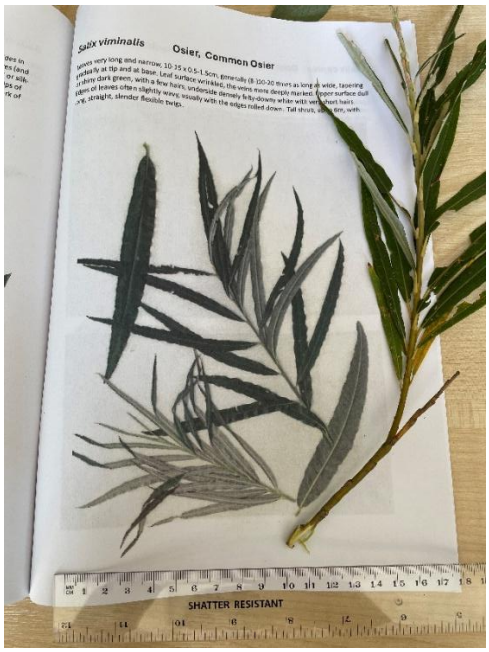
Surveys and other activities

County Wildlife Sites Surveys @ Lords Bridge, Middle Moor	May-Jul 25	PR
Woodland Condition Monitoring	May 25	JW, LC
Rapid Grassland Assessment – Trumpington	Jun 25	LC
Rapid Grassland Assessment – Dogsthorpe Star Pit	Jun 25	PR
Rapid Grassland Assessment – Flack Field	Jun 25	LC
CPERC Team Day – Chippenham Fen	June 25	Team
Work Experience: Mapping Butterfly Transects in QGIS	Aug 25	CR
Shepreth L-Moor Wax Cap survey	Oct 25	Team
Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits Wax Cap survey	Nov 25	Team
West Wood County Wildlife Site survey	Mar 26	CR

Staff attended the following conferences and talks in 2025/26

Who's Who in Conservation event	Apr 25	CR, JW
Using Wildlife Observation Apps	Apr 25	CR
Lunch and Learn: Geoxphere Online Portal (GiGL)	May 25	CR
Lunch and Learn: QGIS Models (ALERC)	May 25	CR, LC
Lunch and Learn: Survey123 and ArcGIS Online (ALERC)	Jun 25	CR
Finding a Rainbow – Robbie Blackhall-Miles (Plantlife)	Jun 25	CR
Beyond Borders & Binaries: Being LGBTIQ+ and Green Outside the UK (Gonzalo Taylor WWFUK)	Jun 25	CR
Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) seminar - Review of LNRS and their role in contributing to nature recovery commitments in England	Jun 25	PR
Lunch and Learn: Coreo (ALERC)	Jul 25	CR
Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems: Reefs From the Twilight Zone	Aug 25	CR
The Mind of a Bee: An Exploration of the Intelligence of Bees	Aug 25	CR
Mobulid Rays in the Chagos Archipelago: Fisheries & Conservation Management	Aug 25	CR
Seahorses of the UK: Conservation and Research	Aug 25	CR
Lunch and Learn: Biodiversity Benchmark (ALERC)	Sep 25	CR
Webinar: New accessibility guidance and resources	Sep 25	CR
Lunchtime Talk: What is Evidence and how do we use it?	Sep 25	CR
Lunchtime Talk: Nene Wetland Beavers – 6 Months On (WTBCN)	Sep 25	LC
ALERC Conference	Oct 25	Team
Lunchtime Talk: Wildlife Training Workshops at the Trust (WTBCN)	Oct 25	CR
Holme Fen case study: the challenges of peat restoration in lowland fens	Oct 25	CR
Inclusive and Accessible Events	Nov 25	CR
Inclusive Communications	Nov 25	CR
Natural England's Strategy Launch	Nov 25	JW

Mapping Our Impact — Recording Management and Restoration Activity Across The Conservation Sector	Nov 25	LC
Landscape Recovery in the Fens	Dec 25	JW
Plastic Pollution and Reef Manta Rays: Sources and Exposure	Dec 25	CR
Lunch and Learn: QGIS Atlases (ALERC)	Feb 26	CR
Big Rock Pool Challenge: The Power of UK Marine Citizen Science	Feb 26	CR
Shades of Grey: Industrial Melanism in Spiders	Feb 26	CR
Nature in Mind: Joe Harkness	Mar 26	JW, LC
Student Conference on Conservation Science & Who's Who in Conservation	Mar 26	CR, LC
Biodiversity Net Gain Symposium (Biological Recording Company)	Mar 26	PR



Identifying Willows, WTBCN Training Workshop © Jo Wright

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

Natural Cambridgeshire Partnership Forum meetings (quarterly)
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Sites Panel meetings (biannually)
East of England Regional Local Records Centres meetings (biannually)
Various Wildlife Trust BCN operational meetings and All Staff Days
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) meetings
CPERC Annual Recorders meetings

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 2025/26 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.


Coppicing @ Hayley Wood © Caitlin Riley

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 1. Data requests in 2025/26

Type of Data Request	**Totals**
Total number of requests (excluding Parish Plans)	661 requested, 646 confirmed
Total number of commercial requests	620 requested, 605 confirmed
Total number of commercial requests charged for	549
Total number of commercial requests not charged for *(either cross boundary or no data found under parameters of search)*	56
Total income generated from charged for requests	£80,629
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)*	41 requested, 41 confirmed

Hazel catkins @ Cambourne
© Louisa Carlisle

Data requests had been increasing year-on-year until 2022, when the number of chargeable commercial requests levelled off. Since then we have seen slight annual variations in the number of requests, with a rise in chargeable commercial requests being seen in 2025/26. Non-commercial requests from our partners were also higher in 2025/26 compared to the previous year. Figure 2 illustrates the changes in data request numbers over the last five years.

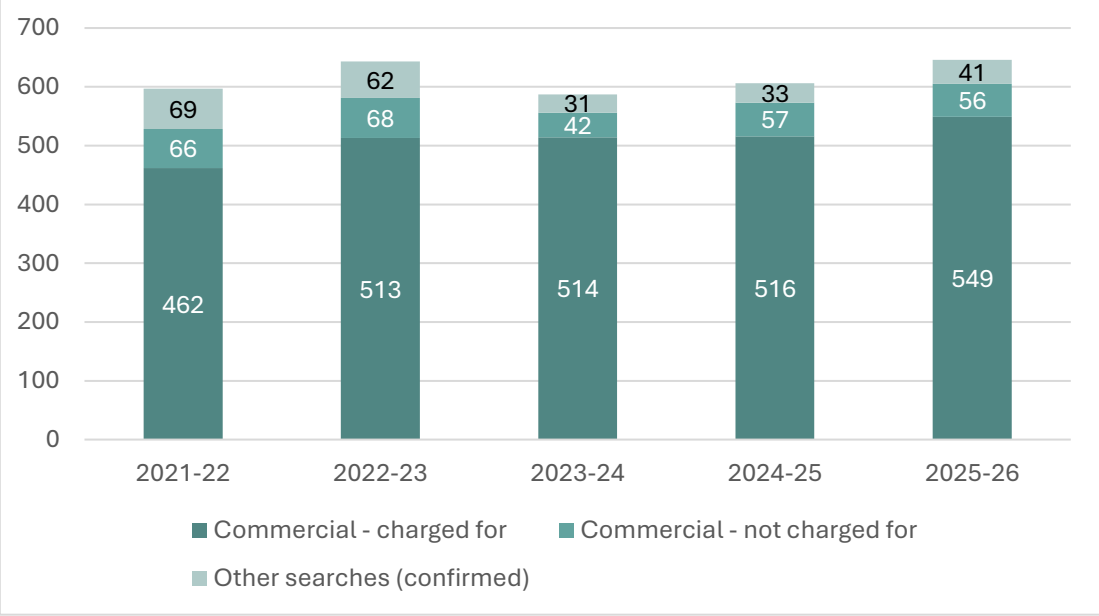


Figure 2. Numbers of confirmed data requests over the last five years, by category. "Other searches" includes non-commercial requests and requests from our partners

Figure 3 shows our response time for commercial data requests during 2025/26. This is the period calculated between receiving confirmation from the client and supplying the data to them. We aim to complete all requests within five working days. As illustrated, this was achieved for 100% of requests in 2025/26, an increase on the 98.4% on the 5-day response rate

in 2024/25. Furthermore, 55.6% of requests were completed on the same day and 98.8% of requests were completed within three working days.

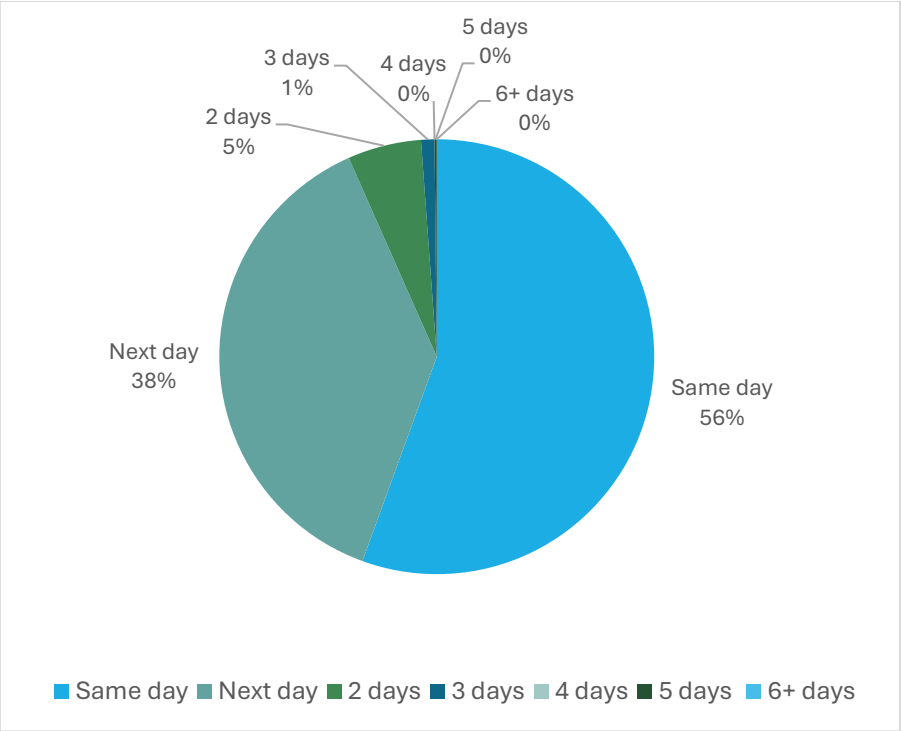


Figure 3. Length of time taken to complete commercial data supply requests in 2025/26

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 2025/26 we reported information on the 2024/25 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 2024/25 is shown in Figure 4. SSSIs are statutory sites and represent the majority of the most important sites for nature conservation in our area. The information in Figure 4 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 62% unfavourable, 38% favourable). The majority of land deemed to be 'unfavourable' has been assessed to be in 'unfavourable recovering' condition.

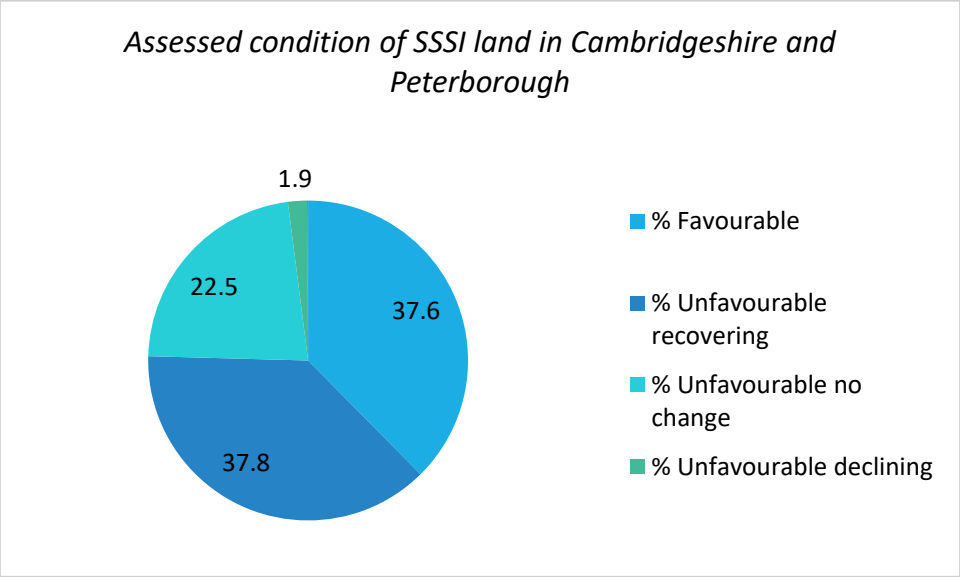


Figure 4. Assessed condition of SSSI land in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

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 5 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.

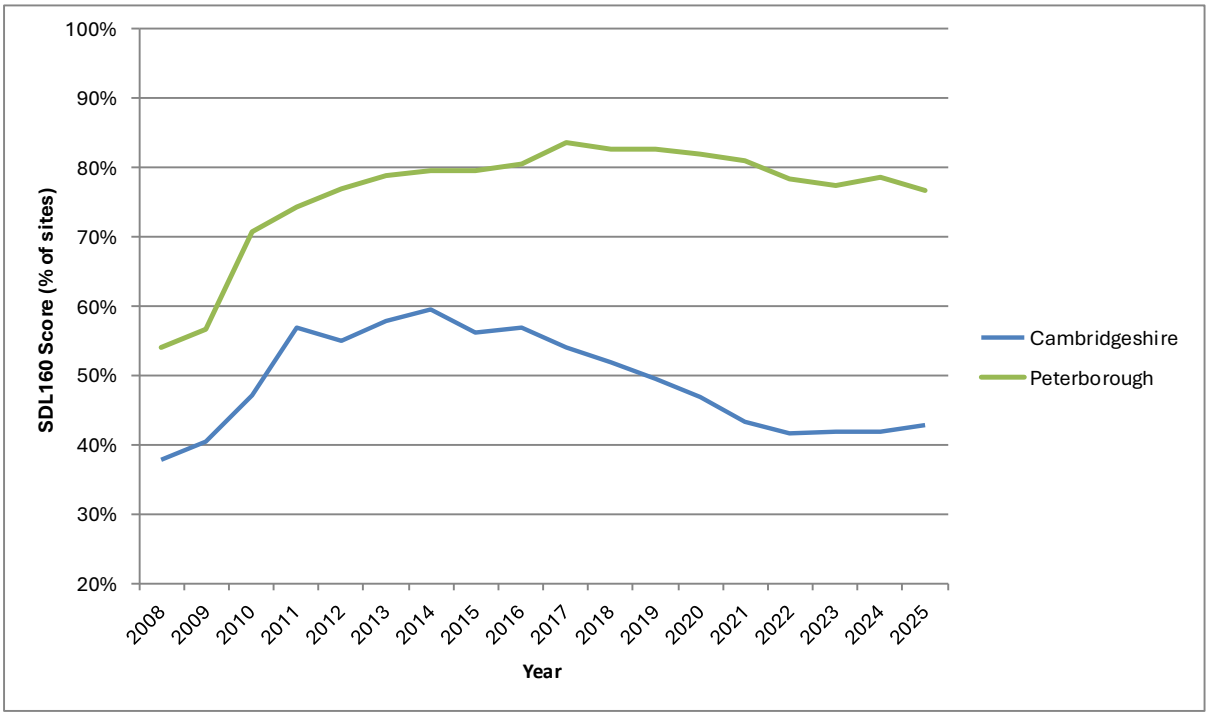


Figure 5. SDL160 scores over time

Figure 5 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 2026.

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

Figures 6 and 7 demonstrate that CPERC now holds over 2.7 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 6. Breakdown of the species records held by taxonomic group

Taxon Group	Number of Records	Taxon Group	Number of Records
flowering plant	756,059	insect - alderfly (Megaloptera)	618
insect - moth	711,132	centipede	519
bird	451,915	slime mould	465
insect - butterfly	220,107	flatworm (Turbellaria)	404
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	182,094	insect - booklouse (Psocoptera)	403
insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	93,512	diatom	369
insect - true fly (Diptera)	88,372	insect - scorpion fly (Mecoptera)	335
insect - hymenopteran	37,639	alga	320
spider (Araneae)	30,874	false scorpion (Pseudoscorpiones)	208
terrestrial mammal	29,157	roundworm (Nematoda)	157
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	27,549	springtail (Collembola)	105
mollusc	18,175	insect - stonefly (Plecoptera)	62
fungus	12,491	marine mammal	56
insect - orthopteran	7,961	chromist	43
crustacean	7,285	insect - snakefly (Raphidioptera)	43
lichen	6,848	bacterium	41
moss	6,052	protozoan	35
amphibian	5,745	fungoid	25
conifer	4,351	unassigned	27
liverwort	4,108	insect - flea (Siphonaptera)	15
fern	4,065	ginkgo	14

insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	3,254	bryozoan	9
horsetail	2,782	insect - silverfish (Thysanura)	9
annelid	1,780	insect - thrips (Thysanoptera)	8
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)	1,642	insect - cockroach (Blattodea)	7
insect - mayfly (Ephemeroptera)	1,546	clubmoss	4
insect - lacewing (Neuroptera)	1,434	jawless fish (Agnatha)	4
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	1,326	sponge (Porifera)	4
reptile	1,317	two-tailed bristletail (Diplura)	4
acarine (Acari)	1,244	coelenterate (=cnidarian)	3
millipede	831	insect - stylops (Strepsiptera)	3
harvestman (Opiliones)	826	thorny-headed worm (Acanthocephala)	2
stonewort	713		
Total			**2,728,507**

Verification Status

Figure 7 details the verification status of the records. For an explanation of the Determination Types please see our Data Management Policy.

Figure 7. The verification status of species records

Determination Type	Number of Records
Correct/Considered Correct	2,335,815
Requires Confirmation	386,044
Cannot Confirm	1,934
Considered Incorrect	340
Incorrect	36
Invalid	4,338
Total	**2,728,507**

The above table shows that over 85% of the records in the database are deemed to be verified. It is only these records that are released to users in the general work of CPERC. There are known to still be many 'historic' records for certain taxonomic groups on the database which are awaiting verification, particularly some invertebrate groups, and a new round of invertebrate verification is due to take place in 2026. Verification is a constantly on-going, rolling process and it is likely that the verification % will improve further with time.

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

The figure below 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)**.

Figure 8. Number of verified records in the database for species which are protected in UK law

Taxon group	Number of Records
amphibian	2,224
bird	81,255
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	1
crustacean	20
flowering plant	1,917
fungus	4
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	1
insect - butterfly	144
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	12
insect - moth	4
insect - orthopteran	1
lichen	2
marine mammal	1
mollusc	6
reptile	1,200
stonewort	27
terrestrial mammal	21,697
Total	**108,516**

As can be seen, the majority of these records are for birds which are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Figure 9 covers a wider range of species of interest (some of which may also be protected) showing the number of verified species records in the database for species which are covered by the following designations - UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, Section 41 of the NERC (Natural Environment and Rural Communities) Act 2006, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Additional Species of Interest (CPASI), Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) Priority Species.

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. The LNRS Priority Species list was finalised in December 2025 to cover species also of local significance where actions could be targeted to assist their recovery as part of the wider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS.

Figure 9. 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	Taxon group	Number of Records
amphibian	2,932	insect - hymenopteran	84
bird	99,720	insect - moth	65,855
bony fish (Actinopterygii)	77	insect - orthopteran	269
clubmoss	1	insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	14
conifer	37	insect - true fly (Diptera)	40
crustacean	20	jawless fish (Agnatha)	4
fern	587	lichen	6
flowering plant	27,450	marine mammal	30
fungus	16	mollusc	21
insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	230	reptile	1,200
insect - butterfly	13,367	spider (Araneae)	31
insect - caddis fly (Trichoptera)	11	stonewort	93
insect - dragonfly (Odonata)	12	terrestrial mammal	15,434
insect - earwig (Dermaptera)	34		
Total			**227,575**

As can be seen the largest number of 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 10 shows the number of records imported into Recorder per year for the last five full years (2021-2025). This can fluctuate widely between years depending on the work that is taking place and the type of datasets we have processed.

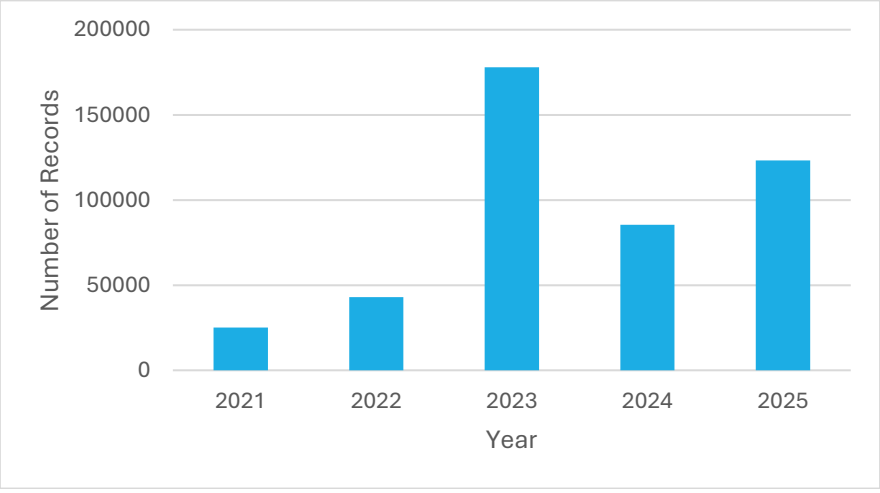


Figure 10. Number of records annually imported into Recorder since 2021

In the 2025-26 financial year 104,398 records were imported into the database. This comprised records from over 400 different recorders. The largest contributing data sources in terms of numbers were Peter Kirby invertebrate records (70992), Wildlife Trust Reserve Monitoring Surveys (14482), environmental consultancy records (6157), Ivan Perry Diptera records (5640) and Wildlife Trust County Wildlife Site Surveys (3307). 14 different environmental consultancies provided records to CPERC directly.

Record dates over time (currency)

Figure 11 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.

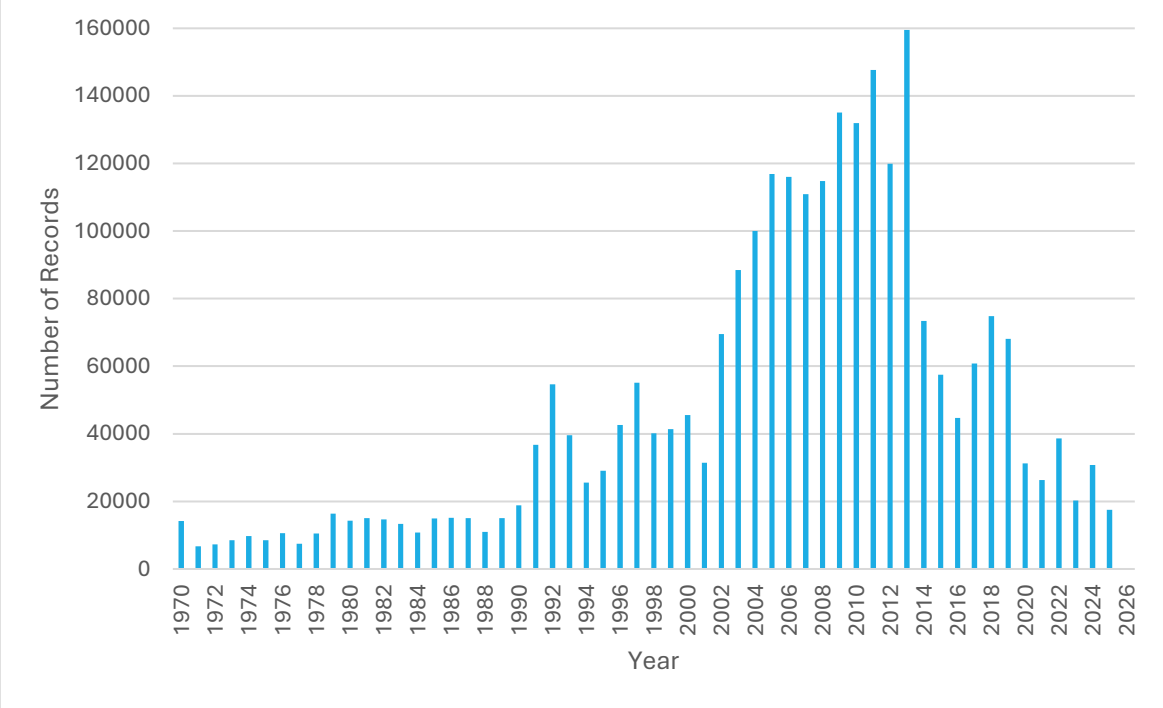


Figure 11. Years the records were actually recorded in since 1970

Record Precision

Figure 12 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 56%.

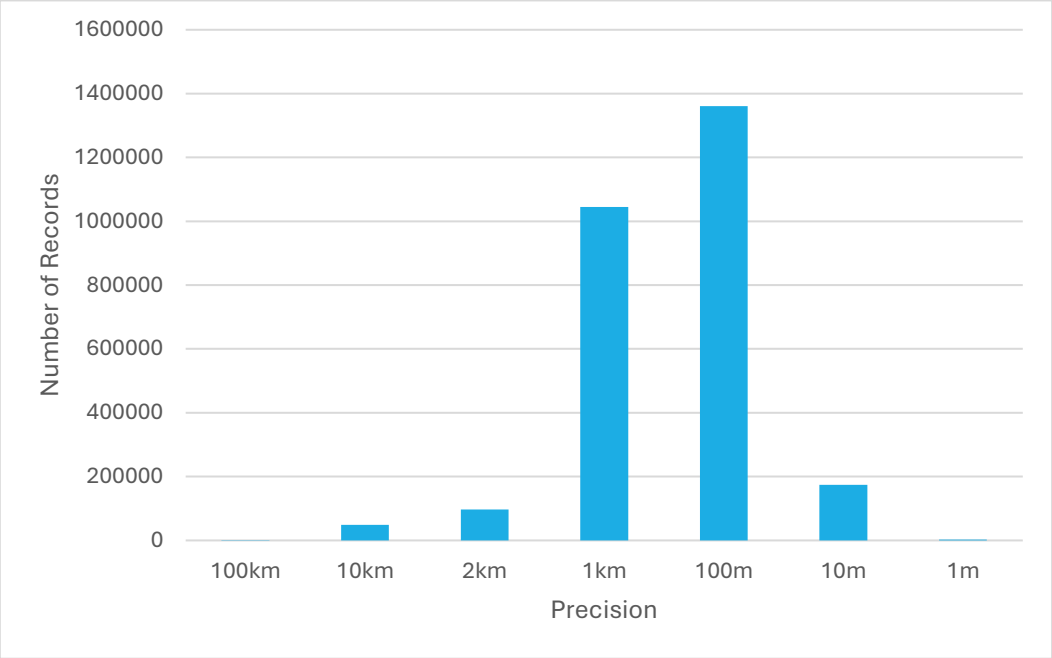


Figure 12. Precision of records in the database

Record Distribution

Figure 13 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 2026 density map has not changed significantly from the 2025 one with the exception of a few areas where more surveys have been done in recent years showing a greater density.

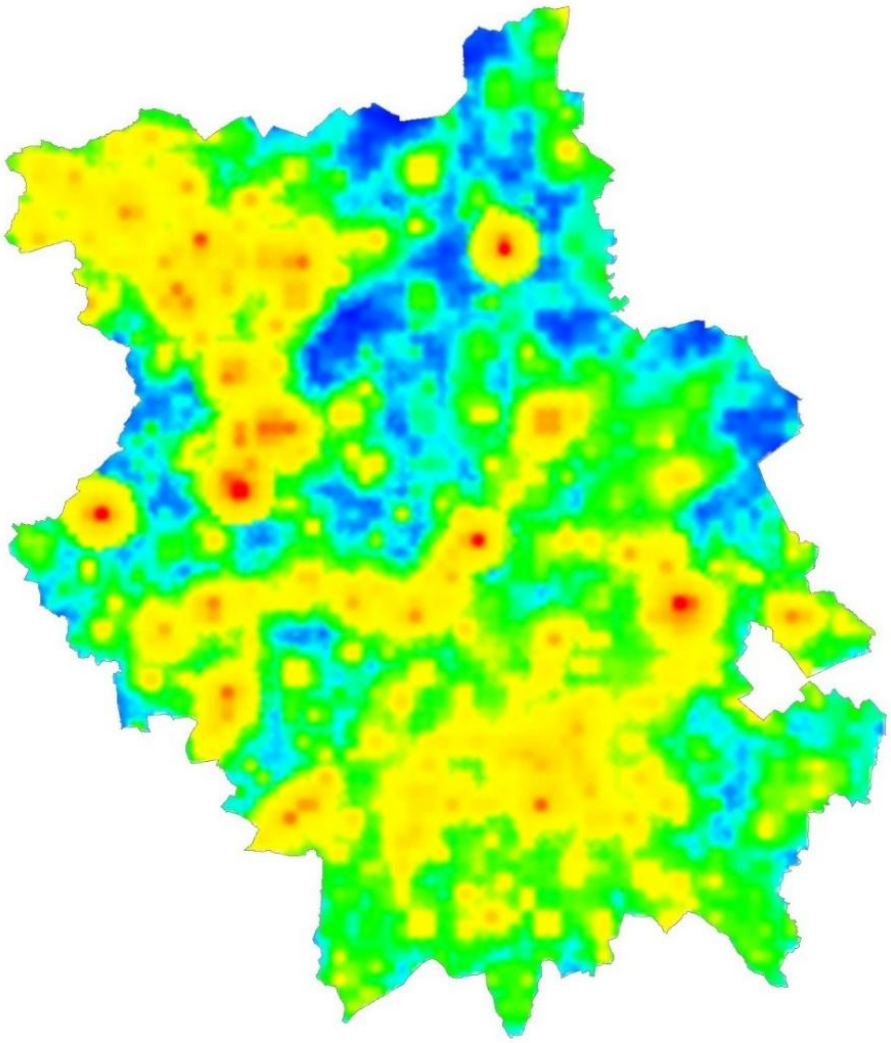


Figure 13. Geographical distribution of CPERC records

Habitat Coverage

CPERC Broad Habitat Mapping

The CPERC Broad Habitat project is now entering its fourth year. Work on the project ran from April through to November this financial year before being paused while staff worked on the 'County Habitat Survey; Doubling Nature Metrics' project. The project still is on track for 75% completion by 2030 (*Figure 14*). Figures now stand at 81,177 polygons drawn, covering 101,078 hectares of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This totals 88 Parishes and 30% of the county, mapped in full. Since the publication of the last annual report, there has been an additional 7281 polygons drawn, with current mapping effort focused on the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland parishes to accommodate the Wildlife Trusts capacity for ground truthing. Figure 15 shows the mapping progress over the course of the project.

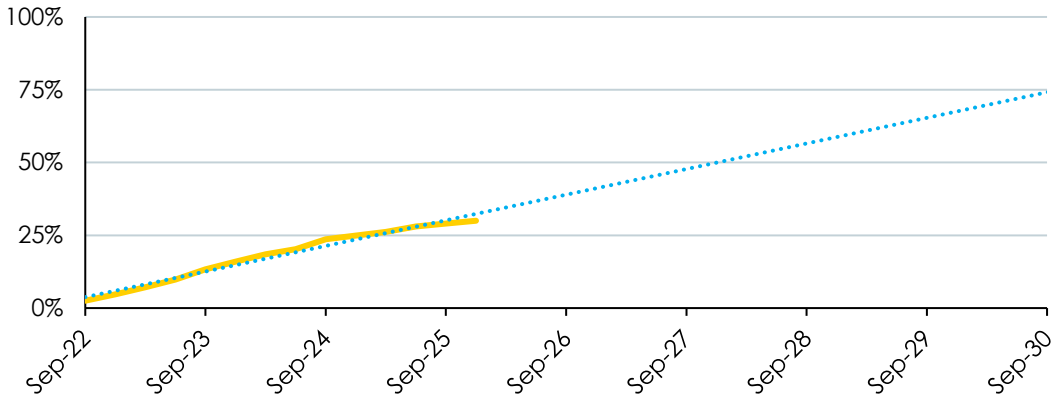


Figure 14. Total percentage coverage of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mapped using CPERC Broad Habitat classification with linear trend line forecast for the next 4 years

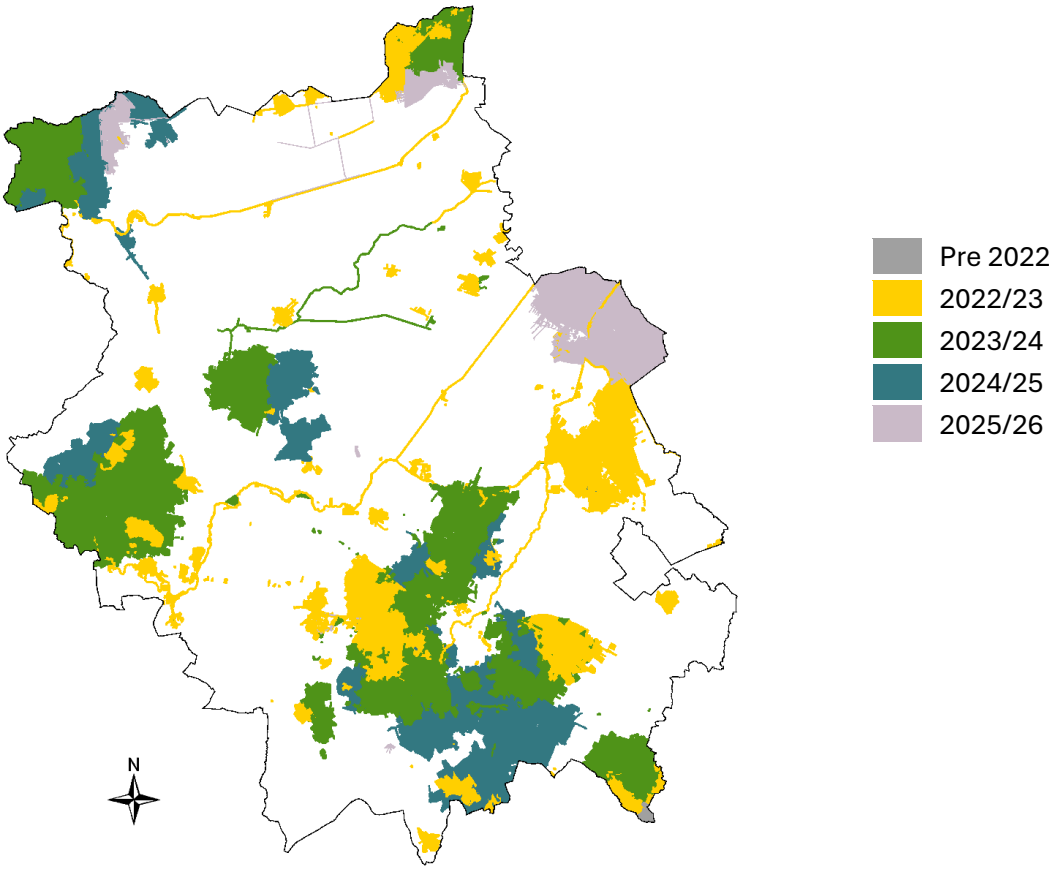


Figure 15. The extent of CPERC area digitised, by financial year. © Crown copyright and database rights [2026] OS AC0000822131. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/documents/licensing/public-sector-viewing-terms.pdf

Figure 16. Coverage by district

	Area Mapped	% Covered	Parishes Complete		
Cambridge City	1,043 ha	26%	N/A		
East Cambridgeshire	16,901 ha	26%	Littleport	Soham	
Fenland	6,420 ha	12%	Gorefield	Leverington	
			Newton-in-the-Isle	Tydd St Giles	
Huntingdonshire	23,196 ha	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	10,440 ha	30%	**16 Parishes**		
			Bainton	Peakirk	Upton
			Barnack	Southorpe	Wansford
			Deeping Gate	St. Martin's without	Wittering
			Helpston	Sutton (Peterborough)	Wothorpe
			Maxey	Thornhaugh	
			Northborough	Ufford	
South Cambridgeshire	42,053 ha	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 17* shows the extent of the CPERC area covered by the Phase 1 surveys.

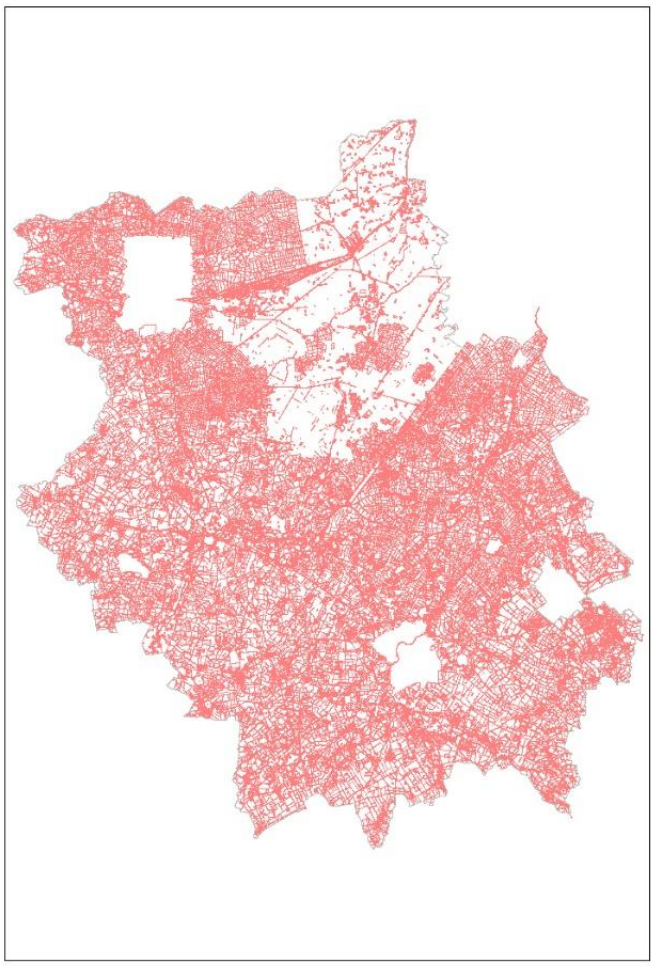


Figure 17. The extent of the CPERC area covered by the Phase 1 surveys. © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS 100023205, 100024236

- 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 datasets. 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 2025/26 one new City Wildlife Site (CiWS) was selected and two boundaries were amended (one CWS and one CiWS). There are now 483 County Wildlife Sites in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 51 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 2025/26 no new Local Geological Sites (LGSs) were selected but four new candidate Local Geological Sites (cLGSs) were. There are now 27 LGSs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 15 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. Four of our long-term Service Level Agreements (SLAs) expired at the end of March 2026 and are currently being renegotiated. The remaining SLAs expire between 2027 and 2030 and provide us with some guaranteed stable income over the next few years. 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 in January[1] 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.

Following a significant benchmarking exercise in 2025, and after consultation with the Steering Group, CPERC are substantially raising their commercial charges in both 2026/27 and 2027/28. It was decided to do this incrementally rather than all at once. This will ensure that we are keeping in line with other LERCs in the east and southeast region and will that we continue to operate smoothly.

Figure 18. CPERC charges 2025/26

	Non-commercial		**Commercial**		
	Hourly	Daily	Hourly	Daily	Small
2025/26	£50	£375	£130	£595	£65
2026/27	£52	£390	£170	£775	£80
2027/28	TBD	TBD	£210	£960	£100

As noted above, our data request numbers increased during 2025/26 compared to 2024/25. The 2025/26 figures are shown in Figure 2.

The difference between our forecast deficit before the start of the financial year, and the surplus by the end of the year was £40,023 – meaning we bought in just over £40k more than forecast. This increase in income was mainly generated by additional project work (LNRS and the Habitat Mapping project) and an increase in data searches. Our staffing costs were slightly lower than forecast and our other spending was significantly lower as the new website we had budgeted for has been pushed forward into the 2026/27 financial year.

[1] Quotes can be obtained at any time. Annual charges will be automatically set in line with CPI at the end of January at the latest to give LAs time to incorporate this into their upcoming budgets. If one Partner requests a quote before this time, all charges for the forthcoming year will be set to the date of the earliest quote to ensure any increases are fairly reflected across all Partners.

Figure 19. Forecast vs actual income, expenditure and surplus for 2025/26

Income	**Forecast**	**Actual**
Service Level Agreements	£55,996	£57,746
Data Requests	£65,000	£80,889
Projects	£7,765	£22,582
WTBCN Income	£15,504	£15,504
Total	**£144,265**	**£176,721**
Expenditure	**Forecast**	**Actual**
Staffing Costs (incl. Salaries/NI/Pensions)	£164,157	£163,146
Other costs	£27,682	£20,992
Total	**£191,839**	**£184,138**
Deficit/Surplus	**-£47,574**	**-£7,551**

In 2025/26, as in previous recent years (since 2017), more income is now generated from data search requests rather than SLAs (45.8% and 32.7% respectively), and the vast majority of expenditure (88.6%) is on staffing costs. SLA income increased slightly on the previous year, but solely due to inflationary price increases.

The CPERC reserves are stored for times when income may be lower than expenditure, which is currently forecast to be the case in 2026/27 due to higher staff costs and lower project income than in previous years.

Figures 20 and 21 show a breakdown of CPERC income over the last five years, since 2021/22, including 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.

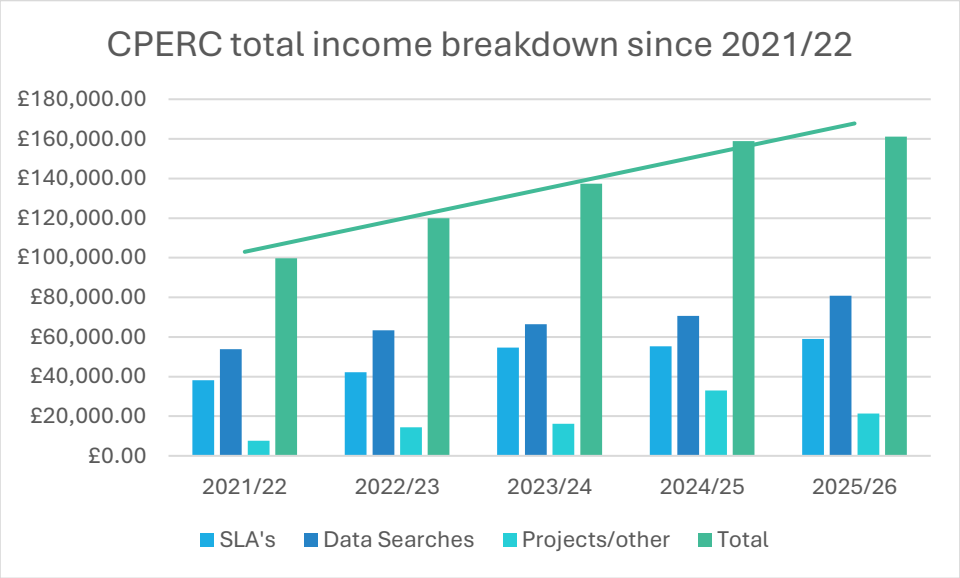


Figure 20. Income breakdown over the last five years

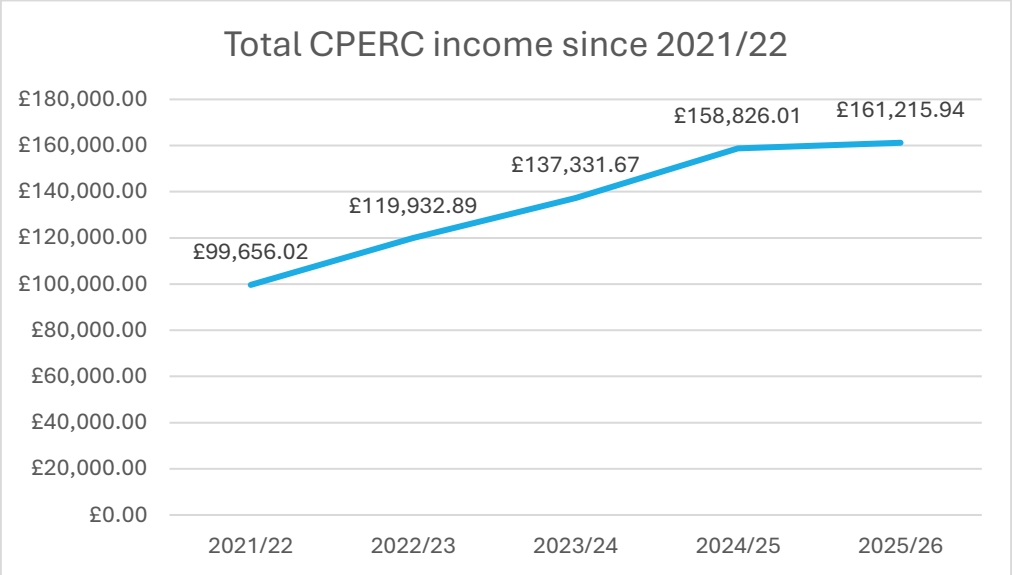


Figure 21. Total income over the last five years

Figure 22 depicts the income, expenditure and surplus/deficit of CPERC over the last five years, including that to/from the Wildlife Trust BCN.

Figure 22. Income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
2021/22	£99,656.02	£61,483.02	£38,173.00
2022/23	£119,932.89	£96,015.89	£23,917.00
2023/24	£137,331.67	£131,413.67	£5,918.00
2024/25	£158,826.01	£154,251.01	£4,575.00
2025/26	£161,215.94	£168,766.94	-£7,551.00

Figure 23 shows the total income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years. The dip in expenditure in 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 in 2026/27 due to the increased staffing levels, reduced project income and continuing inflation. We are attempting to offset this as much as possible by raising our data search charges and actively looking for more funding. In the event of a deficit, some of our reserve funds will be reinvested in covering those costs, as they have been in 2025/26.

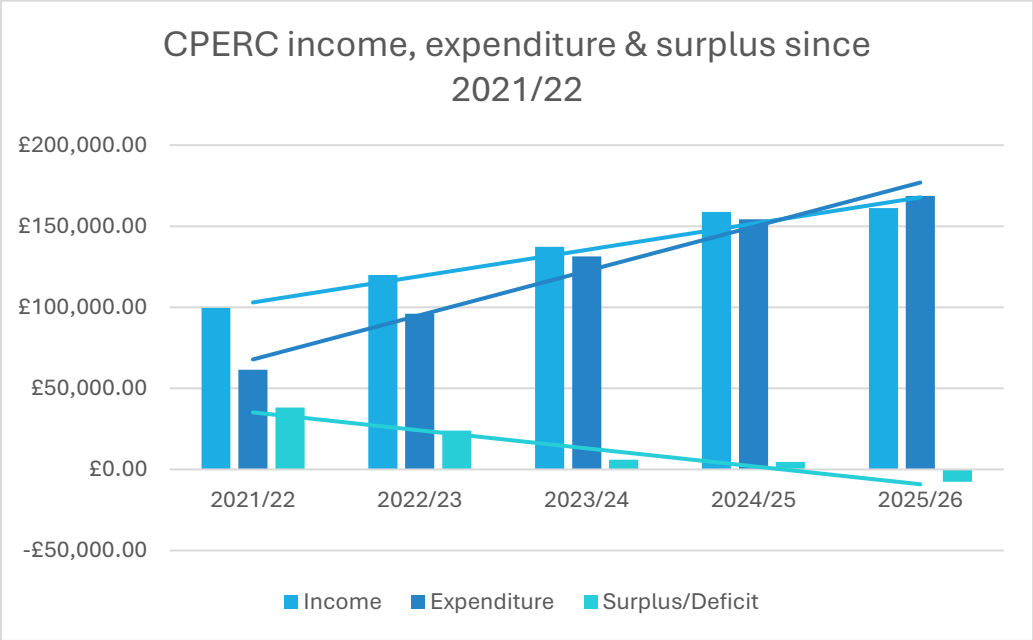


Figure 23. Trend in income, expenditure and surplus over the last five years