



Local Records Centres

Working together for biodiversity in the East of England

Contents

Front cover images clockwise from
top: Minsmere, Suffolk Coast ©
Ben Heather; Common Frog (*Rana*
temporaria) © Keith Balmer;
Native Cornflowers (*Centaurea cyanus*)
© Anita Parry; Eyed Ladybird (*Anatis*
ocellata) © Charlie Barnes

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What is a Local Records Centre?



▲ Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) woodland, one of the spectacles of Hertfordshire's natural flora © Rob Machin

► Oxlip (*Primula elatior*), Bradfield Woods © Rasik Bhadresa



A Local Records Centre is:

“a not-for-profit service run in partnership for the public benefit, which collects, collates, manages and disseminates information of known quality relating to the wildlife, wildlife sites and habitats for a defined geographical area.”

NBN Position Statement on
Local Records Centres 2004

Or to put it another way:

A one-stop-shop for ecological information and a valued resource for the local community.

Introducing your Local Records Centres

There are eight Local Records Centres in the East of England each having one common purpose:

the collection, management and interpretation of wildlife data to support the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of local biodiversity.

By working closely with local data providers and the National Biodiversity Network, Local Records Centres provide a 'one-stop-shop' for information on sites, habitats and species in the region. The services they provide are essential for underpinning policies and decision making in both the public and private sector, and to ensure compliance with national and international legislation.

Because of their capacity to engage and support local volunteers with expertise in ecological survey, species identification and data management, Local Records Centres deliver valuable services in a highly cost-effective way.



East of England Local Records Centre profiles

Bedfordshire & Luton

**Biodiversity
Recording &
Monitoring
Centre**



Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC)

The Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC) is the first port of call for biodiversity information within Bedfordshire and Luton. We are hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire and have been based at the Trust offices at Priory Country Park in Bedford since 2003.

The BRMC works with local authorities, environmental consultants, conservation organisations, educational institutions and the general public. We work closely with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society to promote wildlife recording and a wide understanding of the need for information about our environment.

The BRMC gathers verified species records (currently just over 1 million in total) and collates and manages these data; maps and records habitat

data from across the county; and maintains definitive information about sites recognised for their natural value. Our aim is to enable easy access to biodiversity information to all those who need to use it whilst maintaining security and quality of data. The BRMC continues to develop so that a wide variety of biodiversity data both recent and historic are collected, stored and used. The BRMC is impartial, non-profit making and steered by the needs for data.

**BRMC,
Priory Country Park Visitors Centre,
Barkers Lane, Bedford. MK41 9DJ**

Tel: 01234 355435 / 364213

Email: brmc@bedsbionet.org.uk

www.bedsbionet.org.uk



Biological Records In Essex

Biological Records In Essex is a partnership of individuals and organisations working to co-ordinate and improve the data flow and availability of biological and geological information in Essex. Hosted by Essex Wildlife Trust, the partnership is in the process of developing a fully functioning local records centre for the Essex area.

Biological Records In Essex collates and digitises data from a number of local and regional organisations, and supplies this information to local authorities and other partners to enable them to make informed decisions with wildlife and biodiversity in mind. We are still developing this service, so we would like to encourage prospective data exchange partners to contact us as soon as

Wildlife information, in partnership, in Essex

possible in order to have a say in how they would like their local records centre to develop.

We are expanding our remit as resources allow to make our data more widely available, to encourage local and national recording and to support recorders. Please visit our website for the latest news and information on our services.

Biological Records In Essex
c/o Essex Wildlife Trust, Abbots Hall Farm,
Great Wigborough, Colchester, Essex. CO5 7RZ

Tel: 01621 862999

Email: brie@essexwt.org.uk

www.brienet.org.uk



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) was formed in 2005 to be a central resource of local wildlife information for local authorities, statutory agencies, the Wildlife Trust, environmental consultants and other interested parties such as research bodies and members of the public.

Then known as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biological Records Centre (CPBRC) we have always had a positive backing from the majority of local authorities in our area, to whom we have supplied both monitoring information and species records.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and are hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (WTBCN) at their offices in Cambourne, Cambridgeshire and so we also have a close working relationship with the Wildlife Trust, helping them to manage reserves and County Wildlife Site information.

Our primary aim is to provide a vital link between the generators of wildlife

information such as local amateur naturalists and their societies and the users of such information, including environmental consultants carrying out pre-application desk studies or nature reserve managers carrying out practical on the ground conservation.

We pride ourselves in being part of a large network of Local Records Centres across the country and CPERC was accredited by the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres in 2011. However, we are still developing and always aim to increase our data holdings such that we can provide a strong resource of environmental information for the future.

We also aim to encourage the wider community in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to record wildlife and in doing so value it to a greater extent, and as such we have kindly had funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to fund project staff to enable this to happen.

CPERC

The Manor House, Broad Street,
Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire. CB23 6DH
Tel: 01954 713570

Email: data@cperc.org.uk

www.cperc.org.uk



Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC)

Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre currently has two main functions with regard to biodiversity and its conservation:

- 1) to operate as the Local Records Centre for the County of Hertfordshire, storing and providing the best available information on the county's wildlife resources.
- 2) to provide an Ecological Advisory Service to local authorities and others, to help secure and enhance the biodiversity of the county.

Development pressure and land use change continue to have a significant impact upon Hertfordshire's natural environment. Without good intelligence and interpretation, sound advice or guidance cannot be provided or appropriate, reasonable or defensible decisions be made. This applies to many activities and roles of local authorities, landowners and the public of the county.

The availability of biodiversity information linked directly to ecological advice has been a funding model that achieved national recognition. This also provides positive feedback to local recording groups, whose expertise can be fed into the system to ensure that decisions and projects are recognised as being based upon sound information. This gives a firm purpose to volunteer biological recording and also offers considerable value for money in helping to deliver the HBRC service.

HBRC

Hertfordshire County Council (Environment),
County Hall, Pegs Lane,
Hertford, Hertfordshire. SG13 8DN
Postal Point CHN109

Tel: 01992 555220

Email: biorec.info@hertsc.gov.uk

enquire.hertsc.gov.uk/hbrc



Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC)

Sound, up-to-date information on biodiversity is essential to enable local authorities, public and private organisations and individuals to make well-informed decisions. Development of a Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) began in 2004 and the centre became fully operational in 2006. LERC now provides a biodiversity information service as part of the wider Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.

In 2011 LERC became one of the first Local Record Centres to be accredited by ALERC (Association of Local Environmental Record Centres). This achievement recognises not only the amount of work put in by staff since its inception, but also the work of the local natural history recording groups and amateur naturalists whose efforts underpin much of the information.

Based at the headquarters of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in Horncastle, LERC works closely with the Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union county recorders and other data providers to ensure the information held is both up-to-date and accurate. Using income generated from commercial data enquiries, LERC is able to provide a Local Recording Fund to promote and encourage environmental recording in the historic county of Lincolnshire and train the next generation of recorders.

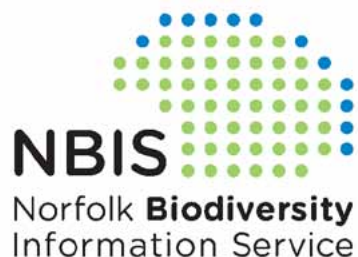
LERC

**Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Banovallum House,
Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. LN9 5HF**

Tel: 01507 528381

Email: info@glnp.org.uk

www.glnp.org.uk



Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS)

Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) is a Local Record Centre holding information on species, geodiversity, habitats and protected sites for the county of Norfolk.

Launched in 2009 following a review of the services provided by Norfolk Biological Records Centre, NBIS is guided by a steering group, operates through a partnership of many organisations and is hosted by Norfolk County Council.

NBIS is a not-for-profit organisation, serving the need for environmental information in Norfolk through the collection, collation, assessment and interpretation of high quality data. Our database contains over 2 million species records and we liaise with and support the Norfolk County Recorder network.

NBIS provides:

- A single source of environmental information for Norfolk
- Collation of available data for Norfolk
- Validation and evaluation of these data
- Identification of gaps in knowledge – taxonomic, geographical and temporal
- A permanent and secure location for data
- Improved flow of data from individual recorders to users at both local and national levels
- Quick and easy access to information for all

NBIS

Environment, Transport and Development,
R301 County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich. NR1 2SG

Tel: 01603 224458

Email: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

www.nbis.org.uk



Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC)

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre is the biological and geological information centre for the Northamptonshire County. It was created in 2006 with funding initially from both statutory and non-governmental organisations. Today NBRC operates as a not for profit organisation hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire and is a member of the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership.

NBRC provides access to information about designated wildlife sites, geological sites and species data. The data we hold originates from a number of sources including local voluntary recorders and various organisations.

NBRC aims to:

- Act as a one-stop-shop for biodiversity information in Northamptonshire.
- Work with and support all local recorders.
- Provide a biodiversity information service to local authorities, statutory bodies, the general public and other organisations.

NBRC

c/o The Wildlife Trust, Lings House, Billing Lings
Northampton. NN3 8BE

Tel: 01604 400448

Email: nbrc@wildlifebcn.org

www.northantsbrc.org.uk



Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC)

The Suffolk Biological Records Centre is the One-Stop-Shop for biological information in Suffolk. Operating as an independent and objective centre for biological data we collate, manage and mobilise species and site information for the benefit of Suffolk's wildlife as a whole.

Suffolk has a rich collection of expert and amateur naturalists who support the work of the S.B.R.C. and allow us to share an ever expanding database of over 2 million species records, across all key taxa, for conservation, research, education and general purposes.

The centre carries out the standard suite of local record centre functions including the storing and management of site and species records, mapping BAP habitats and providing expertise in GIS and database tasks; we also maintain the dataset of Suffolk's non-statutory wildlife sites (CWS).

The Suffolk Biological Records Centre is hosted by Suffolk County Council and is based within Ipswich Museum, where natural history has a long heritage. We sit on the County Wildlife Site Panel and also work closely with the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership, Suffolk Naturalists' Society, and GeoSuffolk who are based in the same office.

Suffolk Biological Records Centre
Ipswich Museum, High Street
Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 3QH

Tel: 01473 433547

Email: martin.sanford@suffolk.gov.uk or ben.heather@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolkbrc.org.uk

More than a database!

Between them, the eight Local Records Centres in the East of England hold over nine million digitised species records, of which over 817,000 are of legally protected and BAP priority species. Their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) hold information on over 11,000 designated sites and over 105,000 hectares of BAP priority habitats.

Up-to-date information is vital to inform decision making and ensure compliance with environmental legislation; 55% of the species records and 90% of habitat records in the East of England Local Records Centres' databases were gathered within the last 10 years and over 700,000 new records are added each year.

Historical information on the distribution of species and habitats is equally valuable, and is needed to monitor and mitigate the effects of climate change and to identify opportunities for habitat creation.

A Local Records Centre is much more than the database of records it manages. By working with local and national experts, Local Records Centres validate and verify data to known standards, enabling them to be used with confidence.



▲ Adder (*Vipera berus*) © Keith Balmer
◀ Dwarf Thistle (*Cirsium acaule*), Uttlesford Essex
© Lorna Shaw

The need for ecological information

Information about the distribution of legally protected, rare or threatened species and habitats is needed by organisations in the public and private sector whose actions affect the environment. Without up-to-date reliable information, decision makers and policy makers can find themselves exposed to adverse risk, legally, environmentally and economically.

Local Records Centres provide cost-effective information services which help organisations to comply with their statutory duties, thereby reducing risk and liability.

The data services provided by Local Records Centres to Local Authorities and public bodies are needed for:

- Strategic planning and development management
- Land management
- Biodiversity Action Planning
- Local Wildlife Sites monitoring and reporting
- Control of invasive species
- Waste management
- Hedgerow enquiries
- Highway maintenance
- Public access to environmental data
- Reporting on Government indicators
- Monitoring and planning for climate change
- Managing flood risk

Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire
© Charlie Barnes



“Thanks for the speedy response. I do believe the Suffolk (data enquiry) service has to be one of the best for turnaround times. As a busy consultant with tight deadlines it is a real bonus.”

Ann Sherwood,
Regional Senior Ecologist, ADAS UK

“The data provided by CPERC is an extremely useful tool in supporting ecological advice provided to planning officers. It is of particular benefit when highlighting the potential presence of protected species during the early stages of the planning process which helps to avoid any unnecessary delays and protects wildlife”

James Fisher,
Peterborough City Council

Local Records Centres' services should be sought to ensure compliance with:

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- UK [Environmental Information Regulations](#) 2004 (EIR) and Freedom of Information Act
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- INSPIRE Regulations 2009 and the UK Location Strategy
- Local Government Transparency Programme
- National Planning Policy Framework
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

“Having quick and easy access to the species and habitat data held by NBIS has been invaluable for North Norfolk District Council. Not only does the agreement enable the Council to demonstrate how it is complying with the Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the NERC Act (2006), but the information supplied by NBIS has allowed the Planning Department to focus its resources on areas which have seen the greatest threat for biodiversity and areas which had the greatest potential gain for biodiversity.”

Kerys Witton, Landscape Officer,
North Norfolk District Council.



Beech wood, North Norfolk
© Norfolk County Council



Services provided by Local Records Centres

Example services (click on the picture for an example of each data service)

Photo credits: Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
© Ben Heather, Lord Derby apple variety © Anita
Parry, Abington Meadows Bioblitz 2009 – pond
dipping © Nathalie Hueber

Enhanced services provided by some Local Records Centres

In addition to the services listed on the previous page, some Local Records Centres also provide the following enhanced services:

- Public Wildlife Enquiry Service
- Management of Local Wildlife Sites dataset
- Local Wildlife Site surveys and monitoring
- Local Geological Sites surveys and monitoring
- Habitat opportunity mapping
- Green infrastructure mapping
- Species and habitat surveys
- Habitat suitability mapping and species modelling
- Data interpretation to enhance public understanding
- Monitoring and reporting on biodiversity indicators
- Monitoring and reporting on LBAP outcomes

Please contact your Local Records Centre for further details of the enhanced services they provide.



▲ Mycena mushrooms in Beech woodland at Ashridge Commons & Woods SSSI, near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire © Anita Parry



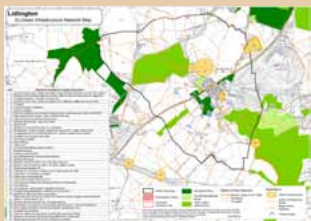
◀ Willows by the Bourn Brook, Barton, Cambridgeshire © Vince Lea

Case studies

Enhancing your environment

Green Infrastructure Planning in Bedfordshire

The BRMC has played a significant role in green infrastructure (GI) planning across Bedfordshire...



Essex River Corridor data digitisation for the Water Framework Directive

Biological Records In Essex was recently requested to undertake data digitisation work for the Essex...



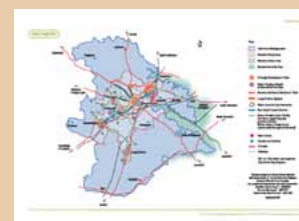
Northamptonshire Annual Bioblitz

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre ran its first Bioblitz on the 10th and 11th July 2009 at Abington Meadows...



Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure (GI) Development Plan

The Greater Norwich area has been identified as a growth point with over 20000 new homes planned...



Non-native species mapping in Lincolnshire

Non-native invasive species cost the British economy £1.7 billion every year. One of the most effective...



Hertfordshire Orchard Surveys

Traditional Orchards are recognised as a Priority Habitat with their own Biodiversity Action Plan. In 1998, Hertfordshire Biological...



Suffolk Biological Records Centre – Wet woodland mapping (a GIS based desk exercise)

Suffolk Biological Records Centre have trialled, using GIS...



Recording wildlife near you – Cambridgeshire community outreach project

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Environmental Record...



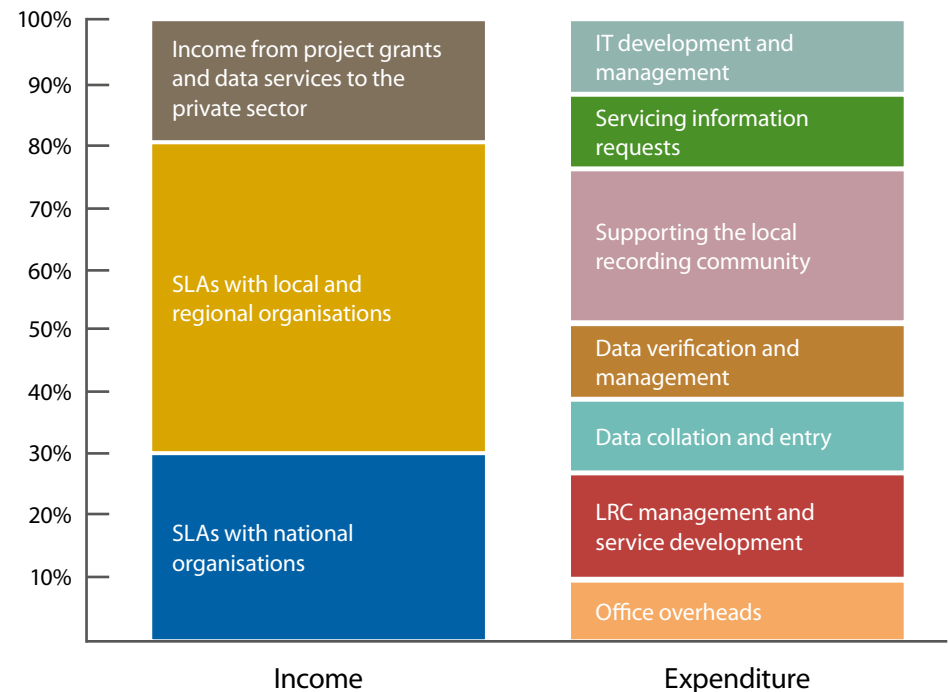
The value and cost of Local Records Centres

Much of the data managed by Local Records Centres is gathered by highly dedicated expert volunteer recorders. Without Local Records Centres, this valuable data resource would not be made available to local and national users promptly and in a suitable format.

Local Records Centres are run on a not-for-profit basis. They rely on income from data provision services to fund their operating costs, which consist primarily of staff salaries.

Because they help provide the evidence base for national conservation and monitoring initiatives, Local Records Centres receive some income from service level agreements (SLAs) with UK government agencies. Data searches for private sector organisations and funding from charitable trusts for education and outreach projects provide an additional but variable source of income.

However, these sources only cover a fraction of Local Records Centres' operational costs. It is therefore crucial that local users contribute to maintaining the services provided by Local Records Centres. The most efficient and sustainable way of doing this is through an SLA.



▲The balance between income and expenditure of a Local Records Centre, based on the average operating costs of the 8 East of England LRCs

Local Records Centres are the most cost-effective way for Local Authorities and public bodies to access the data they need and to mobilise their own data in order to comply with environmental legislation and policies. All the LRCs in the East of England rely on the provision of species data gathered by hundreds of volunteer recorders during the course of a year. This information has to be verified before the LRCs can accept the information as an accurate record; a process carried out by local experts who volunteer their time as County Recorders. This

cost-effective mechanism for mobilising high quality volunteer data can only be maintained if it is supported by all the users who rely on it.

Volunteers also work on all manner of LRC tasks, including website development, design of promotional materials, development of mobile phone applications, events planning and organisation, database development, newsletter design and production, design of species ID sheets, office administration and of course data entry!



▲ Hedgerow surveying Danbury Essex © Lorna Shaw

◀ Moth trapping at Bradlaugh Fields Bioblitz, Northamptonshire © Nathalie Hueber

Economic and social benefits of investing in Local Records Centres

Local Records Centres provide vital support to public authorities and other organisations in the public or private sector which carry out public administration functions or deliver services related to the environment. However, a far wider range of people and organisations benefit from the services provided by their local records centre.

Investment in Local Records Centres by local data users is necessary to ensure the continued availability of high quality environmental information to underpin decision making and limit risk, but there are additional benefits for the local economy.

- Reliable information on the distribution of priority species and habitats in the East of England helps attract funding to the region to support conservation initiatives.
- Investment in Local Records Centres puts environmental information in the public realm in ways that provide real benefits to citizens, businesses and the local environment.
- Local Records Centres' ability to engage volunteers adds value to any investment and improves the skills base and employability of local people.

“Thank you so much for the brilliant information. Now we can really plant a mixed hedge that’s appropriate to the area and will also attract more wildlife to the school. We have already created a sensory garden that includes two apple trees but thanks for the contact (Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative), we might see if we can fit in a few more.”

A Parent Governor at Wood End School in Harpenden following an enquiry regarding appropriate hedgerow species for the area.

“Volunteering at CPERC was a fantastic experience. The friendly team gave me the opportunity to learn about how environmental data is processed and used on a local and regional scale and I felt I was able to make a positive contribution to the data entry work of the team. It was also great to work through a training package on MapInfo, and see how GIS is used in presenting data. I feel that volunteering with CPERC was a really valuable experience; I learnt a great deal and would highly recommend it to others.”

Joscelyne Ashpole, volunteer at Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre



Sharing data with your Local Records Centre

There is a clear need to make information as widely available as possible:

“across the country there is still too little sharing of best practice and we are wasting time and money trying to find the information we need.”

Baroness Andrews,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Communities and Local Government,
November 2008.

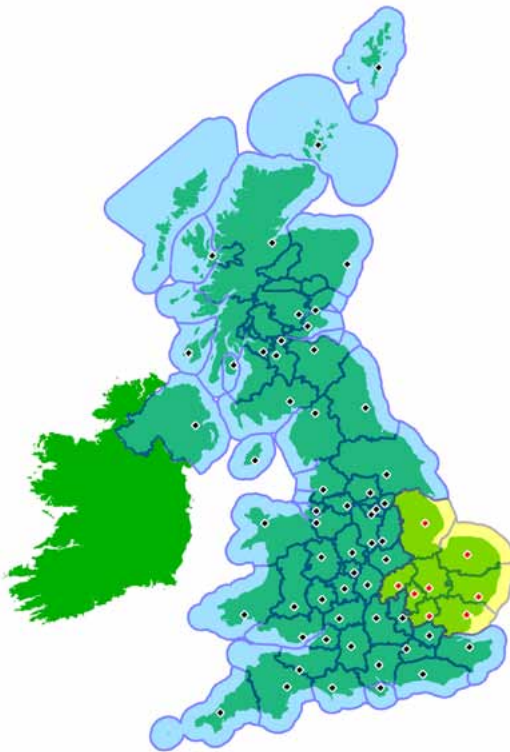
The UK Location Strategy seeks to facilitate access to and re-use of all public sector location information including data on biodiversity. Local Authorities, public bodies and their contractors regularly generate biodiversity data through their land management and planning functions. Local Records Centres can help public sector organisations to share these data in accordance with the UK Location Strategy by providing standardised, secure data storage and access facilities at a local level and, through the NBN Gateway, at a national level.

Monitoring change within our natural environment is an important part of our responsibility. Data provided by Local Authorities and public bodies will be combined with datasets from a wide range of sources to provide a complete and coherent picture of the local environment – so you always get more out than you put in! By using LRCs to store and manage their biodiversity data, Local Authorities and public bodies benefit from a greater degree of transparency.

Local Records Centres take data security very seriously; they all have systems in place to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act and can adapt data sharing and confidentiality agreements tailored to specific needs. LRCs are experienced in the collation and management of data on ecologically sensitive and threatened species, and follow strict procedures to ensure that data sharing does not result in environmental harm.

Biodiversity information can be sent in to LRCs in a variety of ways to suit your needs. Contact your Local Record Centre for information on how they can help you manage and share your data.

Local expertise in a national network



The [National Biodiversity Network](#) (NBN) is a partnership of organisations who collect and use biodiversity data and are committed to making this information widely available for conservation, research and education purposes. Local Records Centres play a vital role in this national partnership by supporting and guiding local biological recording effort, managing and quality controlling species and habitat records and ensuring that biodiversity data are used to inform local decision making.

The [NBN Gateway](#) is a tool developed by the NBN for communicating and sharing biodiversity data via the internet. Local Records Centres make local data available to everyone via the NBN Gateway, enabling public bodies to process requests for information under the Environmental Information Regulations and to achieve the objectives of the UK Location Strategy and Local Government Transparency Programme.

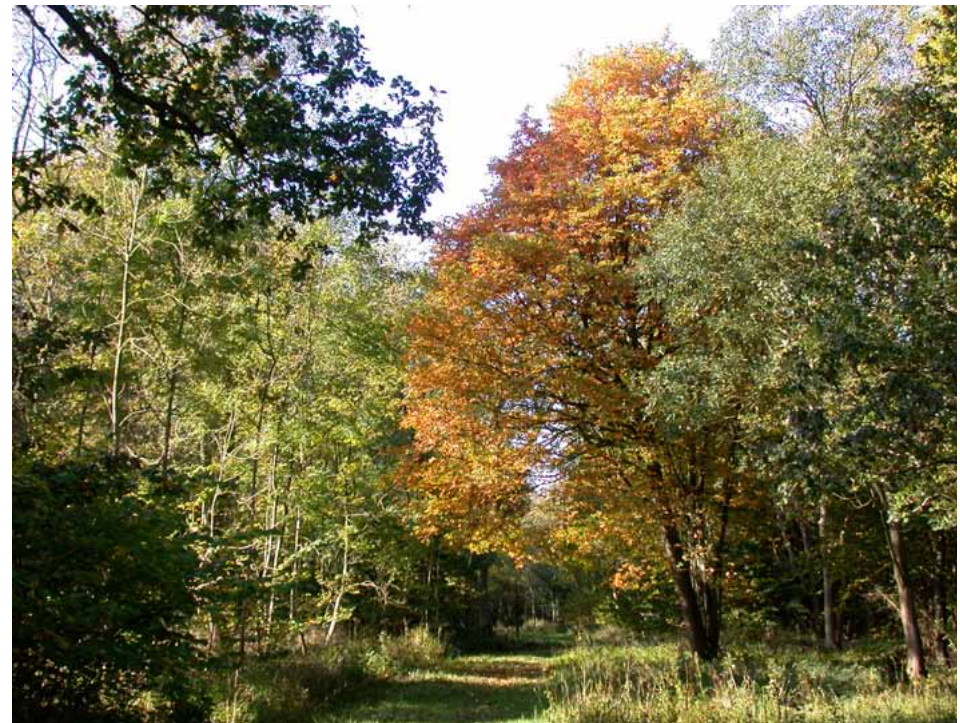
The NBN Gateway is not a substitute for the data services provided by Local Records Centres. Local Records Centres represent **the local delivery of the NBN vision**, using NBN web services to make data from a wide range of providers available for local use at the touch of a button. The Local Records Centres in the East of England are developing tools to standardise and enhance data provision, working with the NBN to increase access to and use of biodiversity data.

Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre, Biological Records in Essex, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre, Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre, Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre, Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre and Suffolk Biological Records Centre are part of a UK-wide network of Local Records Centres. Some are members of ALERC, the [Association of Local Environmental Records Centres](#). ALERC represents the interests of Local Records Centres throughout the UK, sharing innovations and best practice and promoting standards in environmental data management and service provision.

In addition, national geodiversity databases are being developed by Natural England and GeoConservation UK.



◀ Roadside Verge, Hawstead © Ben Heather
▼ Gamlingay Wood, Cambridgeshire © Vince Lea



Legislation and Policy relevant to the services provided by Local Records Centres

Requirement	Description/Information Required
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Species listed here are subject to strict regulations. Member states are required to introduce a range of measures including the protection of species and habitats, to produce a report every six years on the implementation of the Directive. Comprises 189 habitats and 788 species to be protected by means of a network of Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000 Sites). An appropriate assessment is required for any large-scale development which is likely to affect these sites, which should comprise a review of biological data.
EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	
EU Environmental Assessment Directive (85/33/EEC as amended 97/11/EC)	Environmental impact assessments are required for most types of large-scale development prior to planning approval, which should include biological data. Most LRCs derive an income from time given to informing EIAs
EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)	Strategic environmental assessments are required to protect the environment and promote sustainable economic development. They predict, evaluate and mitigate the environmental impacts of strategic decision making. Biological data should be used to inform a robust baseline assessment

Requirement	Description/Information Required
EC Public Access to Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC) 2003	Freedom of access to information on the environment and biodiversity data 'Public authorities are required to make all reasonable efforts to organise the environmental information which is relevant to their function and which is held by or for them, with a view to its active and systematic dissemination to the public, by means of ICT'
UK Environmental Information Regulations, 2004	
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity..... Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat' (Section 40) Contribute towards 'publishing a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in the Secretary of State's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity' (Section 41)
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Gives legal protection to the most important conservation sites in the country, designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and to a number of the UK's threatened species. Biological data required at a local level to inform designation of these sites.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Duty of statutory public bodies to take reasonable steps to further conserve and enhance SSSIs. Includes monitoring and new allocations. To positively manage SSSIs so that they are in favourable condition.
National Planning Policy Framework	Published in March 2012 setting out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Chapter 11 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment', paragraph 117: To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should: - Identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation; - Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan; - Aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005	Published in August 2005, by the ODPM and Defra, this circular provided an administrative guide to accompany Planning Policy Statement 9. Although PPS9 has now been superseded by the NPPF, Circular 06/05 has not been revoked and its guidance currently remains in place. This document highlights application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation in England, including obligations relating to International and National Sites, conservation of priority habitats and species outside designated sites and in UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans. The Defra guidance on Local Sites is also mentioned, as well as the implications relating to Protected species under international and national law. Its practical implementation will rely, sometimes heavily, on information held within LRCs.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004	Local Development Frameworks require a robust evidence base. Targets are linked to the Regional Spatial Strategy.
Hedgerow Regulations 1997	These regulations came into force in 1997 and aim to protect important hedgerows by controlling their removal through a system of notification to local planning authorities. In determining the relevant hedgerows, part two of schedule 1 (criteria) specifically refers to information that could be held by a local records centre.
INSPIRE Regulations 2009	The INSPIRE Directive aims to make it easier to access and combine environmental spatial datasets held by public authorities, to support environmental policy and practice at a national and international level. This Directive became UK law under the INSPIRE Regulations 2009, setting standards for public authorities on metadata creation and the provision of publicly accessible data services.
Community Strategies, Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government White Paper 15, 2006	The 2006 White Paper sets out further reforms to reshape community strategies as sustainable community strategies in line with the recommendations of the Egan Review. It recognises that greater links exist between community and environmental health. Identifies need for robust data/evidence base.
Audit Commissions Quality of Life Indicators	30 a) The percentage area of land designated as SSSIs in the local authority area in favourable condition; and b) the area of land designated as a local nature reserve per 1000 population
The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006	These regulations protect uncultivated land and semi-natural areas from being damaged by agricultural work, and guard against possible negative environmental effects from the restructuring of rural land. Often LRCs hold information on land which can inform and enable appropriate decisions to be made.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Green Infrastructure Agenda	The 2006 Northern Way report proposed a framework for City Regions to integrate Green Infrastructure into their forward strategic planning. Natural England is seeking to identifying strategic corridors relating to both Green Infrastructure and biodiversity
UK Location Strategy	UK Location is a pan-government initiative to improve the sharing and re-use of public sector geographic information, maximising its value to UK citizens and communities, government, commerce and industry. UK Location is the basis for delivering the UK's obligations under the INSPIRE Regulations 2009.
Local Government Transparency Programme	An objective of the Local Government Transparency programme is to: develop a sector-led approach to data transparency which puts local authority data into the public realm in ways that provide real benefits to citizens, business, councils and the wider data community.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	This strategy comes after the publication of the Natural Environment white paper, in 2011, by Prof Sir John Lawton. It describes how important conservation charities are in achieving the Government's biodiversity aims, and commits support to biodiversity recording in the voluntary sector.
Environmental Stewardship and Farm Environmental Plans	Environmental Stewardship is the term given to schemes for farmers and other land managers, subsidised by public money, that enhance the natural environment. There are several levels of these schemes and LRC data can be useful in preparing applications for all of them. For Higher Level Stewardship, a Farm Environment Plan is required. This is a detailed assessment of the wildlife value of a farm and could be enhanced by incorporating LRC data.

“There was an almost universal call to establish a meaningful dataset gathered locally but collated in one place, providing a baseline to measure and monitor against. Local Record Centres, which harness local volunteers and expertise, were frequently cited as best practice in data collection.”

Summary of responses to the Natural Environment
White Paper Discussion Document, December 2010

▼ Common seal (*Phoca vitulina*), © Graeme Cresswell



▼ Liquorice Piercer (*Grapholita pallifrontana*), UK BAP
priority species recently re-found in Bedfordshire
© Keith Balmer



Services provided by Local Records Centres

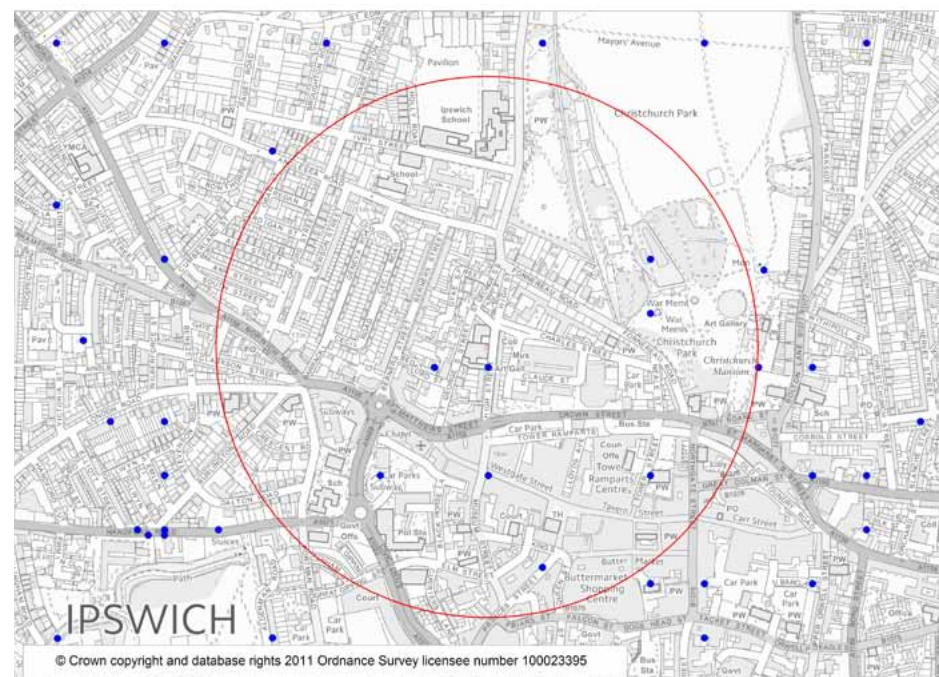
List of all recorded BAP priority and legally protected species in a defined area

UK Protected Species

'UK Protected species' are those taxa specifically identified by UK legislation including: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The latter regulations enact the European Union's (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in the UK and supersede The Conservation Regulations 1994. In our list of protected species, you may see designations that refer to schedules in the 1994 regulations, but these remain unchanged under the 2010 regulations.

Some protected species may not be legally disturbed unless you are in possession of an appropriate license. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not a license is required, you should contact Natural England.

The following tables detail the protected species that were recorded in the defined search area:



Defined search area

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Records	Dates	Designations
Insect – beetle (Coleoptera)	Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	5	1998 - 2008	Sect.41, Sect.42, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Bird	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	1	2008	Sect.41, Sect.42
	Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	1	2008	Sect.41, WCA1i
	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	1	2008	Sect.41, Sect.42
	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	1	2010	Sect.41, Sect.42
Terrestrial mammal	Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	1	2000	HabRegs2, Sect.41, Sect.42, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	1	2003	HabRegs2, Sect.42, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	1	2003	HabRegs2, Sect.41, Sect.42, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Insect – butterfly	Papilio machaon	Swallowtail	2	1998	RLGB.Lr(NT), WCA5/9.1k/l, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a, WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.4c, WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Lasiommata megera	Wall	2	2002-2003	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, Sect.42
	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	1	1995	RLGB.Lr(NT), Sect.41, Sect.42
Insect – moth	Dot Moth	Melanchra persicariae	1	2002	Sect.41, Sect.42

	Designation name	Designation description
WCA5/9.5a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5a)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being sold, offered for sale or being held or transported for sale either live or dead, whole or part.
WCA5/9.5b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.5b)	Section 9.5 Animals which are protected from being published or advertised as being for sale.
WCA1i	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 1 Part 1)	Birds which are protected by special penalties at all times.
Sect.41 & Sect.42	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - Species of Principal Importance in England (section 41) and Wales (section 42)	Species “of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity” and therefore need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conserving biodiversity.
HabsRegs2	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (Schedule 2)	Schedule 2: European protected species of animals.
WCA5/9.1k/l	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring))	Section 9.1. Animals which are protected from intentional killing or injuring.
WCA5/9.1t	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking))	Section 9.1 Animals which are protected from taking.
WCA5/9.2	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.2)	Section 9.2 Animals which are protected from being possessed or controlled (live or dead).
WCA5/9.4a	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4a)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional damage or destruction to any structure or place used for shelter or protection.
WCA5/9.4b	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5 Section 9.4b)	Section 9.4 Animals which are protected from intentional disturbance while occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection.
RLGB.Lr(NT)	Red List Great Britain (post 1994, 2001 IUCN guidelines)	Lower risk Near Threatened - close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
WCA5/9.4c	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5)	Animals which are protected from their access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection being obstructed.

BAP Species

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats, but LBAPs also embrace the idea of 'local distinctiveness' and species which are not UK BAP priorities can be catered for by LBAPs if they are of particular local significance.

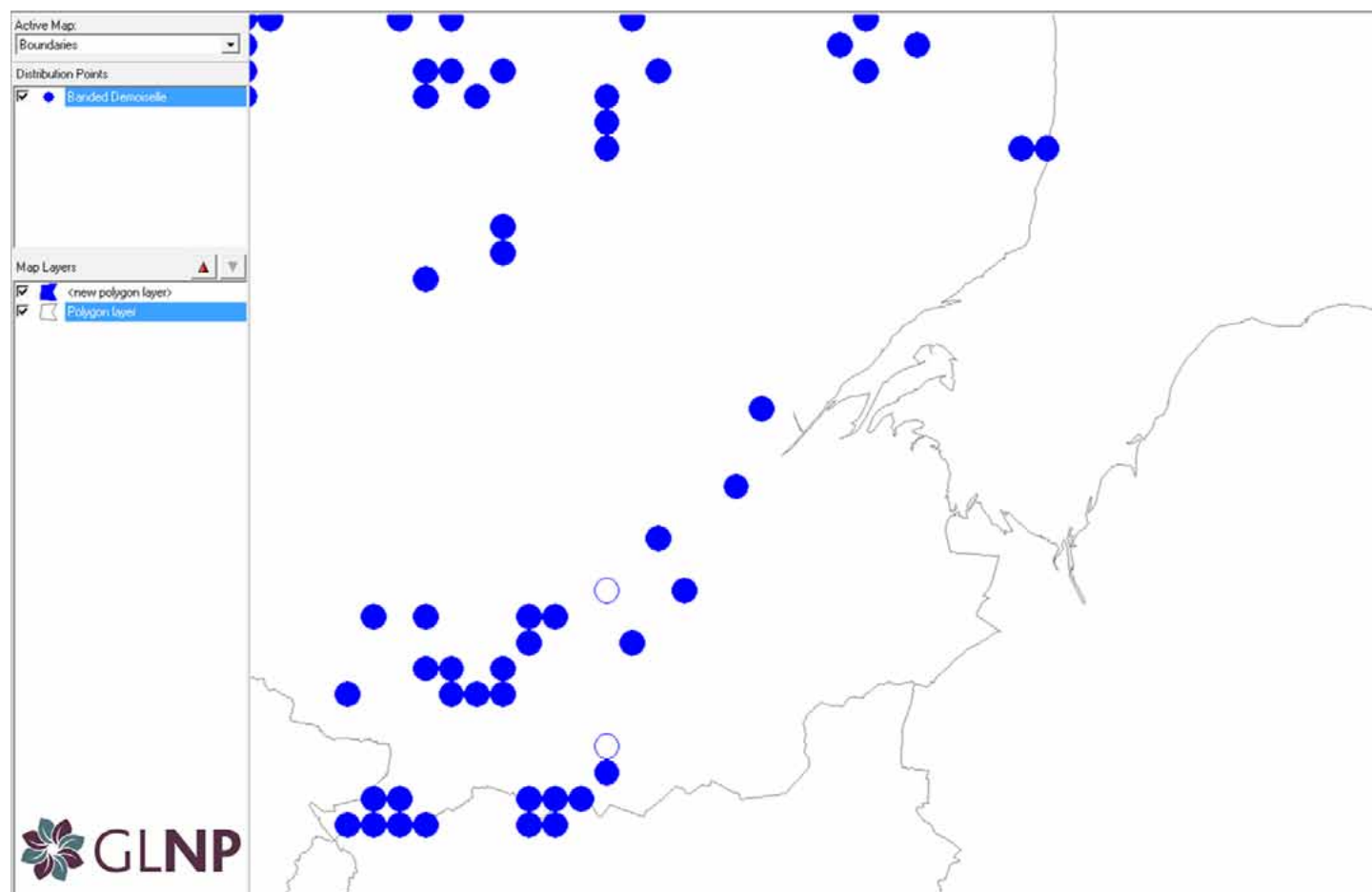
The following tables detail the UK BAP and LBAP priority species that were recorded in the defined search area (map shown on page 28):

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Records	Dates	Designations
Bird	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	2010	UK BAP
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	1	2008	UK BAP
	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	2010	UK BAP
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2	2008 - 2010	LBAP (Suffolk)
Insect - moth	Dot Moth	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	1	2002	UK BAP

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Records	Dates	Designations
Insect - butterfly	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	2	1995 - 2000	UK BAP
	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	1	1995	UK BAP
	Wall	Lasiommata megera	2	2002 - 2003	UK BAP
Insect – beetle (Coleoptera)	Stag Beetle	Lucanus cervus	5	1998 - 2008	UK BAP
Terrestrial mammal	Noctule Bat	Nyctalus noctula	1	2003	UK BAP
	Brown Long-eared Bat	Plecotus auritus	1	2000	UK BAP

Records distribution map of any recorded species in a defined area

Map showing the distribution of
Banded Demoiselle Damselfly
(*Calopteryx splendens*) recorded
in an area of South Lincolnshire.

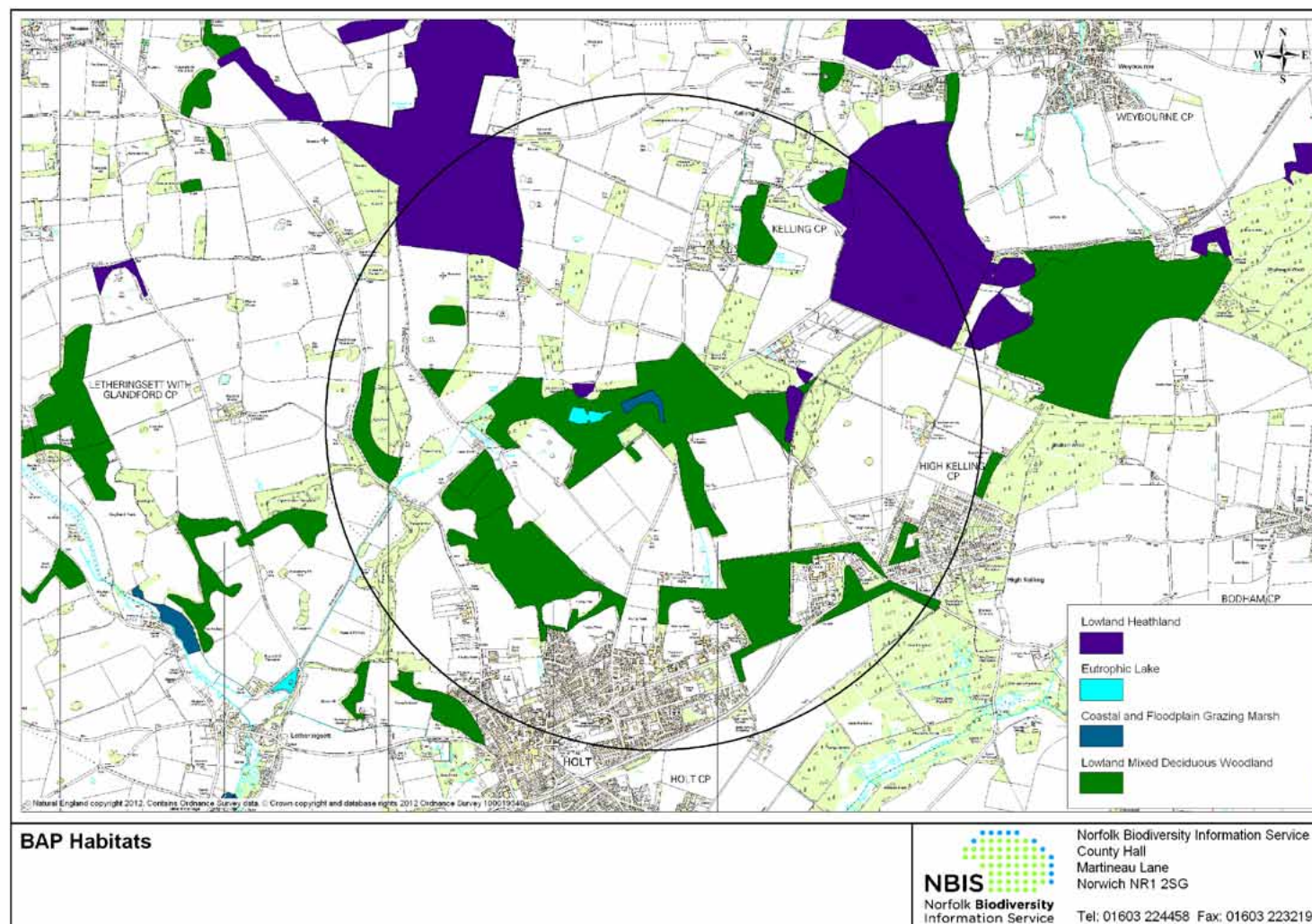


List of all recorded BAP priority habitats in a defined area

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. The following table details the UK BAP priority habitats that were recorded in the defined search area shown on the next page. Using a GIS, two operations are carried out on each intersecting BAP habitat – ‘intersects’ & ‘contains’, enabling you to interpret the amount of habitat that actually occurs within the search area.

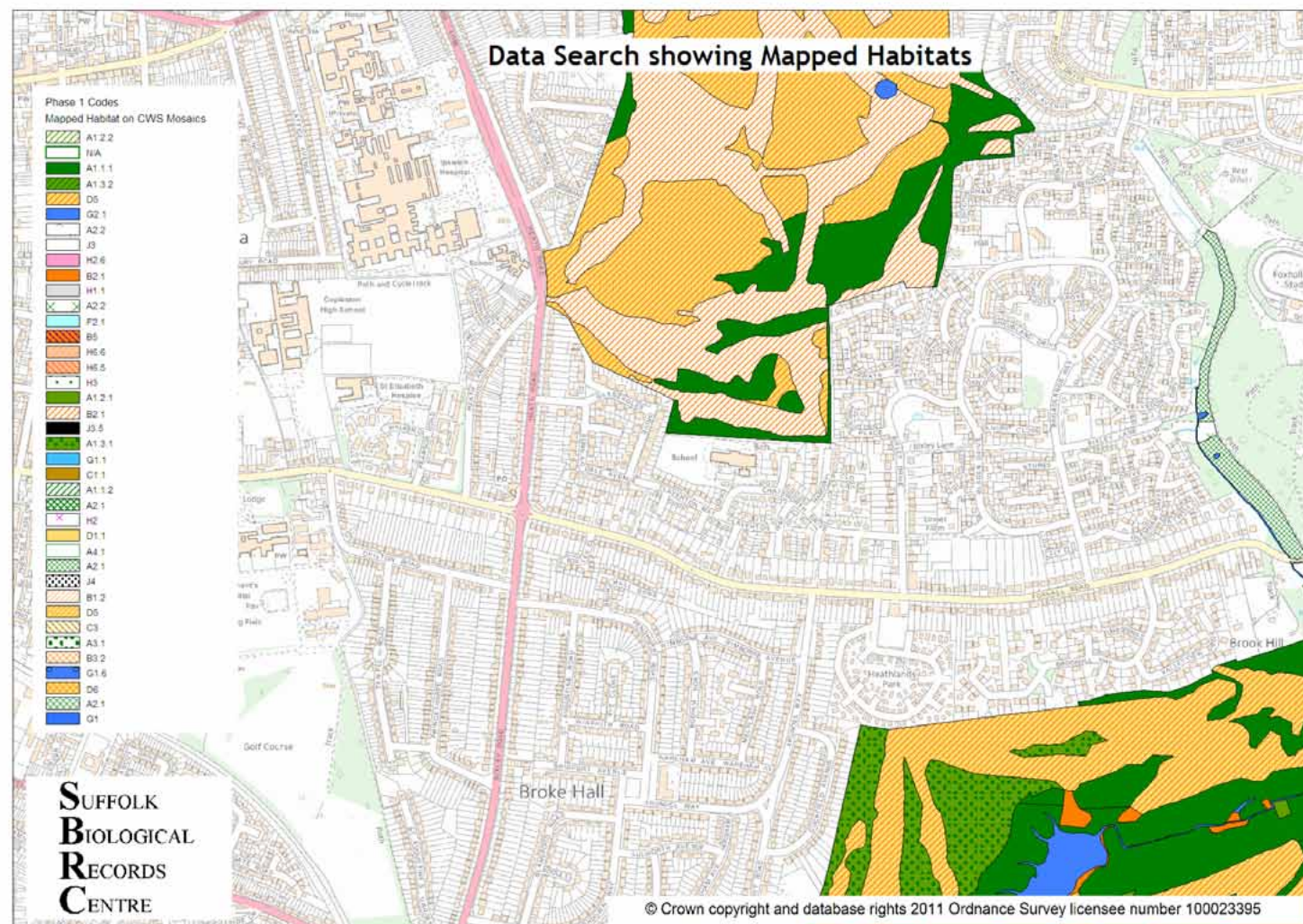
UK BAP Priority Habitat	Intersects Search Area	Contained Within Search Area	Units
Lowland Heathland	210.63	96.08	Hectares
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	170.61	170.11	Hectares
Eutrophic Lake	1.62	1.62	Hectares
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	1.83	1.83	Hectares

Map showing UK BAP priority habitats recorded for an area in Norfolk and the outline of a circular search area. Using a GIS the area of each habitat within the search area can be calculated.

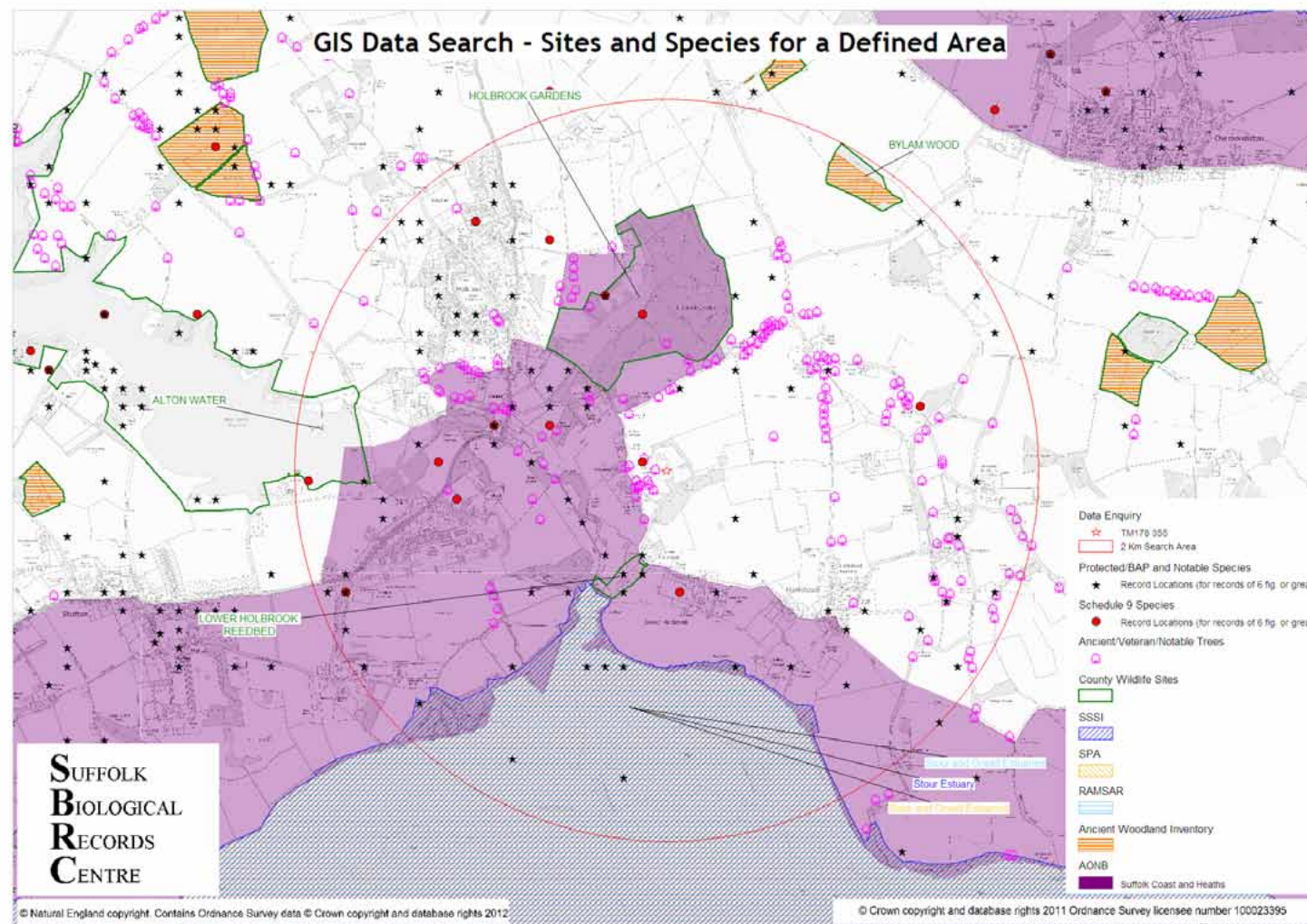


GIS data search of a defined area showing recorded habitats

Map showing the habitats recorded for a search area in Suffolk. The coverage of habitat mapped will vary across an area and will depend on available information.



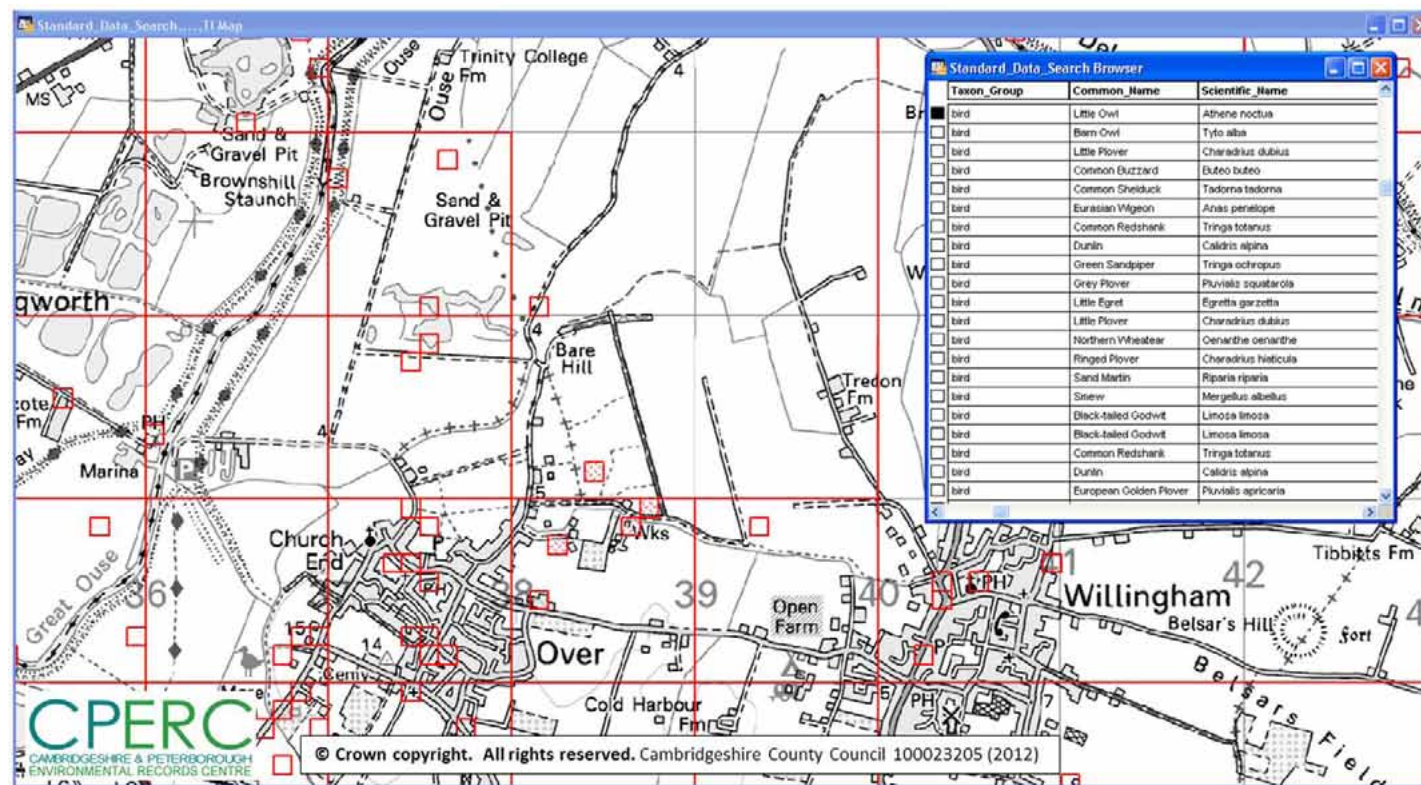
GIS data search of statutory and non-statutory sites and recorded BAP/legally protected species in a defined area



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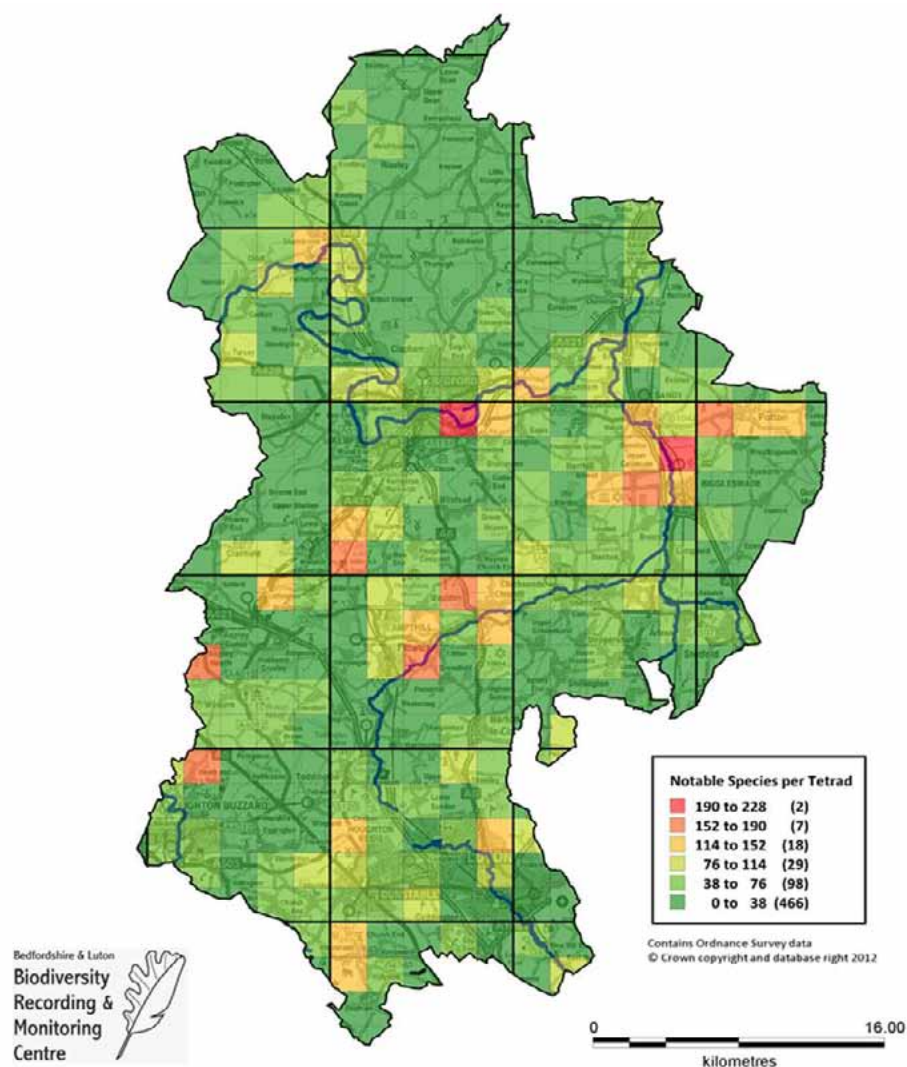
Regularly updated alert layers of BAP priority and protected species and habitats within an administrative boundary

The map shows BAP or Protected species records represented as squares outlined in red. The size of the square reflects the accuracy at which the location of the species was recorded. The table shows part of the information captured for each record which will also include what was seen, where and when and the designation of the species.



Species richness maps to highlight biodiversity hotspots

Map showing the number of notable species recorded within each tetrad (2km square) across Bedfordshire. The red and orange areas denote those squares where the highest number of notable species have been recorded – the biodiversity hotspots.



Training and guidance to promote high quality species and habitat recording

To see an example of a resource produced by a Local Records Centre to promote high quality recording, follow this link to Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service wildlife surveys page

www.nbis.org.uk/nbis-wildlife-surveys

This is one of the survey leaflets:

NBIS carder bee, hoverfly and hornet survey

Two of the insects in our NBIS survey, the European hornet, *Vespa crabro* and the wool carder bee, *Anthidium manicatum*, belong to the hymenoptera, a large insect order which also includes wasps and ants. Our third survey species, the hoverfly *Leucozona lucorum*, is a member of the diptera (flies).

They all have a fascinating biology and are probably quite widespread in Norfolk although we don't know for sure, as we don't have many records on the NBIS database.

We do hope that you'll take time to read through this leaflet which gives more background about these species and let us know if you spot any of them. They all play an important role in the natural fabric of our countryside and your records will contribute to our overall knowledge of Norfolk's biodiversity so that we help safeguard and enhance it.

Did you know?

- The insects described in this leaflet are not naturally aggressive;
- They are beneficial to gardeners, assisting with pollination;
- There is a national society dedicated to studying and recording bees, wasps and ants (aculeate hymenoptera) in Britain and Ireland—www.bwars.com

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European hornet (*Vespa crabro*)

Description: A spectacular large yellow and brown social wasp up to 35mm in length (queens can be up to 50mm long). Although often viewed with trepidation, hornets are rarely aggressive and will sting only if provoked. Adult hornets feed on sugary foods such as nectar and fruits.

Where to look: Woodlands, parks and gardens from May to November. Unlike wasps, hornets fly after dark and are attracted to lights. You may see them on warm nights.

Wool carder bee (*Anthidium manicatum*)

Description: A striking black and yellow species easily recognised by the golden spots on either side of the abdomen with a wingspan of 20mm and body length of up to 13mm (females) and 17mm (males). Males patrol a territory of flowers (eg. woundworts, deadnettle, foxgloves and toadflax), darting at other insect intruders that stray close, even grappling them to the ground. Females are allowed access to the territory where they can feed on the flowers. Females "card" the down from hairy plants such as lamb's ears to use as a nest lining material.

Where to look: gardens, fields and meadows between May and September.

Leucozona lucorum

Description: A striking and distinctive hover-fly with a white band across the body and black wing patches and body length of 12 – 15mm. The scutellum (the triangular plate on the top of the insect, where the wings attach) is orangey brown (not black). Hover-flies have a swift, darting flight in addition to their remarkable hovering ability. The adults feed on nectar. If you can, please send us a picture of the *Leucozona lucorum* you spotted.

Where to look: Dappled sunshine in woodland rides and edges, gardens, roadside verges and hedgerows, often near plants of campion (*Silene dioica*) and stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) from May to August.

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Processing a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations

