



Local Records Centres

and <name of Local Authority/ Regional Organisation>
Working together for biodiversity in North West England

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Front cover images clockwise from left: Cutting silage near wind farm, Askham in Furness, Cumbria; Adult common frog (*Rana temporaria*) near Longridge, Lancashire; Limestone pavement near Yealand Redmayne, Lancashire; UK BAP and Red Data Book plant, yellow marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) near Knock Fell, Cumbria

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What is a Local Records Centre?



▲ Wildlife pond at Crewe Business Park, Cheshire, the first ecologically-based development of its kind.

▶ Sea holly at Duddon Estuary SSSI, North Walney National Nature Reserve, Cumbria



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.

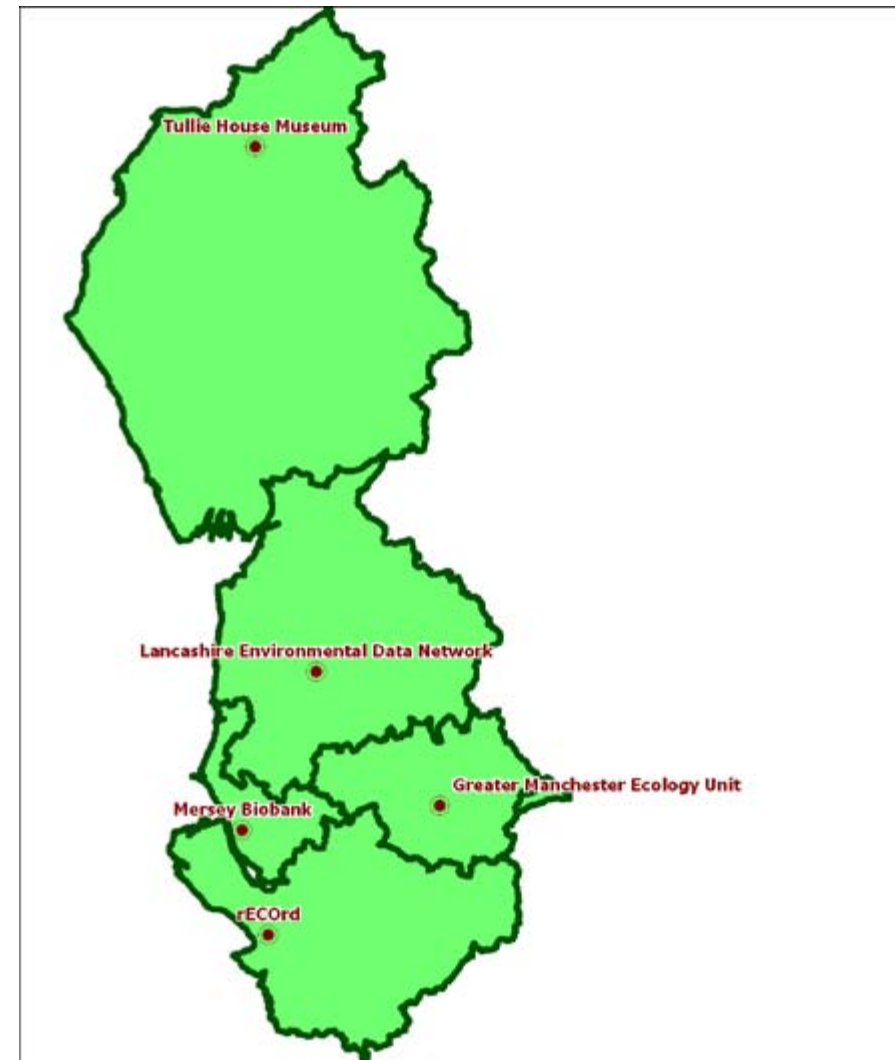
Introducing your Local Records Centres

There are five Local Records Centres in North West England.

Although they are hosted and run in slightly different ways, they have one common purpose: the collection, management and interpretation of wildlife data to support the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of local bio- and geodiversity.

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 and geological survey, species identification and data management, Local Records Centres deliver valuable services in a highly cost-effective way while helping to achieve Big Society objectives.



North West Local Records Centre profiles



Merseyside BioBank (MBB)

Merseyside BioBank (MBB) is the Local Records Centre (LRC) for North Merseyside. We collect and collate biological and environmental information and make it available to people interested in knowing more about their local environment. We promote the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan and wider participation in conservation through education, community involvement and by supporting the biological recording community of North.

Prior to 2006, there was no established LRC collating and serving digital information for our geographic area, although there were a large number of paper records held at Liverpool Museum. A start-up project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the North Merseyside local authorities ran between mid 2006 and March 2011 to establish MBB.

During the life of the start-up project, the emphasis was on establishing a functional LRC with strong links to the recording community and local

"Very interesting, informative and enjoyable session. The children were completely inspired...to such an extent that they continued bird watching and recording at home!"

Melling Primary School Teacher
following a 'Bird Identification and Bird Watching' session
run by Merseyside BioBank's Education Officer.

education systems. On the LRC side, a great deal of work was done over the first few years to digitise and collate existing information on species and habitats into a central repository and establishing services to fulfil data requests.

In 2011 MBB entered a post-establishment phase: our community and education outreach functions have been scaled back, though we continue to leverage the links and resources already created, and now the emphasis is on the core LRC functions.

Merseyside BioBank
Estate Barn, Court Hey Park
Roby Road, Liverpool L16 3NA

Tel: 0151 737 4150 Fax: 0151 722 6098
Email: Info@MerseysideBioBank.org.uk

www.merseysidebiobank.org.uk



The Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre

The Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle keeps wildlife information for the county of Cumbria. Tullie House Museum has collected and disseminated records of wildlife in Cumbria since its inception in 1893. From the early 1990s the Museum has developed a computerised database of species and habitat records in Cumbria and has taken the central role in providing a local biodiversity data service for the county. This service was expanded to form Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC) in 2010, a not-for-profit organisation hosted by Tullie House Museum and advised by local stakeholders.

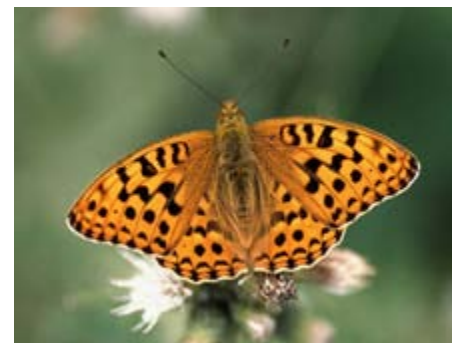
Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery
 Castle Street, Carlisle
 Cumbria CA3 8TP

Tel: 01228 618732 Fax: 01228 810249
 E-mail: nature@tulliehouse.co.uk

<http://www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk/biodiversity/index.html>

“We commission biological records searches from CBDC for various purposes but find the data supplied particularly useful during the scoping stage of proposed developments... In many instances this allows us to offer advice during the conception of a project which ultimately saves our clients time and money in the long term.”

Sam Griffin,
 Hesketh Ecology



◀ UK BAP Priority species high brown fritillary, *Argynnis adippe*, on Whitbarrow Scar, Cumbria.

RECORD

Cheshire Biological Records Centre

RECORD is the Local Biological Records Centre serving Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral - 'The Cheshire Region'. We were set up in 2000, as the pilot Local Record Centre in England by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). In the initial stages, RECORD was tasked with developing many policies and procedures for use by the burgeoning UK LRC community.

In 2006 we launched the RECORD online data input system (RODIS). Developed 'in-house', RODIS is a bespoke piece of software aimed at increasing data accuracy and flow whilst opening wildlife recording up to a wider audience. RECORD has very strong community links; working very closely with the recording community to provide wildlife identification training to suit anyone. The existence, and continuing success, of RECORD is owed to voluntary support provided by the many passionate individuals from recorders and expert amateur naturalists to trustees and office volunteers.

RECORD,
Oakfield House,
Chester Zoological Gardens,
Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH

Telephone and Fax: 01244
383749

E-mail: info@record-lrc.co.uk

www.record-lrc.co.uk



▲ Mature male banded demoiselle by pond at Crewe business park, Cheshire.

“I became involved in a new project called Count Me In!, which enables people of all ages and abilities to visit wonderful locations in Cheshire with local wildlife experts... I have learned a lot from this project and made new friends - thanks to the project staff whose dedication makes these events possible.”

Steve Ryder,
Count Me In! Participant



The Lancashire Environment Record Network (LERN)

The Lancashire Environment Record Network (LERN) stores and provides access to details of Lancashire's rich environment: its biodiversity, geodiversity and landscape.

LERN is managed by a core partnership comprising: Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, GeoLancashire and The Environment Agency. LERN delivers a service to most of the district and unitary authorities in Lancashire.

The information we hold is provided by our partner organizations and by hundreds of groups and voluntary wildlife recorders.

There are more than one million biological records on the LERN database and we have access to many more held by private individuals and groups. We have information on the important and protected biological and geodiversity sites that have been identified for their significance in Lancashire.

The information we provide is used by many individuals and organizations to help ensure that the actions and decisions they make, take adequate account of the environment.

We support, promote and encourage the responsible collection of records relating to our environment.

Lancashire Environment Record Network
C/O Research & Intelligence Team
Environment Directorate,
Lancashire County Council,
PO Box 100, County Hall,
Preston. PR1 0LD

Tel: 01772 533896

e-mail: lern@lancashire.gov.uk

www.lancspartners.org/lern/



The Greater Manchester Local Record Centre

The Greater Manchester Local Record Centre is a partnership between the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), local recorders, Bolton Museum, Natural England, Environment Agency and the local authorities with Greater Manchester.

The main roles of the Greater Manchester LRC are:

- To actively encourage wildlife recording across the 10 districts of Greater Manchester, by providing advice and support to individual recorders and recording groups.
- To build up a detailed knowledge of the distribution of Greater Manchester's wildlife and monitor changes, by ensuring that as much of the wildlife data as possible that is collected in Greater Manchester, is held in a central database and made available to people who need it.
- To provide the general public with information about their local wildlife and sites, as far as is possible, whilst protecting vulnerable species.

- To support the Greater Manchester Biodiversity Project through the supply of up to date information regarding local and national Biodiversity Action Plan Species.
- To act as a link between local recorders and the National Biodiversity Network, who make wildlife data available at a national level for research and conservation purposes.

Greater Manchester Local Record Centre
Council Offices
Wellington Road
Ashton-under-Lyne
Tameside, OL6 6DL

Tel: 0161 342 4409

www.gmwildlife.org.uk/

More than a database!

Between them, the five Local Records Centres in the North West hold over 4 million digitised species records, of which over 390,000 are of legally protected and BAP priority species. Their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) hold information on 3,952 designated sites and 24,370 hectares of BAP priority habitats.

Up-to-date information is vital to inform decision making and ensure compliance with environmental legislation; over 40% of the species records and 80% of habitat records in the North West Local Records Centres' databases were gathered within the last 10 years and around 175,000 new species 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. Experienced staff provide ecological interpretation of the data, taking account of local policies and priorities. By working with local and national experts, Local Records Centres validate and verify data to known standards, enabling them to be used with confidence.



▲ European otter, *Lutra lutra*, a UK
◀ Ash trees growing on limestone pavement in Lancashire

The need for ecological information

Information about the distribution of legally protected, rare or threatened species, habitats and geodiversity sites 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:

- Forward planning and development control
- Land management
- Bio- and Geodiversity Action Planning
- Local Wildlife and Geodiversity Sites monitoring and reporting
- Control of invasive species
- Waste management

Great crested newt ponds relocated at Lomax Brow, Greater Manchester



“The main way the data is important is in providing sufficient information to support planning and other decisions. In that context it is massively important ... I tend to use it to support my own professional judgment and knowledge of the local area.”

**Gail Quartly-Bishop,
Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service ecologist**

- Hedgerow enquiries
- Highway maintenance
- Public access to environmental data
- Reporting on Government indicators
- Monitoring and planning for climate change
- Managing flood risk

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
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (as incorporated into the new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Contractor loading cut pine logs onto a lorry, Whitbarrow SSSI and National Nature Reserve, Cumbria. ▶

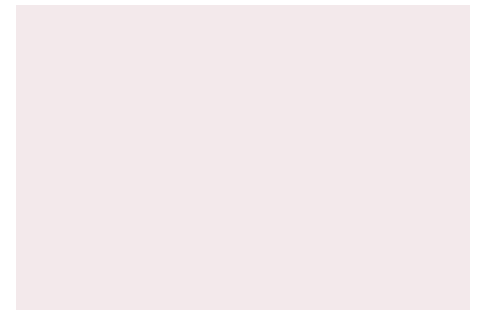
“The work of regional record centres like the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre is vital in pulling together all the different data strands that are out there and ensuring we get the most comprehensive picture of wildlife that we can.”

**Andy Lees,
North Pennines AONB Partnership**



Services provided by Local Records Centres

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



Enhanced services provided by some Local Records Centres

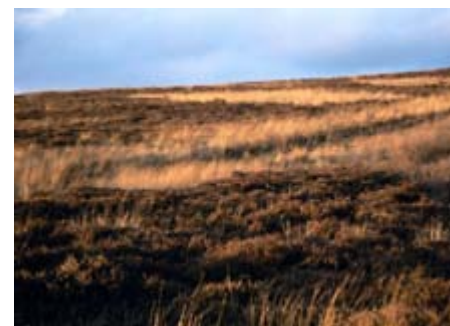
In addition to the standard services listed on the previous page, many Local Records Centres also provide the following enhanced services:

- Public Wildlife Enquiry Service
- Management of Local Wildlife Sites dataset
- Local Wildlife Site surveys and monitoring
- [Management of Local Geological Sites dataset](#)
- 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.



▲ Mallard duck taking flight on the Leeds/Manchester Canal



◀ Restored upland heath at High Moor, Cheshire

Case studies

Enhancing your environment

Mersey BioBank SITA Grayling Survey

Mersey BioBank secured funding from the SITA Trust for a project which provided training for local volunteers and generated valuable information for landowners and land managers on the Sefton Coast.



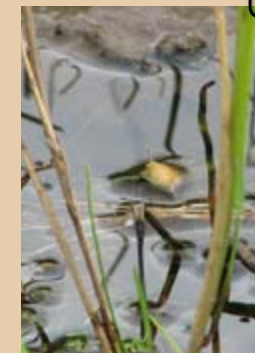
Moston Brook Corridor Regeneration Masterplan

Greater Manchester Local Records Centre provided data to underpin a masterplan for the regeneration of a valuable green corridor and to attract funding to deliver ecological enhancements in partnership with the local community.



Biodiversity Audit of Chester Zoological Gardens wider Estate

RECORD received grant funding to undertake a biodiversity Audit of the Chester Zoo estate with the overall aim of creating a 'baseline' data resource to inform future conservation management.



Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC), in partnership with Cumbria County Council, manages the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB).



Lancashire BioBlitz

Lancashire Environment Record Network was launched with a major public event that brought naturalists, conservation organisations and families together to record wildlife in a 'BioBlitz' of Cuerden Valley Park.



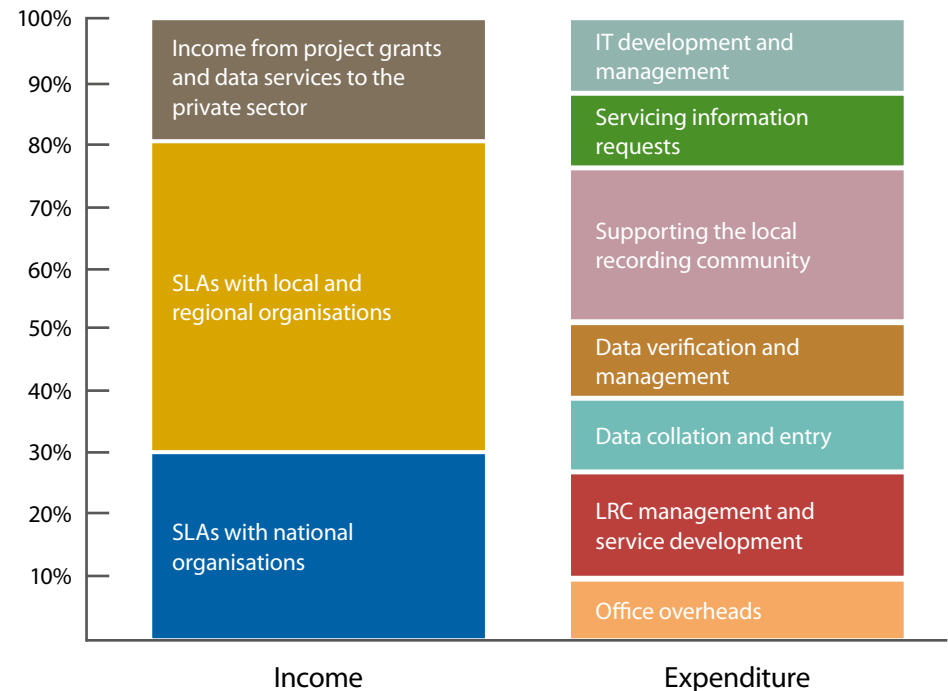
The value and cost of Local Records Centres

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 a SLA.



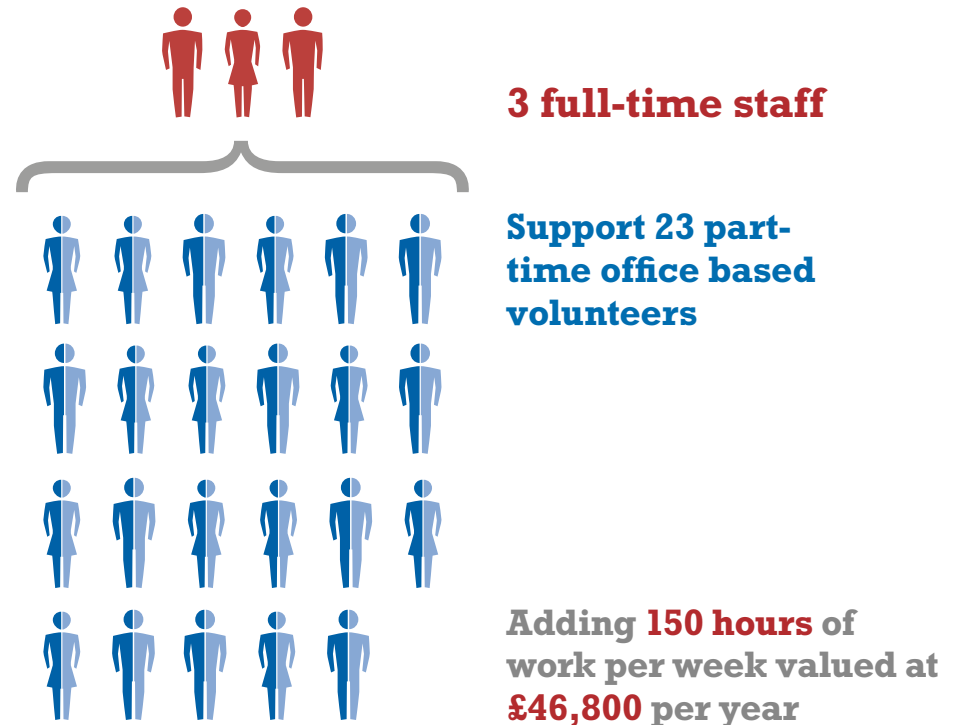
▲ The balance between income and expenditure of a Local Records Centre, based on the average operating costs of the five North West Local Records Centres

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. 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.



▲ birdwatchers in hide.

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!



▲ Illustration of the value added by volunteers to Local Records Centres, based on a typical week at RECORD, Cheshire

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 North West 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.

“I have learnt valuable I.T. skills and gained knowledge in a variety of interesting subjects from spiders and butterflies to learning the Latin names for a vast number of plant and animal species. It’s a great place to volunteer, long may it continue!”

**Chris Mackay,
volunteer at Merseyside BioBank**

“Thank you for helping make the Big Canal Tidy Up event in October a great success. It was much more exciting learning outside than inside. All of the animals you told us about seemed very interesting... Thank you again for all the help, it was a great day!”

**Joseph F, Northway Primary School,
Maghull, Liverpool**

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 to suit specific needs. LRCs are experienced in the collation and management of data on ecologically sensitive and threatened species and sites, and follow strict procedures to ensure that data sharing does not result in environmental harm.

Biodiversity and geodiversity 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 North West are developing tools to

standardise and enhance data provision, working within the NBN to increase access to and use of biodiversity data.

Mersey BioBank, Greater Manchester Local Records Centre, RECORD Cheshire, Lancashire Environment Record Network and Tullie House Museum are part of a UK-wide network of Local Records Centres. All five 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.



◀ Marram grass and sand dunes at Duddon Estuary SSSI, Sandscale Haws National Nature Reserve, Cumbria.



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 |
| EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) | 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. |
| EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | 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 |
| 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) |

| Requirement | Description/Information Required |
|---|---|
| PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: 2005 (as incorporated into the new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment) | <p>Key Principle (i) requires all development plan policies and planning decisions to be based upon up-to-date information on designated sites, habitats, species, restoration and enhancement opportunities and networks of natural habitats. Advises that LDFs should indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and make clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites</p> <p>Advises that LDFs should identify any areas for the restoration or creation of new habitats and recovery of priority species, which contribute to regional targets</p> <p>Changes in areas of priority habitats lost or gained should be included in Annual Monitoring Reports</p> <p>Importance of biological data for Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessments and all of the above</p> <p>Geodiversity is to be treated on the same footing as biodiversity</p> |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) | <p>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 and geological data required at a local level to inform designation of these sites</p> |

| 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 |
| Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 | Local Development Frameworks require a robust evidence base. Targets are linked to the Regional Spatial Strategy |
| 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 |
| 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 identify strategic corridors relating to both Green Infrastructure and biodiversity |

| Requirement | Description/Information Required |
|--|--|
| 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. |
| UK Location | 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. |
| Natural Environment White Paper 2011 | In 2011 Defra will publish a Natural Environment White Paper accompanied by a new biodiversity strategy, which will consider how data and evidence should be used both in targeting conservation effort and assessing its progress. Responses to the Discussion Document An invitation to shape the Nature of England highlighted the vital role of Local Records Centres in this strategy. |

“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

▼ Cattle grazing borrow-pit pool at Sefton Coast SSSI, Cabin Hill National Nature Reserve



▼ BAP priority species skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) feeding chick.



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:

| Group | Common name | Scientific name | Records | Dates | Designations |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|---|
| Amphibian | Common Frog | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | 1 | 1998 | WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b |
| | Smooth Newt | <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> | 1 | 1998 | WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b |
| Bird | Barn Owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> | 1 | 2000 | WCA1i |
| Flowering plant | Bluebell | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | 10 | 1986-2002 | WCA8 |
| Terrestrial mammal | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | 1 | 2006 | HabsRegs2, WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.1t, WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a, WCA5/9.4b |
| | Common Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | 2 | 2004-2007 | HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a |
| | Daubenton's Bat | <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> | 1 | 2007 | HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a |
| | Eurasian Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | 1 | 1965 | PBA |
| | Eurasian Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | 8 | 1967-2008 | WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a, WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WCA5/9.5b |
| | European Otter | <i>Lutra lutra</i> | 1 | 1869 | HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/I, WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a |
| | European Water Vole | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> | 7 | 1979-2008 | WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a ,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WCA5/9.5b,WCA5/9.4c |
| | Noctule Bat | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> | 3 | 1999-2007 | HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b |
| | Pipistrellus | <i>Pipistrellus</i> | 15 | 1985-1999 | HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/I,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2 ,WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a,WCA5/9.5b,WCA5/9.4c |

| | 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. |
| WCA8 | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 8) | Plants which are protected from: intentional picking, uprooting or destruction (Section 13 1a); selling, offering for sale, possessing or transporting for the purpose of sale (live or dead, part or derivative) (Section 13 2a); advertising (any of these) f |
| 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. |
| PBA | Protection of Badgers Act (1992) | The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 protects badgers from taking, injuring, killing, cruel treatment, selling, possessing, marking and having their setts interfered with, subject to exceptions. |
| 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

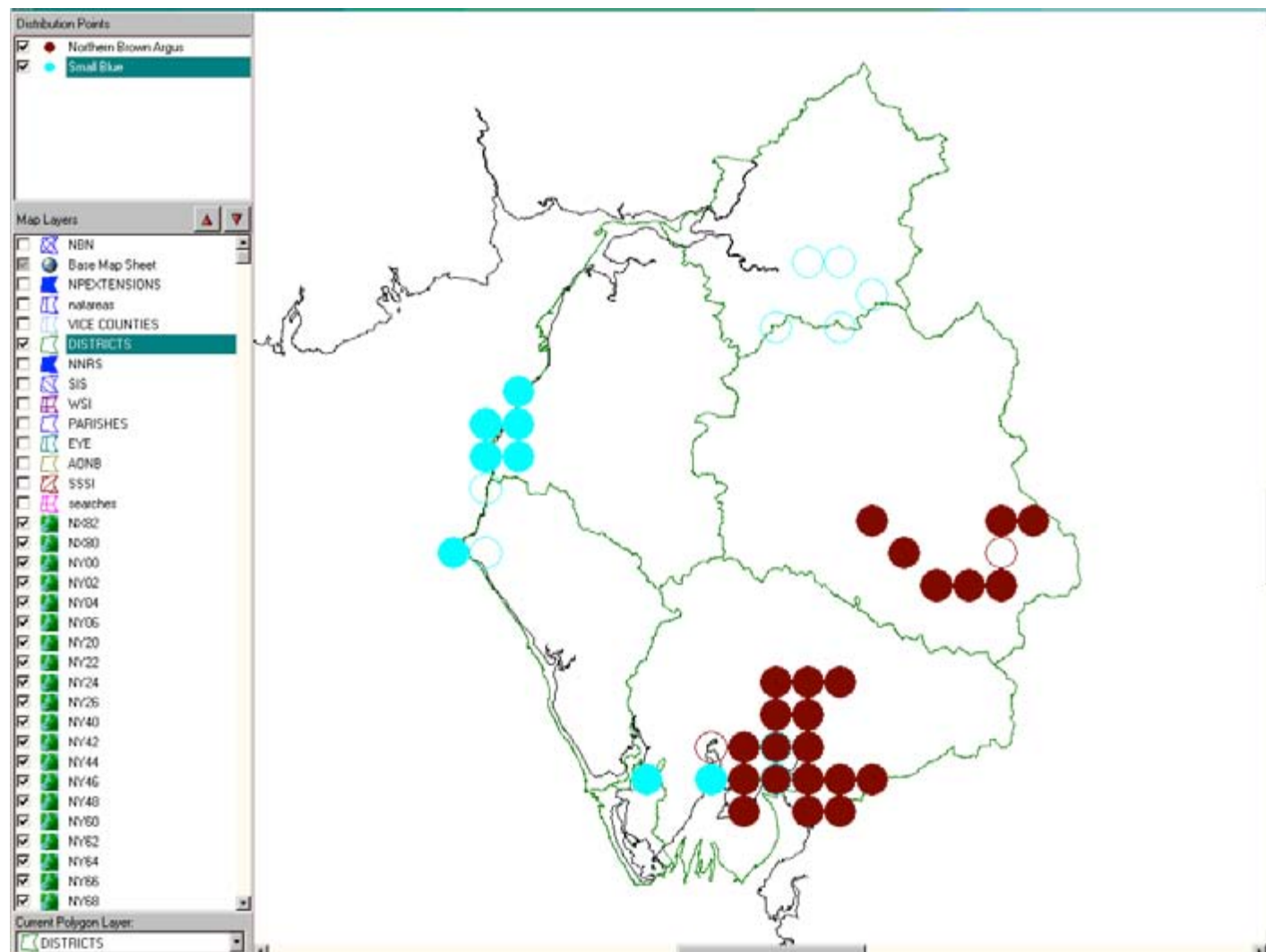
Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats, but LBAPs also embrace the idea of 'local distinctiveness' and species which are not UK BAP priorities can be catered for by LBAPs if they are of particular local significance.

The following tables detail the UK BAP and LBAP priority species that were recorded in the defined search area:

| Group | Common name | Scientific name | Records | Dates | Designations |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| Bird | Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | 4 | 1997-1998 | LBAP |
| | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | 4 | 1997-1998 | LBAP |
| | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | 3 | 1997-2002 | LBAP |
| | Grey Partridge | <i>Perdix perdix</i> | 6 | 1997-2000 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | 3 | 1997-1998 | LBAP |
| | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | 13 | 1997-2001 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | Northern Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | 4 | 1997-2002 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | Sky Lark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | 5 | 1997-1999 | LBAP |
| | Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | 4 | 1997-1998 | LBAP |
| Flowering plant | Bluebell | <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | 10 | 1986-2002 | LBAP |

| Group | Common name | Scientific name | Records | Dates | Designations |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| Insect - dragonfly (Odonata) | Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ischnura elegans</i> | 5 | 1999-2007 | LBAP |
| | Common Blue Damselfly | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i> | 10 | 1999-2002 | LBAP |
| | Common Darter | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> | 1 | 2003 | LBAP |
| | Southern Hawker | <i>Aeshna cyanea</i> | 4 | 1999-2003 | LBAP |
| Terrestrial mammal | Brown Hare | <i>Lepus europaeus</i> | 2 | 1998 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | 1 | 2006 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | Common Pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | 2 | 2004-2007 | LBAP |
| | Daubenton's Bat | <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> | 1 | 2007 | LBAP |
| | Eurasian Red Squirrel | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | 8 | 1967-2008 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | European Water Vole | <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> | 7 | 1979-2008 | LBAP and UK BAP |
| | Noctule Bat | <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> | 3 | 1999-2007 | LBAP and UK BAP |

Records distribution map of any recorded species in a defined area

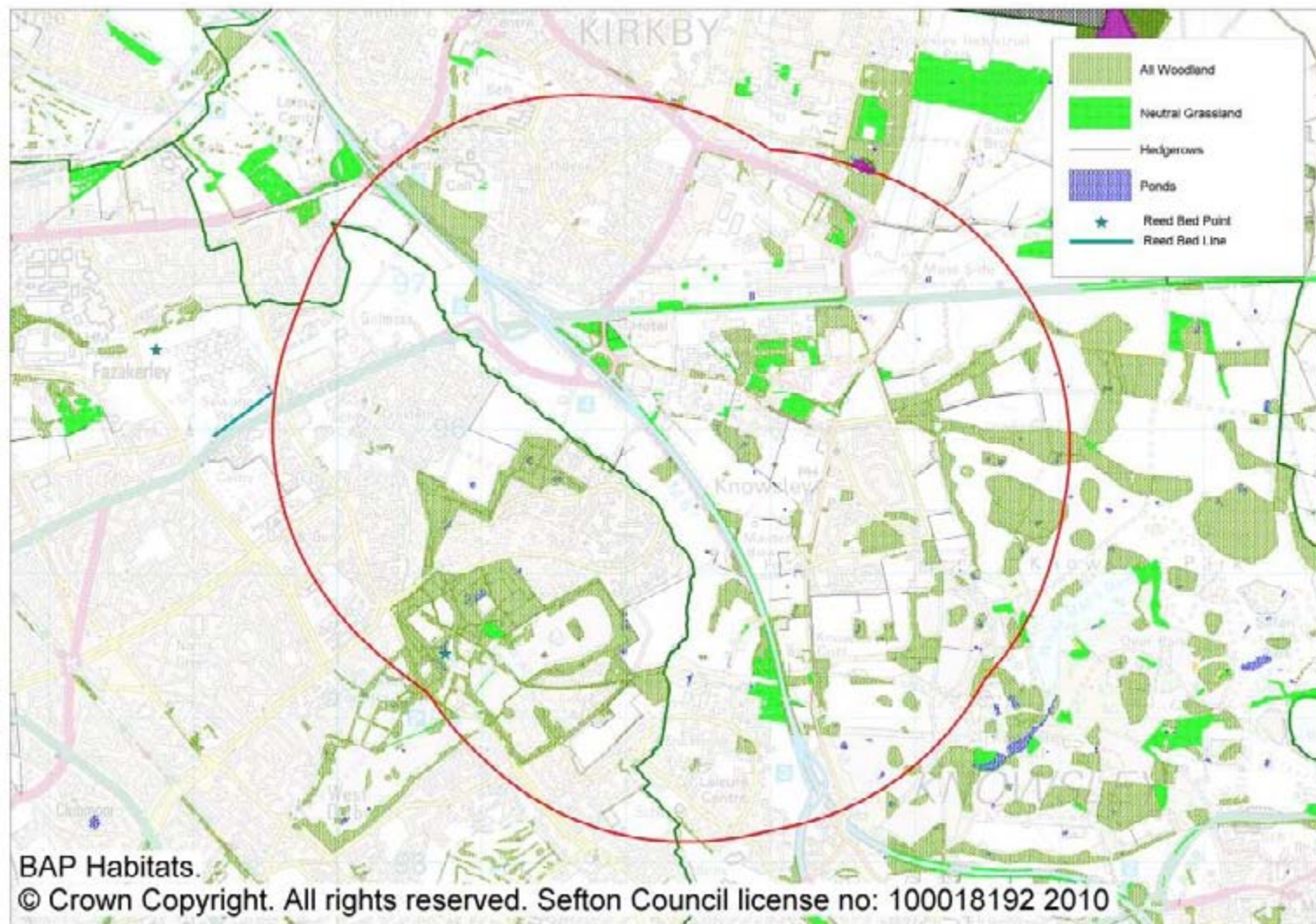


List of all recorded BAP priority habitats in a defined area

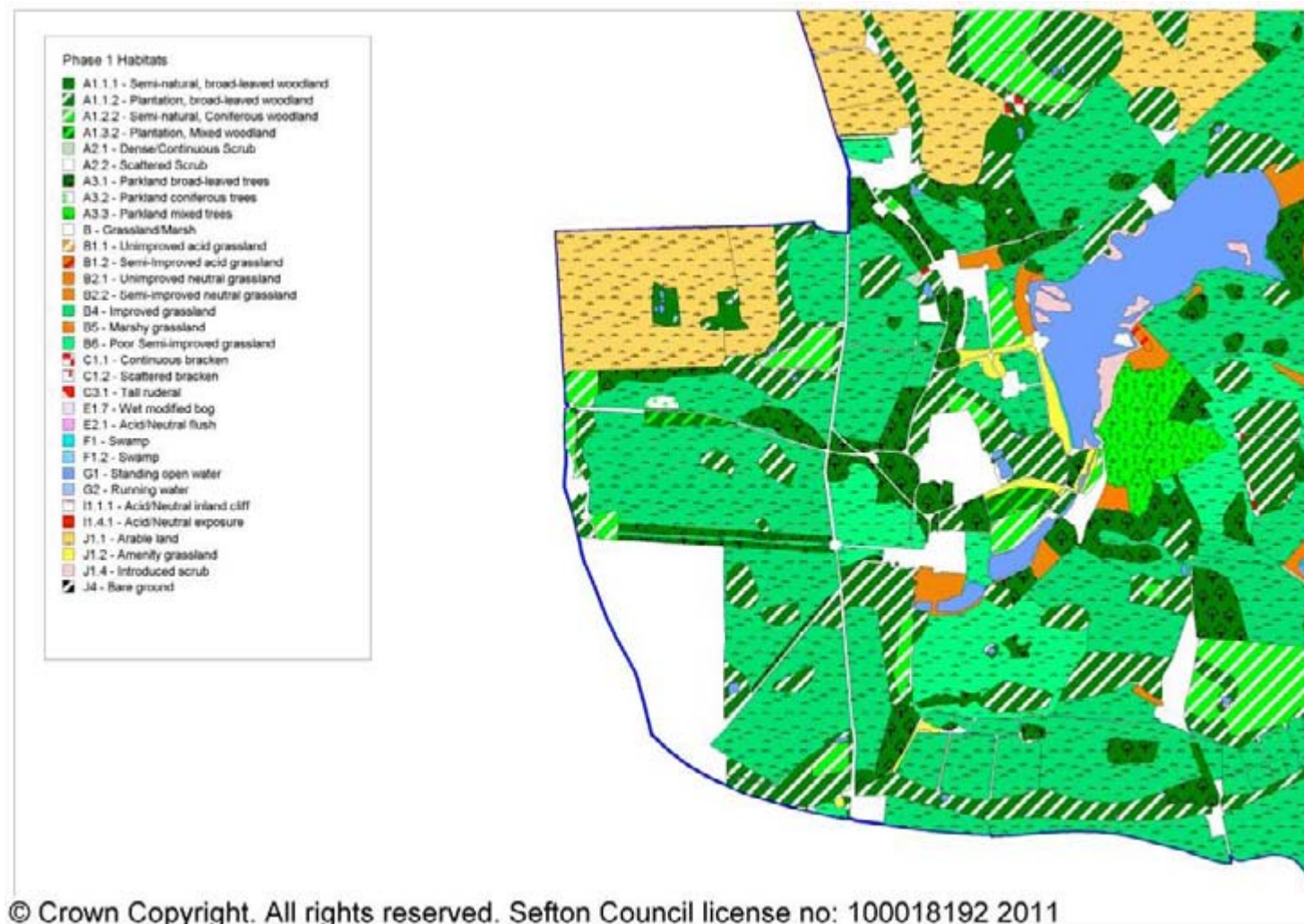
Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. The following table details the UK BAP priority habitats that were recorded in the defined search area. Two operations are carried out on each intersecting BAP habitat – ‘intersects’ & ‘contains’,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

| UK BAP priority habitat | Classification in local habitat inventory | Intersects search area | Contained within search area | Units |
|---|---|------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Lowland Dry Acid Grassland | Lowland Acid Grassland | 0.16 | 0.16 | hectares |
| Lowland Heathland | Lowland Heathland | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Lowland Raised Bog | Lowland Raised Bog | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Lowland Meadows | Neutral Grassland | 3.24 | 3.24 | hectares |
| Calcareous Grassland | Calcareous Grassland | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Ponds | Ponds | 0.22 | 0.22 | hectares |
| Ponds | Ponds | 12 | 12 | count |
| Reedbeds | Reedbeds | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Hedgerows | Hedgerows | 2.64 | 2.2 | kilometres |
| Coast Saltmarsh | Saltmarsh | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Coastal Sand Dune | Sand Dune | 0 | 0 | hectares |
| Combined UK BAP priority habitats Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wet Woodland and Wood Pasture & Parkland. | All Woodland | 8.1 | 8.03 | hectares |

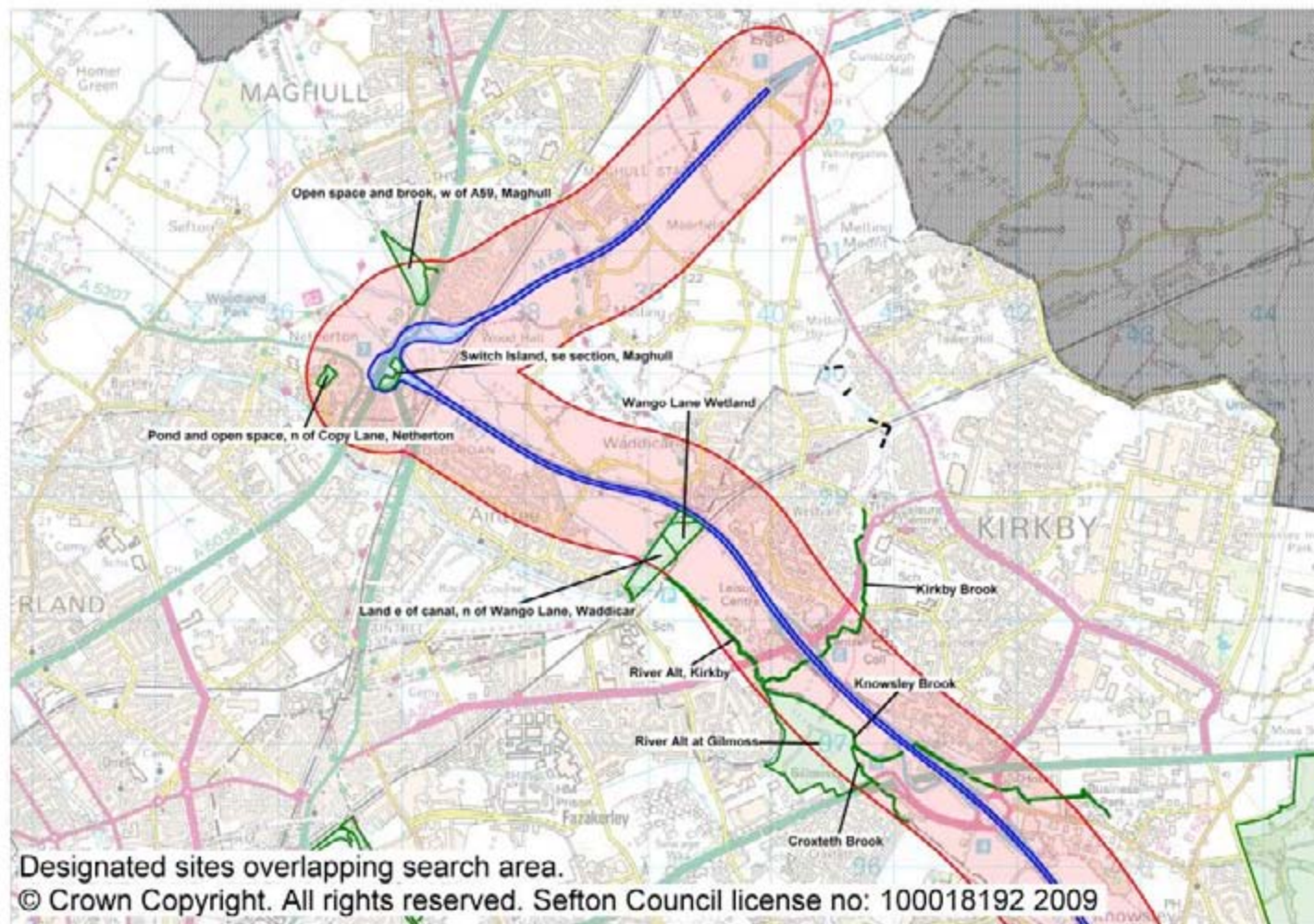
The map on the following page shows the distribution of these priority habitats in the search area.



GIS data search of a defined area showing recorded habitats



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



Local Wildlife Sites boundaries and descriptions

| SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5ZJ (Private & Confidential) | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| Site Name : Borsdane Wood (East) | District : Bolton | |
| Location : Westhoughton | Grid Ref : SD628063 | Grade : A |
| SITE LOCATION MAP (1:12500) © Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Tameside MBC Licence No LA100022697, 2010 | | |
| | | |

CD: SBI MAPS/CURRENT SBI MAPS/B-BOLTON/B4-4

Date: 10.7.09

| SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5ZJ (Private & Confidential) | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| SITE NAME : Borsdane Wood (East) | District : Bolton | |
| LOCATION : Westhoughton | GRID REF : SD628063 | GRADE : A |
| SITE DESCRIPTION | | |
| <p>A semi-natural ancient woodland (Natural England 2007), which occupies the valley of Borsdane Brook and its tributaries. The Brook forms the border between Bolton and Wigan. Such woodland is a UK Biodiversity Priority Habitat.</p> <p>The canopy is diverse with pedunculate oak the most abundant species. Beech and sycamore are both locally dominant and ash is locally abundant. Other canopy species include cherry, poplar, rowan, horse chestnut, silver birch, downy birch, Norway maple, yew and lime. Alder and crack willow occur by the brook. The understorey has frequent hazel with holly, hawthorn, elder, rowan and wych elm occurring less commonly. There is regeneration of ash, hazel, hawthorn and horse chestnut.</p> <p>The ground flora is exceptionally rich especially close to Borsdane Brook. In the vicinity of the brook ramsons and wood anemone are abundant. Moschatel, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, cuckoo flower, wavy bittercress and butterbur are all locally frequent. The valley sides have abundant creeping soft-grass, sweet vernal-grass, bramble and bracken. Bluebell is locally dominant with lesser celandine, pignut, red campion, wood sorrel, great stitchwort, herb Robert and bistort all frequent to locally abundant. Other species present include pendulous sedge, wood false brome, wood speedwell, hart's tongue fern, enchanters nightshade, broad buckler fern and woodruff, which is scarce in Greater Manchester. Sanicle, broadleaved helleborine and stinking hellebore have been recorded previously.</p> <p>A bryophyte survey of the Wigan part of the wood produced some significant species. It is not known however, which of these species also occur in the Bolton part of the wood.</p> <p>Over 280 species of fungi have been recorded from the whole wood. This is an exceptionally rich assemblage. Mammals recorded include roe deer, fox, mole and wood mouse.</p> <p>Birds observed during the current site visit include a pair of grey wagtail, several pairs of blackbird, wren, great tit, chiffchaff and the UK Biodiversity Priority Species song thrush. Other confirmed or probable breeding species from the whole woodland include tawny owl, kingfisher, great spotted woodpecker, willow warbler, long-tailed tit, coal tit, nuthatch and treecreeper. Possible breeding species include wren, robin, blackbird, whitethroat, chiffchaff and goldcrest together with the UK Biodiversity Priority Species song thrush and dunnock. Other birds recorded include green woodpecker, garden warbler, chaffinch and the UK Biodiversity Priority Species bullfinch and willow tit.</p> <p>Comma and speckled wood butterflies were recorded during the survey. An additional 139 species of invertebrates have been recorded from the whole site. Of these 20 species are classed as Local by English Nature and 2 are classed as National Notable NB. These are the cramp-ball Fungus weevil and a soldier fly <i>Stratiomys potamida</i>.</p> <p>The whole wood is managed by Wigan MBC Ranger Service and is a Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p><i>Additional information provided by the county bird recorder, Judith Smith. The habitat figures given are an approximation and are only intended to give an indication of the relative proportions of each habitat.</i></p> | | |
| COMPLETE FOR GAINS AND PARTIAL LOSSES ONLY | | |
| Loss since Last Survey : | Loss since First Survey : | |
| Primary cause : | Secondary cause : | |
| Gain since Last Survey : | Gain since First Survey : 3.0 | |
| Primary cause : Boundary Reassessment | Secondary cause : Technical gain – more accurate mapping tools | |
| Net change since Last Survey : 0 | Net change since First Survey : +3.0 | |

Ref: CURRENT SBIS/Bolton/B4/B4-1

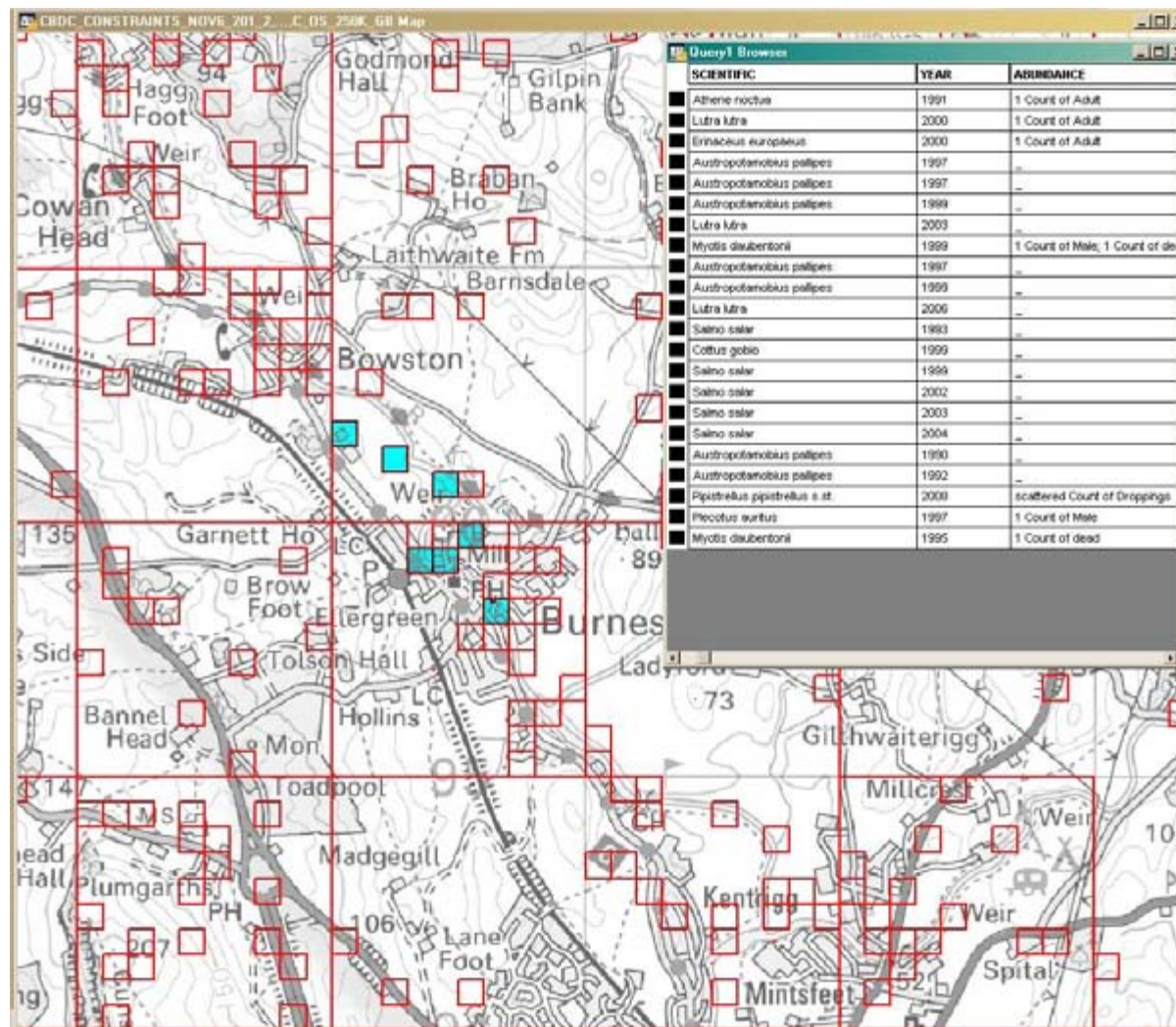
Date: 10.7.09

| SITES OF BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER Greater Manchester Ecology Unit Ryecroft Hall, Manchester Road, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5ZJ (Private & Confidential) | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SITE NAME : Borsdane Wood (East) | District : Bolton | | |
| LOCATION : Westhoughton | GRID REF : SD628063 | | |
| GRADE : A | AREA (HA) : 10.9 | ALTITUDE (M) : 80-100 | DATE : 10.7.09 |
| STATUS : LNR, BAP, AW | SURVEYOR : S Waymont | INITIAL SURVEY DATE : 7.80 | |
| NO OF REVISIONS : 5 | OWNER : LA | DISTRICT REF : B | |
| HABITATS PRESENT | Area (ha) | HABITATS PRESENT | Area (ha) |
| Woodland broadleaved (semi-nat) | 10.8 | Woodland plantation | |
| Scrub | | Acid grassland | |
| Neutral grassland – species rich | | Neutral grassland – species poor | |
| Marshy grassland/flush | | Calcareous grassland | |
| Tall ruderal | | Ericaceous heath lowland/upland | |
| Bog | | Swamp/Fen/Reedbed | |
| Pond/small lodge | 0.01 | Reservoir/large area of open water | |
| Canal | | Running water - River/stream/ditch | 0.1 |
| Quarry/cliff/rock/wall | | Other | |
| Areas of habitat covering less than 0.1ha. recorded as 0.01 | | | |
| Qualifying Features Code (taken from Part 2 or Part 3 of the Greater Manchester SBI Selection Guidelines 2008). | | | |
| Wd1 - Semi-Natural Broadleaved Woodland | GSG1 – General Species (Fungi) | | |
| Br6 - Birds – Assemblages | | | |
| Supplementary Features Code - for other features that are not the primary reason for SBI selection, but are identified either as a supplementary attribute (taken from Part 1) and/or by almost reaching the Guideline threshold (Parts 2 & 3). | | | |
| Intrinsic Appeal – Accessibility and Usage | | | |
| COMPLETE FOR GAINS AND PARTIAL LOSSES ONLY | | | |
| Loss since Last Survey : | Loss since First Survey : | | |
| Primary cause : | Secondary cause : | | |
| Gain since Last Survey : | Gain since First Survey : 3.0 | | |
| Primary cause : Boundary Reassessment | Secondary cause : Technical gain – more accurate mapping tools | | |
| Net change since Last Survey : 0 | Net change since First Survey : +3.0 | | |

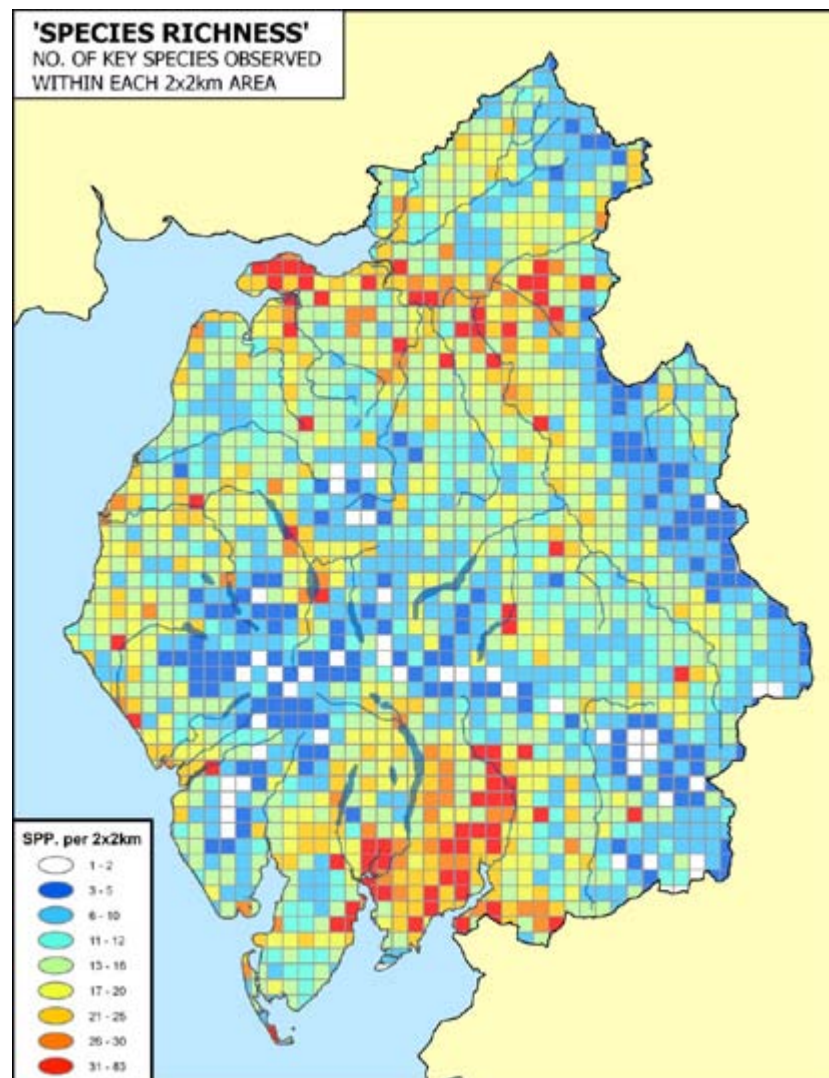
Ref: CURRENT SBIS/BOLTON/B4/B4-3

Date: 10.7.09

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



Species richness maps to highlight 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 Merseyside BioBank's Recording Wildlife in Merseyside, a resource pack developed to help community groups to record and monitor wildlife on their local site.

<http://www.merseysidebiobank.org.uk/index.aspx?Mod=Article&ArticleID=SiteRecordersPack>


This is one of the species ID sheets from the resource pack:




Identification Guide

Some Common Butterflies


Emperors, vanessids and fritillaries




Small Tortoiseshell
Aglais urticae




Peacock
Inachis io



Comma
Polyommia c-album




Painted Lady
Cynthia cardui




Red Admiral
Vanessa atalanta

Blues




Common Blue
Polyommatus icarus




Holly Blue
Celastrina argiolus

sexes of the butterfly species are alike unless stated

Browns




Gatekeeper
Pyronia tithonus



Speckled Wood
Pararge aegeria


Whites and yellows




Small white
Pieris rapae




Orange Tip
Anthocharis cardamines



Brimstone
Gonepteryx rhamni



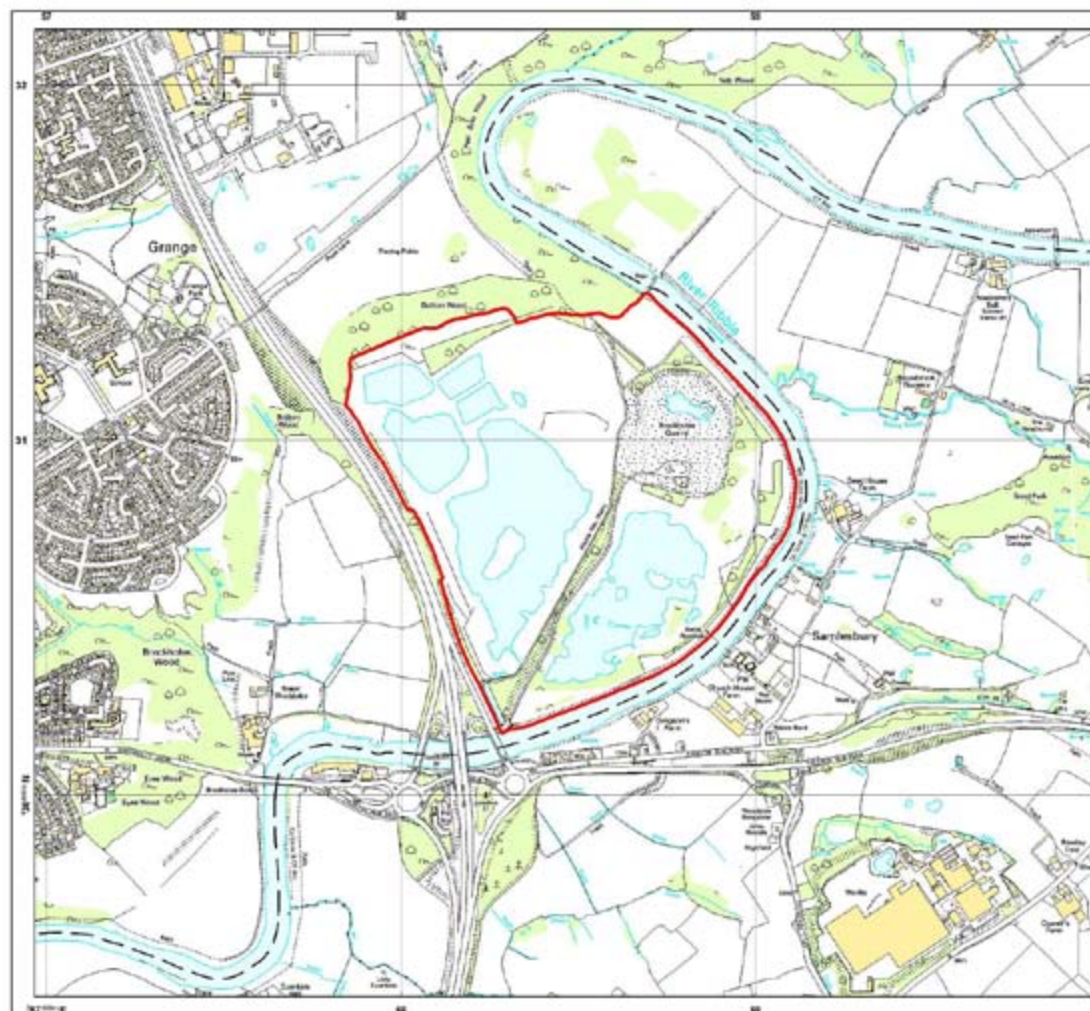
Large white
Pieris brassicae



Green-veined white
Pieris napi

Please visit www.butterfly-conservation.org and www.britishbutterflies.co.uk for more information.
Please always send your records to your Local Record Centre, Merseyside BioBank, so that we can monitor the status of our local species

Management of Local Geological Sites dataset



Lancashire County Heritage Sites

Local Geodiversity Site

Higher Brockholes

Ref No. P18/004

Grid ref. SD585305

Site approved:

Boundary revised: -

Scale: 1:10,000

Map: 1 of 1

Date of Map: Mar 24, 2011

 Site Area

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Lancashire County Council 10892209 2011.

This map shows only the boundary of the Geological Heritage Site, named above. It does not show any other designated sites (SIS) that occur within the area covered by the map.

Local Geodiversity Sites Partnership

© Lancashire County Council

© Civil Liberties

The term Geological Heritage Site (GHS) and Regional Impact Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGGS) are interchangeable in Lancashire.



Processing a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations

