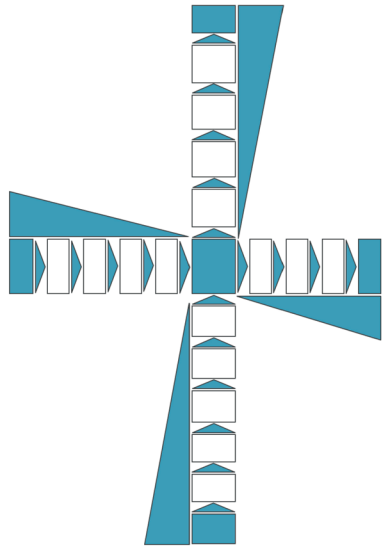


Why a Review is needed, how it will happen and how you can get involved!

For more information about the Review, and to access the Questionnaire, visit:
<https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/review/>

March 2017



Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland

Introducing the SBIF Review of the

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum

Supporting the National Biodiversity Network in Scotland

Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum

Supporting the National Biodiversity Network in Scotland

What is SBIF?

Following a public petition in 2009, Petition PE12269 (which called on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to establish integrated local and national structures for collecting, analysing and storing biological data to inform decision-making and to benefit biodiversity), the Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF) was established in 2012 to develop a strategic approach to the collection, collation and sharing of biological data across Scotland in partnership with the NBN.

Why have a Review?

The existing infrastructure for collecting, analysing and storing biological data has many stakeholders whose needs and priorities are diverse. A number of excellent reports have highlighted key problems and issues over time (since 1975!) but these issues and their root causes are still largely unresolved. The purpose of this Review is to identify changes that would significantly improve the Infrastructure for everyone and that will ultimately achieve the SBIF Vision:

High quality species and habitat data will be collected and managed through a sustainable, co-ordinated and integrated local and national framework of organisations, partnerships and initiatives. These data will be available to ensure that Scotland's biodiversity, ecosystems and people benefit.

The main outputs of the Review will be clarity on what changes would help, a set of collectively-agreed recommendations for implementation and a transition plan to achieve them.

Where will the Review be for?

The Review will focus on Scotland but hopefully in a way that could be helpful more widely in the UK. It will address the question of what could or should be central, national and local (in terms of the level and scale at which resources, services and systems are provided).

What are the objectives of the Review?

- To understand the As-Is position today in terms of what roles people play in delivering current services or recording and providing data.
- To identify what is problematic, what changes or improvements are needed and to understand what such changes would cost and achieve.
- To identify the To-Be position for how we can be successful and sustainable, and in so doing to engender ideas, willingness and energy.

Get involved!

We are inviting everyone interested to take part and to contribute both their

personal views, and the views of organisations they represent, through the SBIF

Review Questionnaire that will be open until 7th April 2017. A link to this will be published on the SBIF pages of the NBN website and promoted everywhere we can.

Whatever your level of involvement or expertise, we would love to hear from you.

Whether you are a school teacher or student, or a town planner, developer or land manager, an environmental consultant, biodiversity officer or conservationist, a civil servant, farmer, rambler, birdwatcher, moth trapper, museum curator, botanist or marine biologist, in Scotland or beyond, your thoughts are welcome. Do take part!

Feel free to contact anyone on the SBIF Working Group if you have any queries or to provide us with any additional information for the Review.

The SBIF Working Group:

Ellen Wilson	ellen.wilson@rspb.org.uk
Christine Johnston	c.johnston@nbn.org.uk
Rachel Stroud	r.stroud@nbn.org.uk
Lindsay Bamforth	lindsay.bamforth@ffe.gov.uk
Colin McLeod	colin.mcleod@snh.gov.uk

Timeline and Updates

See our highlight reports online for updates on activities and progress, including:

- Now to April:** focus on the questionnaire and stakeholder interviews
- May to June:** preparing the high-level business case for change
- July:** workshops to evaluate options
- August:** preparing and consulting on the full business case for change
- September onwards:** final recommendations published

The SBIF Value Model

The SBIF Value Model or 'windmill diagram' (overleaf) shows the activities and communities involved in the Biological Recording Infrastructure:

- the biological recording community (taxonomic know-how)
- the technical services community (technical know-how)
- the data user community (insight and innovation)
- the value-added services community (decision support)

Principles of the Review

- It will be **formally managed** with decision points and highlight reports
- It will be **efficient**, low cost and concluding within 12 months
- It will be **fair**, giving equal opportunity to all to contribute their views
- It will be **supportive**, creating a safe space for all
- It will be **thorough**, giving attention to significant aspects
- It will be **solution-focused**, resolving six key issues
- It will be **informed** by perspectives from all four countries of the UK

What are the six key issues?

- Complexity, low resilience and funding challenges
- Lack of easy access to discover all data
- Open data principles challenge our business models
- Patchy provision or duplication of services
- Lack of alignment and degree of challenge between and within sectors and organisations
- Lack of certainty, direction and action on localising, nationalising or centralising services

What roles and sectors play a part?

The key roles and sectors below cover the key 'players' in the Biological Recording Infrastructure today. You might match to more than one, e.g. you could collect data (and so be a Recorder) and act as a County Recorder (and so be a Verifier) either as a volunteer or an employee. You might view biological records on the NBN Gateway or Atlas or obtain data from an LERC (and so be both a Data User and a Service User), or you might work for an LERC or for the BRC or the NBN (which makes you a Service Provider). Anyone publishing data for use by others is a Data Provider, and so on.

KEY ROLES:	KEY SECTORS:
• Recorder or Data Collector	• Academia
• Verifier or County Recorder	• Commercial companies
• Collection Curator	• Local Authorities and National Parks
• Recording Group Operator	• Local Environmental Record Centres
• Recording Scheme Operator	• Local Records/Recording Groups
• Data Provider	• Museums, Zoos and Botanic Gardens
• Data Developer	• National Schemes and Societies
• Data User	• NGOs
• Service Provider	• Public bodies
• Service User	• Cross-sector organisations & secretariats
• Funder	
• Facilitator	

SBIF Value Model

Added-value gained from enhancement and re-use of data and data products

- Data users can access raw, summary and enhanced data
- Education, science and innovation underpinned
- Sensitive Data and Open Data principles apply
- Biological data act as a national asset
- Empowerment of civil society
- Identification of data gaps
- Avoid duplication of EIAs

High-value insights obtained from data analytics

Multi-disciplinary discovery and use of data adds value

Data visualisation showcases data and gives new

Data developers innovate and create bespoke products

DATA USER COMMUNITY

Insights and innovation

Agile development

- Backend cost savings and economies of scale
- Resilient and sustainable teams and technology
- Access to professional IT, HR and financial management services

VALUE-ADDED SERVICES COMMUNITY

Decision support

Strategic and statutory needs fulfilled

Services to Local & National Government

Services to Academia & Education

Services to private sector companies and individuals

Services to conservation NGOs

Accessible hub for open biological data

Data User and Data Provider support services

User interface tools and services

Data verification tools and services

Data mgmt and data hosting services

Backend admin, HR and IT services

Data and systems managed in perpetuity

Technical expertise

TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMUNITY

Taxonomic expertise

BIOLOGICAL RECORDING COMMUNITY

Data Providers provide raw and summary data

Recording Scheme Operators manage recorders and data

Individuals, Projects and Recording Groups submit data

Individual recorders collect data

Recorders are encouraged and data flows work

Next generation of recorders brought through

- Effective data flows, real-time, high quality data
- Capacity building for expert verifiers and recorders
- Capacity building for scheme operators and recording groups
- Recognition for recording, verification and scheme operation

Data analytics

Land/estate management

INNS Reporting

Site Designation

Biodiversity duty

Planning process

SRDP Monitoring

Land Use Strategy

Public engagement

RAFE decision support

Data repository service

National evidence base

Strategic Planning/SEAs

Site Condition Monitoring

Land/estate management

Favourable condition status

National Ecological Network

Long term datasets

Species expertise

Original data

Case studies

Training

EIA data portal

Windfarm monitoring

Land/estate management

Conservation action planning and reporting

Conservation targeting

Land/estate management

Effective use of public, private and third sector funds

Support for strategic decision making and reporting

Efficiencies and consistencies in services across Scotland