

LERC Wales: Growing an Evidence Base Fit for Wales

Adam Rowe

Local Environmental Records Centres Wales Limited (LERC Wales) South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK CONFERENCE AMGUEDDFA CYMRU – NATIONAL MUSEUM WALES, CARDIFF

16TH-17TH NOVEMBER 2017

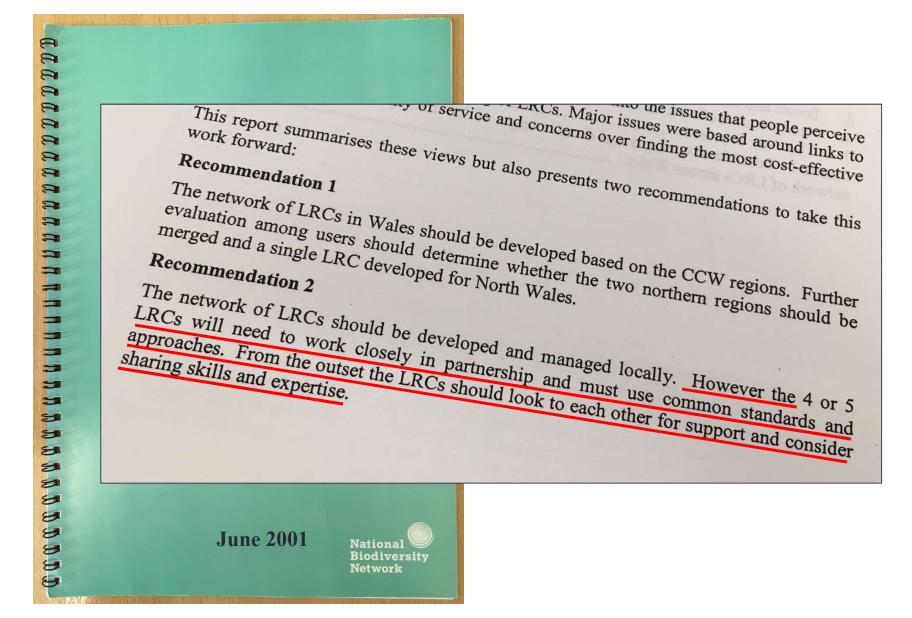
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES



- A Brief History of LERC Wales
- Growing the Evidence Base
- Growing Partnerships and Recording
- Maximising Use of the Evidence Base
- Increasing Collaboration and Co-operation



A Brief History of LERC Wales







Local Records Centres Wales: The UK's first national network of Local Records Centres

Completed and launched in 2007



www.lercwales.org.uk

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES CANOLFANNAU COFNODION AMGYLCHEDDOL LLEOL CYMRU





» Our Shared Vision / Ein Cyd-Weledigaeth

» Products & Services / Cynnyrch a Gwasanaethau

» LERC Wales Data Access Tool



Find Your Local Environmental Records Centre
Dod o hyd i'ch Canolfan Cofnodion Amgylcheddol Lleol





OUR SHARED VISION

The Local Records Centres of Wales aim to:

- Ensure that biodiversity information is fed into the decision-making process at an appropriate stage.
- Provide efficient, high quality information services to a range of users from public bodies to commercial consultants.
- Pro-actively encourage the recording and sharing of biological data and engage in initiatives to develop biological recording skills.
- Provide appropriate support to strengthen networks of local voluntary recorders and ensure that the
 efforts of voluntary recorders are consistently recognised.
- Improve data flows by implementing and promoting simple and efficient systems for record submission, validation and verification.
- Improve links with the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), including greater data sharing with the NBN Gateway.
- Share best practice and expertise, particularly in the fields of management and technology.



FILE COPY

OF A PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

Company Number 9816508

The Registrar of Companies for England and Wales, hereby certifies that

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES LIMITED

is this day incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a private company, that the company is limited by guarantee, and the situation of its registered office is in England and Wales

Given at Companies House on 8th October 2015



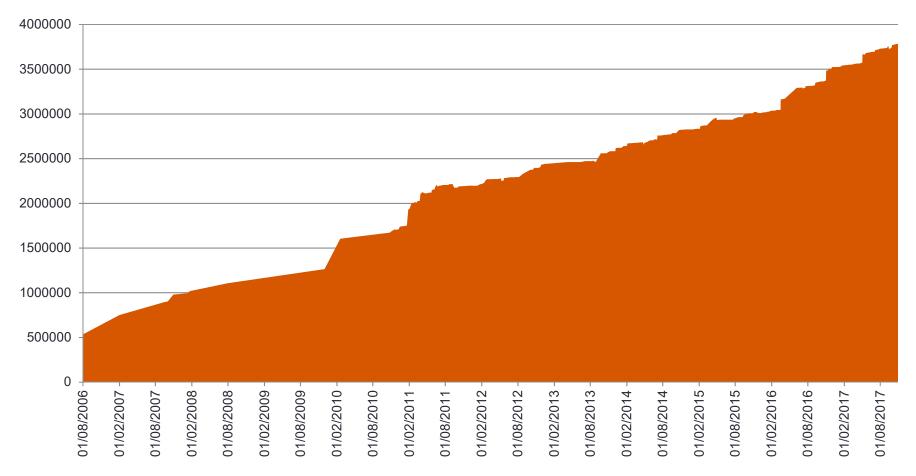


Growing the Evidence Base

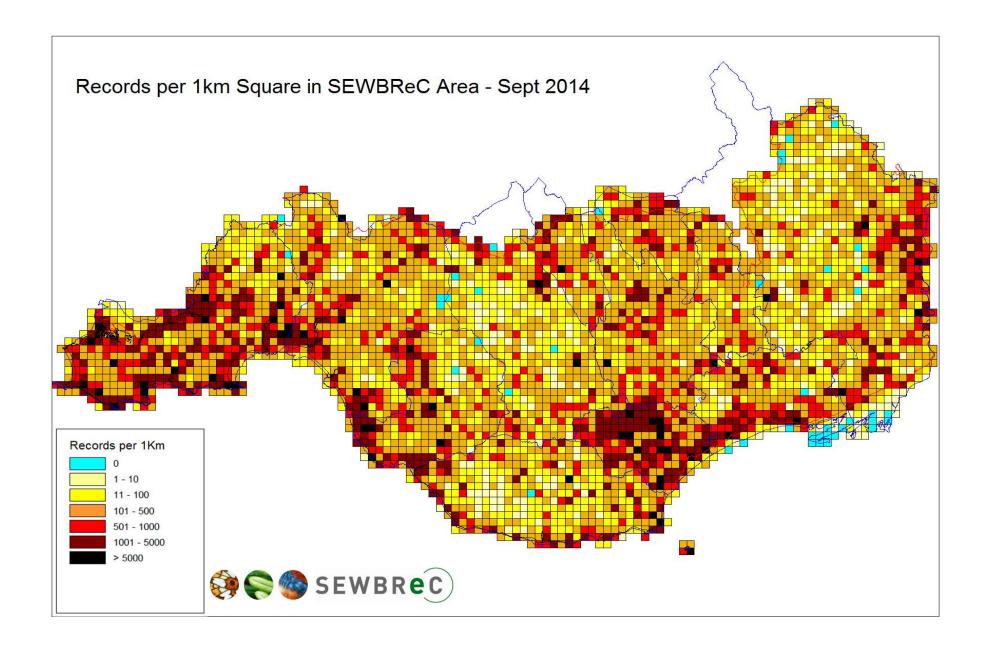


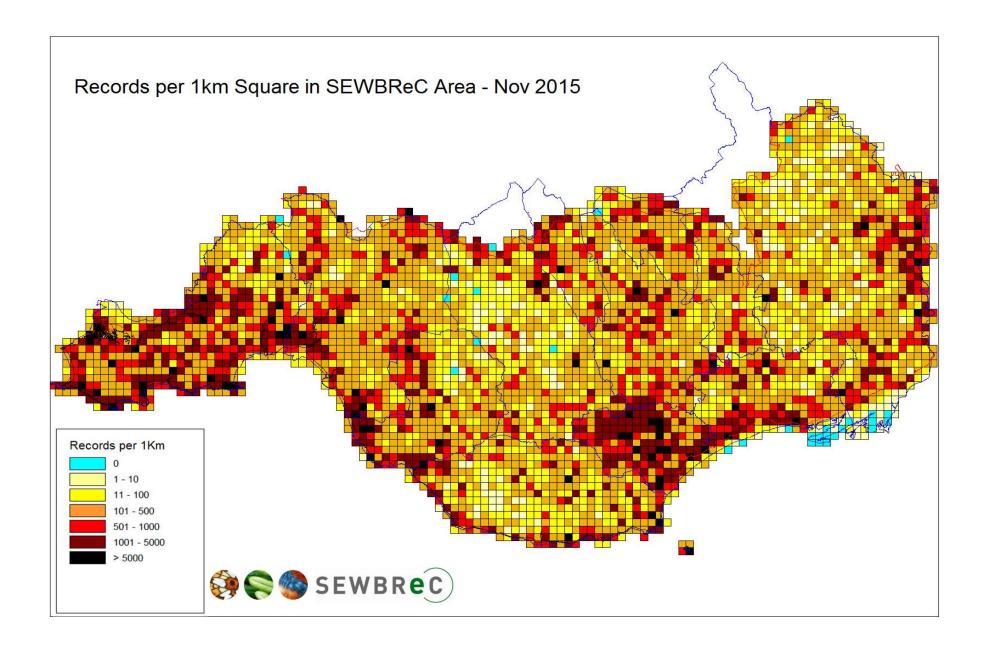


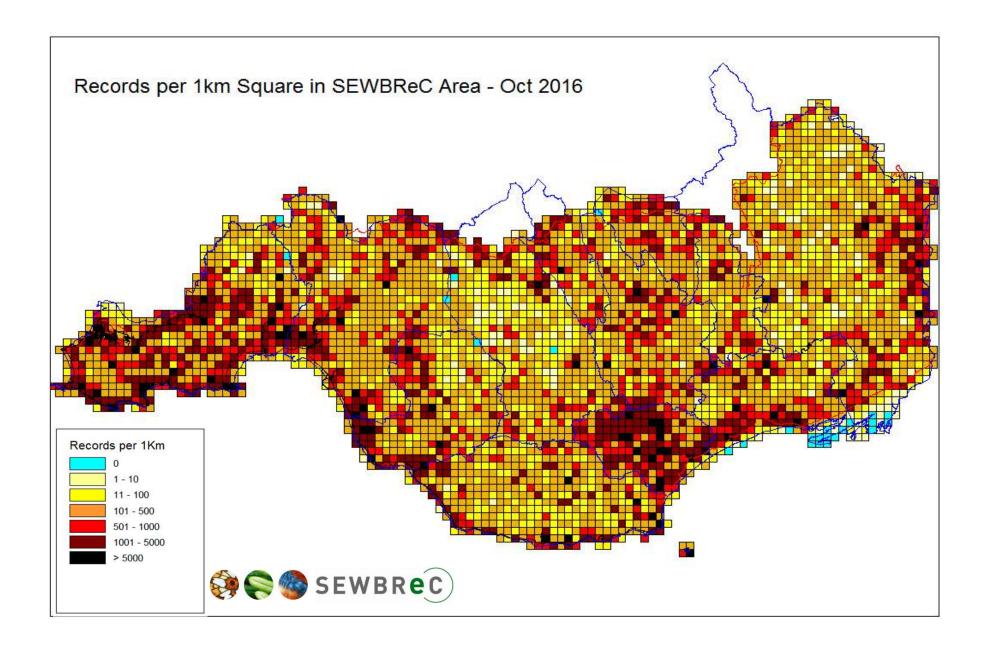
Data Holdings Growth

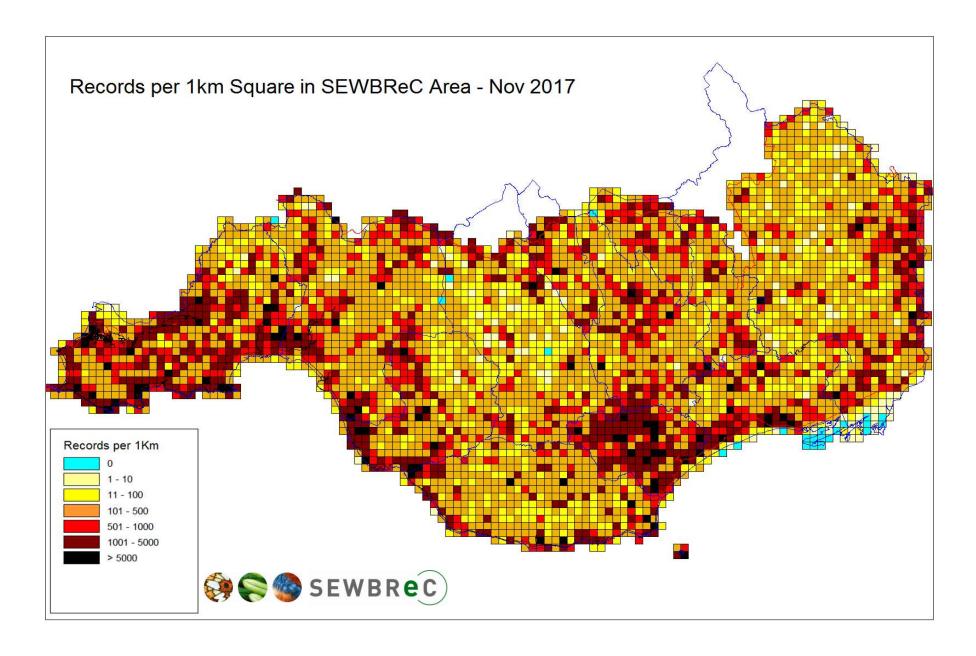


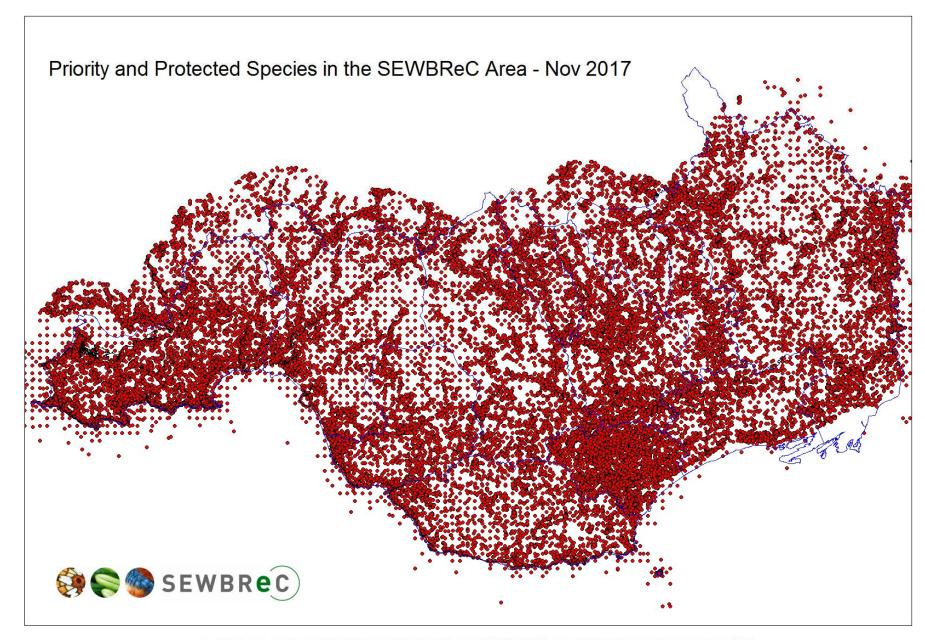
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES

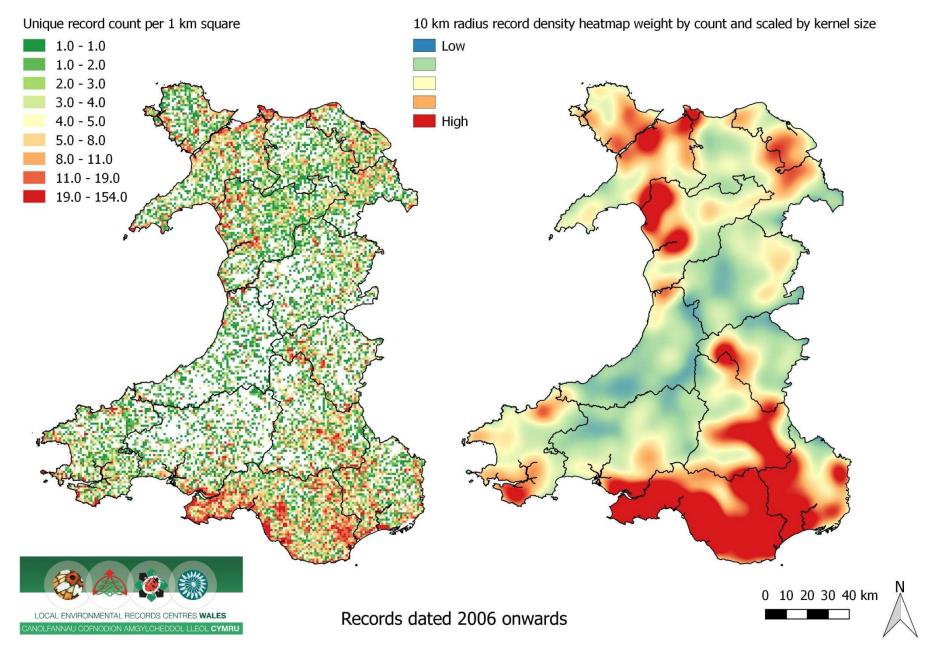


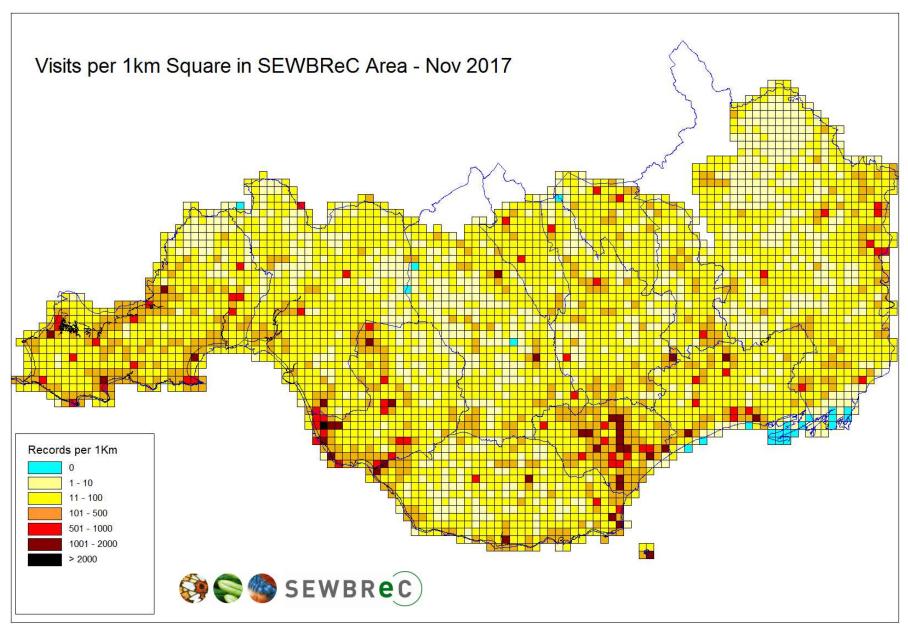






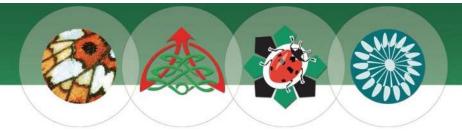








Growing Partnerships and Recording



Growing partnerships: volunteers

From Day 1 individual LERCs have been supporting volunteer biological recorders:

- Assisting with data management
- Producing newsletters, emails and square/species of the month



An island bioblitz and a new species for Britain

Amy Hicks - SEWBReC Biodiversity Information Officer

Inspired by Dr Mary Gillham's love of Welsh islands, we decided to add a slightly more unusual recording event to SEWBReC's 2017 calendar and visit Flat Holm Island in the Bristol Channel. Despite being a SSSI and only 5 miles from Cardiff, our knowledge of the species on Flat Holm was patchy. By the very nature of it being an island, expert recorders of many taxonomic groups had never visited. We simply had to go and have a look!

Flat Holm can only be accessed by certain types of boat, and only for a short window around each high tide, so late on a rainy Friday evening in August the first 20 of our willing wildlife recorders, Mary Gillham Archive Project volunteers and Flat Holm Society members stepped bravely into two RIBs and set off to "bioblitz" the island. We arrived half an hour later completely soaked and settled into the Flat Holm farmhouse for the night.



Thankfully by the time the remaining 10 of the team arrived at high tide the next morning (looking enviably dry) the conditions were looking much better for a full day of wildlife recording. In fact proceedings had already started at around 4am with a small group opting to drag themselves out of bed and get down to the sea shore for low tide.

Over the next 24 hours, no stone was left unturned. We botanised, netted and sucked up invertebrates, scraped lichen samples, hunted for fungi, checked reptile refugia, ringed birds, trapped moths and detected bats. We were rewarded in the evening with a glorious sunset, which for those visiting just for the day was viewed from the RIB ride back to Cardiff, followed by a beautifully clear night and a fantastic meteor shower.



Once back on the mainland, the hard work continued; identifying species, getting records verified and submitting them to SEWBReC. The majority of the records have now been submitted and I'm pleased to report that so far an incredible 402 different species have been recorded including 143 species not previously known from the island! The majority of new species added were seashore invertebrates (it pays to get up early), plants, fungi and arachnids – with these last 2 groups including some very exciting finds!



cies to Britain!
Richard Gallon



Paurocotylis pila —a new species to Wales! © Emma Williams

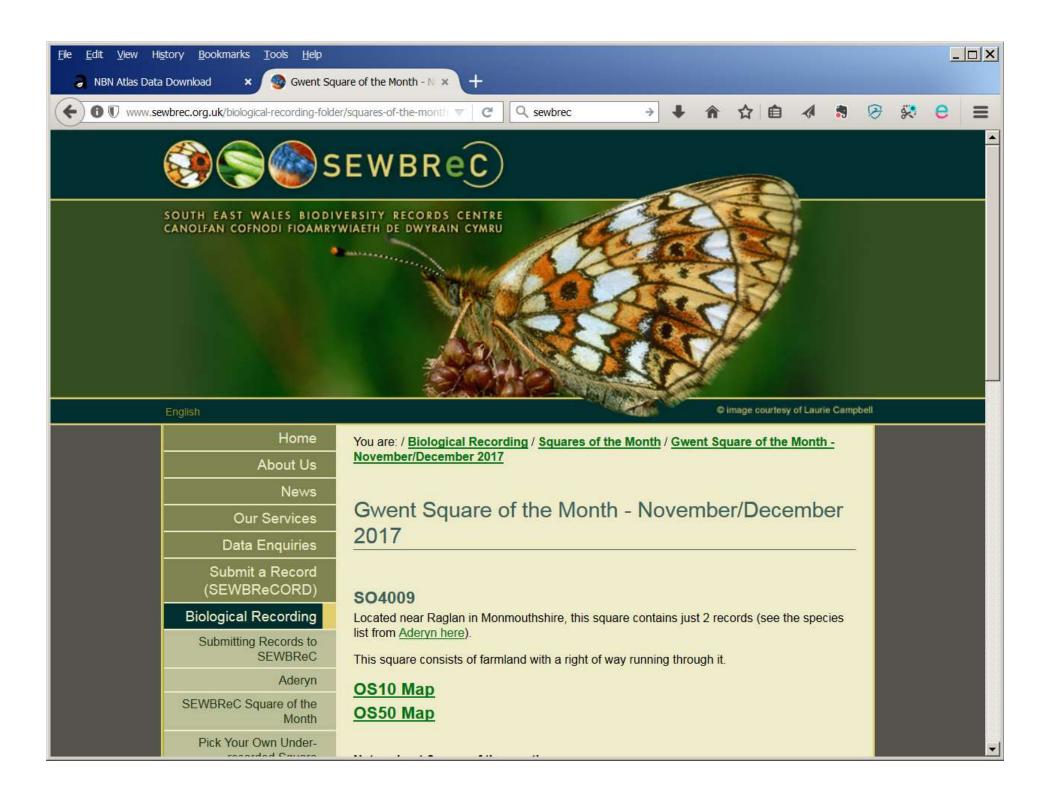
Richard Gallon, who travelled down from Cofnod, the Records Centre for north Wales, for a chance to look at the under-recorded spiders of Flat Holm, found a specimen of *Kryptonesticus eremita* in one of the island's tunnels— the first time this species has been found in Britain! *K. eremita* is usually found in caves and cellars and is native to mainland Europe. Could Flat Holm be the only place in Britain this species has expanded its range to, or is it going unnoticed in other places due to the under-recorded nature of underground-dwelling spiders?

Another spider recorded on the trip by Richard Gallon, *Panamomops sulcifrons*, was the first of its kind to be found in Wales. A fungus, *Paurocotylis pila*, which was found by Gareth Farr and identified by Emma Williams of Glamorgan Fungus Group is also new to Wales! Both species had previously been found as close as Somerset, but had not been known to have crossed the border before.

The list of new species to the island is expected to grow once records of the lichen and bryophyte specimens that are still being laboriously worked through have been submitted. Both of these groups were very under-recorded prior to the visit. Once complete, all the records from the trip will be shared with Cardiff City Council and the Flat Holm Society so that they can be used to inform management of the island.

I'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone who came on the trip, especially those who generously shared their knowledge with others, whether

of a taxonomic group, of biological recording, or of the island. A big thank you also to the Flat Holm Warden, Marianne Bony and to the Flat Holm Society members who helped to make it happen!





Species of the Month: November/December 2017



This distinctive bright coloured fungus is considered uncommon in the UK, but can be found in many woodlands in south Wales. As the common name suggests, this species is bright blue and forms a covering crust on trees and deadwood.

This species is likely to be found in much of the SEWBReC area, but we only have 260 records of Cobalt Crust in our database. You can view the Welsh distribution of <u>Cobalt Crust on Aderyn</u>.

More information about Cobalt Crust can be found on NatureSpot and First Nature.

If you spot Cobalt Crust during November and December (or at any other time of year), please send us the record, ideally via our <u>Species of the Month form</u> on SEWBReCORD (nb. you will need to be signed into SEWBReCORD to use this link). Instructions on how to submit records are <u>available here</u>.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES



Growing partnerships: volunteers

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- Organising recorder's forum events, ID training and recording field days







Growing partnerships: volunteers

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- Organising recorder's forum events, ID training and recording field days
- Building an online community via social media
- Seeking recognition for the vital role volunteers play



Growing partnerships: public sector

Strong historical support for LERCs from the Welsh public sector:

- From 2000 Countryside Council for Wales committed itself to strong support for the establishment and use of Local Records Centres in Wales, as a strategic partner
- Services sold to Environment Agency Wales, Forestry Commission Wales ... since 2013, Natural Resources Wales
- From 2017 LERCs are receiving core funding direct from Welsh Government for the first time, with NRW procuring still data services
- Vast majority of Local Authorities in Wales use LERC services via Service Level Agreements



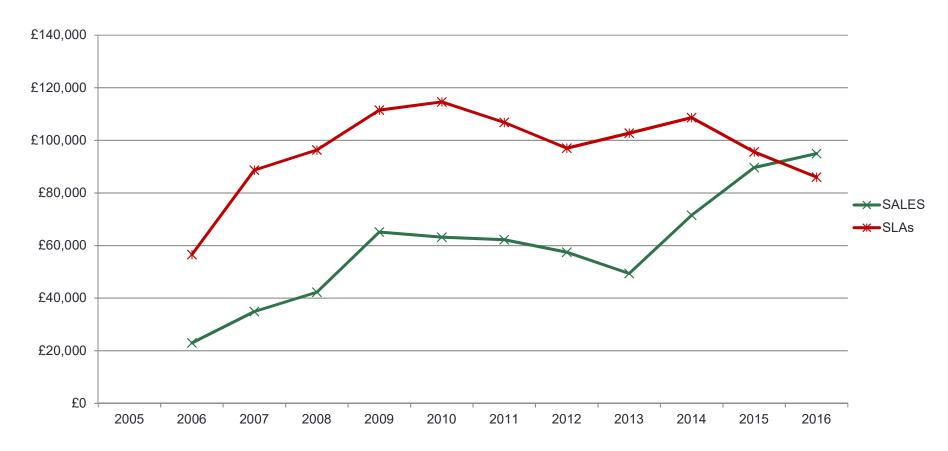
Growing partnerships: private sector

Individual LERCs have been increasingly reliant on income from sale of data search services to private sector ecological consultancies.





Public income vs. commercial sales



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES



Growing partnerships: private sector

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LERCs have been responsive to the needs of this sector, e.g. by developing reduced prices searches for bats in buildings.



- Maximising Use of the Evidence Base
 - i) Strategic, legal and policy implementation level

Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015





How to measure a nation's progress?

National indicators for Wales

National Indicators for Wales as required by section 10(1) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Laid before the National Assembly for Wales, 16 March 2016

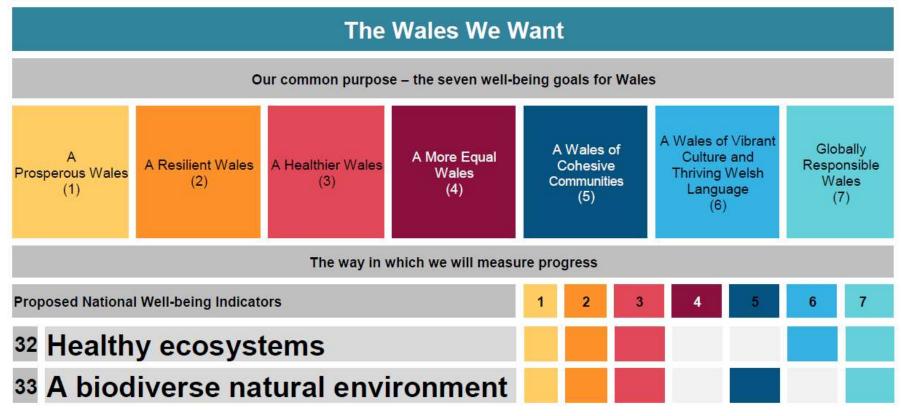




How do you measure a nation's progress



Proposals for the national indicators to measure whether Wales is achieving the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



Environment (Wales) Act 2016

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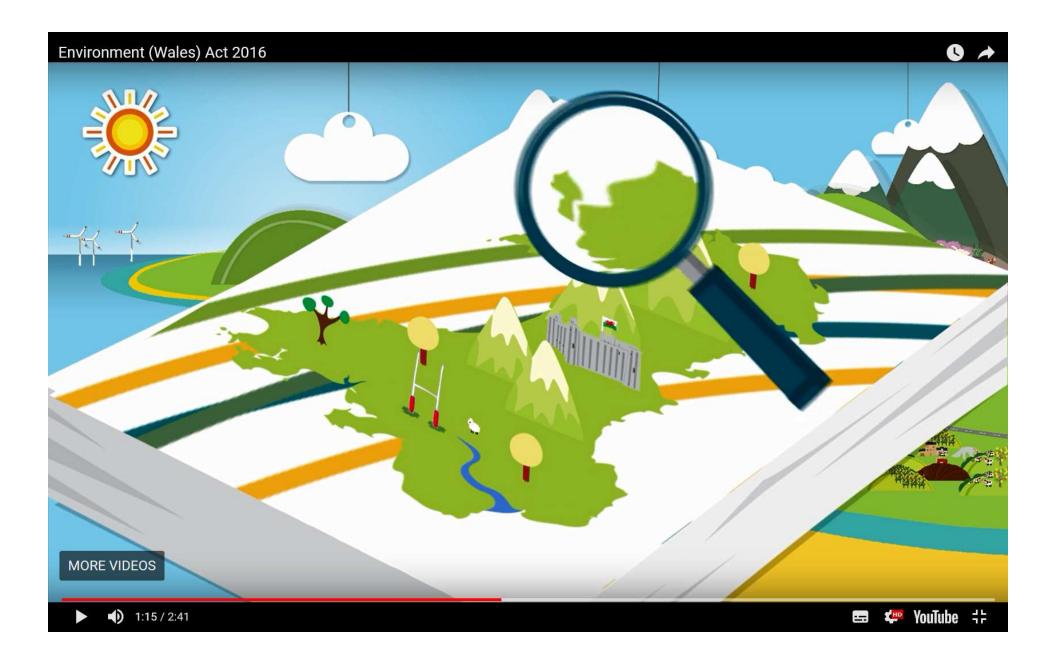
PART 1

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Introduction

1	Purpose of this Part
2	Natural resources
3	Sustainable management of natural resources
4	Principles of sustainable management of natural resources
	General duties of public authorities
5	General purpose of Natural Resources Body for Wales
6	Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty
7	Biodiversity lists and duty to take steps to maintain and enhance biodiversity
	State of natural resources report
8	Duty to prepare and publish state of natural resources report
	National natural resources policy
9	Duty to prepare, publish and implement national natural resources policy
	Area-based implementation of the national policy







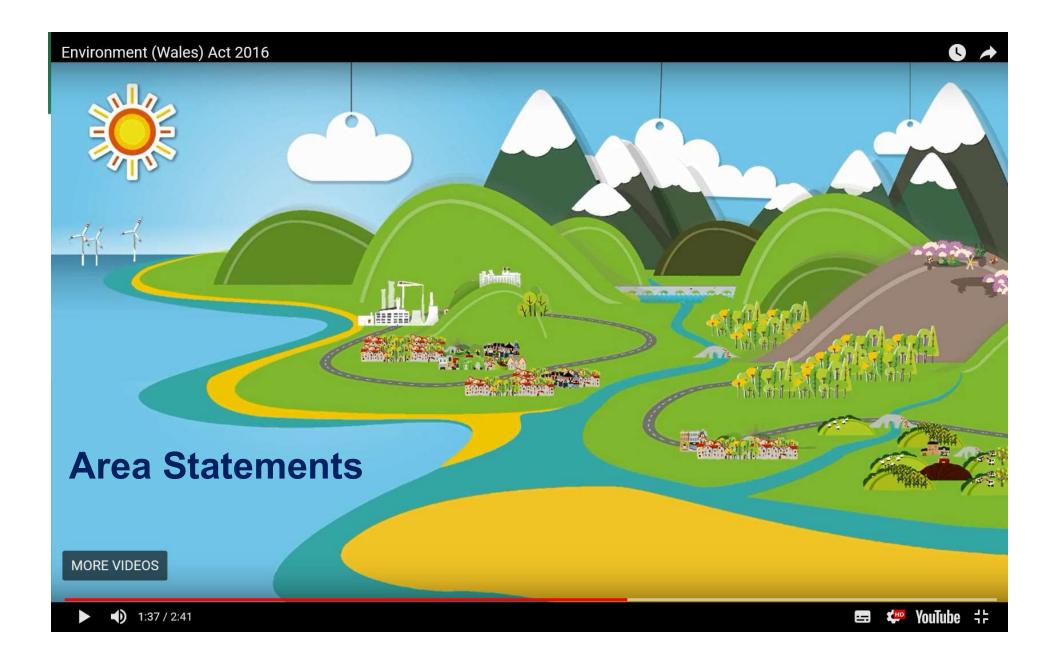
A summary of the State of Natural Resources Report:

An assessment of the sustainable management of natural resources













Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 "Biodiversity Duty"

 Section 40 placed a duty on every public authority, in exercising its functions, to "have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 "Biodiversity and Resilient Ecosystems Duty"

 Section 6 places a duty on every public authority, in exercising its functions, to "seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity" and to "promote the resilience of ecosystems"

The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales Setting the course for 2020 and beyond

December 2015

Part 1: Our Strategy for Nature

Part 2: Our Action Plan

Part 3: The Nature Recovery Framework



- Maximising Use of the Evidence Base
 - ii) Operational and decision-making level



Aderyn

Provides direct, online access to the LERC Wales evidence base

Developed by Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) for Powys and BBNP on behalf of the LERC Wales consortium

Public access module launched at BIS 15th anniversary event in 2016

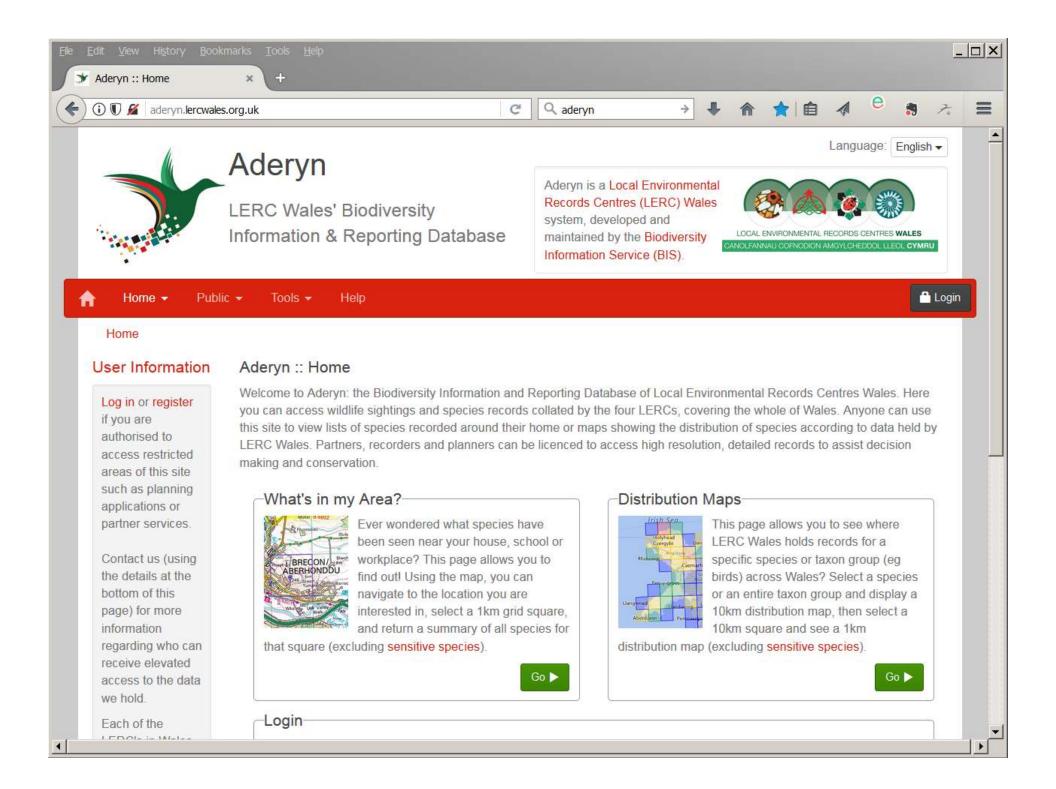
New partner access module launched at the LERC Wales 10th Anniversary event in July 2017

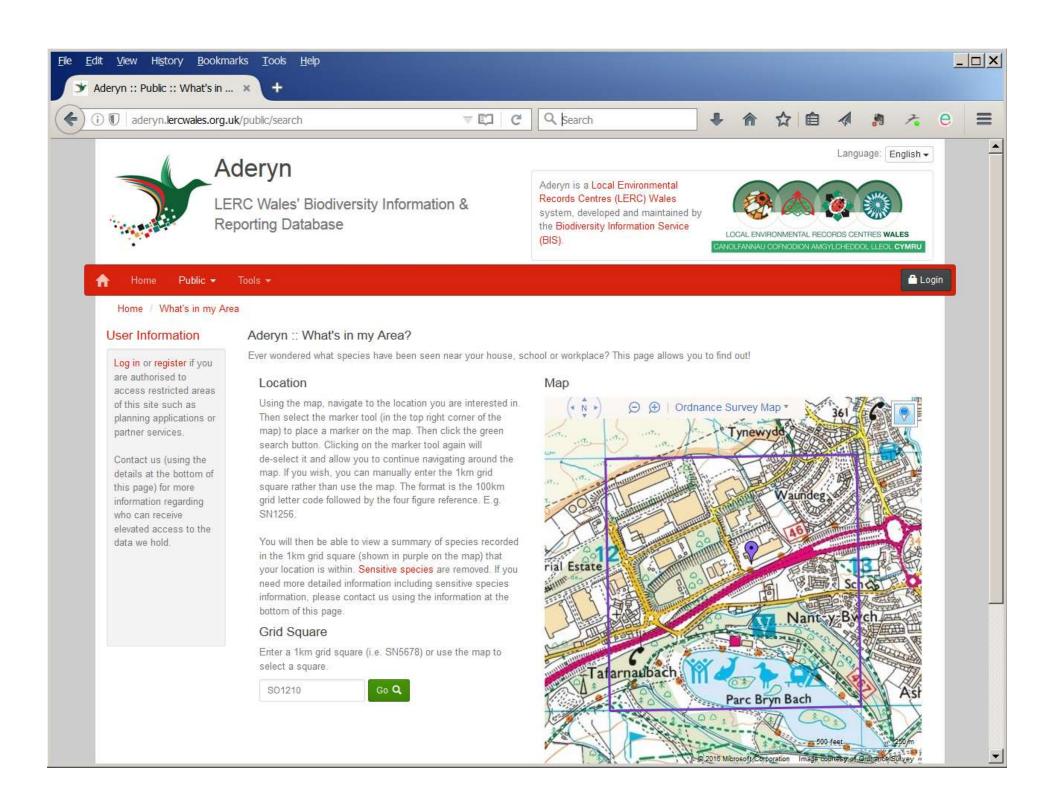


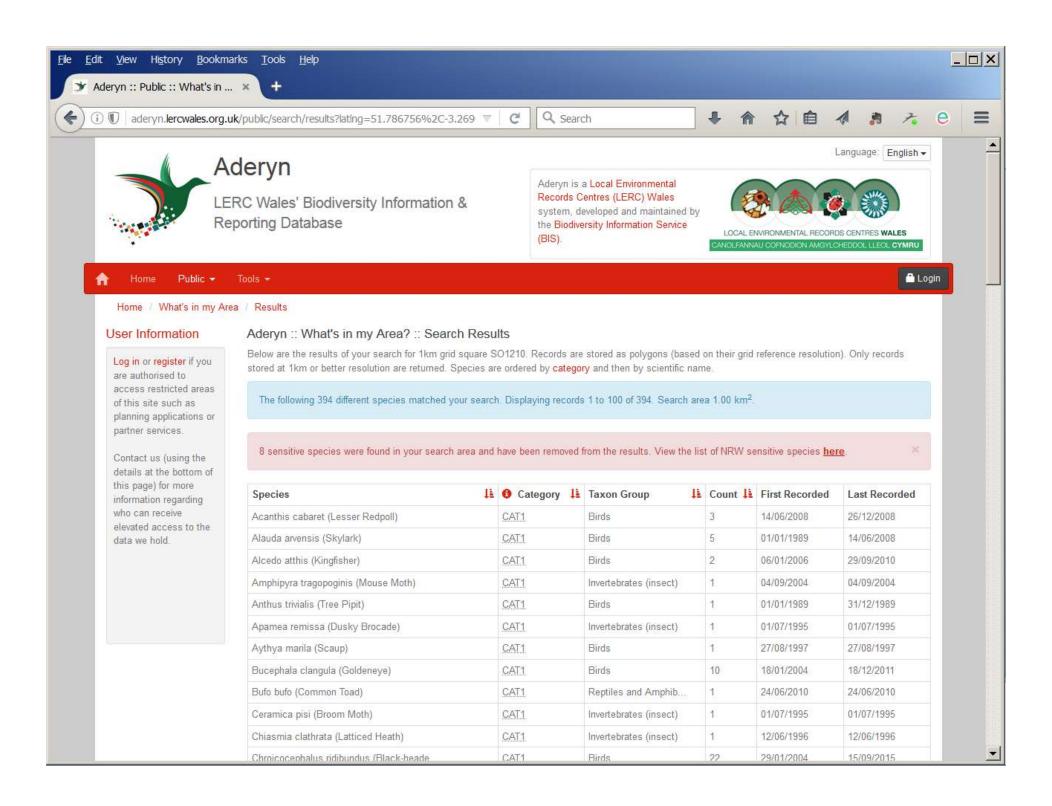
Aderyn

LERC Wales' Biodiversity
Information & Reporting Database

aderyn.lercwales.org.uk









Aderyn is a Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC) Wales system, developed and maintained by the Biodiversity Information Service (BIS).





Home

Public -Tools -



Home

User Information

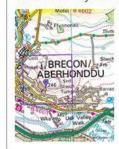
Log in or register if you are authorised to access restricted areas of this site such as planning applications or partner services.

Contact us (using the details at the bottom of this page) for more information regarding who can receive elevated access to the data we hold.

Aderyn :: Home

Welcome to Aderyn: the Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database of Local Environmental Records Centres Wales. Here you can access wildlife sightings and species records collated by the four LERCs, covering the whole of Wales. Anyone can use this site to view lists of species recorded around their home or maps showing the distribution of species according to data held by LERC Wales. Partners, recorders and planners can be licenced to access high resolution, detailed records to assist decision making and conservation.

-What's in my Area?



Ever wondered what species have been seen near your house, school or workplace? This page allows you to find out! Using the map, you can navigate to the location you are interested in, select a 1km grid square, and return a summary of all species for that square (excluding sensitive species).

Go >

Distribution Maps-



This page allows you to see where LERC Wales holds records for a specific species or taxon group (eg birds) across Wales? Select a species or an entire taxon group and display a 10km distribution map, then select a 10km square and see a 1km distribution map (excluding sensitive species).



-Login

If you are authorised to access restricted areas of this site, enter your email address and password to login. Forgotten your password?

Email Email

Password Password

Remember me 🔽

Contact Us

T: 01874 610881

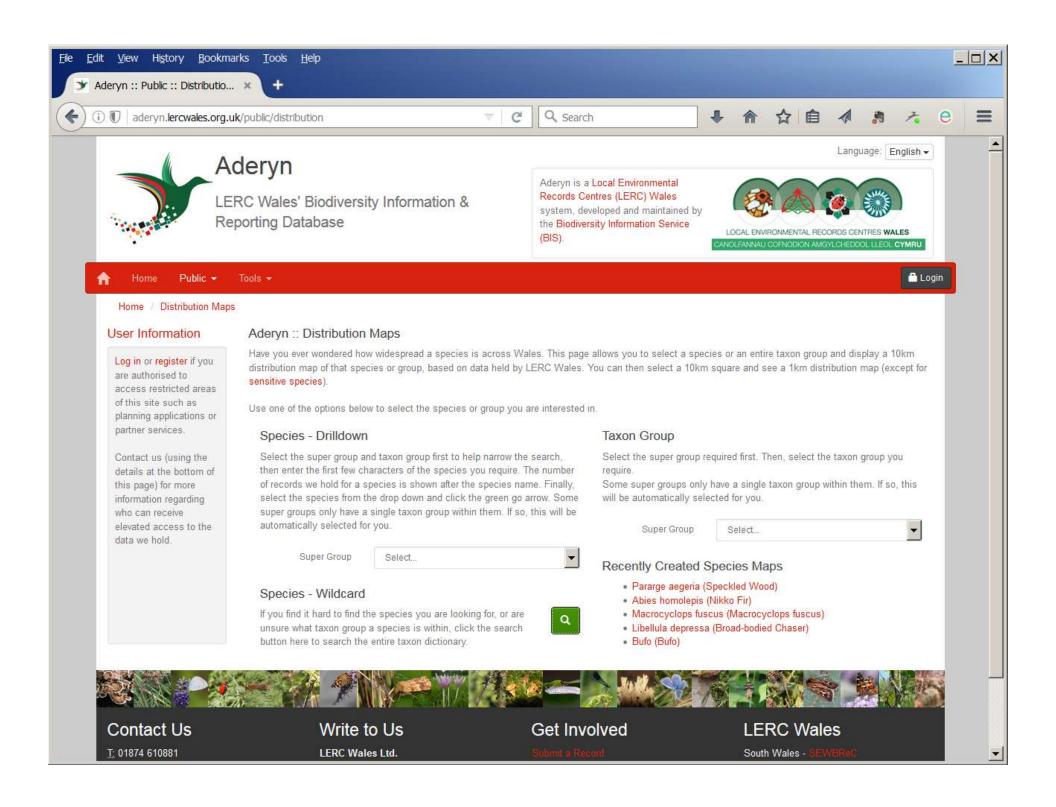
Write to Us

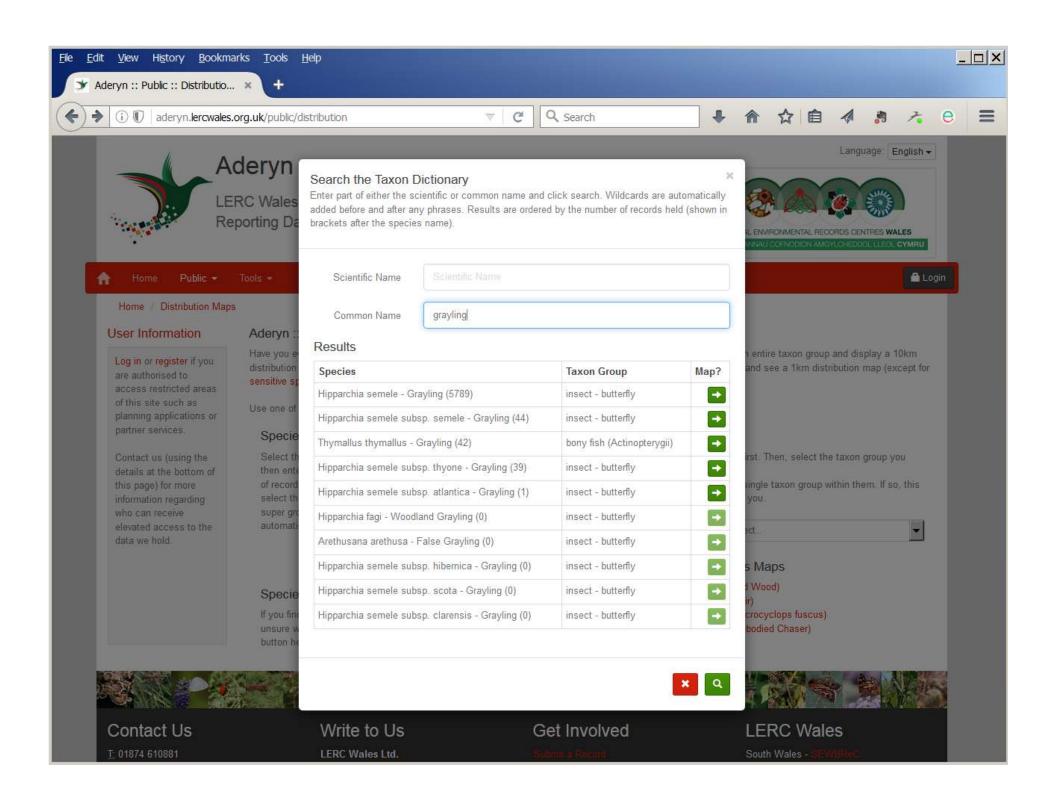
LERC Wales Ltd. C/O Biodiversity Information Service Unit 4, Royal Buildings, 6 Bulwark Brecon, Powys LD3 7LB

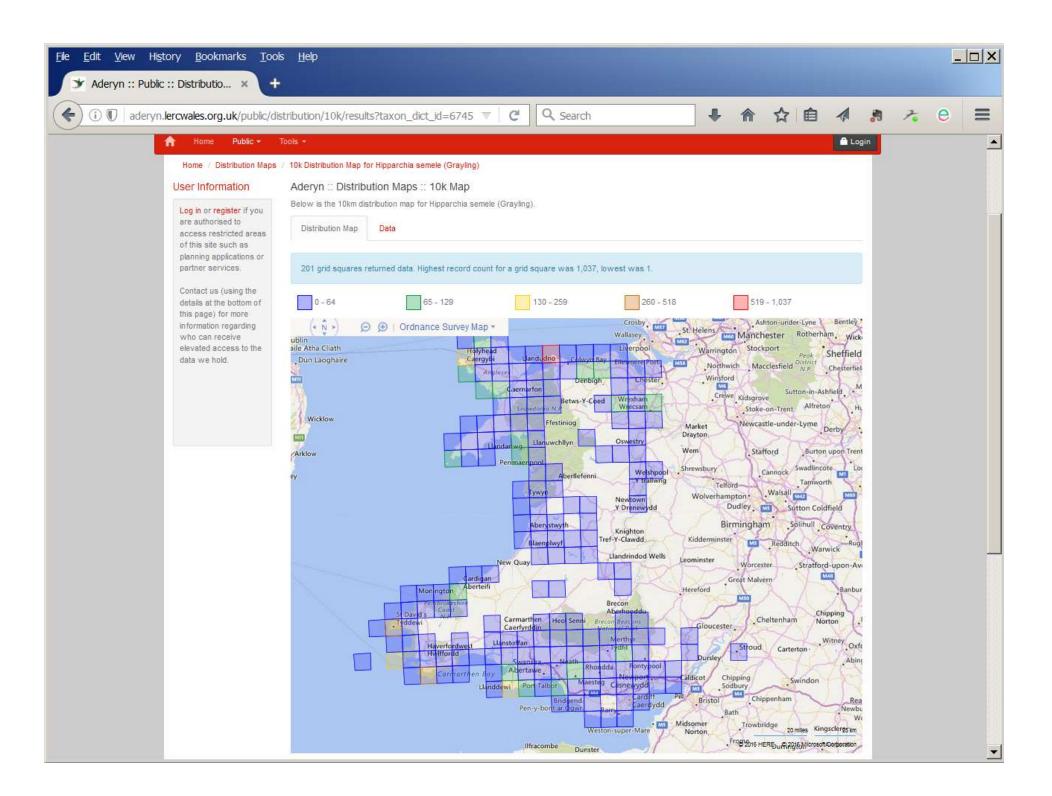
Get Involved

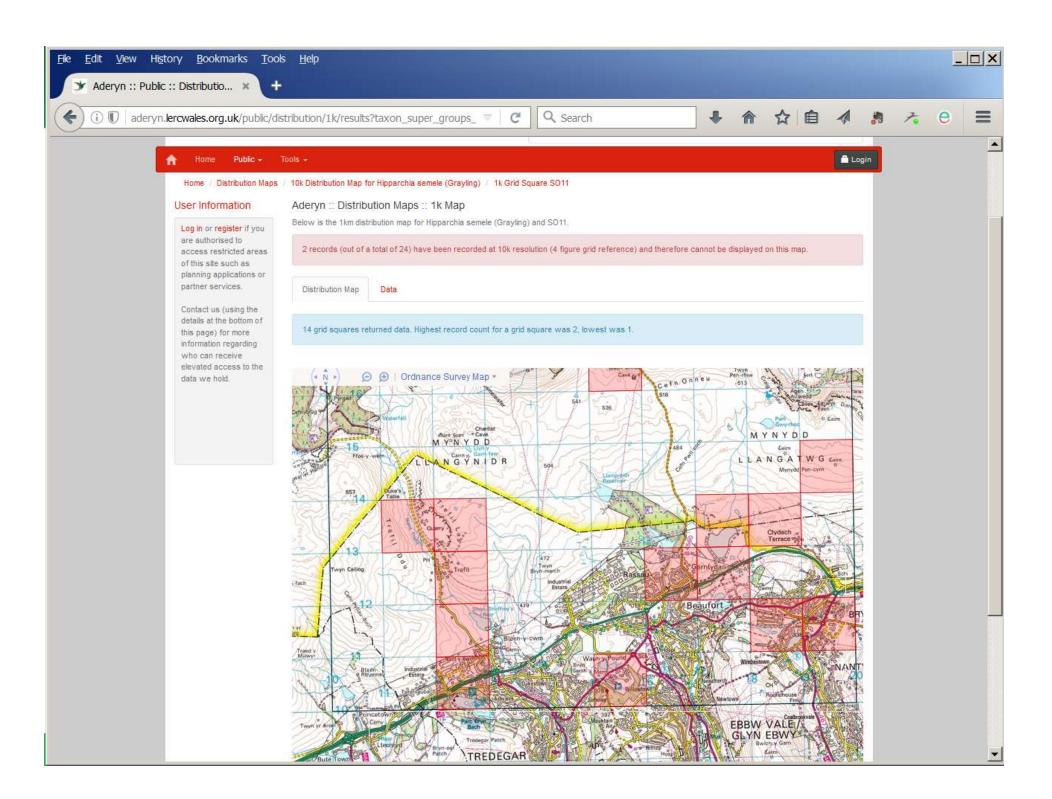
LERC Wales

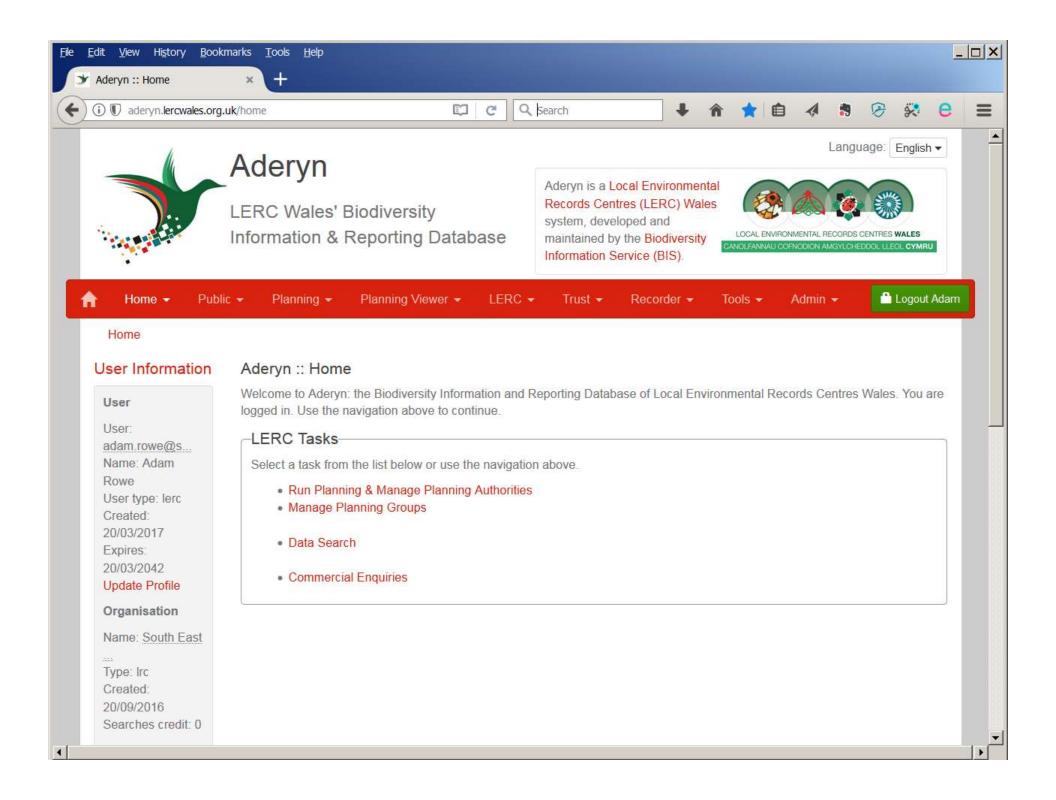
South Wales -West Wales - 1 Powys & BBNP -North Wales -Find Your Local LERC - LERC Water

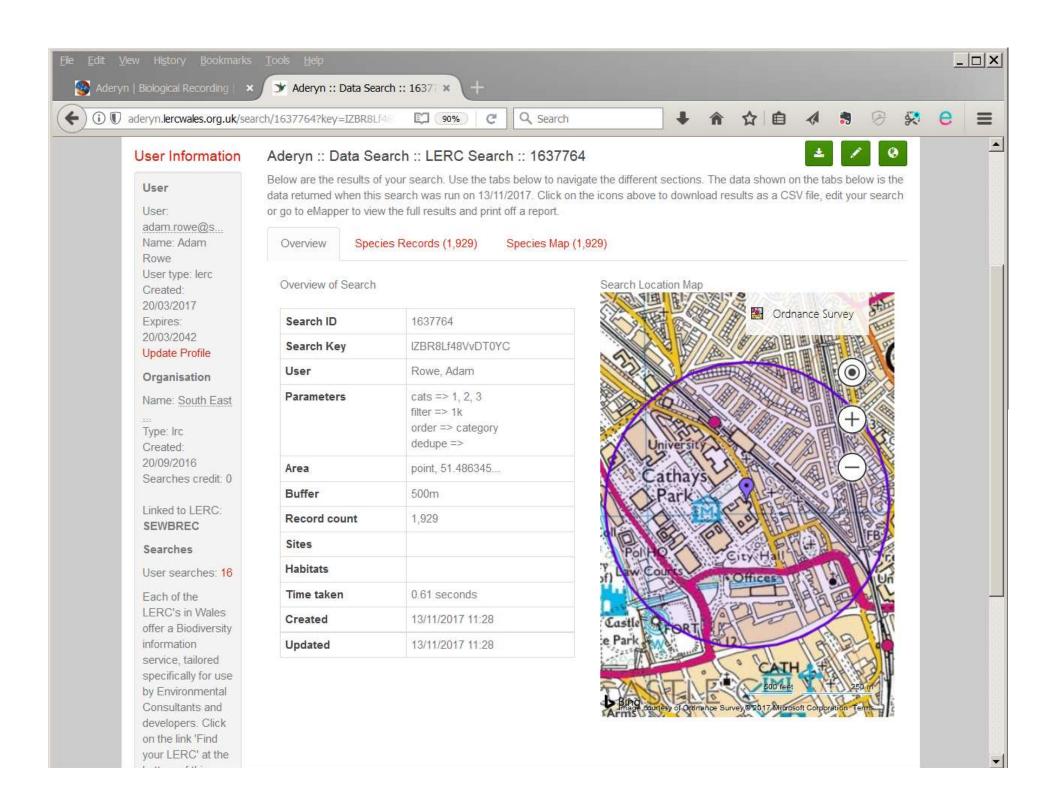


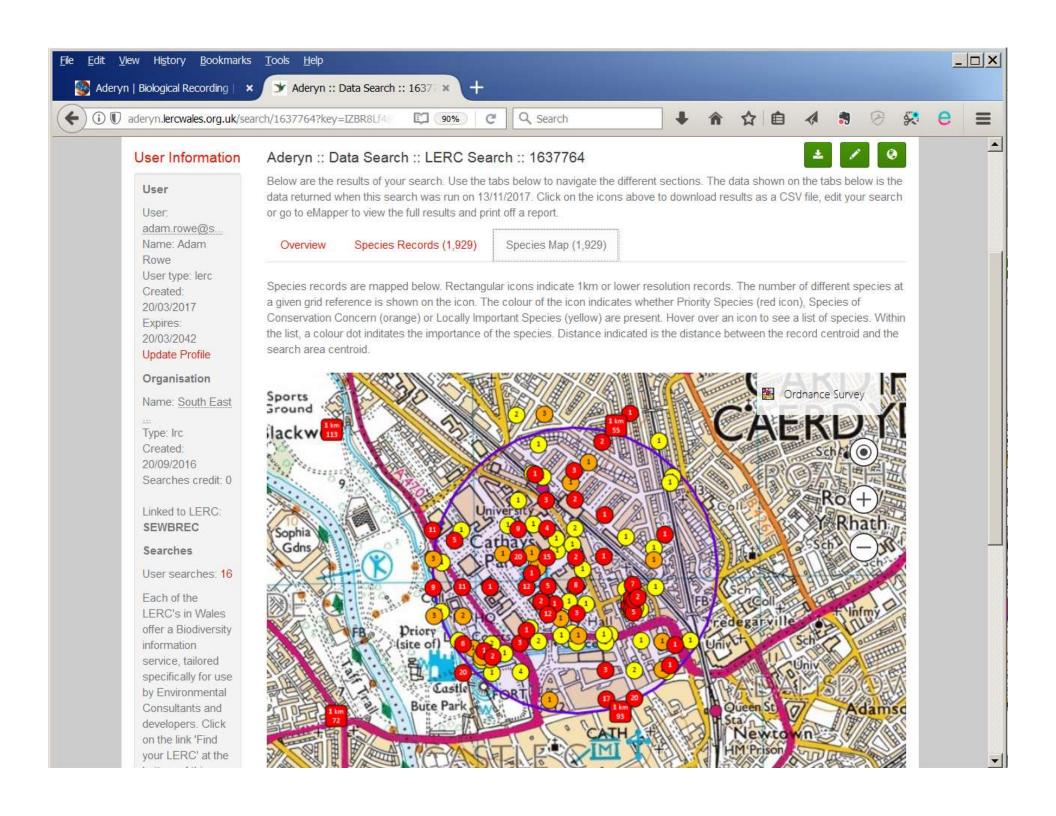


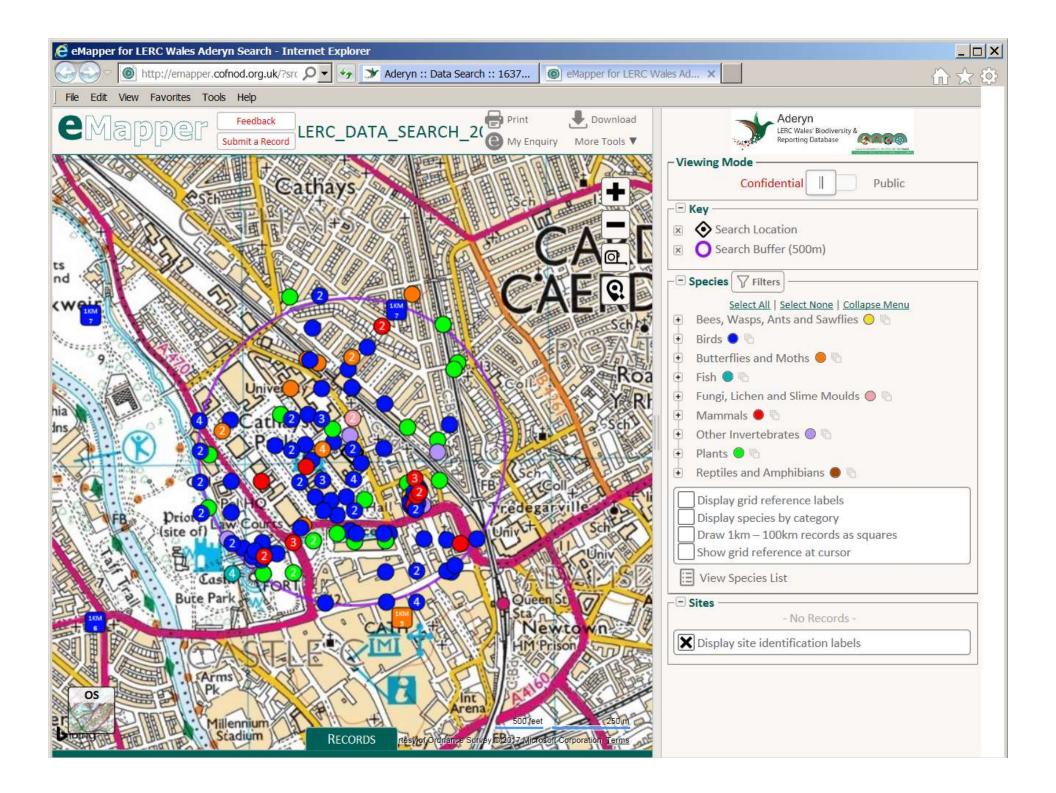


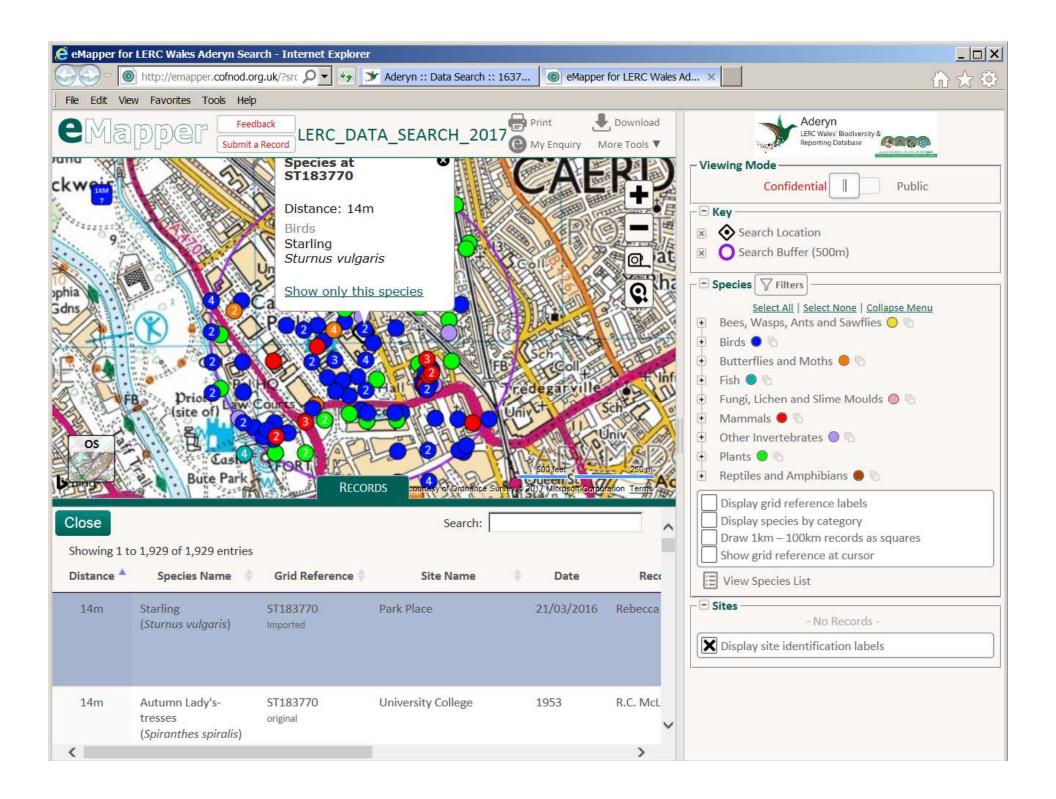


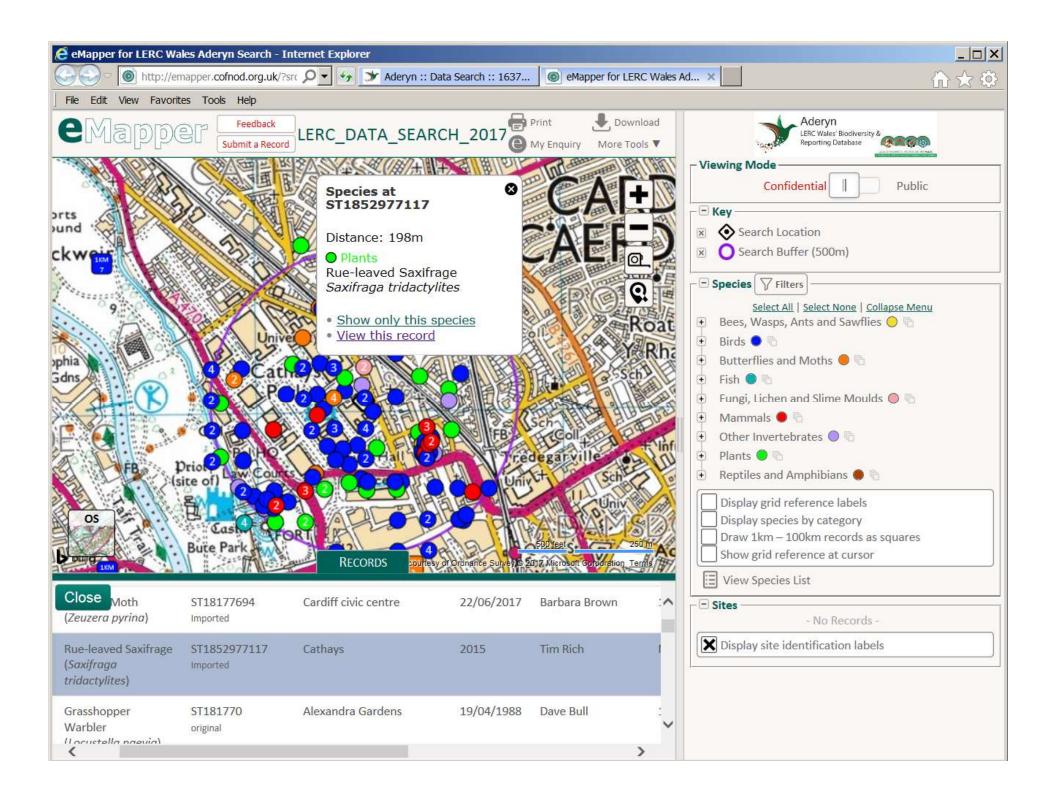


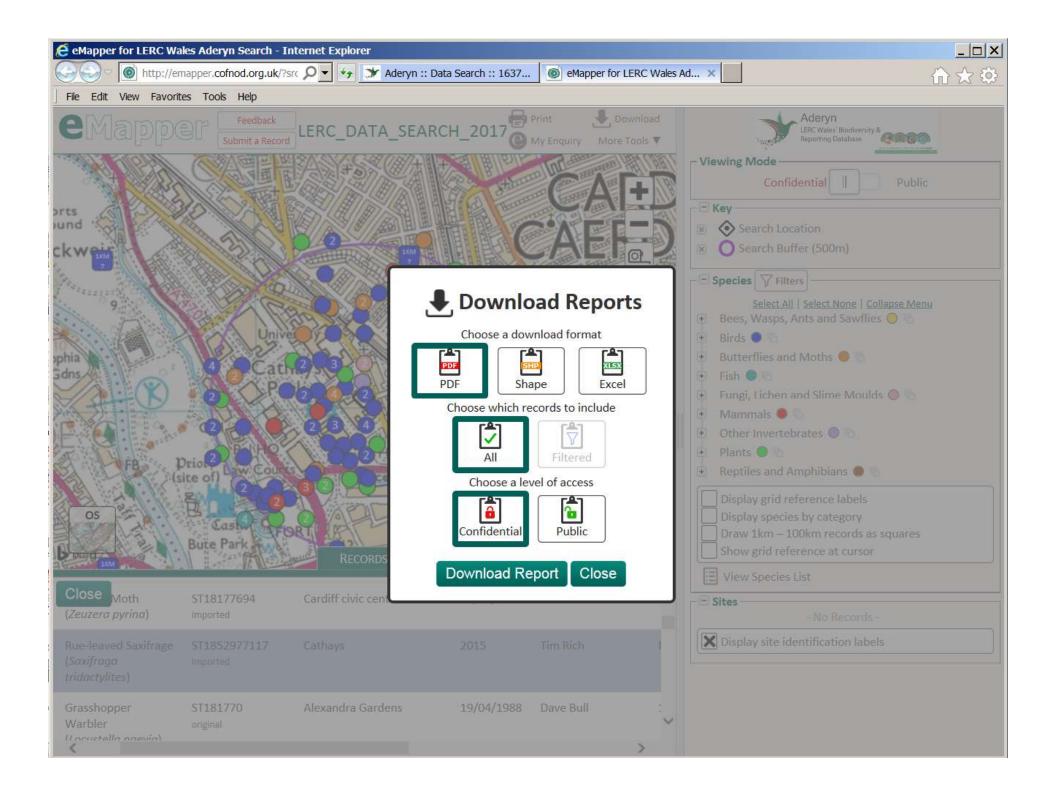


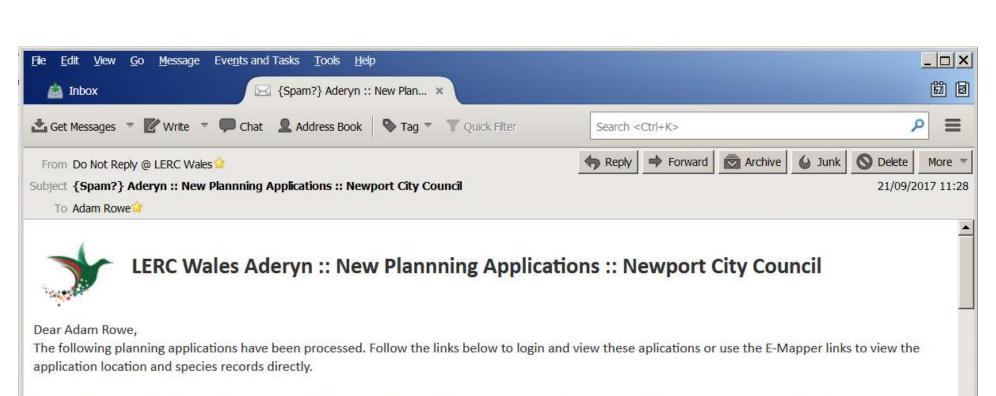












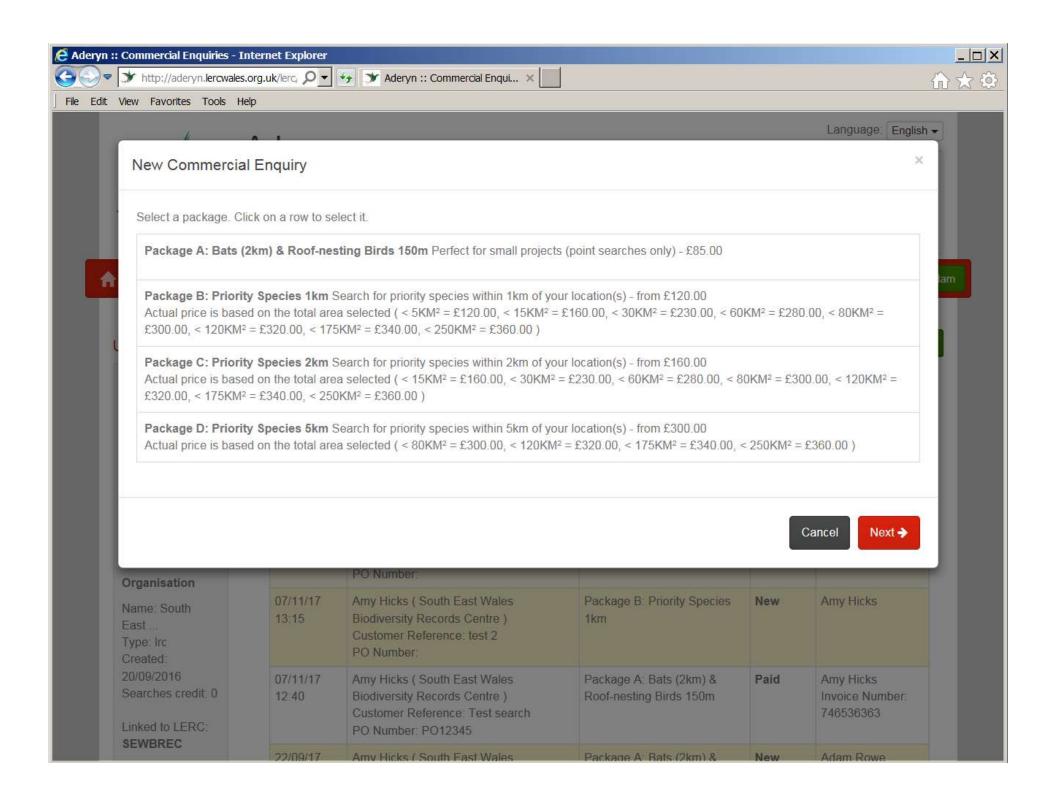
The numbered headings below represent the number of species in each species category - Priority Species (Category 1), Species of Conservation Concern (Category 2), and Locally Important Species (Category 3). "RA" are Red Alert species records - Priority Species records within 100m of the site. "S" and "H" are counts of protected sites (or other significant sites) and possible priority habitat types found.

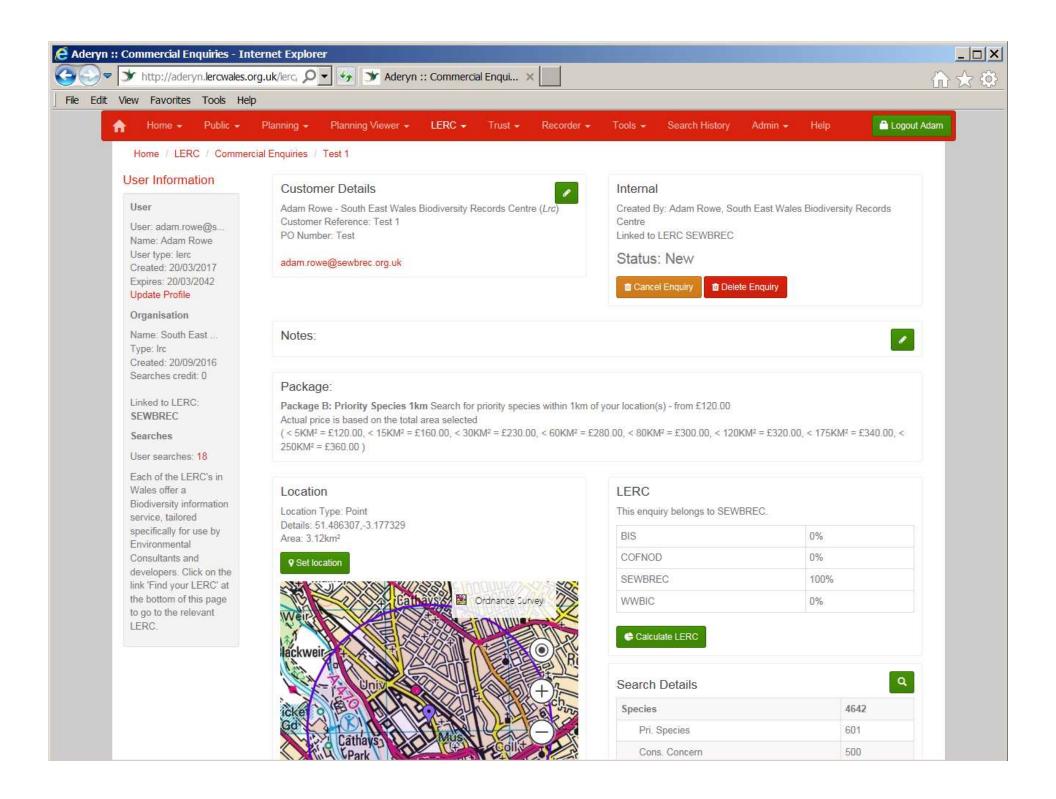
View these applications online: http://aderyn.lercwales.org.uk/planning_viewer

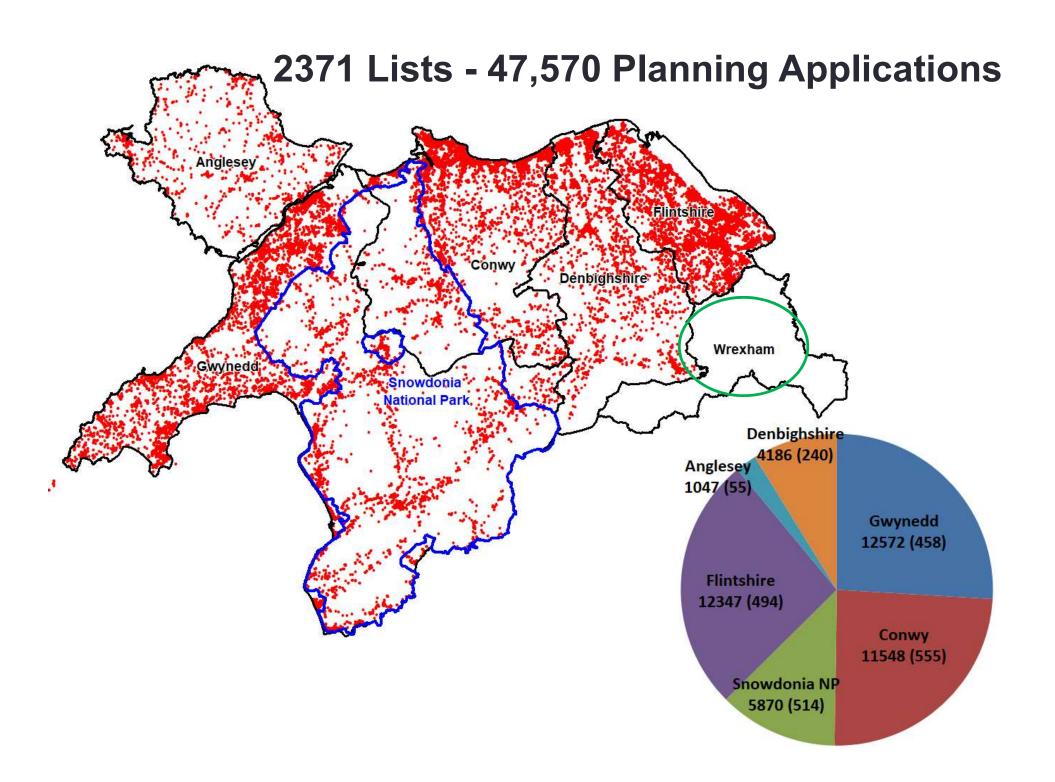
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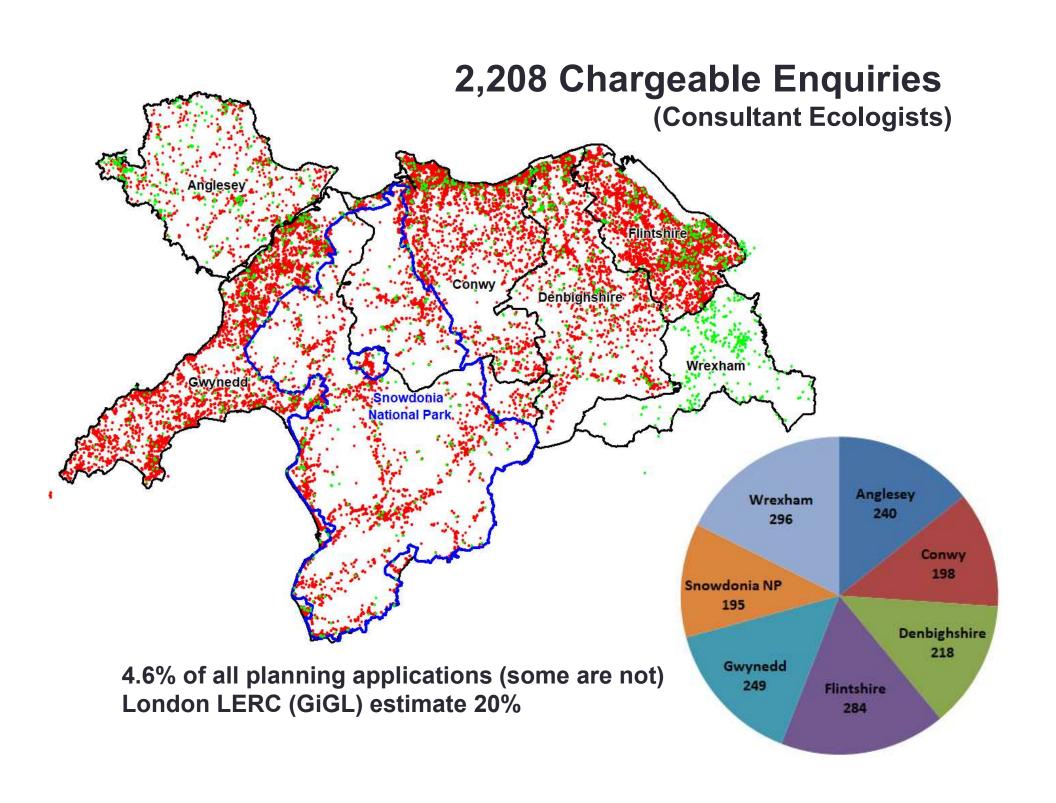
App. Num.	Date	Planning Group	Grid Ref.	Location	RA	1	2	3	S	Н	View
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Unitary Auth	ority: Newport										
Proposal: PC TREES, FELL		EASED COPPER BEACI		ON TO COPPER BEACH AND LIME OOD FROM PINES AND CEDAR							(e)

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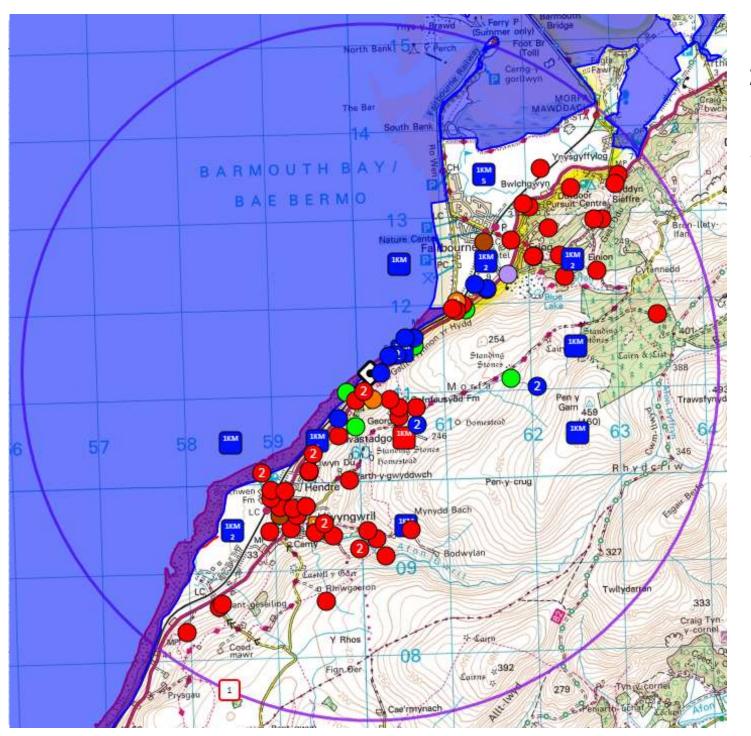








Increasing Collaboration and Co-operation

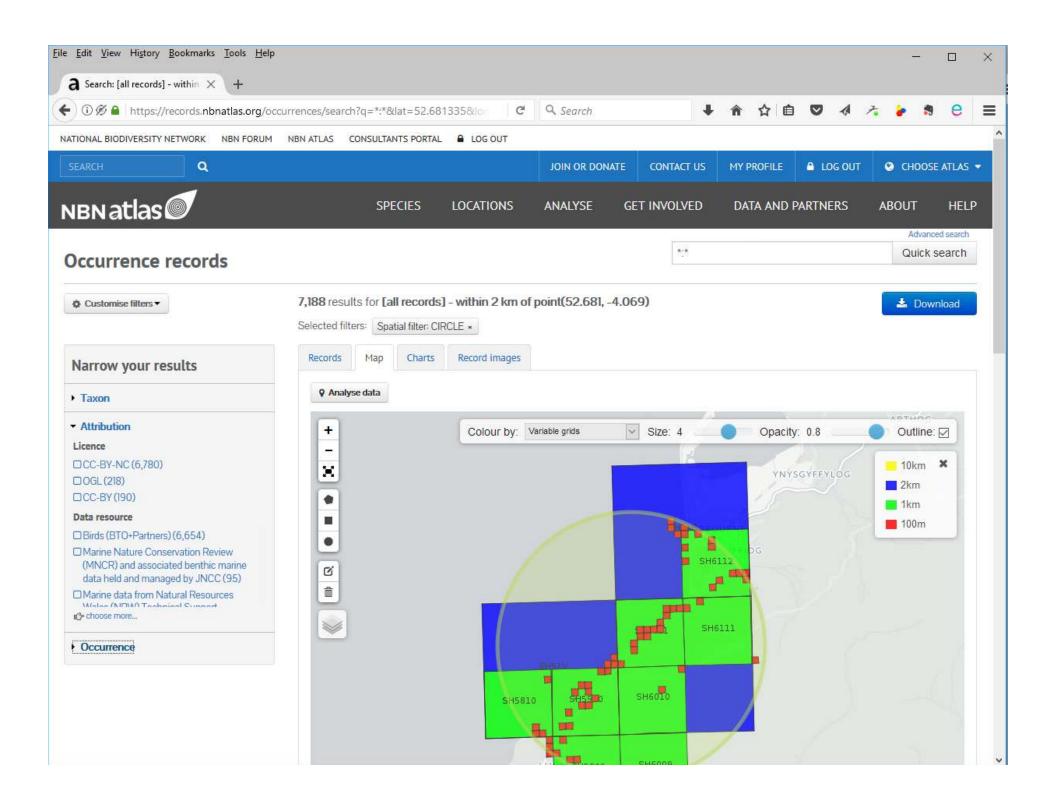


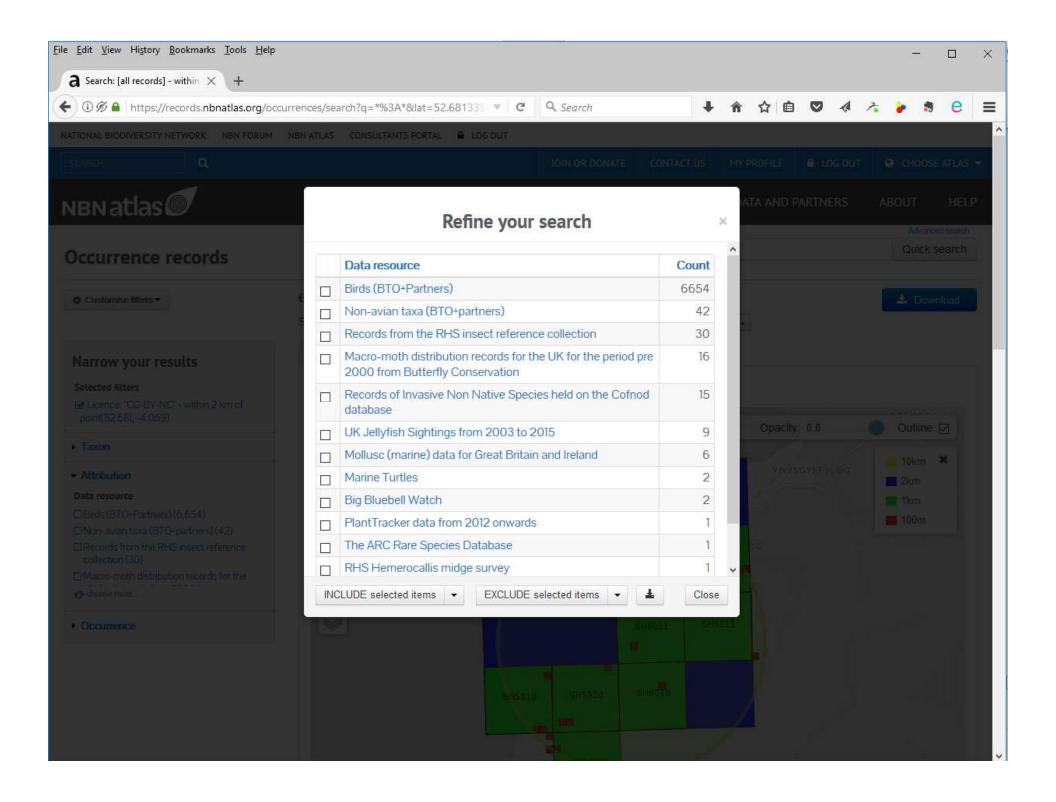
Enquiry 1 of 2208

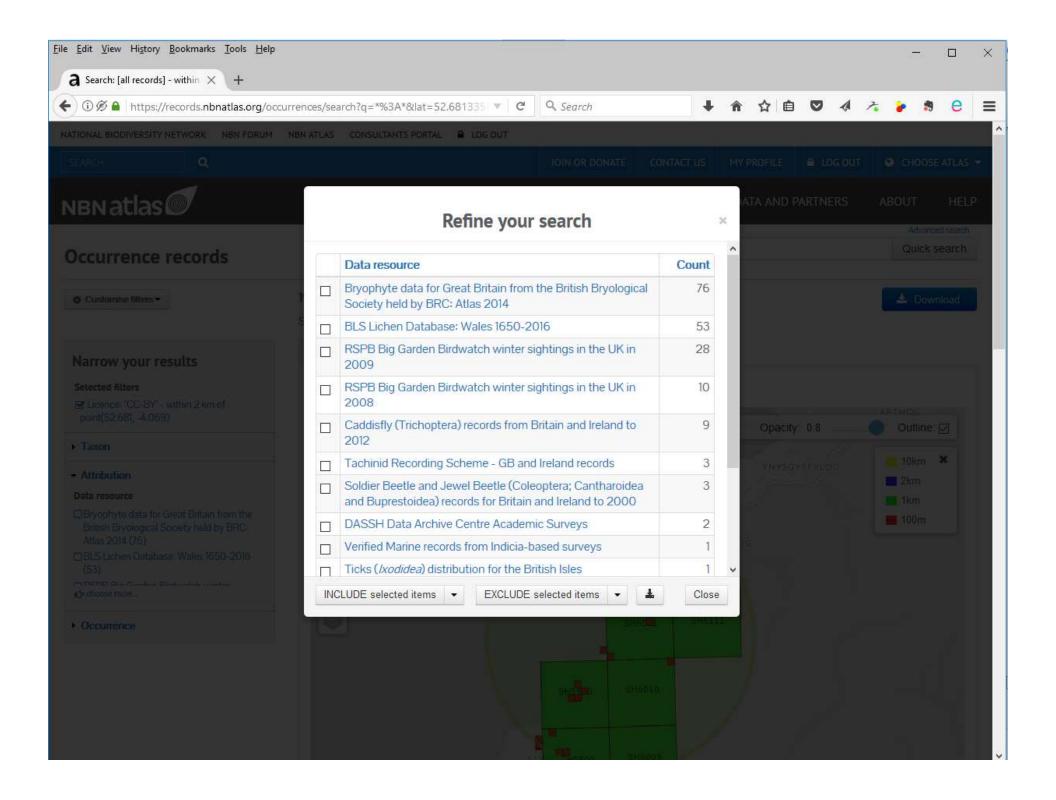
2007
15 Records
12 species
3 EPS
1 hour 15 mins

2015119 Records41 EPS

2017286 Records111 Species86 EPS3 seconds









DATA: SOMETHING FOR NOTHING?

- It costs money to manage data! (liaison, collation, quality assurance, database management, delivering products and services)
- There was no real strategy for managing biodiversity data in Wales before LERCs took on the role
- Welsh LERCs now facilitate the movement of almost one million records per year into the NBN
- More and longer-term resources are needed to sustain the required level to manage and grow the evidence base
- LERCs in Wales have proven business models: drawing in significant sums of money from developers
 - 'polluter pays' = good!

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES



DATA: SOMETHING FOR NOTHING?

- We understand the pressure on national agencies to push for 'open data' the datasets they manage are funded by taxpayers
- Volunteered data is different access to volunteered data is a privilege, not a right
- LERCs provide vital support for volunteer recorders and many recorders wish to see the business model of LERCs protected
- LERCs are vital local nodes in the NBN



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www.lercwales.org.uk aderyn.lercwales.org.uk