



What do consultants want from GKER?

www.gker.co.uk

Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records



- Established in 1990
- 2.2 FTE staff



- Hosted by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Area of coverage: 3150km²
(16th of 48 – i.e. medium-sized county)

Data holdings



Recorder 6, MapMate



2.2 million records



Outputs mostly utilise QGIS and Excel

Analysed data, maps and infographics > raw data

Future database = combined, spatial

?
£ £ £

Income 2016/17



■ Local authorities

■ Commercial

■ Projects

■ Agencies



Total:
£102k

Researching customer needs

Questionnaire: “Developing GCER for Ecological Consultants”



- Sent to 125 consultants in March 2017
- 27 responses

SurveyMonkey

GCER
Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records

Exit this survey

Ways of getting data

How do you usually obtain environmental information?
Please tell us about the ways in which you have obtained data

	no	rarely	often
Have you used searches where the outputs (e.g. results maps) are provided online?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Apart from GCER, have you used other Local Environmental	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>






Questions covered:

- What are your views on GCER outputs at the moment?
- What might you need from us in the future?
- Have you tried online data search services elsewhere?
- How useful was searching and/or paying for data online?



We also asked a couple of questions about how consultants use the NBN

Using GCER

species lists	3.1	
maps (image files)	3.1	
map digitising and layers	3.3	
standard data search reports	3.1	
answers to general queries	3.4	

Comments about current data supply

"In terms of what and how you supply species data I am not sure you could do much different - perhaps ensure protected or high conservation (e.g. red data, BAP etc) species are split from others such as NERC moths, amber birds, common frog etc."

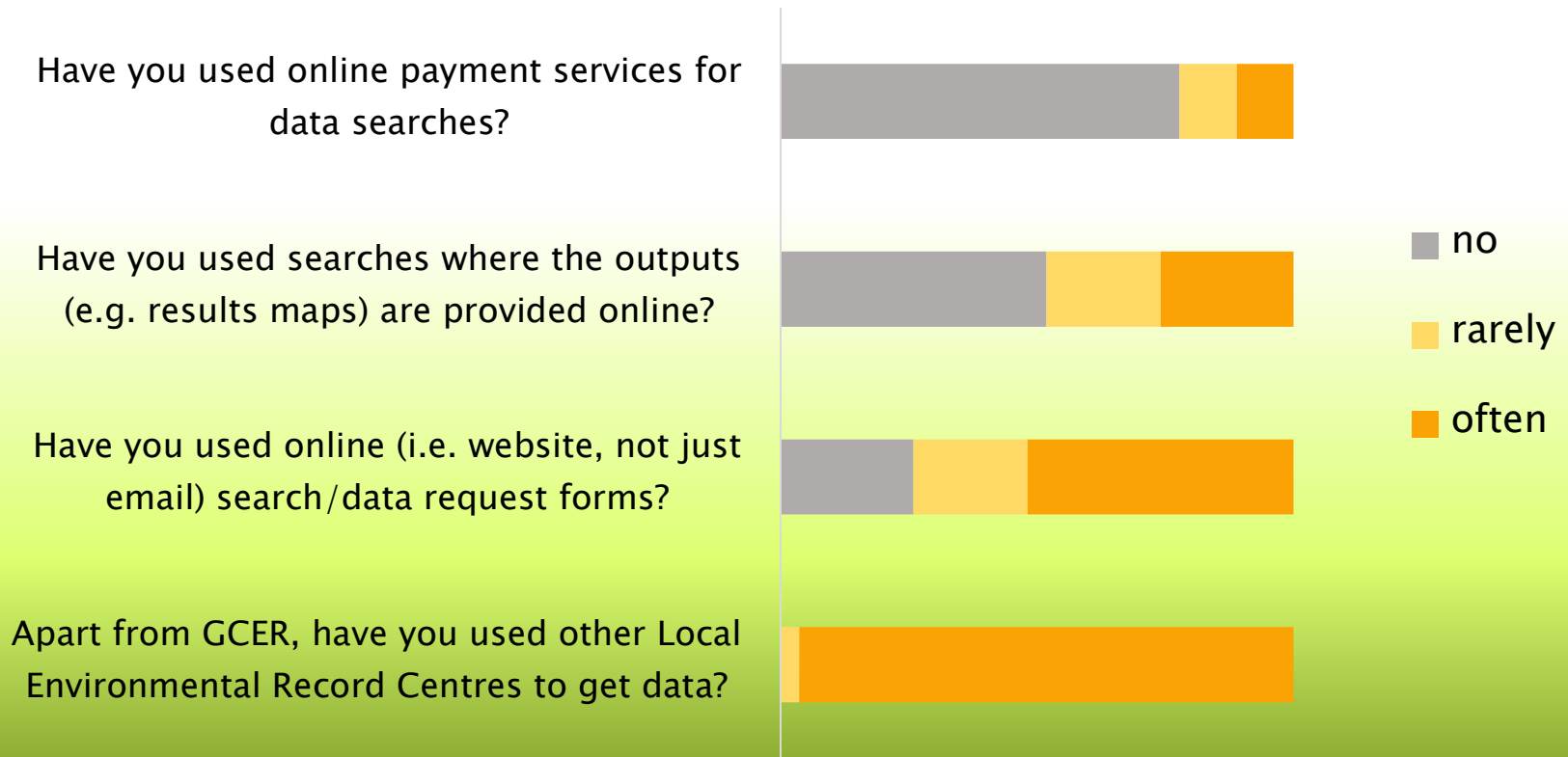
"It can be hard to match up site data with site maps, especially when you are trying to measure how far away each site is from the search grid reference"

"Always friendly and helpful"

"One thing that could be added to the species list as well to make that more useful is a column stating the distance from the search area or grid reference"

"Maps are difficult to correlate to species lists with just grid references shown. Would suggest using different symbols for various taxa and letter codes for species that are visible on the map"

Using other services (non-NBN)



Using other services – online

If you have experience of using a purely online service, please give an idea of how useful it was.
Tick a star rating for: **making an online search request**



Comments about online searches

“Our experience of getting data online is that it is more complicated than it needs to be”

“On-line data search forms are useful”

“It would be worthwhile, if you do implement an online system, sending out confirmation emails. I have sent electronic forms before and then had no record and no confirmation for days afterwards, and therefore no idea whether it had gone through!”

“Payment via invoices is easier for the ecologist to check prior to sending to the accounts team”

“Whilst the online service was very efficient I also valued getting advice from GCER about what I was asking for etc, so online services best when backed up by human contact!”

“If you can download the results, I have no problem with it being online”

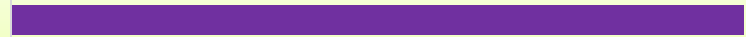
Using the NBN Atlas

Have you used the NBN when searching for data on Gloucestershire?

Yes – I've used the NBN for both habitat and species data



Yes – I've acquired species data



Yes – I've acquired habitat data/site outlines



No – I've never obtained data from the NBN



Using the NBN Atlas

Will you change how you use the NBN now it has become the NBN Atlas?



No – the new Atlas format doesn't make much difference (10)



Yes – it's less useful, I won't be using it so much (1)



Yes – it's better, I'll probably check the NBN more often (5)

Comments about the NBN...

“Takes a long time to load”

“Very rarely used as resolution too low”

“The old system was slow and frustrating with very little detail on each record!”

“A useful reference, but could not replace GCER”

“I only ever use the NBN for a quick check if certain species are in the area”

“Often not detailed enough.

Easy to miss records depending on the scale the map is viewed”

notes about the survey

Several consultants mentioned afterwards that they appreciated being asked

Results were slightly different to the 2010 survey results

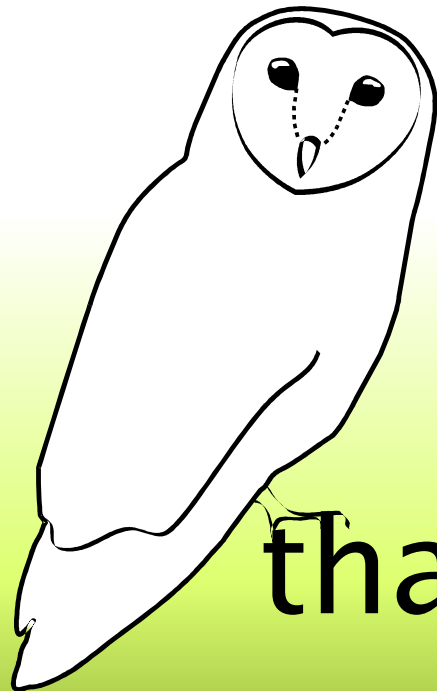
Comments sections are very helpful

Worth getting quite precise/quantifiable answers

Provides useful context for the host organisation

Three surveys like this have helped in the past: for consultants, recorders and GWT staff





thank you!

www.gcer.co.uk