

SBIF Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland

Highlight Report



SPONSORS	SBIF Advisory Group
CIRCULATION LIST	SBIF Advisory Group, SBIF Review Working Group, Rachel Tierney, Ed Mackey, Roddy Fairley
DATE	24 January 2019
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FREQUENCY	Quarterly
OVERALL RAG STATUS	Green

Latest Update

It is brilliant to be able to report this quarter that we have published the final findings and recommendations of the Review and moved into advocacy mode! Following publication on the 14th November 2018, the Review was welcomed by Mairi Gougeon (Scottish Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment) during her keynote speech to the CIEEM Autumn Conference in Glasgow on the 21st November. It was also cited within evidence heard by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee (ECCLR) in relation to biodiversity funding on the 11th December. We are optimistic that the momentum of the Review can be maintained during 2019. Thanks to funding from SNH, our SBIF Development Officer (Rachel Tierney) has been able to publish all outputs of the Review and to facilitate our ongoing communications and advocacy. We are due to attend the next NBN Trustees Board Meeting in February and will continue to liaise with SNH and other key stakeholders while starting to reach out to each sector to progress the recommendations of the Review wherever possible. Our highlight reports are now being issued quarterly.

Details of the Review and all highlight reports and approved papers are shared publicly (see <https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/the-sbif-review/>). Follow [@sb_info_forum](#) on Twitter for informal news on [#SBIFReview](#).

Overview

Our vision for the Review is that it determines the optimum infrastructure for biological recording in Scotland, an infrastructure that in turn will attract the necessary belief, commitment and investment by stakeholders to be sustainable and successful in fulfilling the original vision of SBIF:













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 Review will do this in such a way as to be cohesive across Scotland with support from all stakeholders and the willingness and energy to then make the transitions necessary to implement the new infrastructure by 2020.

Our objectives are:

- To build the energy and confidence of key stakeholders in the potential for an improved infrastructure that delivers the original vision of SBIF (above).
- To establish a register of all operational recording schemes and their operators so that data flows in Scotland are well-understood.
- To establish what funding and other income sources sustain the current infrastructure and what sources may continue to be available, or become available, in future.
- To hold stakeholder interviews to gain their current perspectives and to consult stakeholders on the infrastructure that they and their sector would need to meet their requirements.
- To run stakeholder workshops to identify the options for how these needs could best be fulfilled centrally, nationally and locally, and to evaluate these options in order to identify the preferred one(s).
- To identify where improved use of technology can help reduce duplication of effort and increase the efficiency of the biological recording infrastructure (so that data are made available for use and re-use).
- To identify what transition arrangements would be necessary to implement the preferred option(s).

Stages and Milestones

STAGE/MILESTONE	DUE/DONE	STATUS	NOTES/RISKS/ISSUES
STAGE 1: Set up the Working Group and complete planning for the Review (August 2016)			
Paper 1 (Brief for the Review) approved	05 September 2016	Complete	
Paper 2 (high level plan for Stage 2) approved	05 September 2016	Complete	
Working Group meetings established	16 September 2016	Complete	
Logistics confirmed for Stage 2	28 February 2017	Complete	
STAGE 2: Gather perspectives, requirements and other information from key stakeholders (September 2016 to July 2017)			
Paper 2 (high level plan for Stage 2) approved	30 November 2016	Complete	
Questionnaire design completed	28 February 2017	Complete	
Interviews with Stage 2 consultees completed	10 March 2017	Complete	
Background data gathering completed	15 May 2017	Complete	
Logistics confirmed for Stage 3	21 June 2017	Complete	
Analysis of questionnaire + interviews completed	20 August 2017	Complete	
Paper 3 (high level business case) completed	4 December 2017	Complete	
STAGE 3: Hold workshops to find and evaluate options at central, national and local levels (July 2017 to March 2018)			
Paper 2 (high level plan for Stage 3) approved	21 June 2017	Complete	
Workshops with Stage 3 consultees completed	15 December 2017	Complete	
Paper 3 (detailed business case) approved	15 September 2018	Complete	
STAGE 4: Issue recommendations and plan their implementation (June/July 2018 to March 2019)			
Paper 4 (Review Recommendations) approved	15 September 2018	Complete	Published on 14 November 2018
 Paper 5 (Advocacy Plan) approved	28 January 2019	In progress	To be updated at each SBIF Advisory Group during 2019
 Review lessons learned from doing the Review	May 2019		
 Scottish Government response to the Recommendations	2019?		Likely to need consultation phase also
 Paper 6 (Implementation Plan) approved	2019?		Implementation timing dependent on timing of SG decisions
STAGE 5: Support implementation of recommendations and monitor progress (April 2019 onwards)			
 Monitor implementation against key milestones	2020-2025?		Timing yet to be planned
 Paper 7 (progress report) approved	2020?		
 Paper 7 (progress report) updated	2020?		
 Paper 8 (outcomes) approved	2021?		
 Paper 8 (outcomes) updated	2021-2025?		
 on track  SBIF Working Group attention needed  SBIF Advisory Group intervention needed			

Activities

COMPLETED THIS QUARTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced the formal report and recommendations from the SBIF Review ready for publication on the 14th November. • Prepared and coordinated a press release and tweets to support the publication of the Review. • Circulated hard copies and electronic copies of Review to key stakeholders. • Published all SBIF Review outputs on NBN Website (i.e. our findings from the literature review, stakeholder interviews, cross-sectoral workshops and the public questionnaire). • Developed and/or updated a suite of SBIF Review web pages to support publication of the outputs of the Review and present our recommendations (see https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/the-sbif-review/). • Formally submitted the SBIF Review findings and recommendations to SNH and Scottish Government. • Developed an organogram of all organisations who are influential in decision-making in Scotland to inform our advocacy planning. • Began to archive all files and documents held by the SBIF Review Working Group. • Spoke at the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Science Conference on 6th November. • Spoke at the NBN Conference in Nottingham on the 21-22nd November. • Planned our communications and advocacy activities to support ongoing advocacy for the coming 6-12 months. • Contributed an article for publication in 'Scottish Birds'. • Launched the SBIF Blog and published posts by Craig Macadam, Nick Fraser and Jo Judge • Posted details of the Review on the Scottish Wildlife Trust website (see https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/our-work/our-evidence-base/better-biodiversity-data/). • Attended the TWIC Recorders Conference and the 'Where's wildlife in Ayrshire' Conference on the 10th November. • Attended and networked at the Nature of Scotland Awards on the 21st November having been shortlisted for an award in the Innovation category. • Attended and networked at the SNH NGO Stakeholder Day on the 26th November. • Attended the Scottish Environment LINK christmas evening reception. • Met with Colin Campbell, Helaina Black and Rob Brooker (James Hutton Institute and SEFARI Collective) • Met with Jonny Hughes (SWT) and Anne McCall (RSPB) • Entered the SBIF Review in the 'Best Practice Stakeholder Engagement' category for the CIEEM Awards 2019
NOT DONE THIS QUARTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book follow-up meeting with Robert Nicol at COSLA. • Organise Parliamentary Reception
TO DO NEXT QUARTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Scottish Environment LINK to support our advocacy of the Review • Follow up with SNH and Scottish Government and in particular an invitation to meet with the ECCLR Committee • Meet with NBN Trustees on the 13th February • Meet with the Scottish LERCs – date to be determined • Meet with BRC stakeholders – date to be determined • Meet with Forestry Commission Scotland stakeholders • Seek further funding to continue the SBIF Development Officer post • Consider how to begin developing sector benefits roadmaps • Organise Parliamentary Reception • Develop a 'story map' to further communicate the Review • Speak at the SWSEIC and NESBReC Recorder Conferences

Key Documents

The documents below will be available via <https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/review/> once each one is approved by the SBIF Advisory Group as the Review progresses:

DOCUMENT	TITLE	STATUS
Paper 1 Brief	Initiating a Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (formation of, and Terms of Reference and Brief for, a Working Group to undertake this Review)	APPROVED (at 05/09/2016 SBIFAG meeting)
Paper 2 Plan	Detailed plan for the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (success criteria, activity plans, and timeline)	APPROVED (for Stage 2)
Paper 3(a) High level Business Case	The High-Level Business Case for a Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (reporting on the perspectives and requirements of each Sector and the need for change)	DRAFT COMPLETED for early workshops but focus now transferred to the Detailed Business Case
Paper 3(b) Detailed Business Case	The Detailed Business Case for Changes to the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (reporting on the options evaluated and our preferred option)	APPROVED (by email); including final recommendations
Paper 4 Advocacy Plan	Advocacy Plan for our preferred option for a Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (reporting on the advocacy arrangements needed and the potential decision-making process within Scottish Government)	In progress
Final Report and Recommendations	Recommendations from the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (recommendations and implementation roadmap)	COMPLETE Published on 14 November 2018
Paper 5 Implementation Plan	Implementation Plan for our preferred option for a Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (reporting on the transition arrangements needed and potential roadmap for their implementation)	Not started
Paper 7 Progress Reporting	Progress reporting for the Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (implementation of our recommendations)	Not started
Paper 8 Outcomes	Outcomes and benefits from our Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland (successes and lessons learned)	Not started

Key Diagrams and Leaflets

The diagrams and leaflets below are available via <https://nbn.org.uk/about-us/where-we-are/in-scotland/the-sbif-review/> and are listed here for ease of reference:

- **SBIF Value Model** (the 'windmill') illustrating the components of our biological recording infrastructure that provide value for various communities (decision-makers, biological recorders, data users and service providers).
- **SBIF Leaflet:** Introducing the SBIF Review of the Biological Recording Infrastructure in Scotland.
- **SBIF Review Workshop Outputs** documenting the key messages from each workshop.
- **SBIF Review Literature Review Outputs** documenting the key findings with an archive of collated sources.
- **SBIF Review Interview Findings** documenting the results of key stakeholder interviews.
- **SBIF Review Questionnaire Findings** documenting the results of the questionnaire.
- **SBIF Review Benefit Dependency Network Diagram** mapping benefit dependencies.
- **SBIF Review Final Report** documenting the business case and recommendations of the Review.