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The *Better Biodiversity Data Project*

NBN Conference, 24 November 2021

Ellen Wilson, SBIF Co-Chair, and Lisa Chilton, NBN Trust



Bohemian Waxwing, Strachan, 26 January 2020 by apout · iNaturalist



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Overview



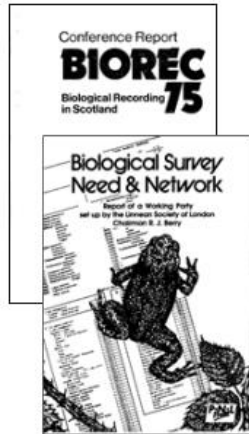
- Introduction
- Background and history
- SBIF's vision for the project
- Partners
- Vision, aims and objectives
- Next steps

[Mountain Hare, May 2020 by apout · iNaturalist](#)



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Background & history



The Scottish Parliament
Public Petition No. PE1229

1. NAME OF PRINCIPAL PETITIONER
 Craig Macadam, on behalf of Biological Recording in Scotland (BROS)

2. TEXT OF PETITION
 Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to establish integrated local and national structures for collecting, analysing and sharing biological data to inform decision making processes to benefit biodiversity

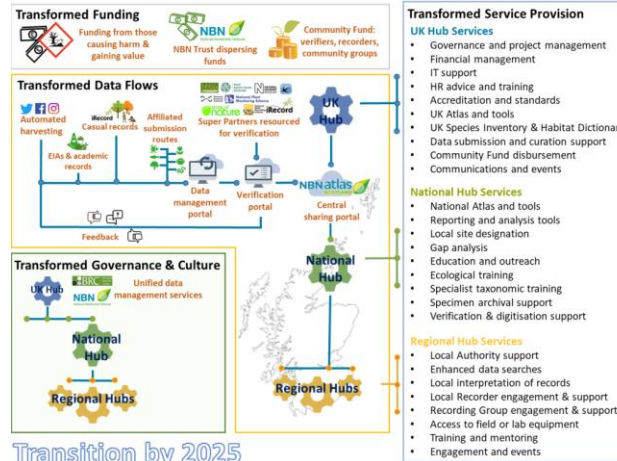
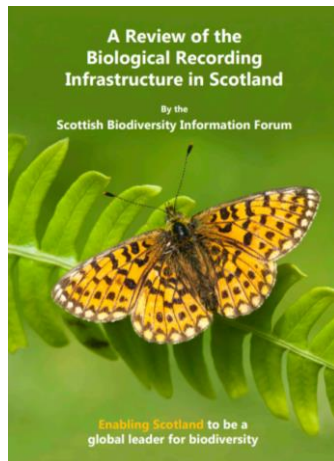
3. ACTION TAKEN SINCE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT
 Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to establish integrated local and national structures for collecting, analysing and sharing biological data to inform decision making processes to benefit biodiversity

09/01/2009

Scottish Government, SNH and others should establish a Scottish Environmental Information Forum (SEIF)...

...SEIF should review the role, funding and coverage of LRCs and other local options for biological data management across Scotland as part of the process to ensure that the necessary structures are in place to collect and disseminate biological information across Scotland

14/12/2010



The Better Biodiversity Data Project



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SBIF's vision for the project

“Scotland’s local biodiversity datasets will be secure and accessible in perpetuity, and the local environmental record centres that manage and support these datasets will be able to develop and deliver consistent services across the whole of Scotland so that biodiversity data are embedded in the heart of all planning and decision-making processes.”



Common Hawker, Aberdeenshire, 28 August 2021 by apout · iNaturalist



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Better Biodiversity Project aims

Following an initial development and engagement phase, the BBD Project seeks to:

- Establish a **national hub** for Scotland as a coordinating body
- Establish a new, single **framework agreement with NatureScot**, securing funding for LERCs and Recording Groups
- Establish a single, shared, Scotland-wide **data management system**
- Establish streamlined data flows to and from the LERCs, supported by **central data agreements** with key data partners
- Establish the first **national data product/ service** for one customer group



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The NBN Trust and the BBD project

- Project leadership and governance
- Employ project staff within NBN Trust team
- Manage project delivery
- Engage project partners & stakeholders in planning and delivery
- Facilitate interoperability with NBN Atlas & iRecord

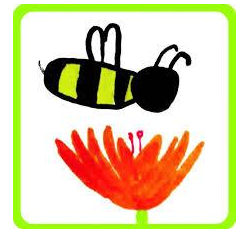


Scottish Primrose, Orkney, 15 July 2019 by Barry Thomson · iNaturalist

Project partners and funders



Outer
Hebrides
Biological
Recording





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Provisional BBD Timeline

	2021-22		2022-23				2023-24		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Green light	■								
Recruit project team		■							
Work with partners to identify and agree requirements		■							
Secure agreement				■					
Develop and implement solutions					■				
Monitor, evaluate and plan						■			

Value for NatureScot & Scottish Government

- Contributes to green recovery, Programme for Government and national planning framework
- Key component of Scottish Biodiversity Strategy reporting requirements
- Enhances reputation as evidence-based organisation and global leader
- Common standards and increased efficiencies
- Consistent funding agreements and access to biodiversity products
- Increased value for money
- Access to suite of key indicator species datasets
- Local Authorities can fulfil statutory duty
- Increased resilience of data holdings and strengthen local record system in Scotland
- Streamlining of marine and terrestrial data
- Bespoke products provide new insights into environmental issues and changes
- Faster planning screening processes



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Benefits for the LERCs and Recording Groups

- Enhanced impact of data
- Greater recognition at the strategic level
- New 'state of the art' online data management system
- Income from national-level services > more sustainable operating model
- National Hub oversight and access to training, support and development
- Data management continuity
- Access to funding for future projects (if this one is successful!)



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Next steps

- Project confirmation & launch
- Recruitment of team
- Partner & stakeholder engagement

For more info, please contact
l.chilton@nbn.org.uk



Dark Green Fritillary, Aberdeenshire, 11 July 2021 by apout · iNaturalist