



Kestrel's fluffy ears

The cultural issues that underlie biological recording in the UK have a long tradition; some organisations have a very long history.

In any changing technical environment there will be early adopters, those who lead the change by example, and those who are 'frightened' by such change. The NBN does not depart from this general rule.

I can safely say that the NBN would not be the strong partnership it now is without the major influence that BRERC, under the leadership of Tim Corner, has exerted over the rest of the LERC community.

This leadership has allowed BRERC to be seen a major focal point within the developing network; the position of influence will enable Bristol to benefit from the changes that are now underway in terms of access to quality data and tools to facilitate its interpretation.

The role of a competently led LERC has never been more important nor the potential benefits to the local community more clear.

I take this opportunity to offer my personal thanks to Tim and his staff for their leadership within the sector.

Dr James Munford

Chief Executive

NBN Trust

2009



Why?

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)

We are the central repository for wildlife and geological data of the West of England area

We manage millions of data

We were set up in 1974 as part of the Bristol Museums' Service

Most of the data is voluntarily given by thousands of wildlife recorders



www.brerc.org.uk

In the 1970s Charlie Copp (BRERC) and Anne Hollowell (Bristol Museum) produced a White Paper proposing a network of local environmental records centres



Map your wildlife...



These are
records

And this is
data entry

NBN is the National
Biodiversity Network

GBIF is the Global
Biodiversity Information
Facility



In 2004, coerced by
English Nature,
BRERC uploaded
some species data
to the NBN Gateway
(now Atlas)

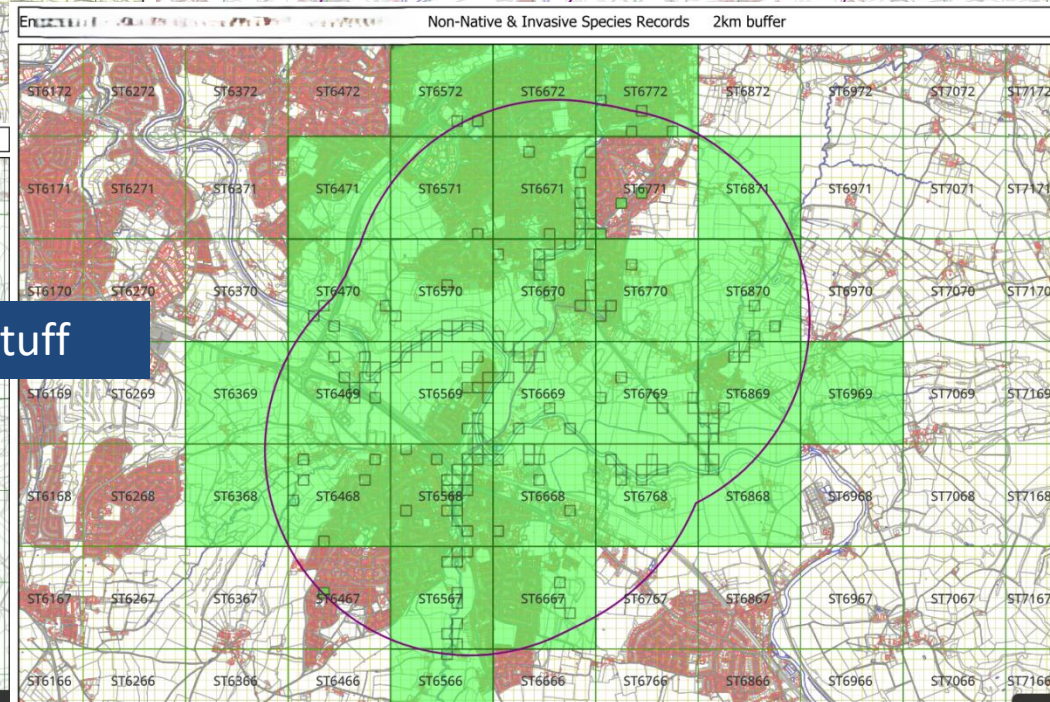
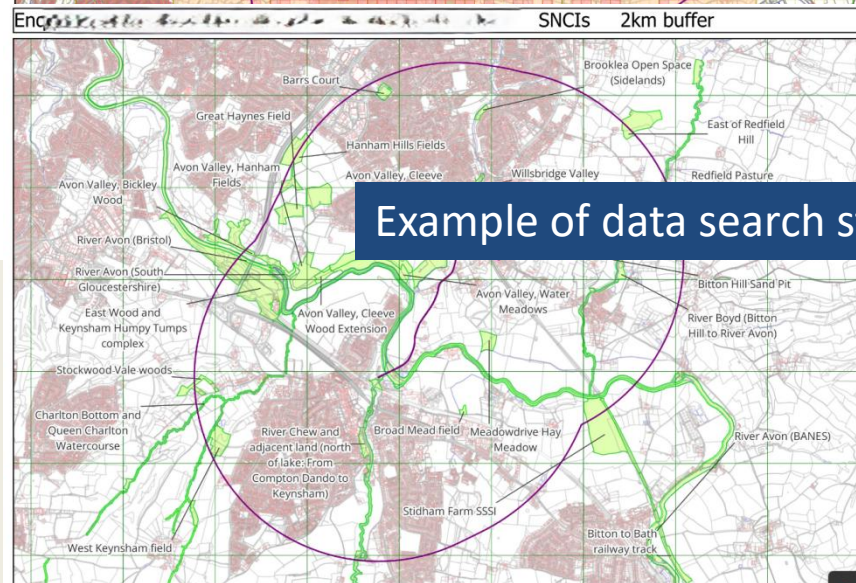
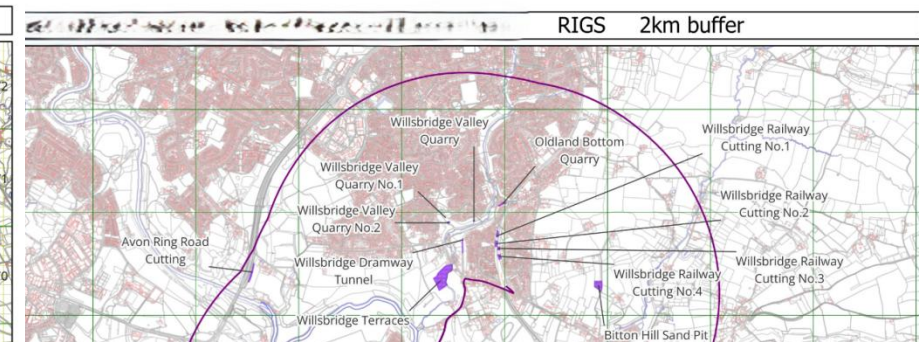
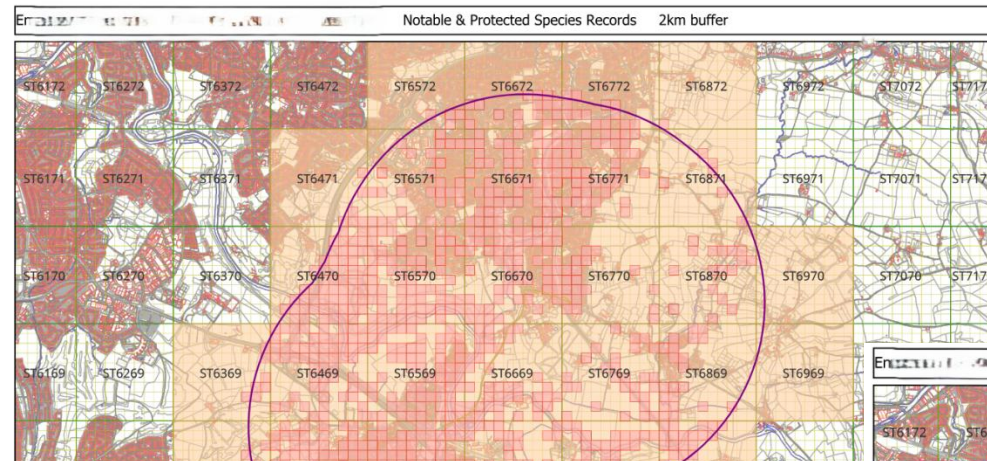
Lots of muttering
about putting
more on



We said

BRERC relies on charged data searches for about 60% of our operating costs

If we put BRERC data onto the NBN, consultancies would no longer choose to pay for data it can access freely



Example of data search stuff

And BRERC would cease

And No records would be available to anyone

We said we would never put more data onto the Gateway

In 2006 BRERC put all its species records onto the Gateway



Why?



Sometimes we
forget we share
the world



As we put data on the
NBN at high
resolution it is passed
onto GBIF

The global version of
the NBN and BRERC

April 2024 to April 2025 there were 17.8 million BRERC records
downloaded from the NBN Atlas

Since April 2025 there have been 12.9 million

Records
captured
by
recorders



A NEW BIRD FOR BRITAIN

The official British bird-list has a new candidate—one that was expected before it arrived!

In the present century many kinds of birds have been spreading northwards and westwards in Europe: which may result from a slight warming-up of the summer climate. Perhaps the most remarkable spread, that of the collared dove, has up to now gone unnoticed in Britain—because it had not got here. Now it has.

The collared dove is a close relation of the turtle-dove, and of the little Barbary dove which is often kept in captivity. It is easy enough to distinguish from them—it is much bigger than the Barbary dove, and has dark sides to its tail. Like the Barbary dove, it has a black half-collar round the back of its neck; this and its voice clearly distinguish it from the turtle-dove. The man who first saw it and knew it to be the first British invader, was a Lincolnshire country postman, Reg May. He must be the only postman who could have spotted it—who could have already seen it in Europe, retained a clear impression of its field-characteristics, and realised that its arrival in Britain was possible. He and I were both members of a party of ornithologists who saw *Streptopelia decaocto* (that's its scientific name) in Milan, Italy, last May. It was odd, having been summoned by Reg, to be watching the same rare bird in Britain, and to realise that a wild specimen had never before been seen here—at least not by

somebody who realised what it was he had seen!

The original home of the collared dove is probably India, though its range now stretches east to Korea and west to—dare we say it?—Lincolnshire. A few (possibly introduced) inhabit Japan. It was known in Persia in the 10th century, but does not seem to have arrived in Europe until the 17th or 18th centuries, when it reached Constantinople. It slowly spread in the South Balkans, and had colonised most of Bulgaria, Greece and Albania, and, perhaps, South Yugoslavia, by 1900. In 1912 it spread north to Belgrade. After 'hesitating' on the Danube until about 1930 it invaded Europe in a great burst which has carried it 1,200 miles in 20 years, and into 14 new countries.

The map shows the prongs of spread, connecting the places colonised to the nearest place previously colonised; they show the cavalry movements of the invading army, but not the subsequent consolidation by the infantry. But in each country the history proves to be the same: first odd birds appear, then pairs; in a year or two the first nest is found; soon many nests; in five or six years there are more than can be recorded; in a dozen years the doves are established, and resident, in almost every suitable place. So if affairs on the Continent be any guide, the collared dove will have become a well-known

member of our British bird fauna by about 1965.

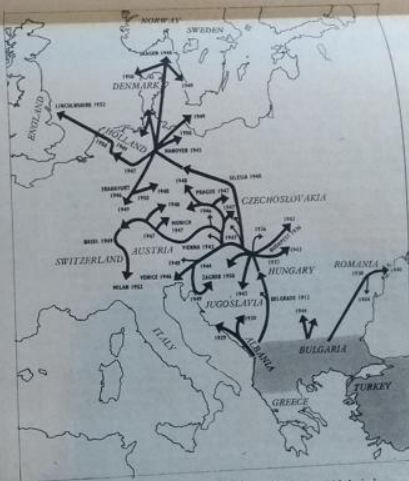
Britain's single wild bird arrived at a suitable typical place last May (so Reg May was told by the local farm workers) and has been living there since. It inhabits a stretch of 'marginal land'—mild heath, hardstem-thicket, cornfields, orchards and spinneys, with cottage chicken-runs where it often shares the food scattered for the chickens (a characteristic side of its behaviour). It appears to be a male, and has been cooing audaciously its typical song (*proo-proo-no-proo*, or *ku-hoo-ku-hoo*) for some minutes, signalling its presence in a good breeding-ground to a female which has never come. Perhaps one will come next year, another pioneer from the Continent.

Theoretically, (and this applies to nearly all birds, common or rare) our British arrival, wild though it seems from its behaviour, could be an escape from captivity, though I believe it is a couple of years since any were imported, and enquiries have produced no evidence of any escapes. It is far more likely that it is a pioneer of the great European spread and that it will be only a short time before others come, and we have a new British bird (the 429th) for our ever-increasing band of naturalists to enjoy.

JAMES FISHER

(collared Dove) (Streptopelia decaocto)

The things we see locally could be of interest across the world



James Fisher's reconstruction, compiled from European ornithological literature, of the collared dove's spread. Shaded area is that occupied in about 1900. Arrows show main directions of the spread to its present limits.

1952

Collared Dove

Time Field helped by B. R. R. R. R.

April 2024 to April 2025 there were 337 Citations using BRERC data

Since April 2025 there have been 190

Search	🔍
Country or area of researcher	^
Search	
☐ United States of America	298
☐ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	199
☐ Germany	189
☐ China	135
☐ Spain	134
☐ France	114
☐ Australia	103
☐ Canada	103
☐ Switzerland	98
☐ Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	76
☐ Italy	70
☐ Sweden	70
☐ Brazil	62
☐ Czechia	61
☐ Belgium	57
☐ South Africa	57
☐ Austria	51
☐ Denmark	49
☐ Norway	46
☐ New Zealand	44
Country or area of coverage	▼
Literature type	▼
Relevance	▼
Year of publication	▼

Biological invasion • Climate change • Economic cost • Global

Preprint Open access

Data referenced in work [DOI 10.15468/dl.3ucufg](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.rhvr4d](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.uvanjy](#)

Data management practices applied for species ecological information representation ↗

Ronquillo Ferrero, C. (2025)
 Durante los dos últimos siglos, se ha tratado de comprender la presencia de especies a través de la continua recopilación de datos sobre la disponibilidad de datos ha llegado a transformar...

Thesis

Data referenced in work [DOI 10.15468/dl.2n6uw9](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.6vbtbx](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.8b5gk4](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.aa22q3](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.adsrne](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.csvjtn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ecup6s](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.j62gfn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.m9wuc2](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.t2je5u](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ujcaem](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.yg88mt](#)

Urbanisation effects on floodplain biodiversity field data? ↗

Burriat, J. Dolédec, S. Kaufmann, B. Belletti, B. (2025) Conférence
 Floodplains are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world, and the ecosystem services they support. Despite their small extent, they are among the most which are rare or threatened. The story...

Conference proceedings Open access Peer-reviewed

Data referenced in work [DOI 10.15468/dl.gq9tw9](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.2n6uw9](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.8b5gk4](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.aa22q3](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.adsrne](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.csvjtn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ecup6s](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.j62gfn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.m9wuc2](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.t2je5u](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ujcaem](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.yg88mt](#)

Diversity and transmission and zoonotic potential of bat

Li, H. Huang, Z. Lan, J. Hu, L. Wei, X. Wang, Y. ... - (2025) Nature
 The Eulipotyphla (true insectivores) is the third largest mammalian group and a major source of human infectious diseases. However, relatively little is known about the contribution to virus transmission among ...

Journal article Open access Peer-reviewed

Data referenced in work [DOI 10.15468/dl.2n6uw9](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.8b5gk4](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.aa22q3](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.adsrne](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.csvjtn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ecup6s](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.j62gfn](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.m9wuc2](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.t2je5u](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.ujcaem](#) [DOI 10.15468/dl.yg88mt](#)

Extract from GBIF relating to some of the BRERC data

We use the
NBN Atlas
nearly every
day ourselves





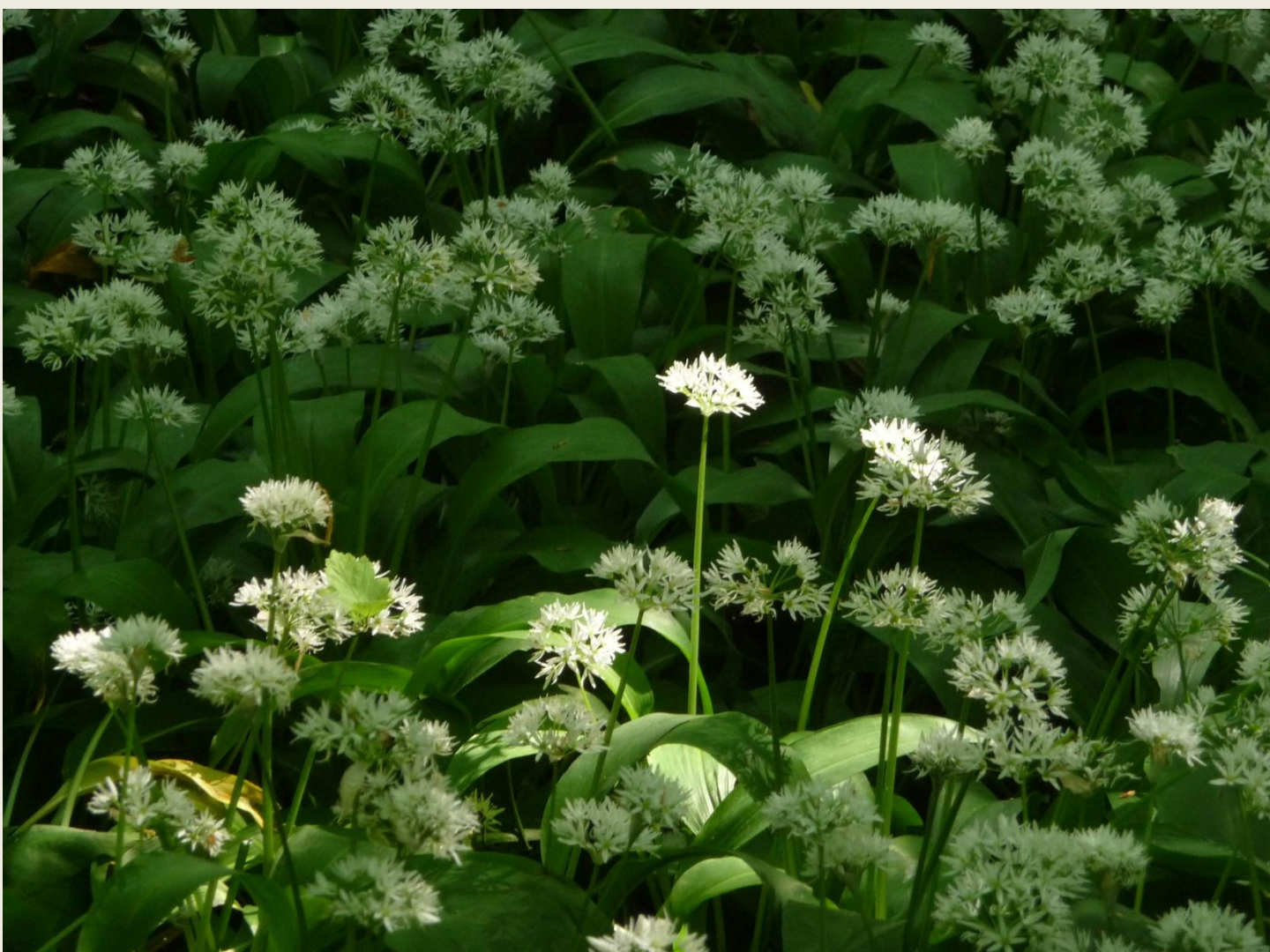
We use the species
dictionary, the maps
and the data

It enables us to have
another back-up,

the NBN staff have
always been helpful

We often discuss
standards and
challenges

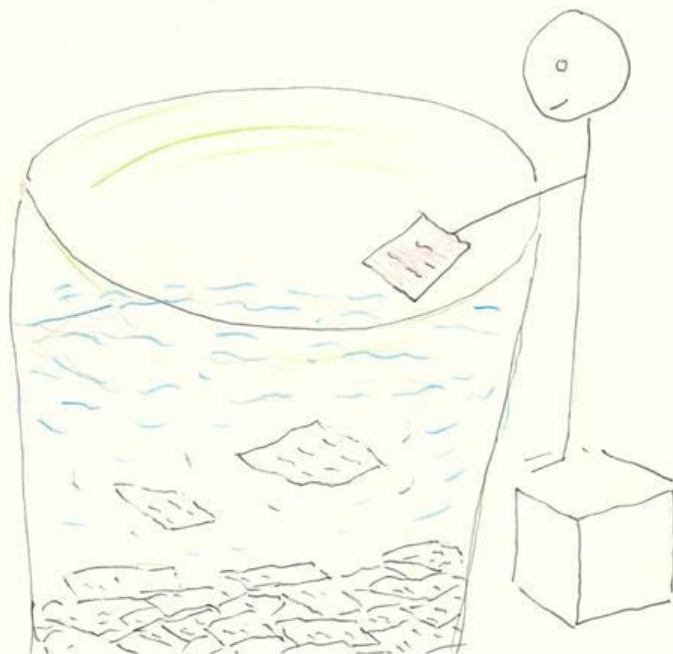
and we have improved





The NBN
is a
friend
with a
shared
mission

"I'll just put my really really
important record into this
iNat App"



Important things
Protection Service



"I'm sure the
important things protection service
will find it"



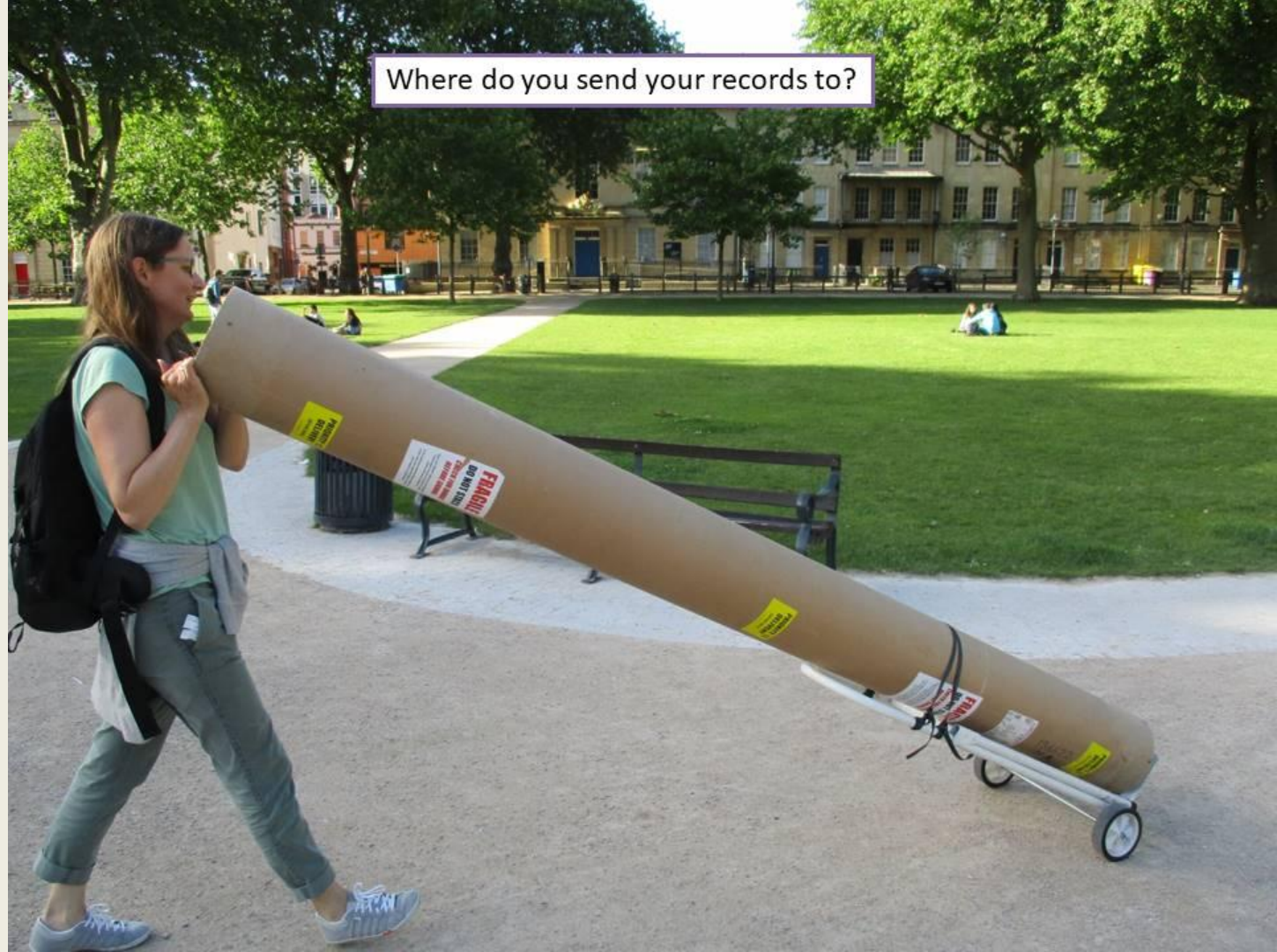
BRERC with the NBN
can ensure everyone
can access the wildlife
data they need

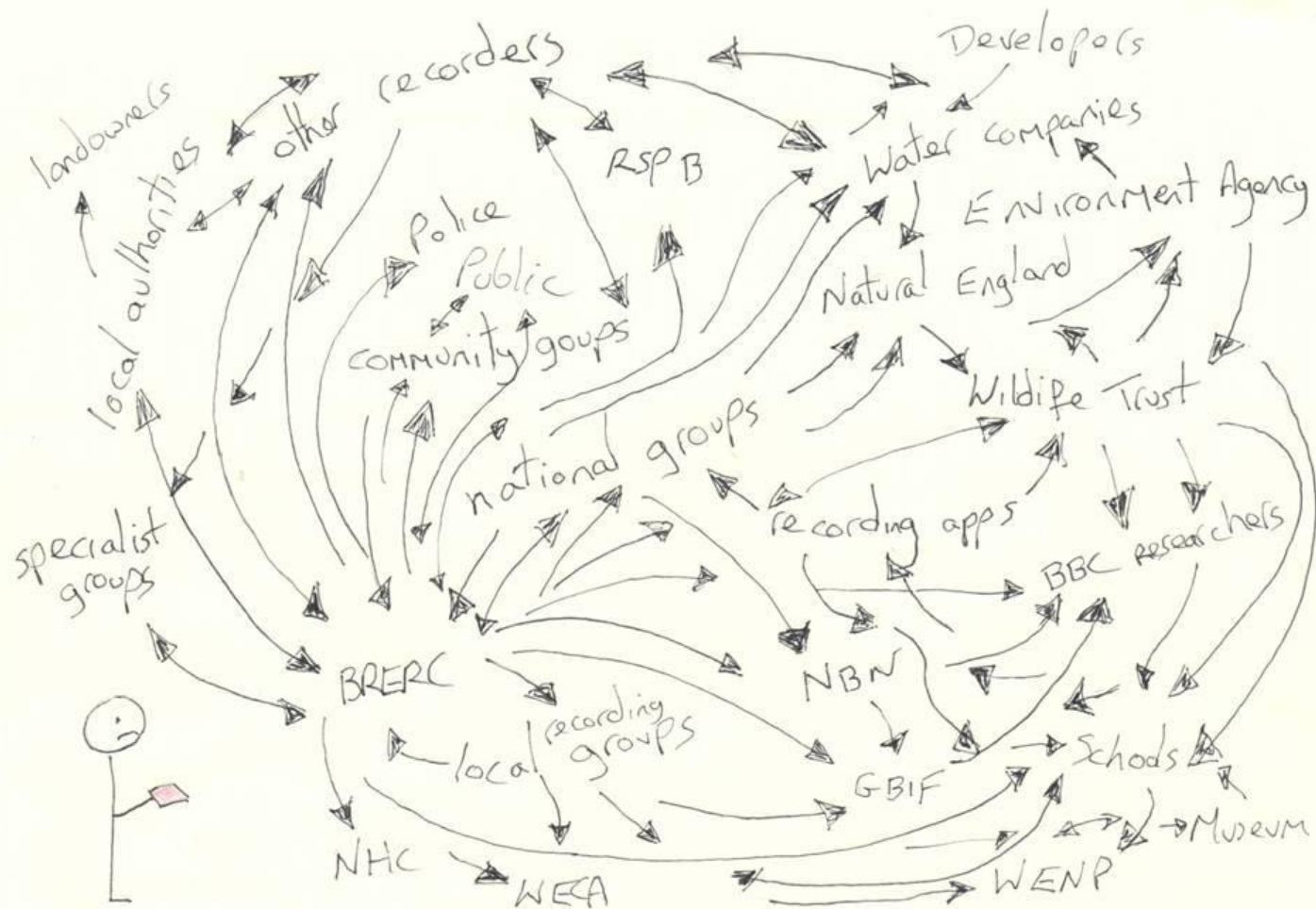
We seek to
improve standards

and provide
recorders with
support



Where do you send your records to?





We have a different idea



National organisations
Bodies and groups



BRERC



Local organisations
Bodies and groups



THE NBN is the key national organisation we provide our data to



- We are confident that we can satisfactorily manage the BRERC data on the Gateway.
- We recognise that BRERC has been slow to develop protocols and systems in-house to exploit the resources of the Gateway.
- BRERC does not feel the submission of data to the Gateway has adversely affected our business.

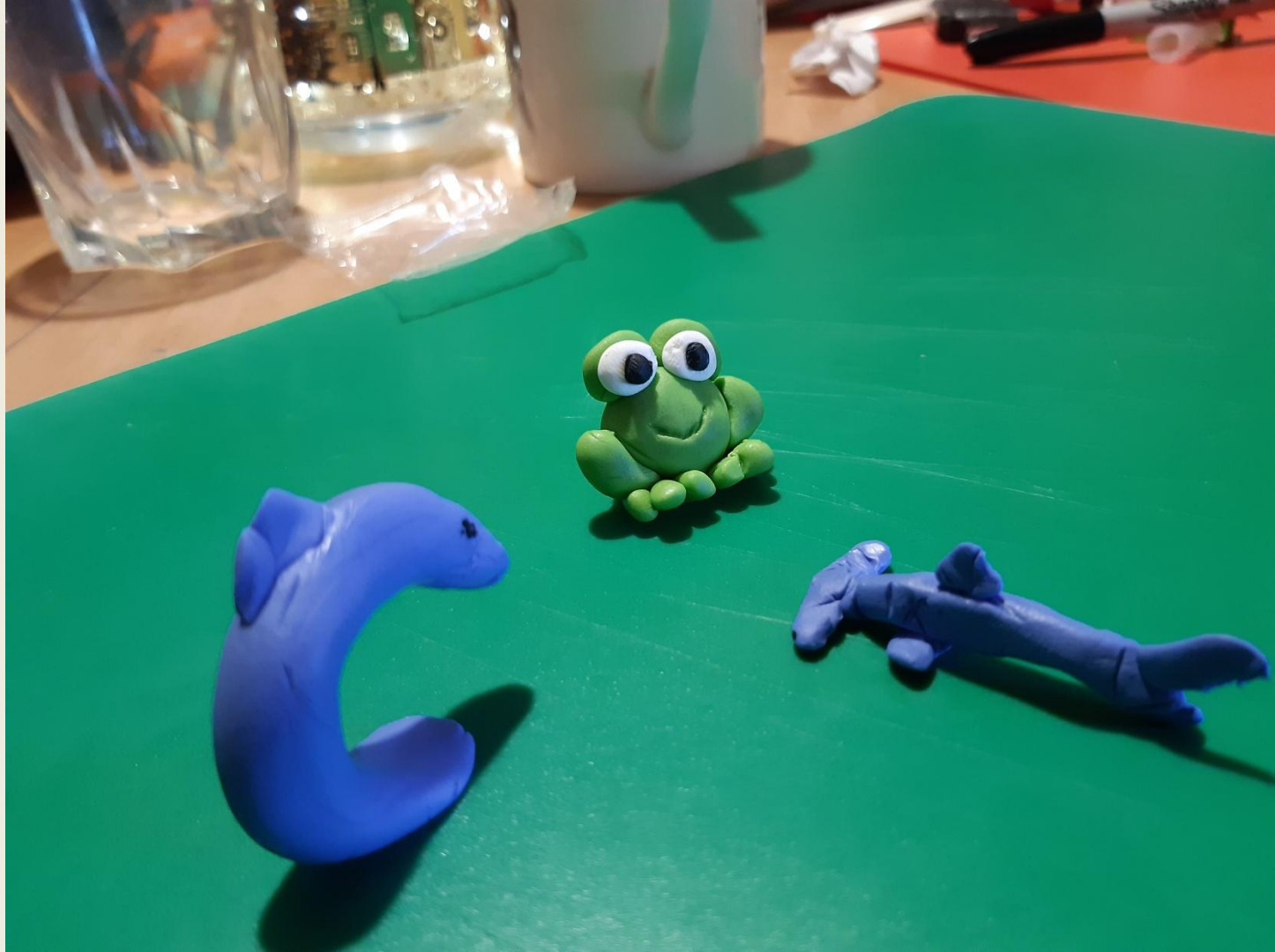
I am confident that data held by BRERC is now much more widely available, is being used for many more uses and is also being maintained with higher standards. Which is nice since, after all, that is the remit of BRERC.

Extract from BRERC report about the NBN Gateway (now the Atlas) in 2008

BRERC still thrives



And that is why



Map your wild

Its natural to want to tell someone about the things you value



A lot of you won't like cats or dogs and many of you will

When I was little we had a cat and that was my introduction to wildlife

I don't apologise for liking fluffy ears and waggy tails

My little dog is a naughty packet of wildlife

With her I feel alive and immersed in nature

Absolutely nothing to do with the NBN or BRERC

But absolutely everything to do with the NBN and BRERC

In my head

Festrel

