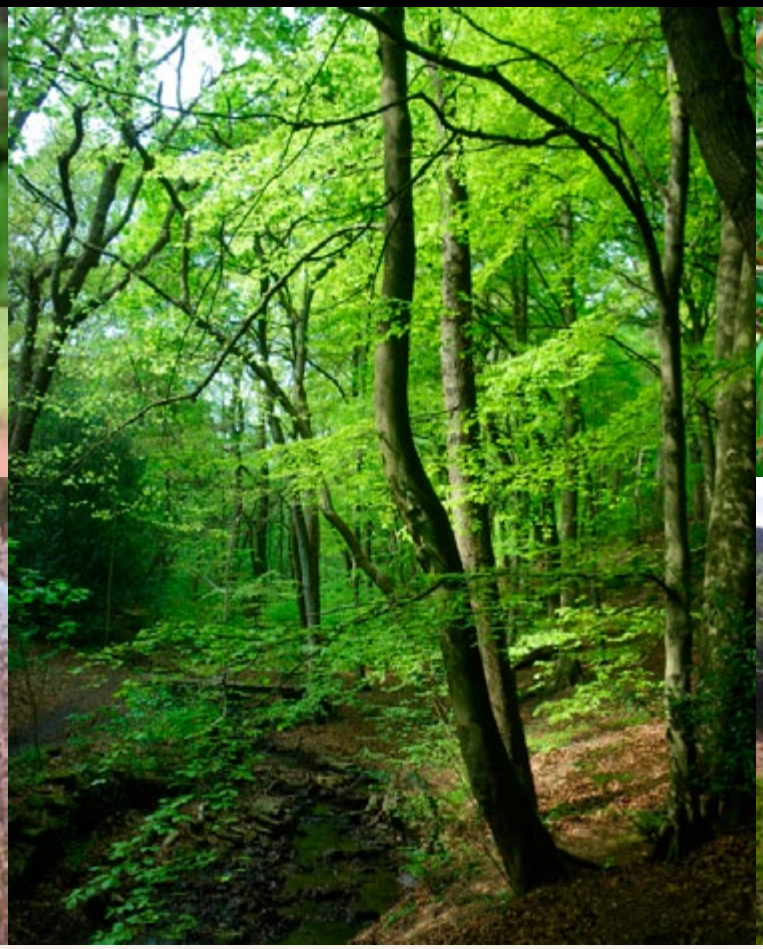


Local Records Centres

Working Together for Biodiversity in the Yorkshire and Humber Region

Contents

Front cover images clockwise from left:
Southern Hawker © Angus Hunter;
Grass Snake © Ziggy Senkans;
Beech © Ziggy Senkans;
Surveying at Burbage © Ziggy Senkans;
Mountain Hare © Derek Whiteley

What is a Local Records Centre?

▲Sheffield Biological Records Centre © Sarah Barber

A Local Records Centre is:

"a not-for-profit service run in partnership for the public benefit, which collects, collates, manages and disseminates information of known quality relating to the wildlife, wildlife sites and habitats for a defined geographical area."

NBN Position Statement on
Local Records Centres 2004

Or to put it another way:

A one-stop-shop for ecological information and a valued resource for the local community.

Introducing your Local Records Centres

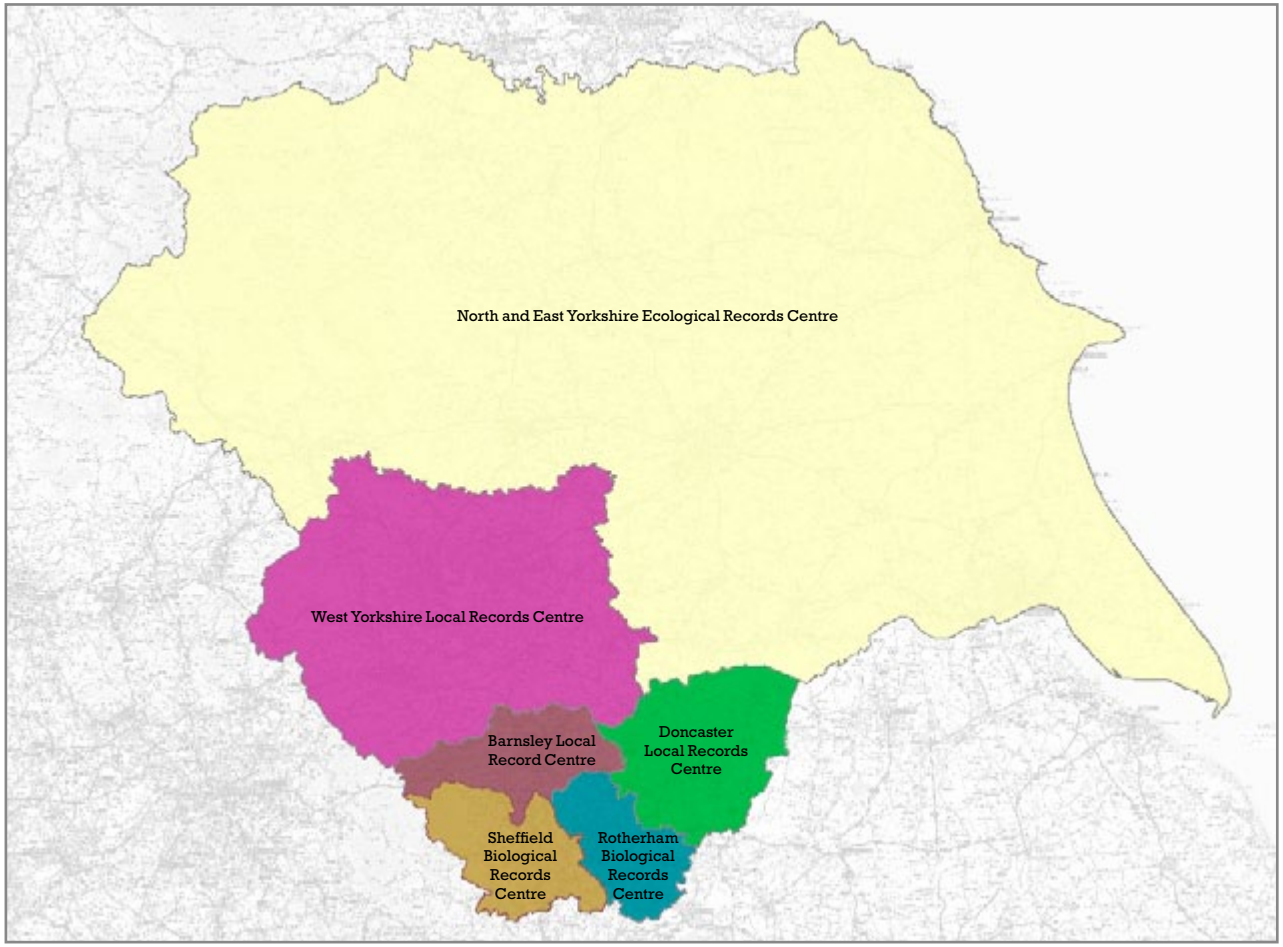
There are six Local Biological or Environmental Records Centres in the Yorkshire and Humber Region that hold and manage biological records.

Although they are hosted and run in slightly different ways, they have one common purpose: the collection, management and interpretation of wildlife data to support the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of local biodiversity.

By working closely with local data providers and the National Biodiversity Network, Local Records Centres provide a 'one-stop-shop' for biological information on sites, habitats and species in the region. The services they provide are essential for underpinning policies and decision making in both the public and private sector, and to ensure compliance with national and international legislation.

Because of their capacity to engage and support local volunteers with expertise in ecological survey, species identification and data management, Local Records Centres deliver valuable services in a highly cost-effective way.

Some Local Environmental Records Centres may also support geological conservation survey work.



Yorkshire Local Records Centre profiles

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

Rotherham Biological Records Centre

Rotherham Biological Records Centre collects and manages information on the wildlife, sites and habitats present within the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham and is hosted by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Environment & Development Service.

Since the adoption of the RECORDER database in 1988, the Records Centre has amassed in excess of 1.5 million records, contributed largely by local naturalists and specialist recording groups but also by RMBC employees, consultant ecologists and by trawling through documents and publications relating to the Borough.

Over the years, the efforts of many skilled naturalists have resulted in well over 10,000 species, subspecies and hybrid plants and animals being recorded in Rotherham. This equates to about 25% of the UK total, excluding marine and unicellular organisms, in 0.01% of the UK land area! The RECORDER database also provided the basis for assessment leading to the designation of Rotherham's extensive network of Local Wildlife Sites.

There is currently a stored resource of paper-based, 'historical' data which is slowly being computerised with the help of a small but dedicated team of volunteers.

Rotherham Biodiversity Records Centre is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network and makes all 'non-sensitive' species data freely available at low resolution, via the NBN Gateway.

Rotherham Biodiversity Records Centre
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Environment & Development Services
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE
Telephone: (01709) 822437
Email: RotherhamBRC@rotherham.gov.uk

BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Barnsley Biological Records Centre

The Barnsley Biological Records Centre manages information on the wildlife and habitats of the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough, which includes part of the Peak District National Park. Volunteers, recording groups, Barnsley Council and consultant ecologists acting on behalf of developers generate new records every year which help to keep the database up to date.

The Records Centre holds information on the Borough's series of Local Wildlife Sites, and over 100,000 records of individual species. The data are stored in paper files, GIS (geographic information system) and a RECORDER 6 database.

Barnsley Biological Records Centre was set up in late 2011 and is currently run by the Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit on behalf of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the benefit of BMBC and the people of Barnsley. A steering group for the Records Centre meets twice a year and includes representatives of all interested parties.

The Barnsley Biological Records Centre is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network.

Trevor Mayne
Biodiversity Officer
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Parks Services
Westgate Plaza One
PO Box 605
Barnsley
S70 9FF
Tel: (01226) 772646
Email: TrevorMayne@barnsley.gov.uk

www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/countryside/general-information-on-barnsleys-green-spaces

Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough Council

Doncaster Local Records Centre

Doncaster Local Records Centre (LRC) collates and manages information on the biodiversity, sites and natural habitats that occur within the administrative boundary of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC). The LRC is hosted by DMBC and is attached to the Natural Environment Team within the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

The LRC uses JNCC's Recorder 6 database which contains (at September 2013) 355000 species records. The sources of these records include local naturalist groups and specialist wildlife recorders, county natural history recorders, DMBC employees, and contacts among ecological consultancies.

The LRC holds records for 11000 species of animals and plants currently known from the Doncaster recording area.

The early history of the LRC derives from the fieldwork and recording carried out by staff at Doncaster Museum from its establishment in the 19th century up to the end of the 20th, when the designation and surveying of Doncaster's Local Wildlife Sites was formulated. Throughout this long period, natural history records were kept on card index and in paper document format. Computerisation of this large resource began in 2000 and is largely complete. Whilst the LRC now collects and stores data almost entirely in electronic format, the historical archive is preserved at the Doncaster Museum site.

Doncaster LRC is in a working partnership with Doncaster Naturalists' Society, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network.

Doncaster Local Records Centre,
Doncaster MBC,
Natural Environment Team,
Civic Office,
Waterdale,
Doncaster DN1 3BU
Tel: 01302 734891
E-mail: brc@doncaster.gov.uk

www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/planningandbuildings/environmentalplanning/localrecordcentre/index.aspx

"Beauchief Environment Group has carried out wildlife surveys in our area for many years and regularly provides our records to the SBRC. The group recognises the need for collecting and preserving wildlife records and sees value in the data we have collected contributing towards the conservation of species in the Sheffield Area"

Dr Diana Holland, Chair of Beauchief Environment Group

Sheffield Biological Records Centre

The Sheffield Biological Records Centre manages information on the wildlife and habitats of the Sheffield Metropolitan District, which includes part of the Peak District National Park. It is based within the Sheffield City Council Ecology Unit and is kept up to date by contributions from professional ecologists, amateur naturalists, volunteers and members of the public, without which we would hold poor representation of the biodiversity within Sheffield.

The Biological Records Centre holds extensive information on over 500 of the city's best wildlife sites, and over a million records of individual species. The data are stored in paper files, GIS (geographic information system) and on a RECORDER 6 database.

The earliest records date from the late eighteenth century, but most are from recent years. Habitat and species surveys are carried out every year, generating new records and keeping the database up to date.

Sheffield Local Records Centre has been collecting information about species, habitats and sites since 1964, making it one of the oldest Local Record Centres in the UK.

The Sheffield Local Records Centre is part of the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network.

Sheffield City Ecology Unit
Parks and Countryside Service
Meersbrook Park, Brook Road
Sheffield S8 9FL
Tel: 0114 273 4481
Email: parksandcountryside@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/parks-woodlands--countryside/ecology-service/biological-records-centre.html

West Yorkshire Ecology
West Yorkshire Joint Services

West Yorkshire Ecology

West Yorkshire Ecology is a department with West Yorkshire Joint Services, a local government body funded by the five West Yorkshire District Councils, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. Two permanent staff, project officers and volunteers work to:

- Collate, maintain and distribute habitat and species information which is stored on a Recorder 6 database and Mapinfo GIS.
- Provide expert advice on local biodiversity to the District Councils, consultants and other members of the public.
- Augment and update records for existing and proposed Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites.
- Undertake targeted ecological surveys.
- Publish local guidance on development control and biodiversity related topics.

Ecological records come from a variety of sources including naturalist' groups, voluntary recorders, ecological consultants, district ecologists and in-house survey projects. Records are always welcome via the e-mail address below.

West Yorkshire Ecology
The Registry of Deeds
Newstead Road
Wakefield
WF1 2DE
Telephone: 01924 306793
Email: ecology@wyjs.org.uk

www.ecology.wyjs.org.uk

North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre

The North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre manages information on the wildlife and habitats of North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, and the Cities of York and Kingston upon Hull, which includes the Yorkshire Dales National Park and North York Moors National Park. We are an independent Local Records Centre and are an operating function of the Yorkshire & Humber Ecological Data Trust which was founded in 1998 following consultation with a wide stakeholder group of more than 20 organisations.

NEYEDC are based in St. William's College in York and our offices also house archived records and survey data. We are also the registered office of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and host their library and archive of records. We digitise and store verified records from naturalists, ecological consultants, public bodies, academics and members of the public; we also assist recorders to send records to county recorders and national recording schemes.

NEYEDC has a policy to upload all species records to NBN Gateway and we access these records, together with records submitted by other organisations using web services. Records which cannot or have not yet been uploaded to the NBN Gateway are held on the Centre's own secure servers. Facilitated through the Yorkshire and Humber Ecological Data Network, NEYEDC provides access to over 2 million records through NBN Gateway and up to 400,000 held on our own servers.

In addition, we manage data on over 2000 sites, including Local Wildlife Sites and habitat polygons. NEYEDC data is available on application via a data request form, which can be found online and is available directly online to members of partner organisations.

In 2013 NEYEDC became the first Local Record Centre to be accredited by ALERC (Association of Local Environmental Record Centres) since the full launch of the accreditation system in 2012. This achievement recognises the hard work put in by staff since its launch just over a decade ago and the high standards the centre has worked to in that time.

North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
St. William's College
5 College Street
York
YO1 7JF
Tel: 01904 641631
Email: info@neyedc.co.uk

www.neyedc.org.uk

More than a database!

Yorkshire and Humber Local Records Centres hold over 3 million digitised species records, of which a ¼ of a million* are of legally protected and BAP priority species. Together Sheffield and Barnsley hold information on 7803 different locations.

Up to date information is vital to inform decision making and ensure compliance with environmental legislation; over 50% of the species records in Yorkshire and Humber were gathered within the last 10 years and around 60,000 new records are entered each year.

Historical information on the distribution of species and habitats is equally valuable, and is needed to monitor and mitigate the effects of climate change and to identify opportunities for habitat creation.

A Local Records Centre is much more than the database of records it manages. By working with local and national experts, Local Records Centres validate and verify data to known standards, enabling them to be used with confidence.

*Only represents data from 4 Records Centres

Where does the data come from?

The data collated by the Yorkshire and Humber Local Records Centres are collected by a variety of wildlife recording groups, societies and individuals, usually on a voluntary basis, as well as from organisations who collect data as part of their normal business.

Most of the ecological data is collected by naturalists and without their hard work and dedication, there would not be the resource to inform decision making about the natural environment of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

You can find out more about the recording groups and societies and how you can get involved by contacting your local records centres

▲ Emperor Moth
© Derek Whiteley

▲ Red Grouse
© Derek Whiteley

The need for ecological information

▲ Common Lizard © Ziggy Senkans

Information about the distribution of legally protected, rare or threatened species and habitats is needed by organisations in the public and private sector whose actions affect the environment. Without up-to-date reliable information, decision makers and policy makers can find themselves exposed to adverse risk, legally, environmentally and economically.

Local Records Centres provide cost-effective information services which help organisations to comply with their statutory duties, thereby reducing risk and liability.

The data services provided by Local Records Centres to Local Authorities and public bodies are needed for:

- Strategic planning and development management
- Land management
- Biodiversity Action Planning
- Local Wildlife Sites monitoring and reporting
- Control of invasive species
- Waste management
- Hedgerow enquiries
- Highway maintenance
- Public access to environmental data
- Reporting on Government indicators
- Monitoring and planning for climate change
- Managing flood risk

"Sheaf Ecology have used the Sheffield Local Records Centre Service for both large complex projects and small scope jobs involving a single building. In all cases the promptness of replies and quality of data provided is excellent. It is noticeable that LRC staff in Sheffield apply their extensive knowledge of the local biota to ensure that the data supplied are tailored to local conditions and circumstances."

Martin Nowacki
Sheaf Ecology

Local Records Centres' services should be sought to ensure compliance with:

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- UK Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and Freedom of Information Act
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- INSPIRE Regulations 2009 and the UK Location Strategy
- Local Government Transparency Programme
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (as incorporated into the new Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

"Sheffield Planning Service regularly uses the data provided by SBRC to support the work of its planning officers. The biological information available assists with the decision-making process at all levels, helping to avoid unnecessary delays in the early stages of the planning process by highlighting any ecological constraints related to protected species or wildlife in general, as well as providing opportunities to protect and improve biodiversity within the region."

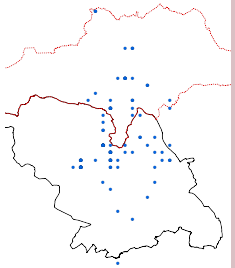
Graham Withers Business Manager, Development Management, Sheffield Planning Service

▲ Bat Surveying © Brian Armstrong

Services provided by Local Records Centres

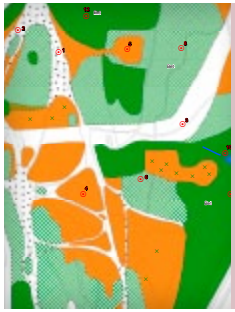
Example services (click on the picture for an example of each data service)

List of all recorded legally protected species in a defined area

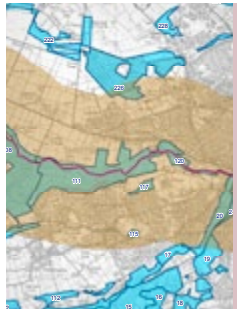


Records distribution map of any recorded species in a defined area

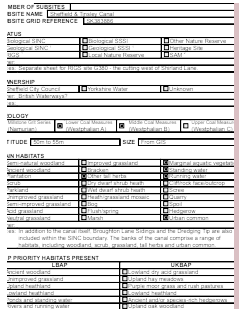
BAP Priority Habitats in Sheffield



GIS data search of a defined area showing recorded habitats



GIS data search of statutory and non-statutory sites and recorded BAP/ legally protected species in a defined area



Local Site boundaries and descriptions

Species richness maps to highlight biodiversity hotspots

Photo credits: Common Lizard © Ziggy Senkans

Enhanced services provided by some Local Records Centres

In addition to the services listed on the previous page, some Local Records Centres also provide the following enhanced services:

- Public Wildlife Enquiry Service
- Management of Local Wildlife Sites dataset
- Local Wildlife Site surveys and monitoring
- Local Geological Sites surveys and monitoring
- Habitat opportunity mapping
- Green infrastructure mapping
- Species and habitat surveys
- Habitat suitability mapping and species modelling
- Data interpretation to enhance public understanding
- Monitoring and reporting on biodiversity indicators
- Monitoring and reporting on LBAP outcomes

Please contact your Local Records Centre for further details of the enhanced services they provide.

▲Greater Knapweed © Robert Masheder

Case study

Enhancing your environment

Crayfish Action Sheffield

Sheffield is one of four sites in Yorkshire that has a substantial population of White Clawed Crayfish. However due to pollution, habitat degradation and the invasion of the American Signal Crayfish, the White Clawed population is in decline. The Crayfish Action Sheffield project (CAS) aimed to increase and maintain the White Clawed Crayfish populations in Sheffield and raise public awareness of their presence. Two Ark sites were created as part of the project. These are sites that have been specifically chosen to allow the crayfish to breed, free from invasion of non-native species and the crayfish plague.

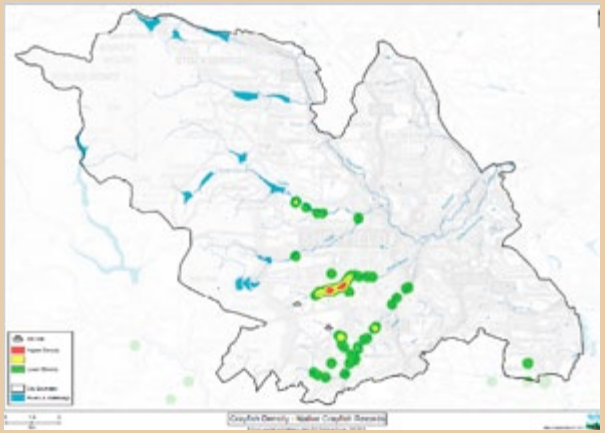
The project raised awareness of the native crayfish population within Sheffield by training 46 people in crayfish conservation and attending 8 public events attended by 29,000 people.

One of the aims of the project was to enter the survey data into the Sheffield Biological Records Centre. The presence and absence data was recorded to a larger extent than before and has been used by statutory agencies, conservation organisations and research students to inform other projects and initiatives. The GIS team at Sheffield City Council have been able to produce a detailed map highlighting whereabouts in Sheffield there are substantial populations of White Clawed Crayfish.

The project hopes to continue its work by setting up a Sheffield Crayfish Monitoring Group which will include volunteers that were trained as part of CAS. They will continue to survey the crayfish and enter the data into Sheffield Biological Records Centre.

The data entered into Recorder 6 are part of the regional and national data flow system through the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network and the NBN Gateway and can provide the basis of future crayfish conservation.

◥ White Clawed Crayfish found in the Crayfish Rescue along the river Sheaf.



► A GIS map showing the distribution of White Clawed Crayfish within Sheffield. Created by the GIS team at Sheffield City Council.

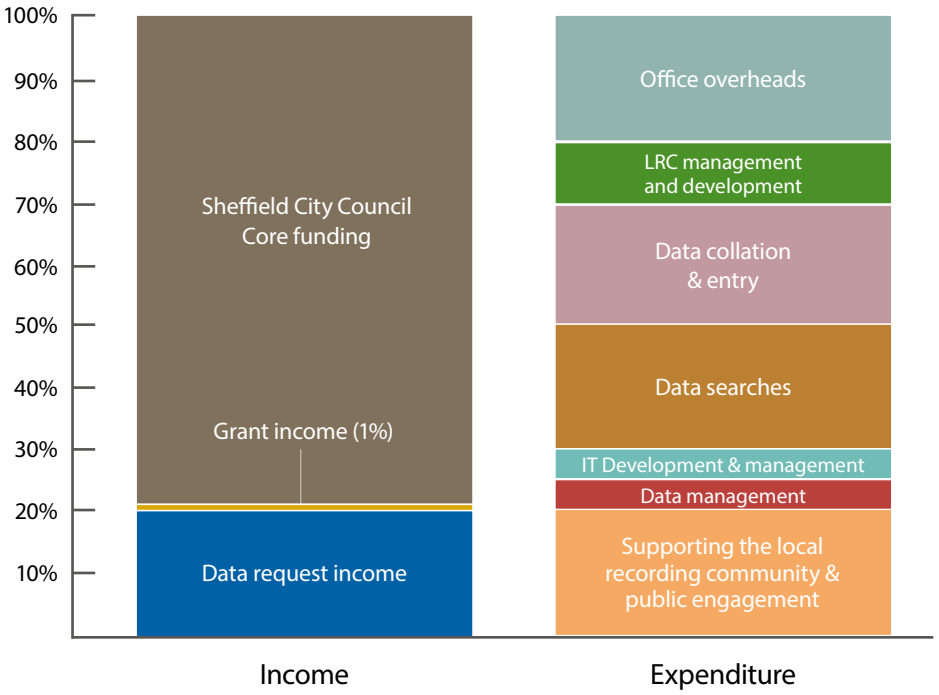
The value and cost of Local Records Centres

Much of the data managed by Local Records Centres are gathered by highly dedicated expert volunteer recorders. Without Local Records Centres, this valuable data resource would not be made available to local and national users promptly and in a suitable format.

Local Records Centres are run on a not-for-profit basis. They rely on income from data provision services to fund their operating costs, which consist primarily of staff salaries.

Because they help provide the evidence base for national conservation and monitoring initiatives, Local Records Centres receive some income from service level agreements (SLAs) with UK government agencies. Data searches for private sector organisations and funding from charitable trusts for education and outreach projects provide an additional but variable source of income.

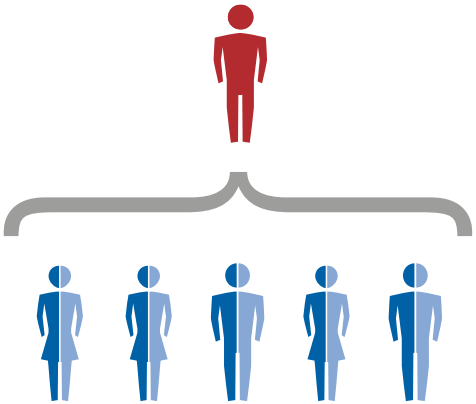
However, these sources only cover a fraction of Local Records Centres' operational costs. It is therefore crucial that local users contribute to maintaining the services provided by Local Records Centres. The most efficient and sustainable way of doing this is through a SLA.



▲The balance between income and expenditure of Sheffield BRC

Local Records Centres are the most cost-effective way for Local Authorities and public bodies to access the data they need and to mobilise their own data in order to comply with environmental legislation and policies. This cost-effective mechanism for mobilising high quality volunteer data can only be maintained if it is supported by all the users who rely on it.

Volunteers also work on all manner of LRC tasks, including data digitisation, database development and office administration.



▲Illustration of the value added by volunteers to Local Records Centres, based on a typical week at Sheffield Biological Records Centre © Richard Yardley

▲Marsh Orchids © Paula Lightfoot

Economic and social benefits of investing in Local Records Centres

Local Records Centres provide vital support to public authorities and other organisations in the public or private sector which carry out public administration functions or deliver services related to the environment. However, a far wider range of people and organisations benefit from the services provided by their Local Records Centre.

Investment in Local Records Centres by local data users is necessary to ensure the continued availability of high quality environmental information to underpin decision making and limit risk, but there are additional benefits for the local economy.

- Reliable information on the distribution of priority species and habitats in the Yorkshire region helps attract funding to the region to support conservation initiatives.
- Investment in Local Records Centres puts environmental information in the public realm in ways that provide real benefits to citizens, businesses and the local environment.
- Local Records Centres' ability to engage volunteers adds value to any investment and improves the skills base and employability of local people.

"Sorby Natural History Society formally supports the four Local Records Centres in South Yorkshire. They provide a vital service to the public, to education and to nature conservation, underpinned by sound scientific information. We are pleased to continue sharing records for the benefit of all."

Derek Whiteley, General Secretary, Sorby Natural History Society.

Sharing data with your Local Records Centre

There is a clear need to make information as widely available as possible:

"across the country there is still too little sharing of best practice and we are wasting time and money trying to find the information we need."

Baroness Andrews,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Communities and Local Government,
November 2008.

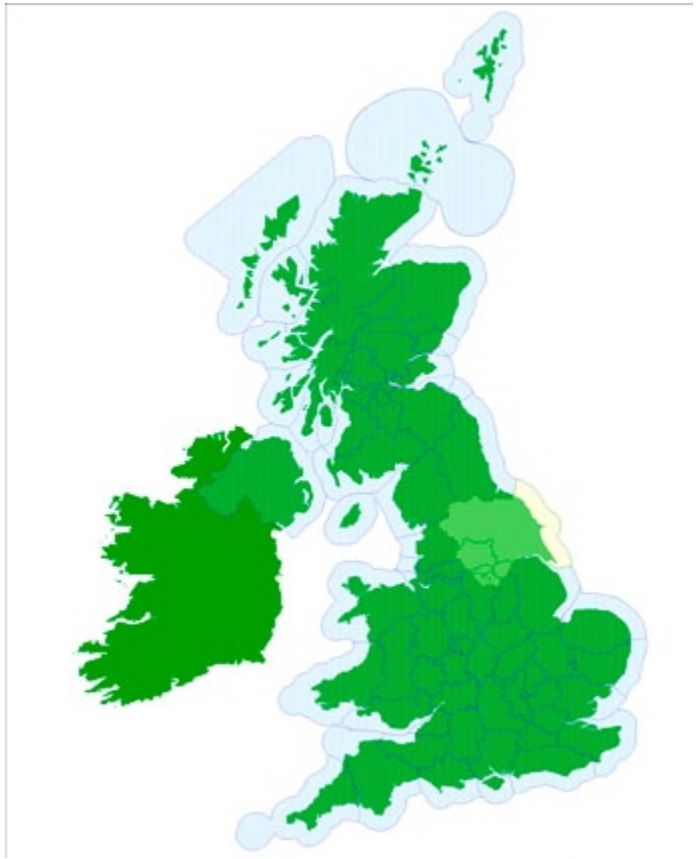
The UK Location Strategy seeks to facilitate access to and re-use of all public sector location information including data on biodiversity. Local Authorities, public bodies and their contractors regularly generate biodiversity data through their land management and planning functions. Local Records Centres can help public sector organisations to share these data in accordance with the UK Location Strategy by providing standardised, secure data storage and access facilities at a local level and, through the NBN Gateway, at a national level.

Monitoring change within our natural environment is an important part of our responsibility. Data provided by Local Authorities and public bodies will be combined with datasets from a wide range of sources to provide a complete and coherent picture of the local environment - so you always get more out than you put in! By using LRCs to store and manage their biodiversity data, Local Authorities and public bodies benefit from a greater degree of transparency.

Local Records Centres take data security very seriously; they all have systems in place to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act and can adapt data sharing and confidentiality agreements to suit specific needs. LRCs are experienced in the collation and management of data on ecologically sensitive and threatened species and sites, and follow strict procedures to ensure that data sharing does not result in environmental harm.

Biodiversity and geodiversity information can be sent in to LRCs in a variety of ways to suit your needs. Contact your Local Record Centre for information on how they can help you manage and share your data.

Local expertise in a national network



The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) is a partnership of organisations who collect and use biodiversity data and are committed to making this information widely available for conservation, research and education purposes. Local Records Centres play a vital role in this national partnership by supporting and guiding local biological recording effort, managing and quality controlling species and habitat records and ensuring that biodiversity data are used to inform local decision making.

The NBN Gateway is a tool developed by the NBN for communicating and sharing biodiversity data via the internet. Local Records Centres make local data available to everyone via the NBN Gateway, enabling public bodies to process requests for information under the Environmental Information Regulations and to achieve the objectives of the UK Location Strategy and Local Government Transparency Programme.

The NBN Gateway is not a substitute for the data services provided by Local Records Centres. Local Records Centres represent the local delivery of the NBN vision, using NBN web services to make data from a wide range of providers available for local use at the touch of a button. The Local Records Centres in the Yorkshire and Humber are developing tools to standardise and enhance data provision, working within the NBN to increase access to and use of biodiversity data.

ALERC

Sheffield Biological Records Centre and North East Yorkshire Local Records Centre are both members of a UK-wide network of Local Records Centres known as ALERC, the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres. ALERC represents the interests of Local Records Centres throughout the UK, sharing innovations and best practice and promoting standards in environmental data management and service provision.

Geological and other geodiversity records
Local Geological Records Centres are operated by some geological conservation groups and local museums that include details of Local Geological Sites including RIGS as well as other designated and non-designated geodiversity interests and sites.

Geological Conservation site databases for statutory GCR sites and geological SSSIs are held by JNCC and Natural England. An internal Natural England national database has been developed by Natural England working together with local geoconservation group members of GeoconservationUK and the Geology Trusts.

National geological mapping information is held by the British Geological Survey.

National information on soils is available via the NERC Soil Portal.

In addition, national geodiversity databases are being developed by Natural England and GeoConservation UK.

Historic environment records including archaeological records are held separately to biological records within Historic Environment Records and Local (Archive) Records Centres and Local Studies libraries.

▲Garden Spider © Ziggy Senkans

Legislation and Policy relevant to the services provided by Local Records Centres

Requirement	Description/Information Required
EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	Species listed here are subject to strict regulations. Member states are required to introduce a range of measures including the protection of species and habitats, to produce a report every six years on the implementation of the Directive. Comprises 189 habitats and 788 species to be protected by means of a network of Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas (Natura 2000 Sites). An appropriate assessment is required for any large-scale development which is likely to affect these sites, which should comprise a review of biological data.
EU Environmental Assessment Directive (85/33/EEC as amended 97/11/EC)	Environmental impact assessments are required for most types of large-scale development prior to planning approval, which should include biological data. Most LRCs derive an income from time given to informing EIAs
EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)	Strategic environmental assessments are required to protect the environment and promote sustainable economic development. They predict, evaluate and mitigate the environmental impacts of strategic decision making. Biological data should be used to inform a robust baseline assessment

Requirement	Description/Information Required
EC Public Access to Environmental Information Directive (2003/4/EC) 2003 UK Environmental Information Regulations, 2004	Freedom of access to information on the environment and biodiversity data 'Public authorities are required to make all reasonable efforts to organise the environmental information which is relevant to their function and which is held by or for them, with a view to its active and systematic dissemination to the public, by means of ICT'
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity…… Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat' (Section 40) Contribute towards 'publishing a list of the living organisms and types of habitat which in the Secretary of State's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity' (Section 41)
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Gives legal protection to the most important conservation sites in the country, designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and to a number of the UK's threatened species. Biological data required at a local level to inform designation of these sites.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Duty of statutory public bodies to take reasonable steps to further conserve and enhance SSSIs. Includes monitoring and new allocations. To positively manage SSSIs so that they are in favourable condition.
National Planning Policy Framework	Published in March 2012 setting out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Chapter 11 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment', paragraph 117: To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should: • Identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation; • Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan; • Aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests.
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005	Published in August 2005, by the ODPM and Defra, this circular provided an administrative guide to accompany Planning Policy Statement 9. Although PPS9 has now been superseded by the NPPF, Circular 06/05 has not been revoked and its guidance currently remains in place. This document highlights application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation in England, including obligations relating to International and National Sites, conservation of priority habitats and species outside designated sites and in UK and local Biodiversity Action Plans. The Defra guidance on Local Sites is also mentioned, as well as the implications relating to Protected species under international and national law. Its practical implementation will rely, sometimes heavily, on information held within LRCs.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004	Local Development Frameworks require a robust evidence base. Targets are linked to the Regional Spatial Strategy.
Hedgerow Regulations 1997	These regulations came into force in 1997 and aim to protect important hedgerows by controlling their removal though a system of notification to local planning authorities. In determining the relevant hedgerows, part two of schedule 1 (criteria) specifically refers to information that could be held by a local records centre.
INSPIRE Regulations 2009	The INSPIRE Directive aims to make it easier to access and combine environmental spatial datasets held by public authorities, to support environmental policy and practice at a national and international level. This Directive became UK law under the INSPIRE Regulations 2009, setting standards for public authorities on metadata creation and the provision of publicly accessible data services.
Community Strategies, Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government White Paper 15, 2006	The 2006 White Paper sets out further reforms to reshape community strategies as sustainable community strategies in line with the recommendations of the Egan Review. It recognises that greater links exist between community and environmental health. Identifies need for robust data/evidence base.
Audit Commissions Quality of Life Indicators	30 a) The percentage area of land designated as SSSIs in the local authority area in favourable condition; and b) the area of land designated as a local nature reserve per 1000 population
The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2006	These regulations protect uncultivated land and semi-natural areas from being damaged by agricultural work, and guard against possible negative environmental effects from the restructuring of rural land. Often LRCs hold information on land which can inform and enable appropriate decisions to be made.

Requirement	Description/Information Required
Green Infrastructure Agenda	The 2006 Northern Way report proposed a framework for City Regions to integrate Green Infrastructure into their forward strategic planning. Natural England is seeking to identifying strategic corridors relating to both Green Infrastructure and biodiversity
UK Location Strategy	UK Location is a pan-government initiative to improve the sharing and re-use of public sector geographic information, maximising its value to UK citizens and communities, government, commerce and industry. UK Location is the basis for delivering the UK's obligations under the INSPIRE Regulations 2009.
Local Government Transparency Programme	An objective of the Local Government Transparency programme is to: develop a sector-led approach to data transparency which puts local authority data into the public realm in ways that provide real benefits to citizens, business, councils and the wider data community.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	This strategy comes after the publication of the Natural Environment white paper, in 2011, by Prof Sir John Lawton. It describes how important conservation charities are in achieving the Government's biodiversity aims, and commits support to biodiversity recording in the voluntary sector.
Environmental Stewardship and Farm Environmental Plans	Environmental Stewardship is the term given to schemes for farmers and other land managers, subsidised by public money, that enhance the natural environment. There are several levels of these schemes and LRC data can be useful in preparing applications for all of them. For Higher Level Stewardship, a Farm Environment Plan is required. This is a detailed assessment of the wildlife value of a farm and could be enhanced by incorporating LRC data.

"There was an almost universal call to establish a meaningful dataset gathered locally but collated in one place, providing a baseline to measure and monitor against. Local Record Centres, which harness local volunteers and expertise, were frequently cited as best practice in data collection."

Summary of responses to the Natural Environment White Paper Discussion Document, December 2010

Scarlet elfcup
© Pat Howells ▶

Services provided by Local Records Centres

List of all recorded legally protected species in a defined area

UK Protected Species

'UK Protected species' are those taxa specifically identified by UK legislation including: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The latter regulations enact the European Union's (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in the UK and supersede The Conservation Regulations 1994. In our list of protected species, you may see designations that refer to schedules in the 1994 regulations, but these remain unchanged under the 2010 regulations.

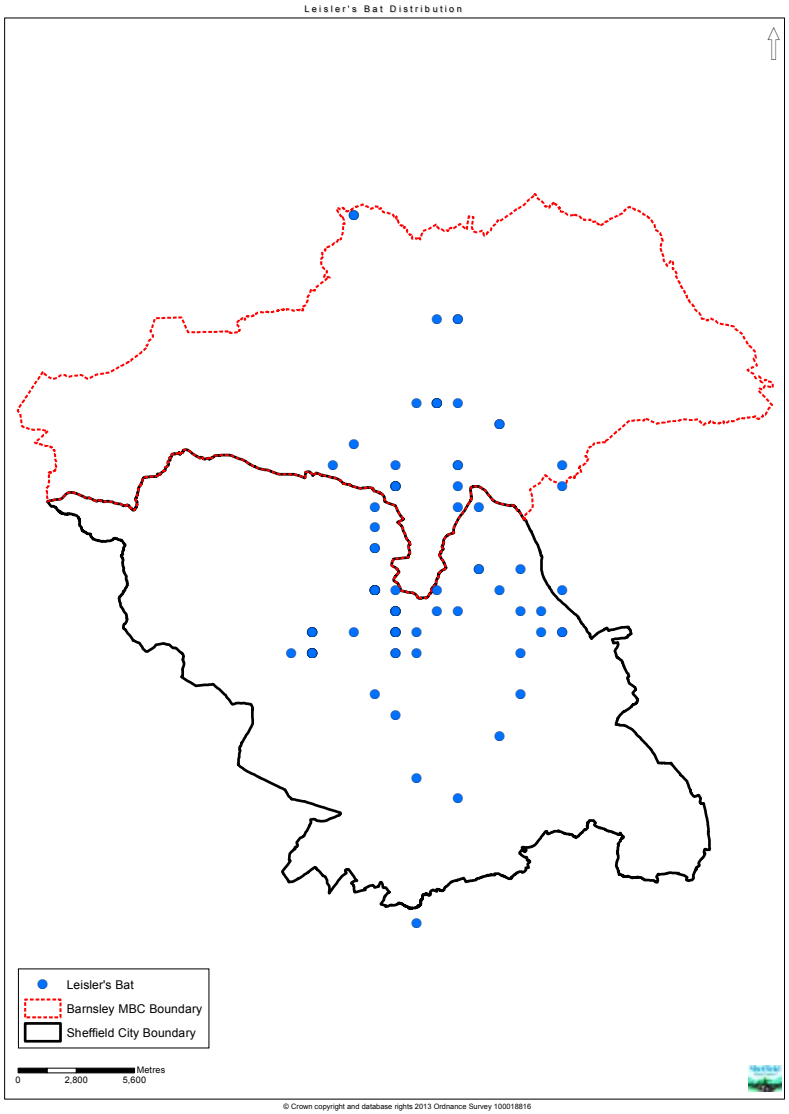
Some protected species may not be legally disturbed unless you are in possession of an appropriate license. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not a license is required, you should contact Natural England.

The following tables detail the protected species that were recorded in the defined search area:

Records of Protected Species in a Search Area

	Common Name	Records	Dates	Designations
Amphibian	Great Crested Newt	2	1987	WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a ,WCA5/9.5b
	Smooth Newt	2	2002-2012	WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Palmate Newt	3	2002-2012	WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Common Toad	8	1975-2012	WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
	Common Frog	17	1975-2012	WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b
Bird	Barn Owl	1	1988	WCA1i
Crustacean	Freshwater Crayfish	24	1986-2012	WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.5a,WCA5/9.5b
Mammal	Water Vole	18	1969-2012	WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t,WCA5/9.2, WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b,WCA5/9.5a, WCA5/9.5b,WCA5/9.
	Daubenton's Bat	12	1986-2012	HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t ,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a
	Pipistrelle	33	1979-2012	HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t ,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b, WCA5/9.5a,WCA5/9.5b,WCA5/9.4c
	Brown Long-Eared Bat	2	2005-2012	HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t ,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b
	Noctule	17	1972-2006	HabsRegs2,WCA5/9.1k/l,WCA5/9.1t ,WCA5/9.2,WCA5/9.4a,WCA5/9.4b
	Badger	30	1983-2011	PBA

Records distribution map of any recorded species in a defined area



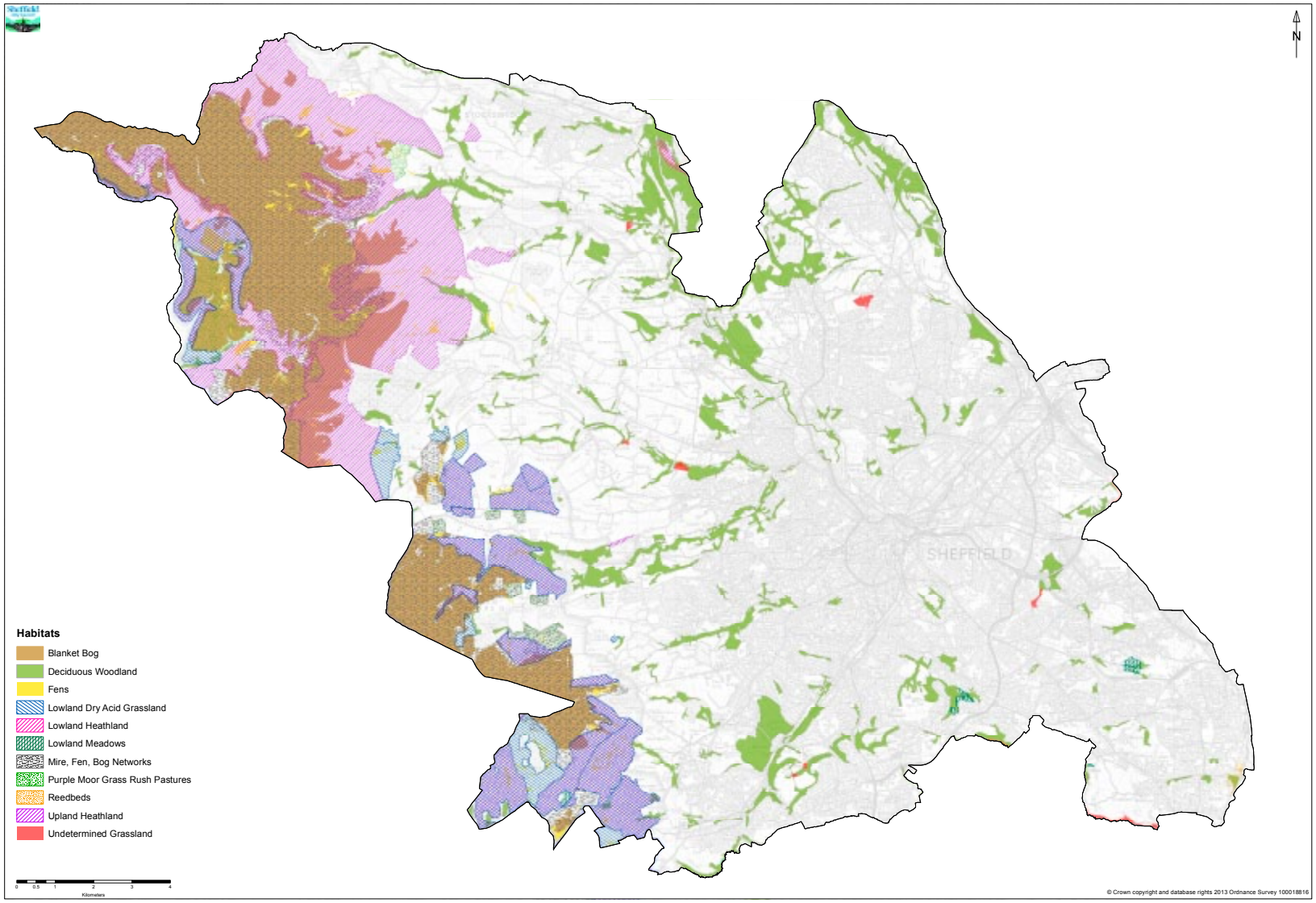
List of all recorded BAP priority habitats in a defined area

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) focus local conservation on national priority species and habitats. The following table details the UK BAP priority habitats that were recorded in the defined search area.

UK BAP Priority Habitat	Relevant Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Intersect search area	Contained within search area	Units
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	Grassland	35	2675.35	Hectares
Blanket Bog	Wetland	291	6126.91	Hectares
Deciduous woodland	Woodland	226	2897.1	Hectares
Fens	Wetland	253	234.73	Hectares
Lowland Heathland	Heathland	1	15.55	Hectares
Lowland Meadow	Grassland	4	29.83	Hectares
Purple Moor Grass Rush Pastures	Grassland	12	458.85	Hectares
Reedbed	Wetland	2	10.67	Hectares
Upland Heathland	Heathland	25	6799.56	Hectares
Combined Priority Habitats		849	19248.55	Hectares

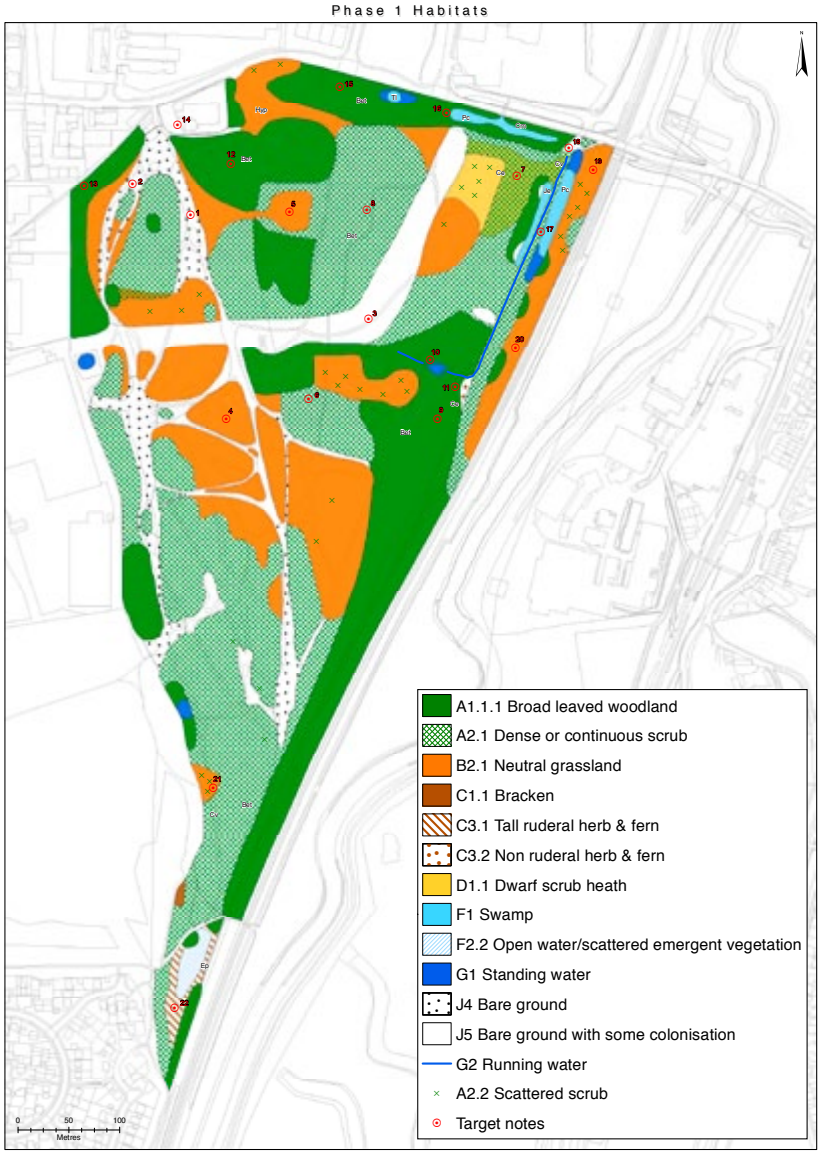
The map on the next page shows the distribution of these priority habitats in the search area.

BAP Priority Habitats in Sheffield



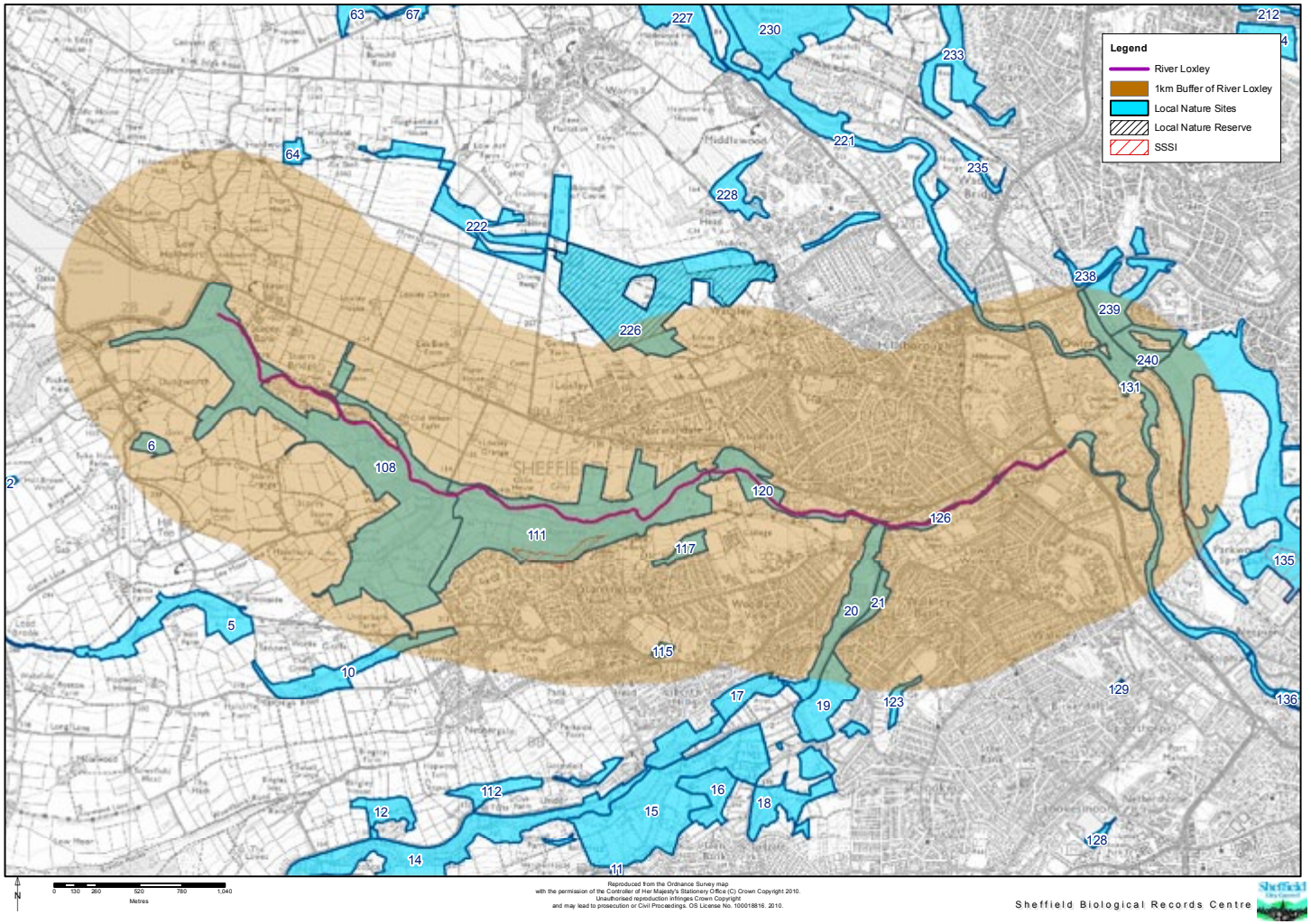
GIS data search of a defined area showing recorded habitats

Map showing the habitats recorded for a search area in Sheffield. The coverage of habitat mapped will vary across an area and will depend on available information.



GIS data search of statutory and non-statutory wildlife sites in a defined area.

Wildlife Sites - River Loxley



Local Wildlife Site boundaries and descriptions

SITE NUMBER 099 **GRID REF** SK382891 **1:10,000 SHEET** SK38NE
SITE NAME Lower Don Valley
NUMBER OF SUBSITES
SUBSITE NAME Sheffield & Tinsley Canal
SUBSITE GRID REFERENCE SK383886

STATUS

☒ Biological SINC	☐ Biological SSSI	☐ Other Nature Reserve
☐ Geological SINC [1]	☐ Geological SSSI [1]	☐ Heritage Site
☐ RIGS [1]	☐ Local Nature Reserve	☐ SAM [2]
Other:		
Notes: Separate sheet for RIGS site G380 - the cutting west of Shirland Lane.		

OWNERSHIP

☐ Sheffield City Council	☐ Yorkshire Water	☐ Unknown
Other: British Waterways?		
Notes:		

GEOLOGY

☐ Millstone Grit Series (Namurian)	☒ Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A)	☒ Middle Coal Measures (Westphalian B)	☐ Upper Coal Measures (Westphalian C)

ALTITUDE 50m to 55m **SIZE** From GIS

MAIN HABITATS

☒ Semi-natural woodland	☐ Improved grassland	☒ Marginal aquatic vegetation
☐ Ancient woodland	☐ Bracken	☒ Standing water
☒ Plantation	☒ Other tall herbs	☒ Running water
☒ Scrub	☐ Dry dwarf shrub heath	☐ Cliff/rock face/outcrop
☐ Parkland	☐ Wet dwarf shrub heath	☐ Scree
☐ Unimproved grassland	☐ Heath/grassland mosaic	☐ Quarry
☐ Semi-improved grassland	☐ Bog	☐ Spoil
☐ Acid grassland	☐ Flush/spring	☐ Hedgerow
☐ Neutral grassland	☐ Marsh	☒ Urban common
Other:		
Notes: In addition to the canal itself, Broughton Lane Sidings and the Dredging Tip are also included within the SINC boundary. The banks of the canal comprise a range of habitats, including woodland, scrub, grassland, tall herbs and urban common.		

BAP PRIORITY HABITATS PRESENT

LBAP	UKBAP
☐ Ancient woodland	☐ Lowland dry acid grassland
☐ Unimproved grassland	☐ Upland hay meadows
☐ Upland heathland	☐ Purple moor grass and rush pastures
☐ Lowland heathland	☐ Lowland heathland
☒ Ponds and standing water	☐ Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows
☒ Rivers and running water	☐ Upland oak woodland
☐ Ancient and species-rich hedgerows	☐ Wet woodland

Last revised on 04/11/13. For more information, contact the Ecology Unit on 0114 273 4481.
[1] Details of geological sites are held by Sheffield Museums Trust (0114 278 2650); [2] Details of archaeological sites are held by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (0114 273 6428).

☒ Urban common

MAIN BIOLOGICAL/CONSERVATION INTEREST

☒ Plants	☒ Birds	☒ LBAP Priority Species
☐ Fungi	☒ UKBAP Priority Habitat(s)	☒ National Red Data Species
☒ Invertebrates	☒ UKBAP Priority Species	☒ Local Red Data Species
☒ Mammals	☒ LBAP Priority Habitat(s)	☒ Protected species
Other:		
Selection criteria:		
Description: The canal itself holds a variety of submerged, floating-leaved, emergent and marginal aquatic plants, including flowering rush, water figwort (both Grade A LRDB species) and unbranched bur-reed (a Grade B LRDB species). Invertebrate records include freshwater jellyfish. Plants of interest on the canal banks include kidney vetch (a Grade B LRDB species), common spotted orchids and fig trees. The site is frequented by two or three protected species of mammal. Kingfisher (a Schedule 1 protected species and Local Red Book species) nest and feed on the canal. The former Broughton Lane Sidings holds some invertebrates of interest, including speckled wood (a Local Red Data Book species). Detailed biological data is also available from the East End Waterways Project (Sheffield Wildlife Trust).		

INTERESTED PARTIES
British Waterways; Canal Users' Group (if it still exists); East End Waterways Project (SWT); Area Panel 6 (Darnall & Tinsley).

RECENT/ONGOING PROJECTS
East End Waterways Project, run by Sheffield Wildlife Trust.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY
British Waterways

USE/MANAGEMENT

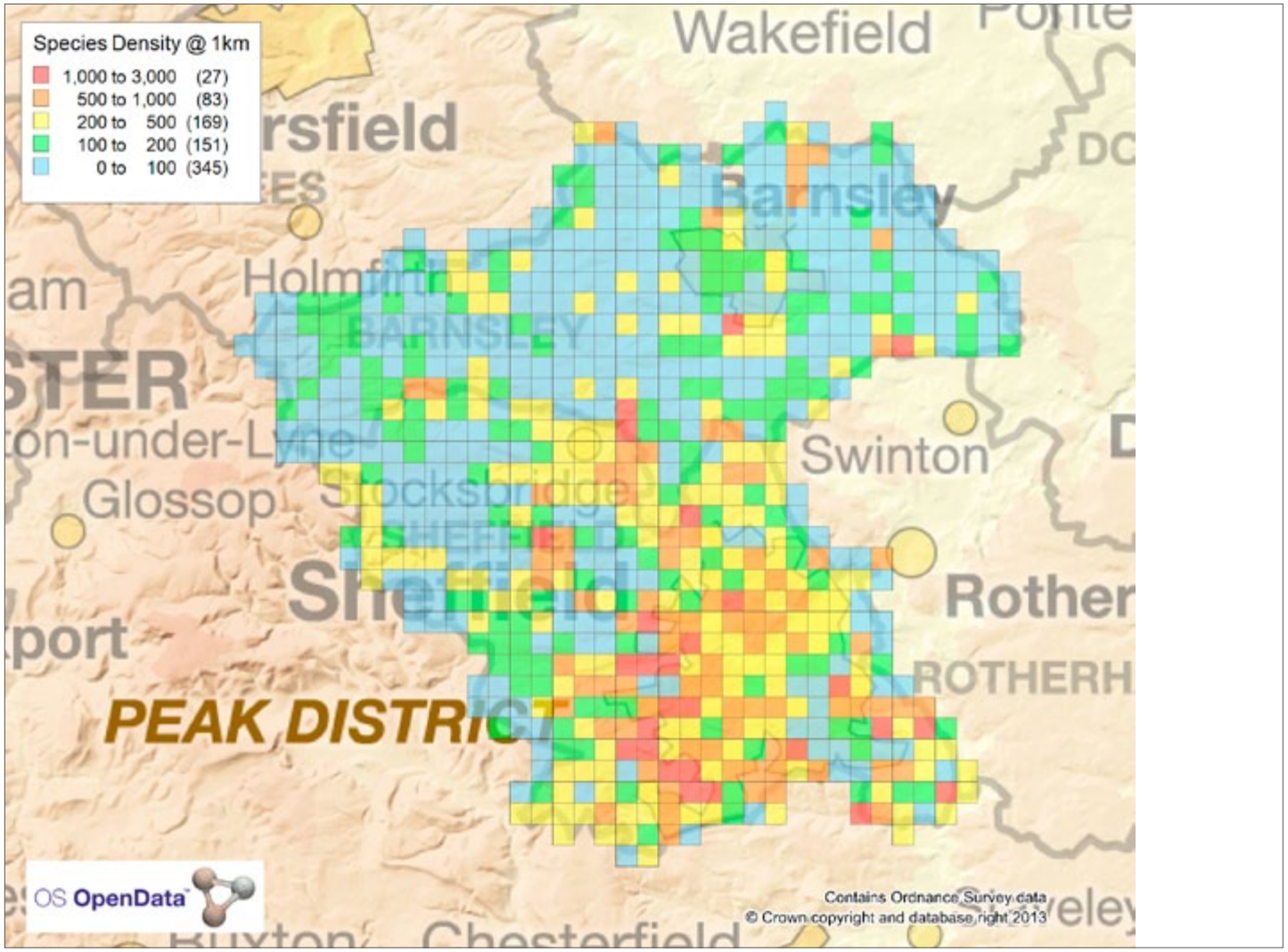
☒ Recreation	☐ Water storage	☐ Quarrying
☐ Agriculture	☐ Sewage treatment	☐ Brownfield
☐ Forestry	☐ Flood control	☐ Nature conservation
Other:		
Notes: A number of people live on boats that are more or less permanently moored at the canal basin and Tinsley Marina.		

Additional notes:

Last revised on 04/11/13. For more information, contact the Ecology Unit on 0114 273 4481.
[1] Details of geological sites are held by Sheffield Museums Trust (0114 278 2650); [2] Details of archaeological sites are held by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (0114 273 6428).

Species richness maps to highlight biodiversity hotspots

Map showing the number of species recorded within each 1km square across Sheffield and Barnsley. The red and orange squares denote those areas where the greatest number of species have been recorded – the biodiversity hotspots.



Processing a request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations