

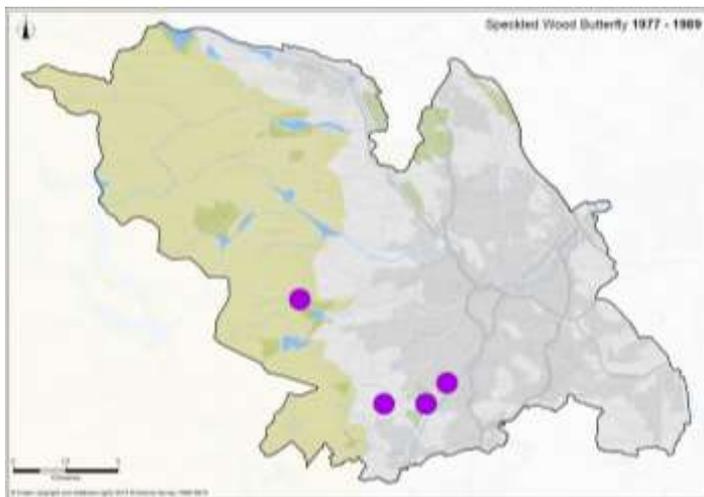
Changes in Species Populations and Distribution

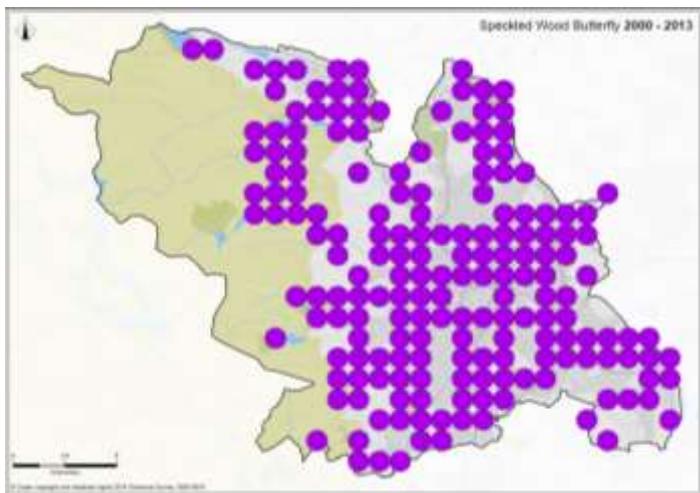
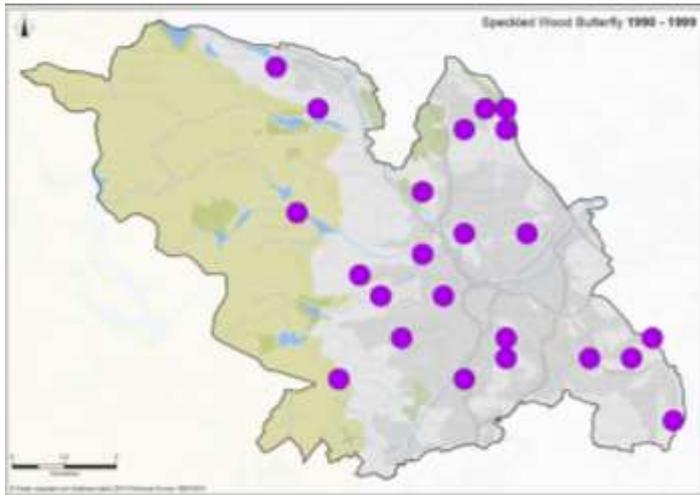
The Biological Records Centre is critical to the work of the Sheffield Ecology Unit because it provides information on where species are found in the city, both currently and previously. This allows us to see how species distributions and populations have changed over time and are continuing to change. This knowledge allows us to tailor our management accordingly. Below are some examples.

The speckled wood butterfly (*Pararge aegeria*) is known to be expanding its range northwards. It was first recorded in Sheffield in 1977 but remained a rarity until 1989. Populations increased in Sheffield and since 2000 it has become one of our city's most widespread butterflies.



(Speckled wood background image, from Museum display)





Raptors have also been increasing since persecution has been curbed. Peregrine Falcons are breeding in Sheffield city centre and breeding sites for buzzards have increased by more than 500% between surveys carried out 2003-8 and those in 1975-80 (Sheffield Bird Study Group, Breeding Birds of the Sheffield Area).