

Using Ecological Data to Inform Key Decisions in the Planning Process

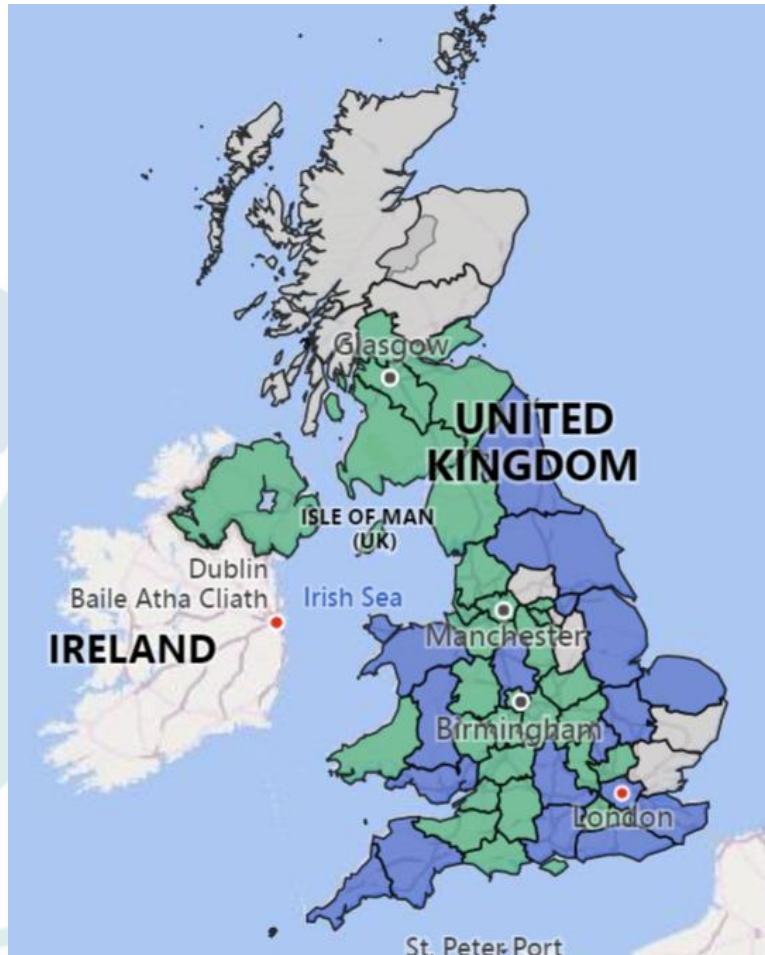
**Deb Muscat, ALERC Chair
& Manager of Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre**

Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs)

1. About LERCs
2. Biodiversity data flow
3. Examples of effective working with LPAs



Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs)



- Independent
- Not for profit
- Hold biodiversity and geodiversity data in a defined geographic area
- Reflect local needs and resources

LERCS – what they do

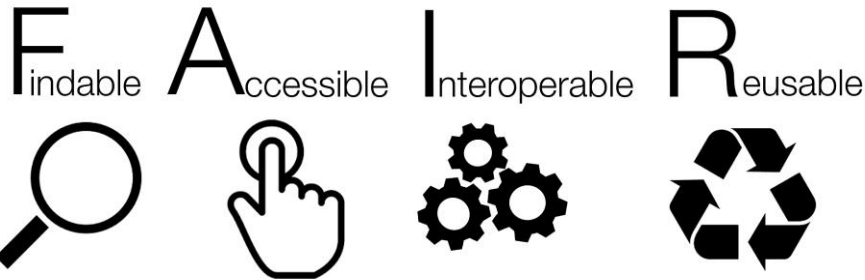
- Collect
- Check
- Curate
- Collate
- Collaborate
- Communicate



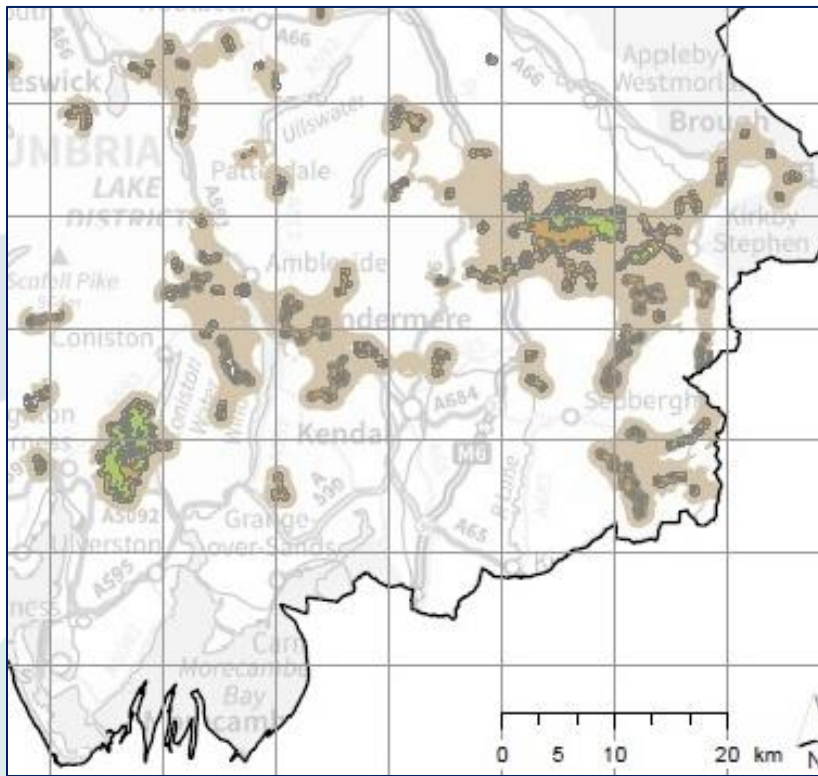
© G Sharp Caring for Gods Acre

LERC data – quality assurance

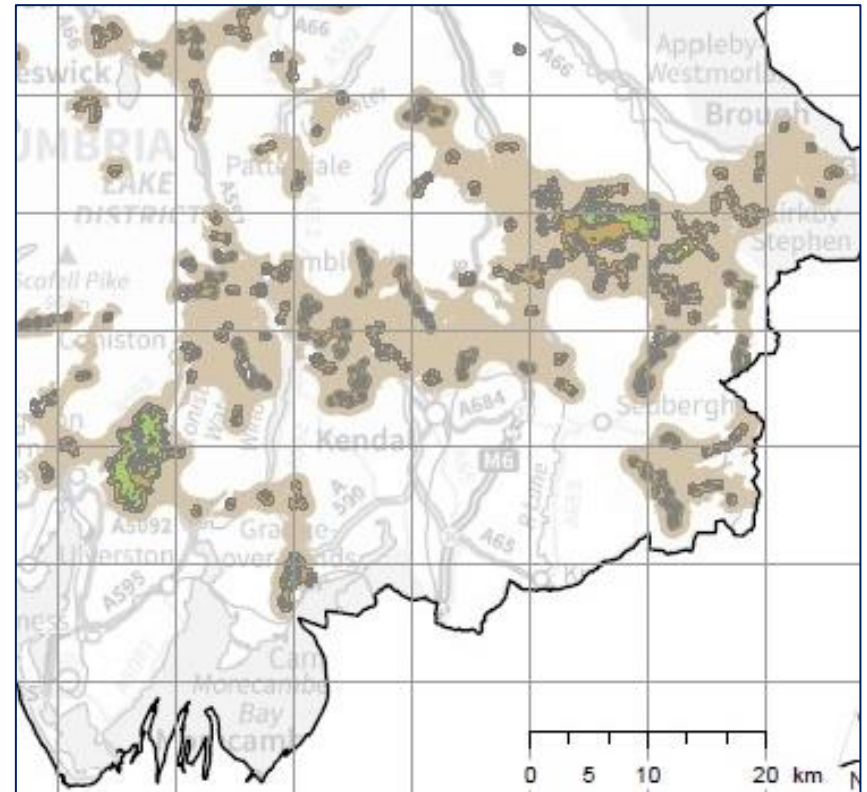
- Data Standards
- ALERC Accreditation
- Species Data
- Habitat Data
- Sites Data
- Meta Data



LERC data adds value

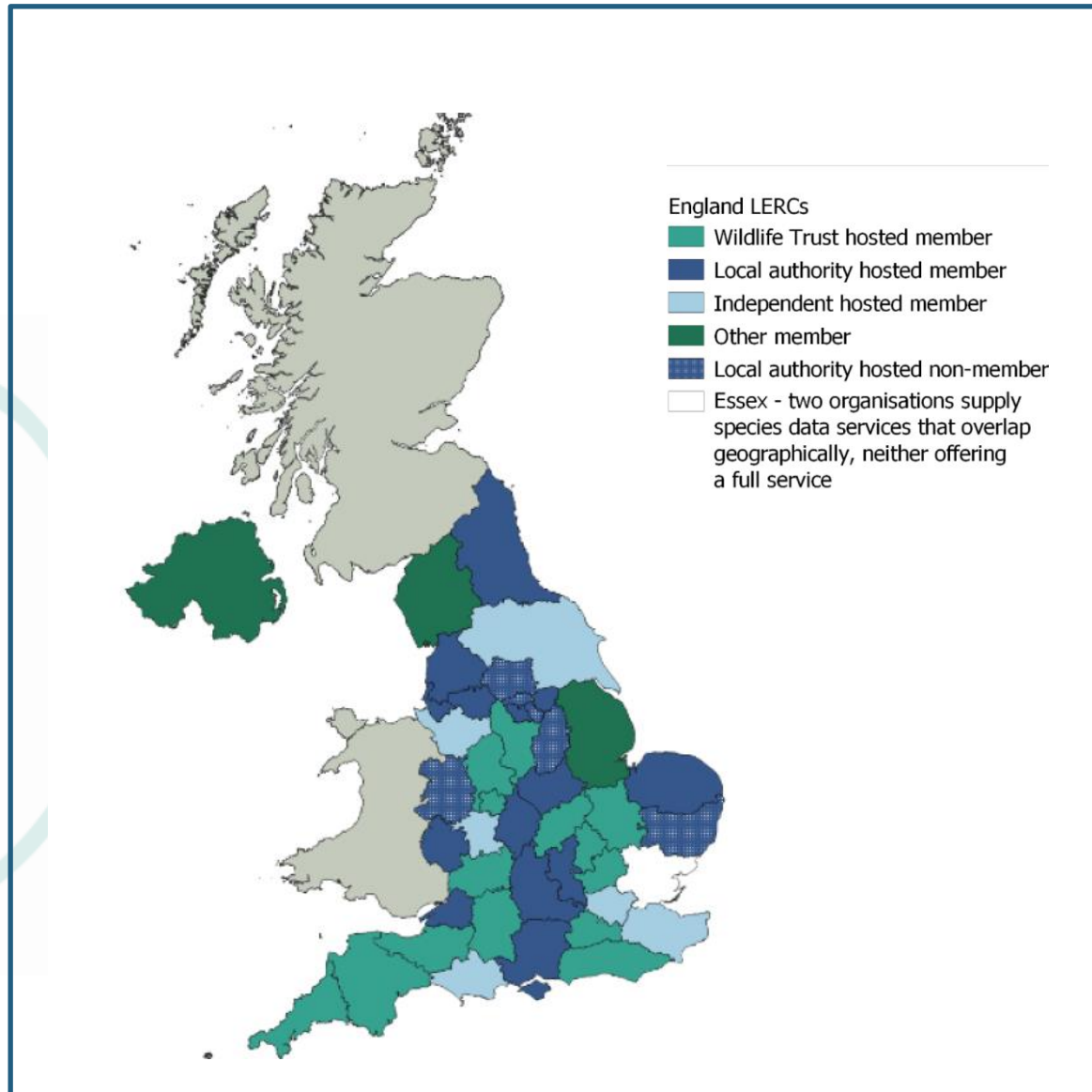


Species Rich Meadows
national data



Species Rich Meadows
national and local data

Effectively Engaging with LERCs



Biodiversity Evidence – Better Outcomes for Planning



Around 18% of planning applications in London should be informed by a biodiversity data search. Currently about 1% are.

Planning for Biodiversity: GLA 2016

Biodiversity Evidence – Better Outcomes for Planning



GIGL Survey of LPA practice, challenges and needs


Outputs

- Training sessions
- Resources for planners

Outcomes

- Better decisions

The Approach in Wales




Aderyn

LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database

Language: English

Aderyn is a **Local Environmental Records Centres (LERC) Wales** system, developed and maintained by the **Biodiversity Information Service (BIS)**.



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES
CANOLFANNAU COFNODION AMGYLCHEDDOL LLEOL CYMRU

Home Public Tools Help Login

Home

User Information

Log in or register if you are authorised to access restricted areas of this site such as planning applications or partner services.

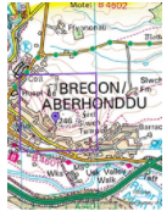
Contact us (using the details at the bottom of this page) for more information regarding who can receive elevated access to the data we hold.

Each of the LERCs in Wales offer a Biodiversity information service, tailored specifically for use by Environmental Consultants and developers. Click on the link 'Find your LERC' at the bottom of this page to go to the relevant LERC.

Aderyn :: Home

Welcome to Aderyn: the Biodiversity Information and Reporting Database of Local Environmental Records Centres Wales. Here you can access wildlife sightings and species records collated by the four LERCs, covering the whole of Wales. Anyone can use this site to view lists of species recorded around their home or maps showing the distribution of species according to data held by LERC Wales. Partners, recorders and planners can be licenced to access high resolution, detailed records to assist decision making and conservation.


What's in my Area?



Ever wondered what species have been seen near your house, school or workplace? This page allows you to find out! Using the map, you can navigate to the location you are interested in, select a 1km grid square, and return a summary of all species for that square (excluding **sensitive species**).

Go

Distribution Maps



This page allows you to see where LERC Wales holds records for a specific species or taxon group (eg birds) across Wales? Select a species or an entire taxon group and display a 10km distribution map, then select a 10km square and see a 1km distribution map (excluding **sensitive species**).

Go

Login

If you are authorised to access restricted areas of this site, enter your email address and password to login. [Forgotten your password?](#)

Email Password Remember me Login

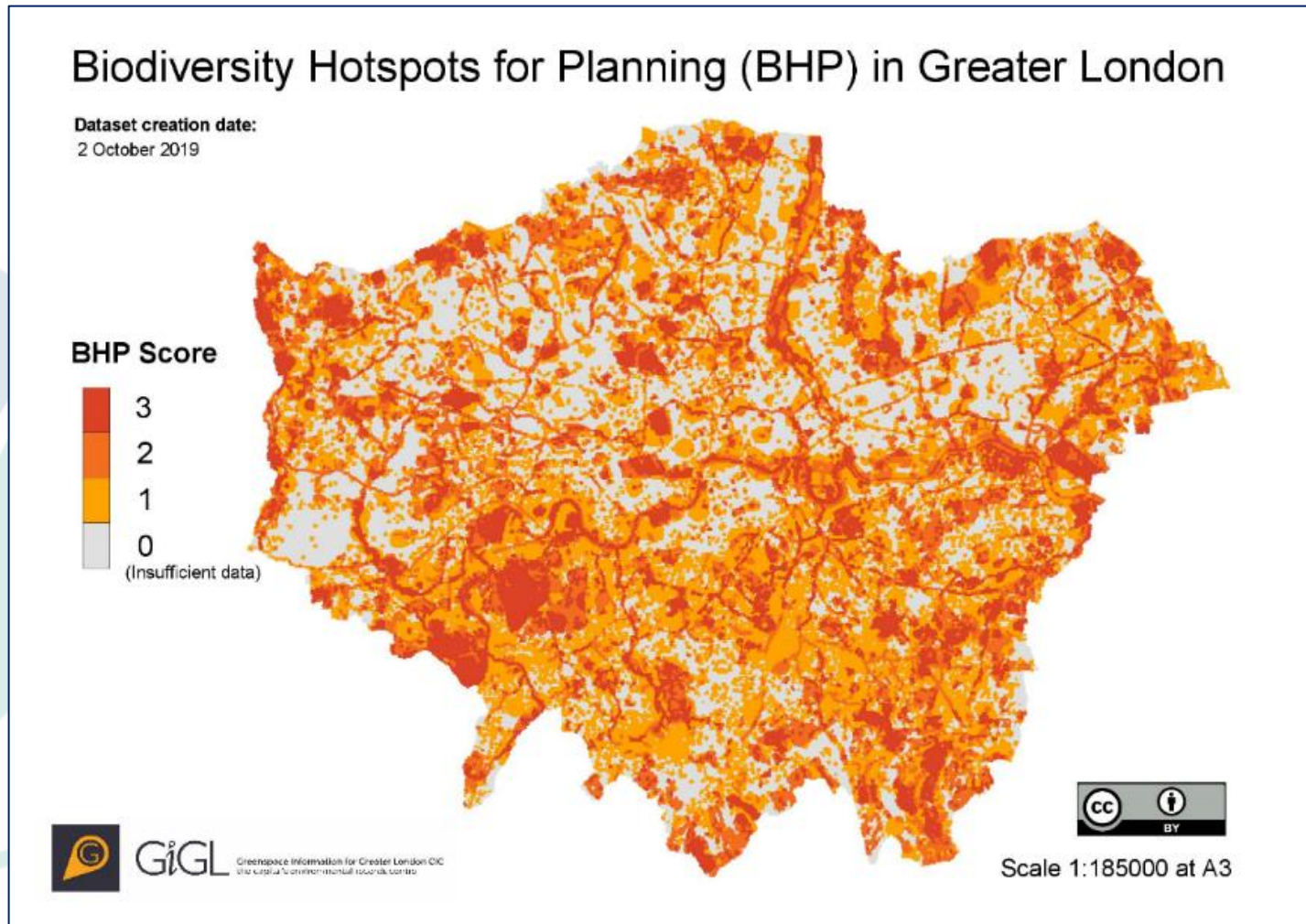
Access to Aderyn is subject to [terms and conditions](#). By logging in you indicate your agreement with and willingness to abide by these terms and conditions.

Submit a Record

We are always delighted to receive data from local wildlife recorders, and each LERC has their own online recording tool for this purpose. Please click on the links below to be taken to the relevant recording page. If you are unsure which LERC you live in, please use the Find Your Local Environmental Records Centre tool on the [LERC Wales](#) website.

- North Wales: Cofnod Online Recording System - <http://www.cofnod.org.uk/Members>
- Mid Wales: BIS Wildlife Recording Database - <http://record.bis.org.uk/>

Data Service – species and biodiversity hotspots



Data Service - monitoring species



Carbon Landscape Citizen Science Project

Target species

Bitterns (CLO1)

- Survey handbook
- Habitat survey form

Survey period: Apr to May

- Spring survey form

Survey period: Nov to Jan

- Winter survey form

Image David Winford ©2018

Dragonflies (CLO2)

Survey period: May to Sep

- Survey handbook
- Guide to common species
- Habitat survey form
- Combined transect & ponds survey form

Image Ken Gattidge ©2018

Farmland breeding birds (CLO3)

Survey period: Apr to Jun

- Survey handbook
- Habitat codes
- Habitat survey form
- Bird survey form
- View recording compartments map

Image Adrian Dancy ©2018

Plants (CLO4)

Survey period: Apr to Aug

- Survey handbook
- Habitat descriptions
- 1km route survey form
- 1km route extra species form
- Plot survey form
- Plot extra species form
- BSBI code of conduct

Image Debs Wallace ©2018

Water vole (CLO5)

Survey period: Apr to Sep

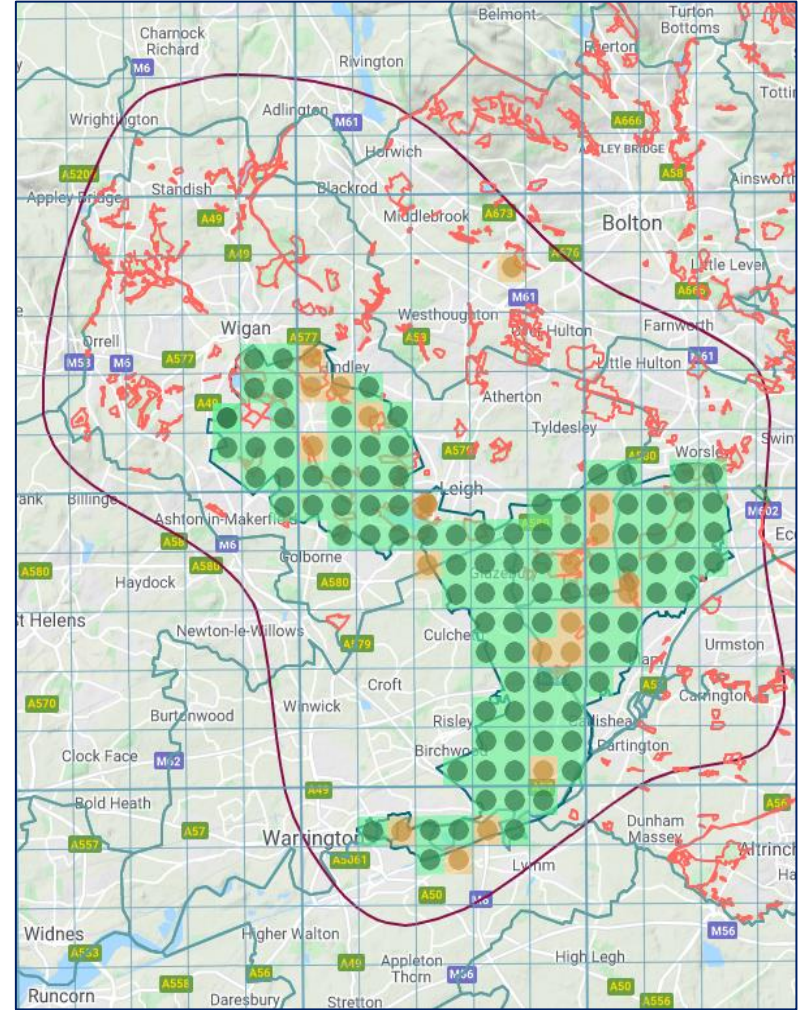
- Survey handbook
- Habitat survey form
- Survey form
- PTES field signs guide

Image Peter Trimming co-byrsa

Wetland birds breeding (CLO6A)

Survey period: Apr to Jul

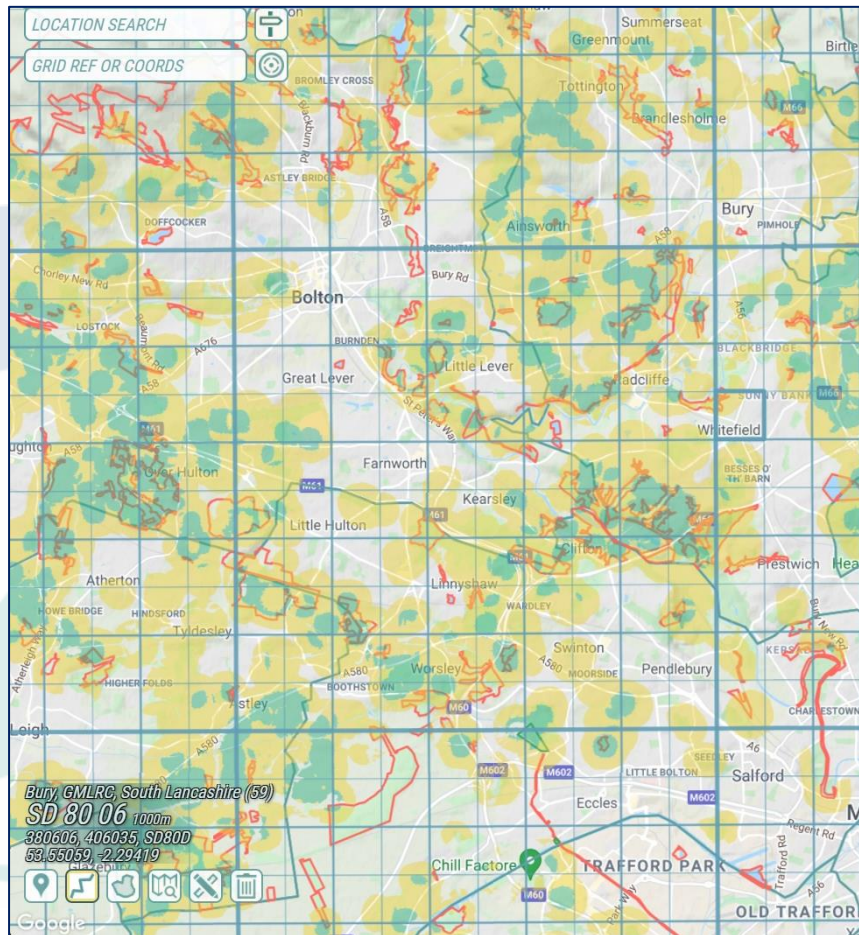
- Survey handbook
- Habitat survey form
- Wetland breeding bird survey form



© GMLRC

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Data Service – species modelling and prediction



Great Crested Newt predictions in Greater Manchester

Red:
known locations

Green areas:
2+ ponds per 1km²

Yellow areas:
1 pond pe 1km²

Data Services – site databases

Map Satellite

Little Asby Scar & Potts Valley

Outcrop at the reference section.

Site No: 8 018
Grid Reference: NY 691 084 to NY 700 082
Location: Great Asby
Site Summary: This varied and interesting site in lovely limestone country contains an internationally important Carboniferous reference section and landforms which record evolving pre- to post-glacial drainage systems.
Access: The site is on Access Land and can be reached on foot from the minor road between Newbiggin and Great Asby. Parking off-road north of Mazon Wath is possible, if done considerably. Care is needed on the steep and rocky valley sides and near cliffs.
Features: Potts Beck Limestone Formation, Ash Fell Limestone Formation, Carboniferous, Great Scar Limestone Group, stratotype, fossils, limestone pavement, karst, Lune valley drainage, glacial meltwater, landslip, scree
Data Sheet: https://www.cbdc.org.uk/CumbriaLGS/DataSheets/8_018.pdf
Leaflet: https://www.cbdc.org.uk/CumbriaLGS/Leaflets/8_018.pdf

https://www.cbdc.org.uk/CumbriaLGS/DataSheets/8_018.pdf

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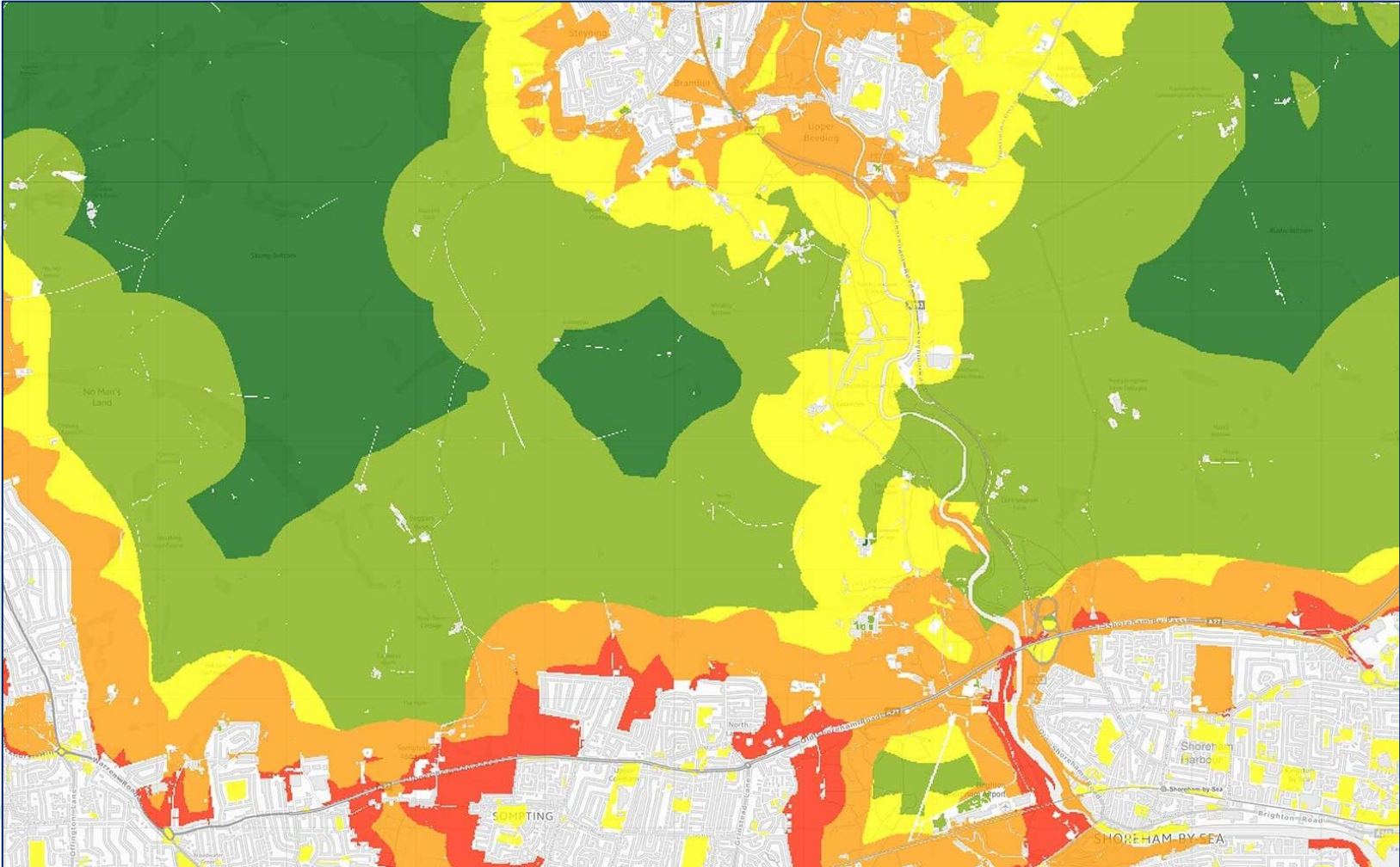
Data Service - monitoring ecological change

Devon Ecological Monitoring Framework

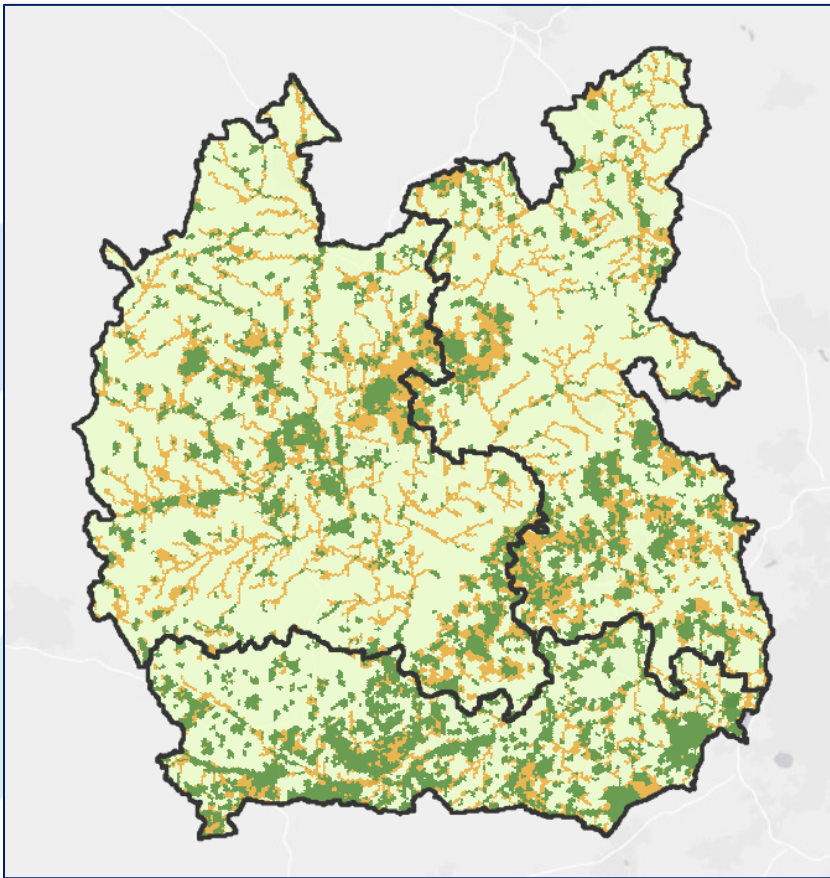
Year	No. Sites surveyed	Red condition	Amber condition	Green condition
2016 – 17	63	12%	69%	19%
2017 – 18	137	20%	49%	20%
2018 – 19	65	9%	42%	49%

Example summary of survey outcomes from 2016 to 2018

Data Service – ecosystem services



Data Services – Local Nature Recovery Strategy



- The **core zone (green)**: already of high value for wildlife, including designated sites for nature conservation and BBOWT nature reserves.
- The **recovery zone (orange)**: buffers the core zone, and includes the best places to restore and create new habitats and improve connectivity across the landscape.
- The **wider landscape zone (yellow)**: surrounds the core and recovery zones, and includes areas that will become more nature friendly, benefitting common wildlife.

Data Service – Biodiversity Net Gain



Local Environmental Records Centres and Biodiversity Net Gain



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Version: 03 (04/01/2019)

Community Interest Company: Incorporation number 06951023 2nd July 2009



ALERC Standard Habitat Data Used for Measuring Biodiversity Net Gain

Introduction

This document sets out standards for the collection and submission of biodiversity habitat data to facilitate the delivery of biodiversity net gain in England.

Habitat data are routinely collected in surveys carried out to provide information to inform decisions regarding planning and development proposals. In order to facilitate an efficient, reproducible and repeatable assessment of the impact of development, these data need to be collected in a consistent manner and to a common standard.

This standard is based on a publication by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre which was based on an original draft standard developed by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC.

Standards

The following principles are set to support delivery of biodiversity net gain:

1. **Structure** - the attributes recorded for each observation (e.g. grid reference, location name for species observations, and plant species lists for habitat etc...). Recording the same attributes for each observation ensures that assessments of biodiversity value and the calculation of biodiversity units are reproducible and repeatable and therefore that decisions made with those data are transparent and repeatable.
2. **Format** - formats should be open where possible, but not be onerous for those using proprietary software. Therefore, it may be appropriate for more than one format to be specified. However, the use of proprietary formats should not exclude those without the appropriate licences from accessing and scrutinising these data.
3. **Transparency** - data submitted should be full and complete. This means that decisions can be scrutinised without having to make assumptions about the data.
4. **Habitat classification system** - The DEFRA biodiversity metric 2.0 uses the UKHab classification system. Biodiversity impact assessments and unit calculations carried out using this metric therefore need habitat data to be

Date first issued: 21.12.2020

**LERCs have the ecological data to
inform key decisions in the planning
process**

&

**the knowledge and skills to collate,
manage and help you use it.**

**Deb Muscat, Chair ALERC / Manager of
Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre**