How You Can Help

Please send us your wildlife records

All records are greatly appreciated.

Your records should include:

- Who? - name of recorder
- What? - species name
- Where? - location with 6 figure grid reference where possible
- When? - full date the species was seen

What happens to your records?

Records you submit are stored by WBRC and made available to a range of customers, including other recorders, researchers, government organisations, members of the public and environmental consultants. Your personal information is never disclosed and you retain ownership of any records you send us.

Volunteering Opportunities

Have you got a few hours to spare? The WBRC relies on help from volunteers.

Volunteer tasks might include:

- Data entry (using Excel and Recorder 6)
- Checking GIS maps (using MapInfo)
- Data validating and archiving
- Assisting with surveys/projects
- Assisting with events

Contact Information

If you would like to find out more about the WBRC, volunteer with us or help by sending in your wildlife records, please contact us at:

Warwickshire Biological Records Centre
Warwickshire County Council
PO Box 43
Warwick CV34 4SX

Phone: (01926) 418060

Email: wbrc@warwickshire.gov.uk

Website: heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/ecology/data-and-ecological-records/warwickshire-biological-records-centre/

Access to information held by the WBRC is free for the public, students and researchers.

A charge for staff time, based on hourly rates, is made for commercial users.

The WBRC is open to enquirers by appointment during office hours from Monday to Friday. Most queries can be answered by email or post if a personal visit is not possible.

Warwickshire County Council

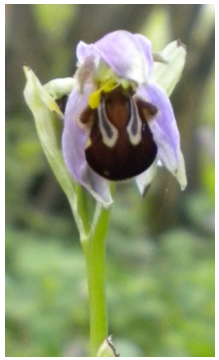
Warwickshire Biological Records Centre

Warwickshire County Council

Working for Warwickshire

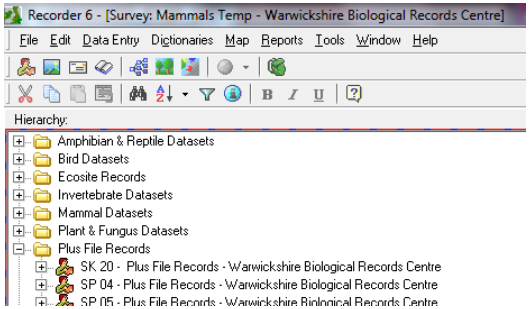
About the WBRC

Formally established in 1974 by the Warwickshire Museum, the WBRC was one of the first centres of what has become a nation-wide network of Local Biological Records Centres.



It contains the most comprehensive data bank of wildlife and habitat records in the county, holding over a million species records and records from over 2,000 ecological and geological sites in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

Surveying and recording is on-going and carried out mostly on a voluntary basis by expert amateur naturalists, specialist groups and organisations throughout the county. Many of the records held by the WBRC are still in paper format, and WBRC staff and volunteers are working hard to enter them digitally into Recorder (biological recording software) and then display them on MapInfo (a Geographic Information System or GIS).



Using the database

The WBRC is organised into two interrelated databases: Records for sites (habitats) and records for species (flora and fauna).

Sites Information

Records of sites are kept on 1:25 000 maps showing locations and boundaries of statutory and non-statutory designated sites with degrees of nature conservation value. Information is held on approximately 2,400 sites (Ecosites), including woodlands, lowland meadows, marshy grasslands, rivers, canals, ponds and disused railway lines – all sites of particular importance for nature conservation in Warwickshire.

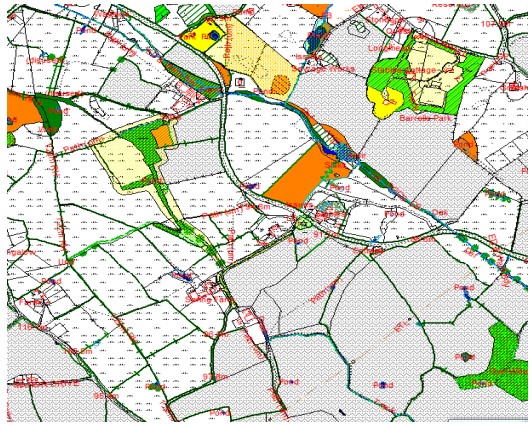
Species Information

The WBRC collects records of all species recorded within the county and has direct links with county recorders and local recording groups to ensure that data is accurate and up to date.

Protected and notable species records are also displayed on mapping software, making them easily accessible and useful to researchers, planning ecologists and consultants, aiding informed decision making and effective conservation work.

Habitat Biodiversity Audit

The Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) is a project established in 1995 and managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust through a partnership with all local authorities in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, as well as Natural England and the Environment Agency. Hosted by Warwickshire County Council, the HBA has direct links with the WBRC and is a significant contributor to the centre.



The project has mapped the whole of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull using the Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology, and aims to update this information with recent survey results every 5 years. The resulting data is mapped using GIS, which provides high quality colour-coded maps with target notes enabling wide range interpretation and statistical analysis.