

# Thames Valley

Environmental Records Centre



*Sharing environmental information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire*

## Annual Report

# 2013-2014

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) is a 'not for profit' organisation covering Berkshire and Oxfordshire. We are run by a partnership of all the local authorities in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust.

We collect, analyse and share geodiversity and biodiversity information in Berkshire and Oxfordshire to help people make sound decisions about how to develop and manage land sustainably and where to direct wildlife conservation, and for scientific research and education.

We hold around 1.3 million records of flora and fauna in Berkshire and Oxfordshire plus information about Local Wildlife and Geological Sites, UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and Ecological Networks (Conservation Target Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas).

We collect this data from the general public, skilled volunteer /amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities (BBOWT and RSPB), professionals working for government agencies (Natural England, the Environment Agency & local authorities) and ecological consultants.

TVERC is accredited by the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres.

# Chairman's Foreword

**Jeremy Davy, West Berkshire District Council**

I am very privileged to be able to introduce you to our Annual Report for 2013/14.

I continue to be amazed by the width and depth of the work which TVERC undertakes each year – as you read on you will see what I mean! I think that the variety of projects undertaken this year has been particularly impressive. However, looking back over this year I think that TVERC reached an important milestone in its growth when it became only the third record centre in the country to be accredited by the Association of Local Record Centres (ALERC). This gives recognition to the professionalism of the staff and the methods of working that they use. The staff led by our Director Camilla Burrow deserve congratulations on this achievement. TVERC is now supporting other records centres to reach this standard. It would be remiss of me at this point however, to ignore the work done by previous Directors – Melanie Hardie and Philippa Burrell – in supporting the establishment of ALERC so that the high standards of local records centres can be recognised and supported.

You will see in the report that despite the continuing economic challenges that TVERC ended the year with another surplus and that looking forward the finances look healthy.

Having said goodbye to Gavin Bird last year, we now welcome Lucy Lush as his replacement. More information about Lucy's background can be found in the Report. As usual it gives me great pleasure to thank all the volunteers that have helped TVERC over the year and the volunteer recorders who continue to lodge valuable records with us. Any omission of thanks is solely mine and I apologise for it.

Please enjoy reading this Annual Report.

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# 1. Highlights of 2013-14

## ALERC accreditation

TVERC became the third record centre in the UK to be accredited with the Association of Local Environmental Records Centre (ALERC). The accreditation process sets high standards for local records centres, and ensures that data users and providers receive a high quality service.

## Species dataset updates

We usually provide updates to our species datasets annually, but Ellen has found a way to extract data from Recorder which takes less time to get into the right format. This means we can carry out a full extraction every 6 months, ensuring that even more accurate and up-to-date information is available for our partners and customers.

## Online recording

We have been working with the NBN and other local record centres on a project to develop an online recording tool designed for record centres. The module has been developed and is ready to be installed onto our website. Unfortunately, Oxon CC ICT were not willing to install the module on our existing website so we will be creating a new website just for online recording and linking to that from our existing website.

## Staff changes

As reported last year, Gavin Bird, the Projects Manager, left in March 2013 to join the European Grants Funding Team at Oxford University. He has been and was replaced with Lucy Lush, who started in October 2013.

The new post of Biodiversity Data Assistant was created to help Ellen and Graham with data search requests and data management, and also to help with project work. Rachael Potter joined TVERC in July 2013, initially on a one-year temporary contract. Rachael's help has been so invaluable, and we have continued to see a rise in data searches, so the steering group confirmed that the post could be made permanent.

## Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Ancient Woodland Inventory Review

The updated AWI, mapping the quality, extent and distribution of ancient woodland, includes sites under 2 ha (which were excluded from the original AWI). This now provides a robust evidence base to help inform planning decisions, strategic plans and various environmental projects. This large project involved five members of the team and seven volunteers, and took a total of 534 days so it was a great achievement to reach the end of this project at the end of the financial year. We hope to extend the project into Berkshire in 2014/15.

## 2. TVERC Team

We are a team of eight people, but as some of us work part-time, this is equivalent to 6.8 full-time staff.

**Camilla Burrow, Director** - Development and delivery of the TVERC service.  
camilla.burrow@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 418

**Lucy Lush, Projects Manager** – Delivering services to our local authority partners in Berkshire and Oxfordshire and managing project work.  
lucy.lush@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 676

**Graham Hawker and Ellen Lee, Biodiversity Data Services Officers** – Data management, analysing and presenting data for commercial customers and project work.  
graham.hawker@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 431  
ellen.lee@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 435

**Julie Kerans and Helen Miller, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Biodiversity Data Officers** - Surveying local wildlife sites with the help of volunteers, analysing and presenting data for project work and developing links with the local groups and recorders.  
julie.kerans@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 293  
helens.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 474

**Sally Jeffery, Admin Officer** - Finance, admin & promotional tasks to ensure the smooth running of a busy office. sally.jeffery@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 01865 815 415

**Rachael Potter, Biodiversity Data Assistant** - Data management, presenting data for commercial customers and project work.

### ***New Projects Manager***

Lucy joined TVERC as the Projects Manager in October 2013. Prior to this Lucy was doing a PhD at the University of Hull on the functional ecology of interactions between wild and domestic herbivores. Lucy was looking at brown hares and rabbits in pastures and the effects of livestock grazing on their habitat and foraging choices. This meant spending a lot of time in fields measuring grass and filming hare and rabbit behaviour at night time using thermal imaging technology, as well as some radio tracking and diet analysis.

Before embarking on her PhD Lucy was the Biodiversity Manager for Greater Manchester, as part of what used to be the local biodiversity partnership, working on a range of projects in the North West. Lucy was involved in setting up and obtaining funding for the North West Brown Hare project, Greater Manchester Quarries project and helping to establish a local mammal group. Mammals have always been a particular interest of Lucy's and she was lucky enough to spend some time in Africa collecting data on black rhino in Kenya as part of her MSc in Conservation Biology from Manchester Metropolitan University. That was Lucy's second visit to Africa having been a volunteer researcher in South Africa radio tracking and collecting data on cheetahs, wild dogs and leopards. More locally Lucy has also worked for consultancies carrying out a range of ecological surveys for great crested newts, bats and water voles.

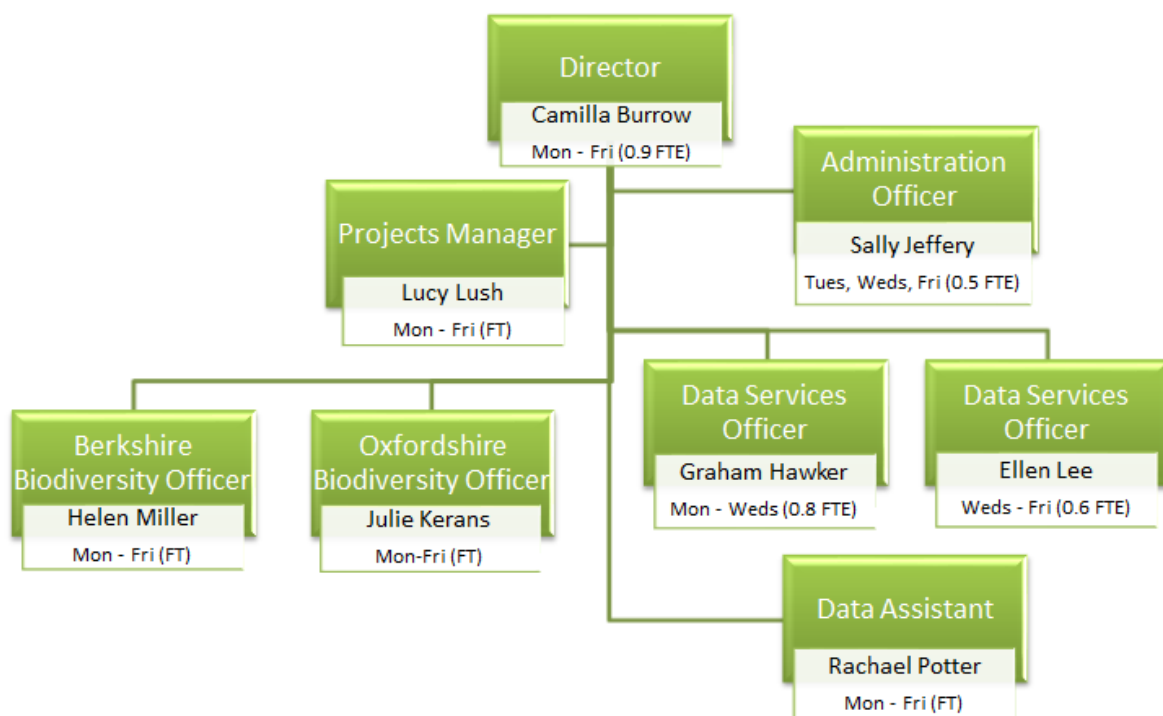
## TVERC Annual Report 2013/14

### **New Biodiversity Data Assistant**

Rachael joined TVERC as the Biodiversity Data Assistant in July 2013. Prior to this Rachael was a Volunteer Data Assistant at Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Rachael is a graduate of the University of Sussex with a first class degree in BSc Geography with Ecology and wrote her undergraduate thesis on “The use of dewponds by bird communities on the South Downs and the wider implications for the conservation management of this resource” where she got to spend a wonderful summer doing bird and pond vegetation surveys on the picturesque South Downs near Brighton. This was followed by an MSc in Biodiversity Survey where she learnt habitat ecology and identification of several taxonomic groups as well as techniques for survey and site assessment. Rachael’s specialisms are heathland and bryophytes, but she also has keen interests in flowering plants and birds and pretty much wants to identify everything she sees! Following university Rachael volunteered extensively, she has volunteered with the RSPB as an Assistant Conservation Officer which gave her first taste of how GIS can be used for conservation. With The Grasslands Trust she was a Conservation Advice Assistant where she learnt all about wildflower meadows and how to create and restore them. For Bumblebee Conservation Trust she worked with the Conservation Officers to collate a database of records for Biodiversity Action Plan species within target areas. She has also completed a work placement with an ecological consultancy where she learnt how to survey for great crested newts and bats.

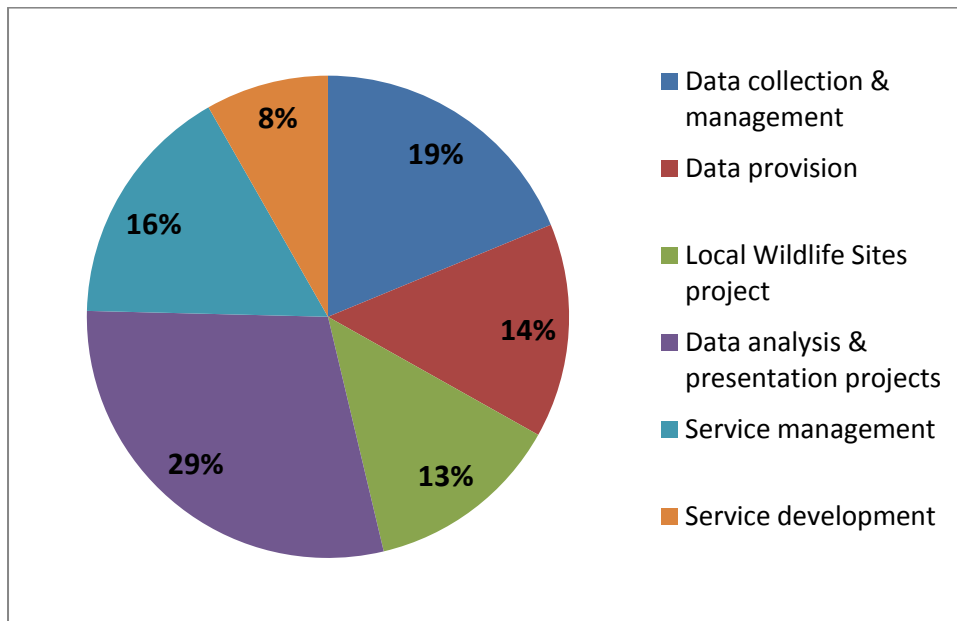
### **Structure**

The current structure is shown below:



## Areas of Work

The pie chart below illustrates the time spent by the TVERC team on different elements of the TVERC work programme during 2013-14.



## Contact details

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre  
c/o Oxfordshire County Council  
Signal Court  
Old Station Way  
Eynsham  
Oxon OX29 4TL

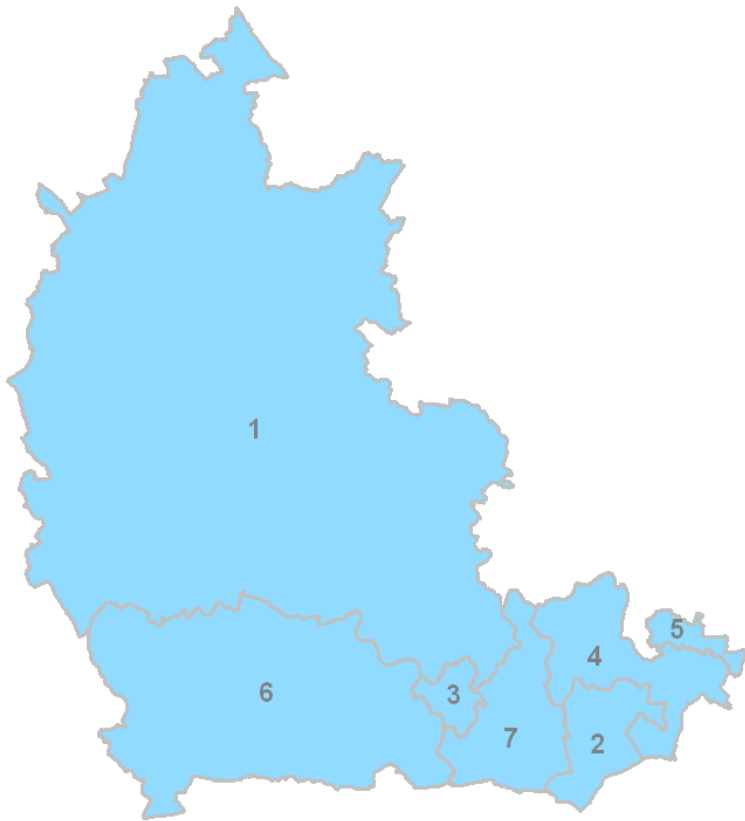
01865 815 451

[tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:tverc@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[www.tverc.org](http://www.tverc.org)

## Geographic Coverage

TVERC covers all of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, as shown on the map below.



- 1 Oxfordshire County Council
- 2 Bracknell Forest Borough Council
- 3 Reading Borough Council
- 4 Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
- 5 Slough Borough Council
- 6 West Berkshire Council
- 7 Wokingham Borough Council



## 3. TVERC Partners

### Organisation

TVERC is a 'not for profit' organisation covering Berkshire and Oxfordshire. We are run by a partnership and are one of a national network of local records centres. We are a member of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and accredited by the Association of Local Records Centres (ALERC).

Our funding partners include all the local authorities in Oxfordshire & Berkshire plus Natural England and the Environment Agency. We also work closely with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. TVERC is hosted by Oxfordshire County Council.

### Steering Group

TVERC is monitored and directed by a Steering Group, which meets three times per year. The Steering Group provides strategic guidance for TVERC helping to set its overall aim, objectives and priorities; provides guidance as required to TVERC staff; and ensures that the operational management of the Centre is successful and that it is adequately resourced. Annex B of the MoU sets out the Steering Group's Terms of Reference.

### Memorandum of Understanding

One of the requirements of ALERC accreditation is that we set out clearly and agree with our funding partners what they can expect from us, and what we expect from them. To help meet this requirement, the TVERC Partner Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was drawn up. This MoU has been approved by the TVERC Steering Group and will be in place from April 2014.

## 4. Data Holdings

TVERC aims to hold all available information about the plants, animals, wildlife habitats and important wildlife and geological sites in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. TVERC holds a database of almost 1.4 million species records plus Local Wildlife Site and Local Geological Site boundaries and information and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and other habitat data.

We also hold the boundary data for Conservation Target Areas in Oxfordshire and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Berkshire. These landscape-scale conservation areas are used by the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership and Wild Oxfordshire to coordinate biodiversity work in Berkshire & Oxfordshire.

## 5. Data Collection & Management

We collect data from the general public, skilled volunteer /amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities (BBOWT and RSPB), professionals working for government agencies (Natural England, the Environment Agency & local authorities) and ecological consultants.

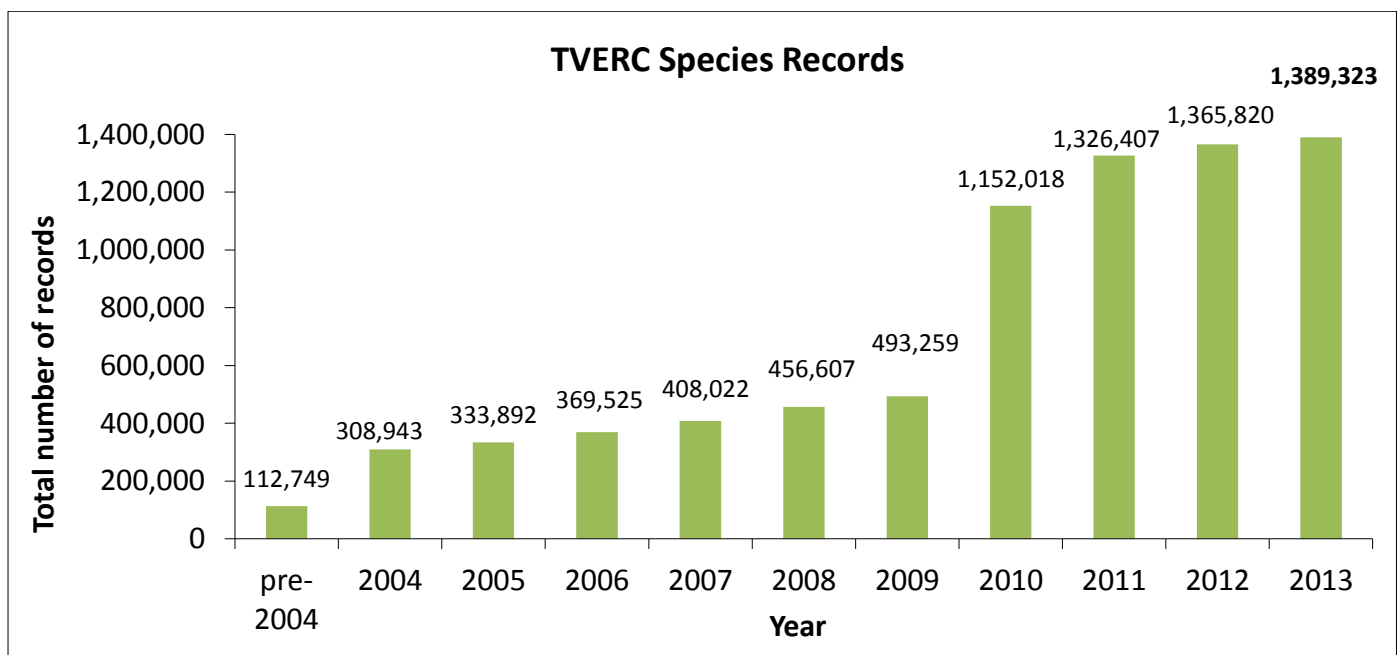
### Species records

We added 23,503 new records to our database in 2013. The number was so high in 2010 because of a mass import of about 600,000 records from the old Recorder 3 into Recorder 6. In 2011, we added some large datasets such as moth records to our database. In 2013, we added slightly less than our target of 30,000 per year, but this did include many bat records extracted from ecological consultant reports, which are very valued by our partners and customers. Our database now includes nearly 1.4 million records.

Year	Records added
Pre-2004	112,749
2004	196,194
2005	24,949
2006	35,633

Year	Records added
2007	38,497
2008	48,585
2009	36,652
2010	658,759

Year	Records added
2011	174,389
2012	39,413
2013	23,503



### Datasets

We added 122 new datasets into Recorder, plus Local Wildlife Site species data. 194 datasets were acquired by TVERC from individual recorders, recording groups, conservation organisation and environmental consultants during 2013/14 and will be processed and added to our database in accordance with our Data Policies & Procedures document. The list of datasets is listed in appendix I.

### Data Agreements

Each year, TVERC negotiate with the wide range of recorders and recording groups in Berkshire and Oxfordshire to ensure we can access new data. In 2013, Rachael reviewed all our existing data exchange agreements, created a spreadsheet so we could keep track of what data we should be exchanging when, and prioritised which groups we should be contacting to arrange new data agreements. In 2013 we signed new data agreements with the following organisations:

- Association of British Fungus Groups
- Berks & South Bucks Bat Group (BSBBG)
- Berkshire Ornithological Club
- Binfield Badger Group
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Newbury District Ornithological Club (via BOC)
- Freshwater Habitats Trust (was Pond Conservation)

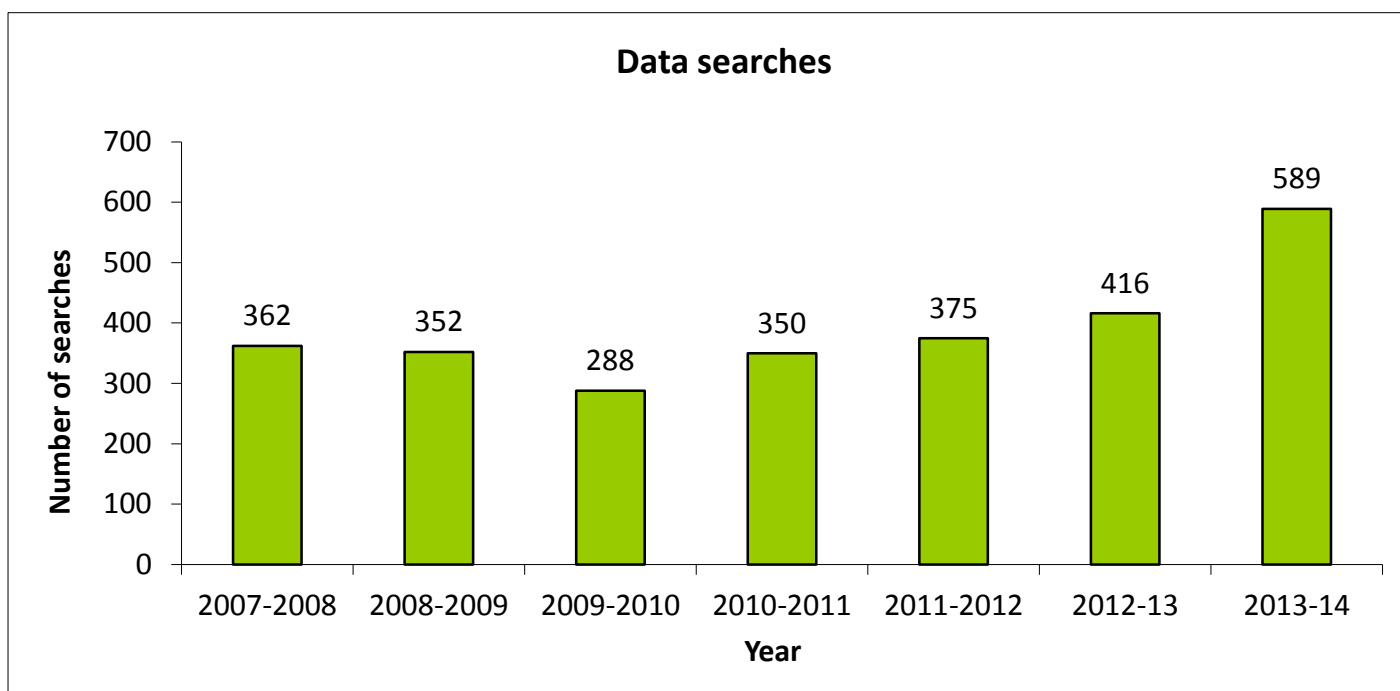
### Improving quality of data

In 2013, Graham continued to check and improve our habitats dataset. Some heathland areas and information from last year's Local Wildlife Sites surveys have been added in Berkshire. In Oxfordshire testing of rapid mapping of common habitats (arable, improved grassland) was tested and then applied to Cherwell District where the complete District is being mapped. Rivers have been mapped in Oxfordshire by Gavin, one of our volunteers.

We usually provide updates to our species datasets annually, but Ellen has found a way to extract data from Recorder which takes less time to get into the right format. This means we can carry out a full extraction every 6 months, ensuring that even more accurate and up-to-date information is available for our partners and customers.

## 6. Data Search Requests

TVERC carried out 589 data searches in 2013/14. This is higher than the average number from the last six years of 390 and an increase since 2012/13, when we carried out 416 data searches. Part of this increase can be explained by a new service we offered this year in response to feedback from ecological consultants. We waived the fee for single species & bat searches, where we respond by email with a brief summary of the information available. This will provide an idea of how many records there are, how close they are to the centre of the search and how old the records are. This gives consultants an idea on whether they need to proceed with a full data search. There may also have been a greater number of planning applications being submitted this year due to the start of economic recovery.

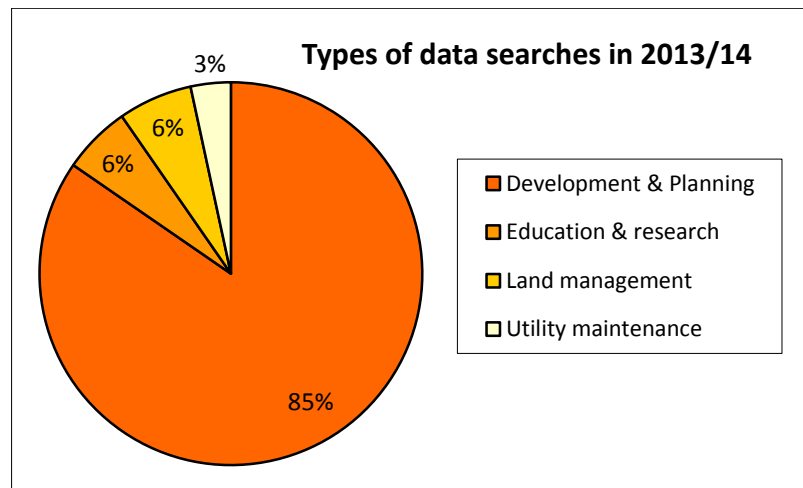


TVERC charges for data searches based on an hourly rate for extracting and presenting the data. The hourly rate includes a contribution towards the annual cost of collating and managing the TVERC database. TVERC waive this charge for data searches for individuals, landowners and conservation organisations where the data will be used solely for conservation purposes. In these cases, a donation is requested, to cover the costs of extracting and presenting the data. We also waive the fee for initial single species & bat searches, so although we carried out 589 data searches, a charge was made for only 430 of these, bringing in a total income of £62k for 2013/14.

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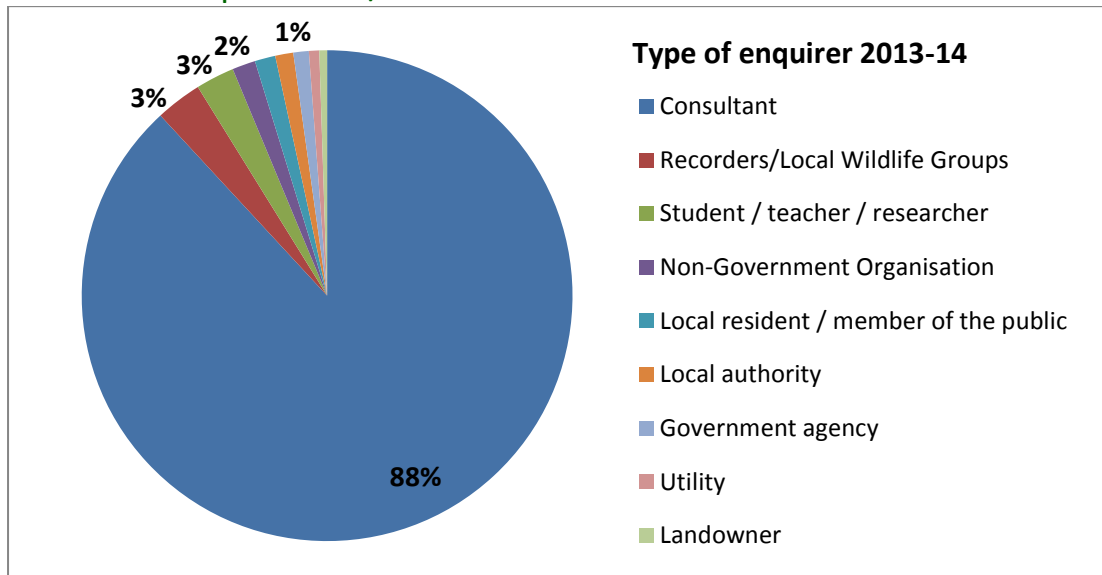
The types of data searches are shown in the pie charts and tables below.

Type of data search enquiry 2013/14	Number
Development & Planning	498
Education & research	34
Land management	37
Utility maintenance	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>589</b>



Type of enquirer	Number of data searches
Local authority	7
Government agency	6
Non-Government Organisation	9
Consultant	519
Student / teacher / researcher	15
Landowner	3
Local resident / member of the public	8
Recorders/Local Wildlife Groups	18
Utility*	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>589</b>

\*Many utility companies deal with TVERC via consultants, see *Type of Enquiry* for better idea of the number of utility/maintenance (water pipelines, railway, road maintenance) enquiries.



## 7. Data Provision to Partners

TVERC provided updated datasets to our partners. These are essential to ensure that our partners comply with planning policy and wildlife legislation and that sound decisions are made about where to focus conservation effort, how best to manage land and where to direct development to minimise impacts on the natural environment.

We created an illustrated 'Guide to TVERC Data' for local authority staff, to help non-ecologists understand the data that is available for them to use and how they can use it.

The updated datasets TVERC provided to partners were:

- Protected & notable species (December 2013)
- Buffered notable & protected species (January 2014)
- Local Wildlife Sites (June 2013)
- S41 Habitats of Principle Importance and Land-Use (previously UK BAP priority habitat) (November 2014)

There were no changes to the following datasets:

- Local Geological Sites
- Conservation Target Areas / Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

## 8. Data Analysis & Presentation

TVERC carried out several projects during 2013-14, including carrying out surveys, analysing data and presenting the results in a user-friendly format. The results of these projects will be used by our funders to make sound decisions about where to direct conservation effort, how best to manage land and where to direct development to minimise impacts on the natural environment.

### Improvements to evidence-base

#### ***Oxon & Bucks Ancient Woodland Inventory***

TVERC received funding from Natural England and the Forestry Commission to review and update the ancient woodland inventory (AWI) in Oxfordshire, Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes. The updated AWI, mapping the quality, extent and distribution of ancient woodland, included sites under 2 ha (which were excluded from the original AWI) and provides a robust evidence base to help inform planning decisions, strategic plans and various environmental projects, such as planning for strategic infrastructure (e.g. HighSpeed2, Green Infrastructure), considering planning applications (e.g. commercial, housing, minerals and waste), directing habitat conservation work (e.g. buffering and linking smaller sites, enhancing existing sites), climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. carbon storage in woodland, carbon-neutral wood-fuel) and wood-fuel initiatives. The work involved using GIS analysis of modern and historic maps, supported by field work, to assess whether currently wooded sites were likely to have been wooded since at least 1600 and subsequently considered to be ancient woodland.

#### ***South Oxon Ancient Woodland surveys***

South Oxfordshire District Council asked TVERC to carry out surveys to gather information on sites which have been identified within recent aerial photographs and historic maps as suggesting continuous woodland cover since 1600. The wildlife and archaeological surveys and the further analysis of historic maps will determine whether these sites can be considered “ancient” (that is, more than 400 years old). The project will identify ancient woodlands greater than 0.25ha in size, but not currently included in the national provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory. Particular emphasis will be placed on those woodlands near the major settlements in South Oxfordshire (for example, south of Oxford). The project will result in an updated and improved digital dataset identifying the updated provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory sites in South Oxfordshire, with a high number of the newly identified sites being supported by botanical and archaeological field survey data.

#### ***Sutton Wick Site visit***

TVERC was commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, to provide advice on the wildlife interest of a proposed development site at Sutton Wick. A site visit was completed and summary information provided, giving details of the S41 / BAP habitats present on the site and the likelihood that it would meet Local Wildlife Site criteria.

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### ***Cherwell Habitats mapping***

Cherwell District Council needs to know where the highest quality natural environment is so that they can make sound decisions on the location and design of sustainable development and where to direct wildlife conservation work. Mapping of habitats and other land uses within Oxfordshire has been carried out by TVERC since 2003 and TVERC is the custodian of the digital dataset. Habitat mapping has concentrated on the most important designated sites in the county (primarily Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites) as well as the landscape-scale areas of wildlife importance, known as Conservation Target Areas. In addition, some types of habitat have been mapped across all of Oxfordshire as part of updates to national priority habitat inventory updates. Some mapping of semi-natural woodland has also been undertaken in Cherwell. However, there are still significant gaps in the dataset, with only about 16% of Cherwell District currently covered by phase 1 mapping (9,372 hectares). Within this, 3,381 hectares of UK BAP priority habitats have been mapped. Undertaking the project will allow Cherwell District Council to better meet its obligations under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and other legislation and policy to protect and enhance the natural environment.

### ***Cherwell other wildlife sites***

Cherwell District Council asked TVERC to identify sites of district importance for wildlife, which are not already designated for their importance for wildlife. There may be sites which contain semi-natural habitat or have a notable species interest but which have no formal designation and would not meet LWS designation criteria. As there also might be more information (e.g. survey results or management info) for some of the sites we're already aware of (for example sites managed by local groups) TVERC created consultation maps and contacted several local groups and individuals for any information they have. Sites identified included denotified Local Wildlife Sites, Community Woodlands, Road Verge Nature Reserves, nature reserves that were not Local Wildlife Sites and other sites that TVERC held habitat survey data for. 62 sites were mapped.

### ***West Berks LWS boundaries***

West Berkshire Council has commissioned TVERC to undertake a review and correction of some serious LWS boundary anomalies in West Berkshire. Historically, LWS boundaries were mapped using standard 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey base maps. The project also allowed some sites that had been remapped to Landline in 2004 to be remapped to the latest MasterMap. Some site boundaries have not been reviewed since these pre-2003 maps were created and, in a number of cases developments in the built environment and road schemes such as the A34 have left LWS boundaries seriously out of date and inaccurate. 238 sites were remapped to MasterMap boundaries or more accurately to habitat boundaries and errors in interpretation of original survey data were corrected resulting in a more reliable evidence-base for decision-making. A small number of sites which consisted of discreet and widely separated polygons were amended to form two sites which increased the number of Local Wildlife Sites by three to 467. Overall the number of accurately mapped sites increased from about 25% (these were sites surveyed since 2004 by TVERC) to 75%.



## Land Management

### *RBWM Allen Field survey*

We provided an up to date ecological baseline data set for the site to support the SANG and additional data to help inform/implement the current management plan for the site. The work involved an enhanced Local Wildlife Site survey, including extended desk study (extending to 1 km of the site) and a detailed assessment of the site for its potential to support protected and notable species. Key ecological features for such species were mapped.

### *Woodstock Water Meadows Survey*

We carried out a wildlife survey for Woodstock Town Council at Woodstock Water Meadows. It included recording the sites wildlife interest and mapping the habitats found. A data search was also completed and the information will be used to help inform future management of the site.

### *Kings Copse Phase 2 Surveys*

We provided baseline Phase 2 ecological data, with focus on plants, birds and butterflies that may be affected by woodland management for Kings Copse SSSI, south of Stanford Dingley, Berkshire. The woodland is considered to be undermanaged, having not had any management undertaken for about 80 years. Other habitats within the woodland include, three ponds (one currently dry), wet areas/stream, glades, old hazel coppice. Implementation of appropriate management will enhance the site for overall biodiversity. A woodland management has been written for the site which identified a need for up to date information regarding EPS and other notable species. The last known surveys of the site were done in the 1980s/1990s and as such it is considered it would be beneficial to undertake surveys to give an idea of the current ecological baseline of the site for key species/species groups to enable a pragmatic approach to be developed for the implementation of woodland management.

## Monitoring change

### *Environmental data for M & W Report*

Updated figures for the farmland bird index for Oxfordshire and SSSI condition table were created.

### *Local Wildlife Sites under good management*

TVERC undertook the assessment of the Single Data List 160 (previously called National Indicator 197) – the percentage of local wildlife sites in favourable management condition – for individual Berkshire unitary authorities in 2013/14. The 2013 results for the analysis of data associated with the 2012/13 business year were that an average of 42% of local sites were in positive management across all of Berkshire. The table overleaf shows the results for the individual unitary authorities within Berkshire.

## TVERC Annual Report 2013/14

Local authority	% of local sites in positive management (2012/13)
Berkshire average	42% (increase of 3% from 2011/12)
Bracknell Forest BC	51% (increase of 2% from 2011/12)
RB Windsor & Maidenhead	31% (increase of 4% from 2011/12)
Reading BC	71% (increase of 13% from 2011/12)
Slough BC	33% (decrease of 7% from 2011/12)
West Berkshire DC	42% (increase of 4% from 2011/12)
Wokingham	41% (decrease of 1% from 2011/12)

### ***Biodiversity indicators***

Information on biodiversity indicators associated with our Berkshire and Oxfordshire local authority partners' Local Plans was gathered, processed and supplied in 2013. The following biodiversity indicators were reported on:

- Changes in area of sites designated for their biodiversity importance (SPA, SAC, SSSI, LWS)
- Change in number of NERC Act S41 species of principle importance (previously called UK BAP priority species)
- Changes in mapped area of NERC Act S41 habitats of principle importance (previously called UK BAP priority habitat)
- Distribution and status of water voles
- Change in condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Distribution and status of farmland birds
- Distribution and status of stag beetles

A review was carried out on the annual monitoring report that we produce for local authorities in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, to assess how useful the current indicators are and how local authorities used the information. The national indicators used to monitor biodiversity were also reviewed against our current indicators to ensure they were appropriate.

Following the review a number of minor changes will be made to the report, with the removal of indicators that rarely changed from year to year, or that did not have regular monitoring. Indicators that were regularly updated and could be potentially influenced by local authorities to improve them were retained. Local authorities will be able to choose five indicators without an increase in the cost of the report.

## **Training, education & sharing information**

### ***West Berks ID Training***

The project provided the West Berkshire Countryside Team with a basic level of understanding of woodland and calcareous grassland habitats and their key associated plant species. The course included an indoor session introducing the habitats followed by outdoors sessions in a woodland and calcareous grassland looking at typical species indicative of habitats, including ancient woodland indicators. We also produced identification "hints & tips" and species lists for plants typically associated with Berkshire woodland and calcareous grassland.

### **BRC species data verification**

The Biological Records Centre (BRC) put together a bid to Natural England for a project to test on-line verification of records using the system being developed in iRecord. BRC approached TVERC (as well as other record centres and national recording schemes) to get a broad range of views on how on-line verification procedures could best be developed in future. TVERC was funded to provide a number of datasets collected by recorders to BRC to test existing verification systems. TVERC will also help in the project's aim to identify recorders to be recruited as species record verifiers, with a view to implementing improvements in data reliability and data flow efficiencies.

### **Oxon Rare Plants Register**

TVERC has been supporting the work of the Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire in its undertaking of a Rare Plants Register in Oxfordshire. Records have been collected by recorders over the last few years and the results have been processed and analysed by TVERC. Funding was provided to TVERC to generate distribution maps of species which will be included within the register. The results of the mapping (and associated species narratives) will be included within a future on-line publication.

## 9. Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Site surveys are one of the core services that TVERC continues to provide across the two counties for the majority of the Local Authorities. We carried out a total of 40 LWS surveys in 2013/14. We also organised volunteer surveyors to carry out specialist surveys for dragonflies, butterflies, general invertebrates, hymenoptera, fungi, bryophytes, veteran trees, crayfish and birds. Survey reports were produced and taken to the site selection panel. The full detail of these is in appendix II.

### **Oxfordshire highlights**

This year TVERC carried out surveys on 40 existing and proposed Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire. We had a huge amount of support from 14 volunteers who visited 21 of these sites so a big thank you to all those who helped. The data is not all processed yet but there has already been over 4300 species records added.

One of the sites surveyed is a former limestone quarry in the Cotswolds. The thin soil has a rich limestone flora including mouse-ear hawkweed, eyebright, dwarf thistle, fairy flax and the Oxfordshire Rare Plant Register species - basil thyme. The site includes small patches with a more acidic character indicated by the presence of bracken and small amounts of Viper's bugloss. The site is also important for invertebrates and one of our expert volunteers recorded a very rare bee (*Andrena trimmerana*).

TVERC helped the Wychwood flora group carry out a survey of Grimes meadow in Witney. The site is unimproved marshy grassland with sedge-dominated swamp communities adjacent to the River Windrush. It is a Local Wildlife Site which is being managed by the Wychwood Project (Oxfordshire) to enhance its wildlife interest. The survey provides species and abundance information which will be used to monitor the effectiveness of management. Plants recorded included the less common species - slender spike-rush.

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We also surveyed a proposed woodland site in the Chilterns, where the landowner is carrying out work to open up the dense beech canopy. The site already has a range of typical ancient woodland plants including wood melick, wood anemone, woodruff, wood sedge, bluebell, wood millet, yellow archangel, wood sorrel and goldilocks buttercup but they are confined to less heavily shaded parts of the site. The on-going work should encourage a more diverse field flora over wider areas.

Other interesting invertebrates recorded include purple emperor and silver-washed fritillary at an ancient woodland site in Vale of White Horse. The hoverfly *Xanthogramma pedissequum* was recorded at Bicester wetland reserve.

### Berkshire highlights

19 Local Wildlife Sites have been surveyed across Berkshire from large reservoirs of importance to birds in the east of the county to roadside verges rich in plants and insects in the west. The beginning of the season found us surveying woodlands to capture the early spring plants, then as the cold and wet subsided into warm summer days we were out surveying the grassland and meadows before the annual hay cuts.

This year we confirmed the continued existence of a rare plant: tower mustard *Arabis glabra*. Plantlife note only 25 sites in England. It is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild, so subsequently classified as Endangered and included as a Priority Species on the UKBAP.

## 10. Supporting Recorders & Volunteers

TVERC are fortunate to get the help of volunteers to carry out some data processing, species recording and site surveys. In 2013/14, volunteers carried out 21 days of specialist surveys on Local Wildlife Sites. We also rely on help from volunteers to manage and input data into our database. In 2013/14, office volunteers carried out 97 days of data management. If this work had been carried out by paid staff, it would have cost TVERC a staggering £14.6k<sup>1</sup>.

### Volunteer recording groups

Much of the data in the TVERC database comes from volunteer recorders and so supporting them is an essential part of the work TVERC carry out. We provide technical support for recording groups who are collecting and analysing data across Oxfordshire and Berkshire. In 2013/14, TVERC provided assistance to:

- Oxfordshire Rare Plants Register – data management and maps for the forthcoming publication
- Withymead Nature Reserve – Otter spotting training courses
- Butterfly Conservation - base maps of the Upper Thames Branch region including National Character Areas for planning of conservation work.
- Besselsleigh Wood Group - suggestions for recorders or recording groups to assist with training as part of a grant application.

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<sup>1</sup> An equivalent paid job would be £17k per annum, the 'on-costs' increase that to £21,400. That is equivalent to a daily rate of £100 (assuming 215 working days in the year) and hourly rate of £13.50

Camilla Burrow, TVERC Director

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### Recording & Training Events

Working with other wildlife organisations, TVERC organise a local Recorders Conference to share information amongst volunteer recorders and increase their knowledge so they can provide us with even better data. We also provide training courses and talks to local groups. In 2013/14, TVERC carried out the following talks and training events:

- Oxford Festival of Nature and Bioblitz (June 2013)
- Wychwood Flora Group (12/02/14)
- Otter spotting at Withymead Nature Reserve (several dates in April and May)

TVERC staff attended the following events to keep up with current conservation issues and to promote TVERC and the importance of biodiversity data:

- Oxford Bee Summit (07/02/14)
- Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum AGM (12/12/13)
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership Exec Board, Ecological Networks Working Group and Fundraising Working Group (several dates)
- National Biodiversity Network conference "Future Challenges" (15/11/13)
- Association of Local Government Ecologists conference "European Directives" (25/11/13)
- Association of Local Environmental Records Centres conference (16/10/13)
- London & SouthEast Record Centres meetings (several dates)
- Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum Local Environment Groups Conference (22/09/13)
- Wychwood Forest Fair (01/09/13)
- Berkshire Bioblitz (03&04/08/13)

#### ***Berkshire Recorders Conference***

This year saw a break from tradition for the Berkshire Recorder's Conference in that we held a joint event with the newly formed Local Nature Partnership. TVERC hosted the morning with talks from local groups:

- The Berks and South Bucks Bat Group spoke of their mission to fill every 1 km grid square in the counties with at least one bat record.
- Wokingham Veteran Tree Association highlighted the value recording has on involving and bringing together the local community.
- Berkshire Mammal Group is embracing social media to raise the profile of mammals and recording with a goal of producing a Berkshire Mammals Atlas in the future.
- The newly formed Berkshire Invertebrate Group highlighted how a local group can benefit from association with a national group (British Entomological & Natural History Society).

The LNP hosted the afternoon with an introduction about the LNP followed by talks from both a local (Fobney Nature Reserve) and strategic (Biodiversity Opportunity Areas; a Strategy for Delivery) perspective. After tea workshops were held that generated much discussion and debate. All in all a good day was had and the mix of local recorders and those involved in biodiversity and recording in a professional capacity certainly raised some interesting discussions, bringing together the diverse community of those interested in the natural history of Berkshire.

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### Oxfordshire Recorders Conference

TVERC held another successful Recorders & Conservation Day in Oxford on 1st March 2014. The theme for the event was 'Long term monitoring' and 63 people attended. Oxford University Museum of Natural History provided us with a great venue that created an opportunity to talk about links between current and historic recording.

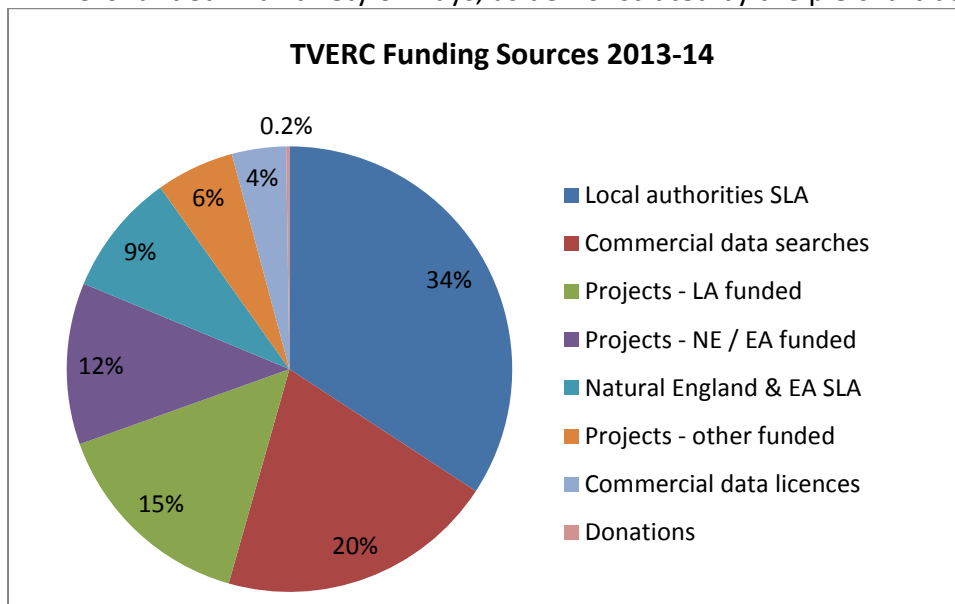
Ivan Wright gave a talk illustrating how the differences between historic and current species of hymenoptera recorded at Shotover can largely be explained by changes in habitat and the historic lack of recording for, what were then considered to be, common species. Marc Botham gave us a whistle stop tour through the changes in butterfly and moth populations and Alan Larkman updated us on the work that has been done at City Farm in Eynsham where more sympathetic management techniques for farmland birds have also resulted in a range of rare arable weeds thriving. In the afternoon, Judy Webb and Camilla Lambrick, gave us insight into the work that has been done to monitor populations of bee orchids and creeping marshwort.

The speed update session brought us all up to date with what our local groups and recorders are doing, including information on the Elton Archive, herptiles atlas, Wychwood flora group, new botanical atlas and rare finds from the Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire. Workshops included discussions about developing mammal recording and long term monitoring in Oxfordshire. There was also a session providing practical help with ladybird identification and a tour giving a 'behind the scenes' look at the entomology department at the museum.

## 11. Finance

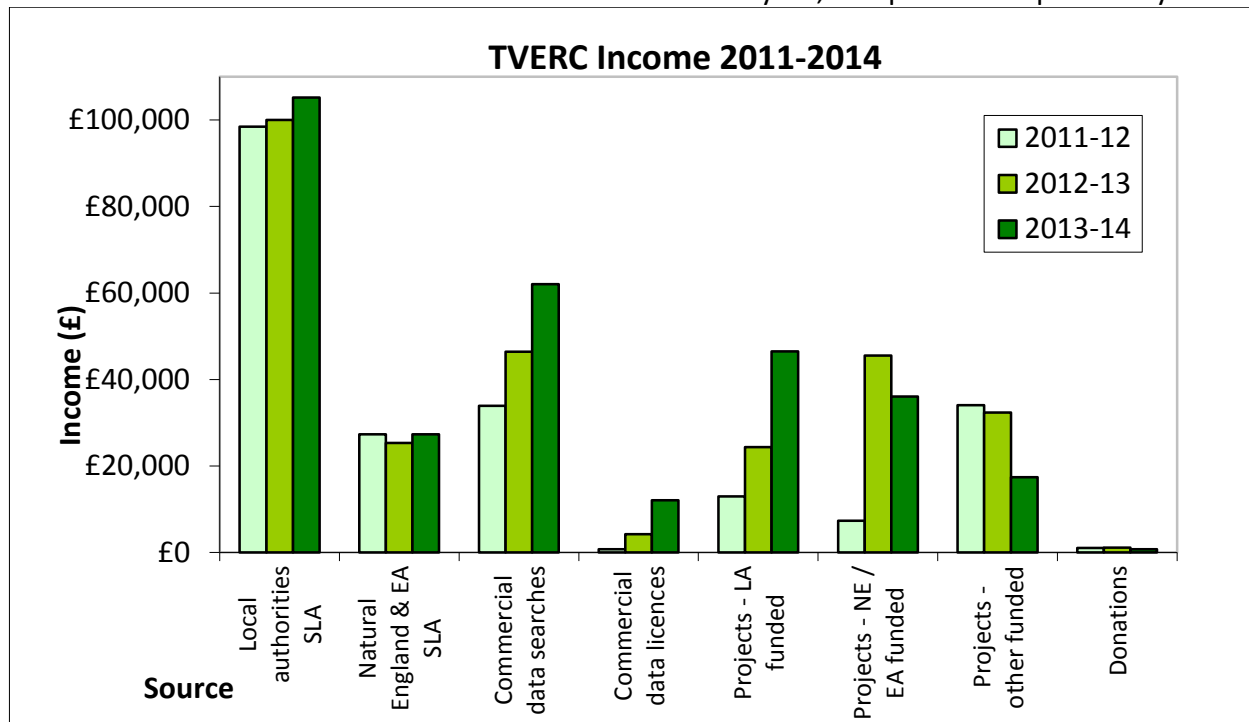
### Sources of funding

TVERC is funded in a variety of ways, as demonstrated by the pie chart below.



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The bar chart below outlines the income for this financial year, compared with previous years.



### Finance summary

In comparison with last year, the income from funding partners increased slightly. Donations decreased slightly but this was due to the Berkshire Recorders Conference being held in conjunction with the Berkshire LNP with sponsorship which meant TVERC did not have to fund the venue or catering so we didn't take donations. There has been an increase in the income for projects (particularly those funded by local authorities), data searches (we carried out more than last year) and data licences.

The biggest expenditure is on staff salaries. However, staff time is also the biggest asset TVERC has, as it's the staff time spent on projects, data searches and data licences which bring in the income. The accounts from 2011-12 show that when expenditure on staff is decreased, so did projects income, which may well be a reflection of the lack of staff time in that year available for pursuing project money and then completing the associated project work.

This increase in income has meant that we have been able to increase expenditure slightly, although we were not fully staffed for the entire year due to the Projects Manager post being vacant for several months. We spent more on staff as we recruited a Data Assistant. Despite this additional expenditure, we ended 2013-14 with a net surplus of £70.5k, which will be re-invested in the TVERC service.



TVERC Finances	Year		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Income</b>			
Local authorities SLA	£98,421	£100,024	£105,188
Natural England & EA SLA	£27,333	£25,333	£27,333
Commercial data searches	£33,887	£46,424	£62,015
Commercial data licences	£750	£4,200	£12,100
Projects - LA funded	£12,935	£24,333	£46,516
Projects - NE / EA funded	£7,323	£45,540	£36,055
Projects - other funded	£34,052	£32,381	£17,427
Donations (for data searches)	£305	£410	£240
Donations (for Recorders Conference)	£710	£716	£485
<b>Income total</b>	<b>£215,715</b>	<b>£279,360</b>	<b>£307,359</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff (salaries, expenses, training)	£184,085	£197,378	£215,633
Contractors	£1,849	£12,170	£2,580
Overheads (equipment, printing, postage, subscriptions)	£1,573	£2,659	£1,190
Premises (paid 'in kind' by OCC)	£16,500	£16,500	£16,500
Recorders Conference	£460	£296	£880
Investment in service (data tools, website etc.)	£0	£3,000	£0
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>£204,467</b>	<b>£232,003</b>	<b>£236,783</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>£11,249</b>	<b>£47,357</b>	<b>£70,575</b>



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### Balancing account

Due to Oxon CC accounting rules, the Business account must balance to £0 at the end of each financial year. Therefore any money received more than one year in advance is kept in the Balancing account. Any underspend or overspend at the end of each financial year is moved into or out of the Balancing account. The TVERC Reserve is also kept in the Balancing account.

The TVERC Reserve is held for unforeseen circumstances and to cover any redundancy liabilities plus two months running costs. The running costs should comprise of staff costs and overheads (e.g. salaries, expenses, training, equipment, printing, postage, subscriptions). The Reserve would allow TVERC to move to a different host organisation or become independent should the need arise.

As of 2012/13, the reserve required was calculated to be £64k, based on redundancy costs of £30k plus monthly running costs of £17k. This was achieved by the end of 2012/13 and will be increased by 5% each year to cover the rising costs of staff salaries (and therefore potential redundancies) and inflation.

<b>Reserve / Balancing account</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>Balancing account at end of previous year</b>		£154,165	£114,280
<b>Amount taken out of balancing account*</b>	£11,249	£87,242	£31,375
<b>Amount put into balancing account**</b>	£11,249	£47,357	£70,575
<b>Balancing account at end of current year</b>	£154,165	£114,280	£153,480
<b>Minimum required Reserve</b>	£30,000	£64,000	£67,200
<b>Unallocated money in balancing account</b>	£124,165	£50,280	£86,280

\* Project money which was received in one year but will be spent in the following year, so had to be held in the balancing account.

\*\* Money to be put in or taken out of Balancing Account to ensure Business Account = 0.

**Appendix I – Datasets added to TVERC database 2013/14**

238. Consultancy records for site in Faringdon - Focus Ecology (12-058 19 records)
239. Berrick Trench SSSI Survey 2009
240. Godstow Bridge Meadow Survey - Alison Muldal 2001
241. Hook Norton Railway Cutting Survey 2001
242. Nuffield Common Survey 2008 - Janet Welsh
243. Low Dean Wood, Watlington Park Survey 2009
244. Highmoor and Lower Common Wood Survey 2007
245. West of Hollyhill, Elmore Park grassland Survey 2001
246. St. Hilda's College Meadow Survey 1992
247. Bat and habitat survey at site at Waterperry, South Oxon, 2012 (12-054 4 records)
248. Bat, Reptile & GCN survey of site at East Challow, 2012 (12-062 20 records)
249. Bat survey at Brighwell Baldwin property, South Oxon, 2012 (12-068 8 records)
250. Michael Woods Associates Records Flora & Fauna 2012 (13-062 103 records)
251. Planning reports for Primrose Croft, Burghfield, 2010 (Bats & reptiles) (11-02 7 records)
252. Phase 1 and bat survey of site at Wheatley, Oxfordshire (11-113 6 records)
253. Bat hibernaculum records for Horsepath Railway Tunnel 2009 (12-059 4 records)
254. Bat, Bird and Herp records for two sites near Banbury from MLM ecology (13-066 39 records)
255. Plant survey of Harcourt Arboretum LWS, August 2012 (13-070 22 records)
256. Bird and butterfly records, RAF Bicester (1975-1980)
257. Weasel records from Graham Scholey - Oxfordshire & Berkshire (7-056 26 records)
258. OUWG botanical surveys at Boundary Brook & Osney Mead 2010 (10-121 138 records)
259. Fungus and odonata records (mostly) from Cassington Rd Gravel pits in 2007 (11-048 35 records)
260. Hymenoptera records from Hanglands farm railway cutting LWS 2011 (11-119 131 records)
261. Consultant report from golf course at Thame, 2010 (bats & herps) (12-029 99 records)
262. Consultant's bat survey of property at Buscot, VoWH, March 2012 (12-050 2 records)
263. Consultant's bat survey report from site at Stonor Park, Oxon., May 2012 (12-051 5 records)
264. Various ecological surveys of a site north of Grove, VoWH, 2012 - protected species extracted and entered (12-063 18 records)
265. Bat report for Cholsey Boathouse - Ecoconsult (12-073 2 records)
266. Fungi at Lily Hill fungi foray 2012 by Thames Valley Fungus group. (12-087 61 records)
267. 2012 Herp & Mammal records Aston Rowant NNR (13-003 19 records)
268. Bat report Drayton Road, Abingdon FPCR (13-009 5 records)
269. Herp survey of ponds at Carleton House, Shippon, Oxfordshire - Windrush Ecology (13-014 3 records)
270. Reptile records from Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham - The Landcape partnership (13-024 6 records)
271. Brightwell Park records 2012 - Bernwood ECS (13-068 105 records)
272. Bat survey of Chipping Norton Baptist Church - Wild Service Ecology (13-068 2 records)
273. Water Vole records from the Trap Grounds, Oxford 2013 (& Oxford Canal) (13-083 3 records)
274. Consultancy Bat Survey, St Gabriel's Convent, Cold Ash (13-089 8 records)
275. Bat Survey, Church farm West Hanney (13-095 5 records)
276. Misc. records from John Lerpiniere Berks 2011 (12-079 35 records)
277. Miscellaneous records for 2012 from Des Sussex (13-004 48 records)
278. Latest NE Bat Roost records Oxfordshire and Berkshire (Quarter 2 2013) (13-117 6 records)
279. John Lerpiniere - Herp records 2011 (13-023 100 records)

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280. GCN and other protected species records (mostly herps & aquatic) from Mark Satinet @ 4 Acre Ecology (13-105 36 records)
281. Bat records (2010) from EPR Oxon & Berks (13-111 7 records)
282. Former Esso Centre, Milton Hill - Bats and reptiles (13-109 16 records)
283. Extended Phase 1 survey of land to west of Mill House Wolvercote (13-112 7 records)
284. bat survey of orchard S. of Cookham by Torc ecology (13-113 3 records)
285. Bat & badger survey of 56 & 54 Hurst Rise, Cumnor - 4 Acre Ecology (13-094 1 record)
286. Bat survey of Coombesbury Farm Barns - EcoConsult (13-104 15 records)
287. Marigay, Russell's Water - Protected species appraisal June 2013 (13-108 1 record)
288. Sarah Postlethwaite (OCC) 2012/13 Incidental Records (13-114 10 records)
289. SBBBG Summer 2012 Data exchange (this is the complete database in Aug 2012) (12-056 776 records)
290. SBBBG 2012-2013 update (13-116 173 records)
291. Shenfield Mill Phase 1 and Phase 2 bat surveys 2011 ECOSA Ltd (13-107 6 records)
292. 2011 and 2012 BRAG records (13-115 623 records)
293. Survey of Old Kiln Pit - W. Berks Ward Associates (13-106 636 records)
294. Aculeate hymenoptera records from various Oxfordshire sites, 2011 (12-024 326 records incl 3 in Berks)
295. Aculeate hymenoptera records from various Oxfordshire sites, 2012 (13-054 371 records)
296. Gagea lutea survey report from Whitehill Wood, Oxon, March 2012 (12-035 9 records)
297. Great Crested Newt Licence Returns (Oxon & Berks) (12-088 90 records)
298. Barn owl site survey visits in Oxfordshire, 2012 - Pat Wixey etc. (13-001 51 records but 19 still need site information confirming)
299. Tilbury Lane, Botley - Badger survey update 2013 (13-091 3 records)
300. Protected species records, mostly bats, for Newbury Rugby Club (13-134 11 records)
301. Bat report for a property in S. Oxon (13-126 29 records)
302. GCN records from Paul Whitby for a site in Bracknell (Azure Ecology) (13-125 2 records)
303. GCN records from Geoff Moxon (Bioscan) (13-124 2 records)
304. Great crested newt records from South Leigh garden pond (13-122 2 records)
305. Bat survey of Mill Cottage, Brimpton (13-121 5 records)
306. Tamsin Atley - Incidental Records (13-103 18 records)
307. Extended Phase I and Phase 2 surveys of Sutton Wick (13-101 73 records)
308. Highworth Road, Shrivenham - Badger Survey, May 2013 (13-097 1 record)
309. TVERC incidental records for Oxon and Berks, April 2012-October 2013 (13-138 179 records)
310. Herp records from various West Berkshire Council sites 2008-09 (13-37 78 records)
311. Janet Welsh rare plant records 2011 and 2012 (13-056 477 records)
312. Wychwood Flora (CRPG?) reports 2013 (13-076 15 records)
313. Botanical records from Oxfordshire sites 2013 - Brian Laney (13-064 18 records)
314. Galeopsis angustifolia Lidstone Piece 2012 - Cotswold Rare Plant Group (12-066 39 records)
315. WBC Ranger 2011 Herptile records (11-065 26 records)
316. Hernes LWS Botanical survey (S. Rankin & S. Parkinson) 2013 - 406 Records (2013 Oxfordshire LWS Surveys)
317. Bicester Wetland Reserve Bird Surveys 2010-2012 - BOS - 1639 records
318. Grimes Mead Botanical Survey 2013 (B. Betteridge & M. Cochrane) 459 records (2013 Oxfordshire LWS Surveys)

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319. Julian Edwards incidental records (Oxon) - (13-002 3 records)
320. Bryophyte records from Topples Wood LWS - OMG (13-059 46 records)
321. Judy Webb Invertebrate data 2013 - Easington Fen LWS (2013 Oxfordshire LWS Surveys)
322. John Lepeniere Herptile records 2013 (95 records 14-021)
323. Rebecca Read, casual records 2013 (6 records 14-018)
324. Records of herps crossing road nr Bletchingdon (5 records 14-010)
325. Bracknell Forest Council Records (mostly 2011-2013) (62 records 13-189)
326. NE Bat roost records third quarter 2013 - Berks & Oxon (14 records 13-186)
327. Surveys carried out by volunteers for Wokingham Countryside Services 2013 (Breeding birds only) (137 records 13-179)
328. Church Farm, Woodcote protected species appraisal (James Johnston Ecology) (13-176 2 records)
329. Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Boars Hill Bat emergence survey (13-175 10 records)
330. Protected species records from Swift Ecology 2012-2013 - Oxon (13-166 12 records)
331. Bats, GCN & Reptile survey report, Lower Farm Thatcham - PV Ecology (13-163 9 records)
332. Protected species records from Watchfield, Shrivenham - BSG Ecology (13-162 5 records)
333. GCN records from Peasmoor Piece, Oxford - CTM Wildlife (13-154 1 record)
334. Bat survey reports April Wood, St Marys Rd, Ascot, SL5 9AY - Arbtech (13-142b 1 record)
335. Bat survey report Dunnideer House, Ascot - Capita Symonds (13-142 5 records)
336. Bug record - City Farm, Eynsham (13-140 1 record)
337. Firsts for UK Fungus records from Richard Fortey (13-139 6 records)
338. Survey reports for GCN, Badger & Otter from Chowle Farm (13-132 9 records)
339. Incidental records from Giles Sutton from Reading Borough Council (13-100 53 records)
340. Incidental mammal records for Oxfordshire - Andrew George 2013 (13-141 2 records)
341. Bat survey of Holdaways Farm nr Brimpton - EcoConsult (13-099 7 records)
342. Ecological Assessments for Hatford Quarry and Wicklesham Quarry (13-065 55 records)
343. John Lerpeniere Mammal, Herp and Miscellaneous records from 2010 (13-35 222 records)
344. Environmental Statement for Evergreen 3 (Oxford to Bicester railway) (12-097 987 records)
345. Casual records including several barn owl sightings 2012 Rebecca Read (12-103 5 records)
346. Lloyd garvey Berkshire Beetle records 2009-2010 (13-034 343 records)
347. Diptera survey of Letcombe Valley BBOWT Reserve 2011 - Steve Gregory for BBOWT (12-082 168 records)
348. Four consultancy reports (a-d) for 4 different sites in Bracknell Forest. Mainly bat records. (12-095 15 records)
349. John Lepiniere Berks records 2012 (mostly Herps, Mammals & misc.) (12-086 339 records)
350. Consultant's survey reports from site at Milton Park, VoWH, July 2012 (12-081 188 records)
351. Frilford Heath invert records from Matt Smith - 2010-2011 (12-078 814 records)

**Datasets acquired in 2012/13**

Dataset description	Location
Bat, Bird and Herp records for two sites near Banbury from MLM ecology	Cherwell
BDS - Berkshire records	Berkshire
Brightwell Park records 2012	South Oxfordshire
Bat survey of Chipping Norton Baptist Church	West Oxfordshire
Plant survey of Harcourt Arboretum LWS, August 2012	South Oxfordshire
Reptile reports from BBOWT - Greenham	Berkshire
Otter sighting from Reading	Reading
2012 Botanical records from Aston's Eyot	Oxford City
Protected species records for a site at E. Garston	West Berkshire
GCN record from garden in Hawthorn Hill, Warfield	Bracknell
3 rare plant reports from Wychwood flora group	West Oxfordshire
Species records and draft report for Barracks Lane Meadow SLINC.	Oxford City
Water Vole Project Survey data 2011	BBO
Ascot and Sunninghill Ecological Reports	Windsor and Maidenhead
Ascot and Sunninghill Ecological Reports - Blacknest	Windsor and Maidenhead
Rare Plants Group data for Apium repens for Binsey Green and North Hinksey OPT meadow	Oxford City
Radley Large fungal data	Vale of White Horse
GCN record from Berks & Wilts canal incidental sighting sheet	Vale of White Horse
Water Vole records from the Trap Grounds, Oxford	Oxford City
Survey of Hawkridge Wood - 2012	West Berkshire
Various Woodland Surveys in West Berkshire mostly 2009-2010	West Berkshire
Salvia pratensis records for 2012	Oxfordshire
Records from meadows East of Brize Norton	Oxfordshire
Survey of Meadows near Charlton on Otmoor	Oxfordshire
Consultancy Bat Survey, St Gabriel's Convent, Cold Ash	West Berkshire
Bat & Barn Owl Survey, Court Farm, Toot Baldon	South Oxfordshire
Tilbury Lane, Botley - Badger survey update 2013	Vale of White Horse
Phase 1 Survey of The Steeds, Faringdon	Vale of White Horse
Bat survey of Padworth Common - J Taylor Consulting	West Berkshire
Bat & badger survey of 56 & 54 Hurst Rise, Cumnor	Vale of White Horse
Bat Survey, Church farm West Hanney	Vale of White Horse
Otmoor RSPB Reserve 2012 species records	Cherwell, South Oxfordshire
Highworth Road, Shrivenham - Badger Survey, May 2013	Vale of White Horse
Extract of BBOWT data from Recorder	All
Bat survey of Holdaways Farm nr Brimpton - EcoConsult	West Berkshire
Incidental records from Giles Sutton	Reading
Extended Phase I and Phase 2 surveys of Sutton Wick	
GCN refresher survey of Wicklesham Quarry	Vale of White Horse
Tamsin Atley - Incidental Records	Oxfordshire
Bat survey of Coombesbury Farm Barns - EcoConsult	West Berkshire
GCN and other protected species records (mostly herps & aquatic)	Oxfordshire
Survey of Old Kiln Pit - Plants, inverts, GCN etc	West Berkshire

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Shenfield Mill, Theale - Phase 1 and Phase 2 Bat surveys 2011	West Berkshire
Marigay, Russell's Water - Protected species appraisal June 2013	South Oxfordshire
Former Esso Centre, Milton Hill - Bats and reptiles	Vale of White Horse
Records from 2012 Oxford Bioblitz (South Park area)	Oxford City
Bat records (2010) from EPR	Oxfordshire & Berkshire
Extended Phase 1 survey of land to west of Mill House Wolvercote	Oxford City
Bat records from an orchard S. of Cookham	Windsor and Maidenhead
Sarah Postlethwaite Incidental Records	Oxfordshire
2010-2011 BRAG records	Berkshire
Berks bat Group Records 2012-13	Berkshire
Latest NE Bat Roost records	Oxfordshire & Berkshire
Botanical transect data for South Fen, Lye valley, Judy Webb, July 2013	Oxford City
Spiceball Island Site (Banbury) - Extended Phase I habitat survey 2005	Cherwell
RAF Bicester bird records 1970s-80s	Cherwell
Bat survey of Mill Cottage, Brimpton	West Berkshire
Great crested newt records from South Leigh garden pond	West Oxfordshire
Butterfly & Moth sightings from Gavray Drive	Cherwell
GCN records from Geoff Moxon (Bioscan)	South Oxfordshire
GCN records from Paul Whitby (Azure Ecology)	Bracknell
Bat report for a property in S. Oxon	South Oxfordshire
Butterfly Conservation records 2000-2011	Berkshire & Oxfordshire
2006 LWS 52T01 Twelve acre copse	Oxfordshire
Lye Valley North Fen, plant transect records 2012 plus some 1989 vegetation maps	Oxford City
Downy Woundwort records	West Oxfordshire
West Oxfordshire field club newsletter 98 with lists species seen	Oxfordshire
Survey reports for GCN, Badger & Otter from Chowle Farm	South Oxfordshire
GCN return 2 records for Oxfordshire from Stephanie Clive	
Protected species records, mostly bats, for Newbury Rugby Club	
BCT Pilot GIS Resources Pack - including bat layers for planners pilot project	Oxon & Berks
GCN Return data from Lawrence Bee	VOWH
Lye Valley South Fen plant transect (Judy Webb) 2013	Oxford City
Incidentals records from Apr 2012-Oct 2013	Berks & Oxon
Firsts for UK Fungus records	Oxfordshire
Bug record - City Farm, Eynsham	West Oxfordshire
Andrew George Incidental Mammals	Oxfordshire
Bat survey report Dunideer House, Ascot	Windsor and Maidenhead
Bat survey reports April Wood, St Marys Rd, Ascot, SL5 9AY	Windsor and Maidenhead
Waterbug and spider records for Padworth Common & Horsehill Lake	Berks & Oxon
Incidental mammal records from 2007	Berks & Oxon
Plants, birds, insect records from various BBOWT sites	
BBOWT Water Vole GIS layer March 2012	Berks & Oxon
BBOWT Water Vole GIS layer 2011	Berks & Oxon
Violet helleborine record	Oxfordshire
Dragonfly records	
Ground nesting bird report	Berkshire
Few herptiles & 1 bird record from Slough	Slough

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GCN licence return	
GCN licence returns	Berks & Oxon
GCN licence return	Berks & Oxon
GCN records	Oxfordshire
Chilterns Special Trees & Woods	Berks & Oxon
report on Natural history of Ruscombe Woods LWS include species lists	Oxfordshire
Highways Agency records A34, M4 (2012)	Berks & Oxon
Ecological Report for Tetsworth	Oxfordshire
Ecological Report for site in Wantage	Oxfordshire
Birds, butterflies, tree bumblebee records	
Ecological survey reports, GCN & Reptiles	Berkshire
Protected species records from Shrivenham	Oxfordshire
Bats, GCN & Reptile survey report, Lower Farm Thatcham	Berkshire
Invertebrate Survey & Management Plan report for Benham Park	Berkshire
Survey & management plan for Furzewood Pits	Berkshire
Protected species records	Oxfordshire
Mammal records from camera trap project at Wolfston College, Oxford, includes hedgehog records	Oxfordshire
OOS data 2006 - 2008	Oxfordshire
Incidental records, includes bat roost record	Oxfordshire
BBOWT Record Extract January 2013	Berks & Oxon
Natural England Survey cards for Eddington Marsh SSSI	Berkshire
CWS Survey data 1992-1999	Oxfordshire
Kingwood Common, Horsepath, Upper Heyford LWS survey data	Oxfordshire
Surveys of road verges in West Oxon	West Oxfordshire
Foxcombe Bat emergence survey	South Oxfordshire
Church Farm, Woodcote protected species appraisal (James Johnston Ecology)	South Oxfordshire
CD of ecology survey reports submitted to Cherwell DC	Cherwell
BOS bird records for Bicester wetland reserve 2010-2012	Cherwell
Surveys carried out by volunteers for Wokingham Countryside Services 2013	Wokingham
Thames Water survey of The Cuttings Corridor, 1998. Herps survey	Vale of White Horse
Ecological appraisal report of Jays Farm, Checkendon, South Oxon. Includes records of bat droppings	South Oxfordshire
GCN licence return	Berkshire
GCN licence return with records from Witney	West Oxfordshire
BBOWT water vole 2012 records	Berkshire & Oxfordshire
South East LRCs BAP habitat data 2007	
NE Bat roost records third quarter 2013	
Sunnymead Surveys - Oxford City Council - Judy Webb	Oxford City
BRERC Butterfly records 2010	
Bracknell Forest Council Records	Bracknell
Sium latifolium in Marston Meadows - Judy Webb	Oxford City
GCN record for Brize Norton	West Oxfordshire
Fungus records for Milham Ford to 2013	Oxford City
Student MSc dissertation & raw excel data contains amphibian records inc GCN records	Oxfordshire

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Records from Oxfordshire LWS surveys 2013	Oxfordshire
Initial protected species survey of New Close Farm, Towersey	South Oxfordshire
Various surveys and EIA - Carmel College, Wallingford	South Oxfordshire
Records of various fauna for site at E. Hanney - Focus Ecology	Vale of White Horse
Judy Webb records for Port Meadow & Wolvercote Common and ditches	Oxford City
Judy Webb - Cothill Fen	Vale of White Horse
Wokingham Veteran Tree database & photos Jan 2014 version	Wokingham
Great Crested Newt findings at Ardley Landfill, carried out in 2013 by Wardell Armstrong LLP	Cherwell
Bat licence return with mitigation information	South Oxfordshire
2 preliminary bat survey reports	South Oxfordshire
Bletchingdon Toad Crossing amphibian records	South Oxfordshire
Freshwater Habitats Trust dissertation with priority pond assessment	Oxfordshire
Cherwell Swifts 2013 nest records	Cherwell
Casual records from back garden, mostly birds	Oxford City
Furzehill Pits LWS management plan	
Invertebrate records from back garden & from Sutherland Grange, Windsor	Berkshire
Ecological monitoring report for Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility	
Map of trees and other plants records for Eynsham allotments	West Oxfordshire
Casual records including barn owl & bat records	West Oxfordshire
Wytham Park pLWS Invert records	Vale of White Horse
NE Bat roost records final quarter 2013	Oxon & Berks
2013 Herptile records from various Berkshire LWS	Berkshire
Incidental records from Wildlife in Ascot group mostly birds includes badger and bat records	Ascot
herptile survey conducted in 2013 in Crowthorne/Swinley woods	Bracknell
Orchid records from BRERC for Goring	South Oxfordshire
GCN survey results for 2 ponds in Crowthorne forest	Bracknell
Papers containing Lophopus crystallinus records for various rivers	Oxfordshire & Berkshire
Annual newsletter from Abingdon Naturalists Society, contains species lists from visits of bats, plants, birds, fungi, reptiles, invertebrates and bioblitz records from Radley Lake	Oxfordshire & Berkshire
Loddon Lily survey 2012/3 - Mick Crawley	Berkshire
Otter sightings reported to the Otter Survival Fund 2012/3	Berkshire & Oxfordshire
Bird Records for Queenford Pit LWS 2011-13 -monthly WeBS records	Oxfordshire
Oxford Meadows SAC Records Yarnton & Pixey mead etc	Oxford City, Cherwell
Hymenoptera records from Oakham Quarry 2013	West Oxfordshire
Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire 2013 - Henry Stephen/CS Lewis Reserve, Stow Wood, Withymead Nature Reserve and Bagley Wood	Oxfordshire
Baseline ecological survey of land south of A4130 Milton	South Oxfordshire
Aston Rowant NNR Herptile & moth records 2013	South Oxfordshire
Milham Ford aquatics verts and invert only	Oxford City
Chilswell Valley invertebrate records	Oxfordshire
Raleigh Park LWS records 2011-13	Vale of White Horse
Marcham Salt Springs - Wild celery data with grids of locations and no's	Vale of White Horse
Canalside Meadows LWS & Joe White's Lane JW data	Oxford City



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Berks Dragonfly records from County Recorder	Berkshire
BBOWT Grassland monitoring reports for several Oxfordshire LWS	Oxfordshire
Mollusc data for Berks and Oxon	Berkshire & Oxfordshire
Incidental records for Wraysbury Pits	Slough
Reports for sites around Grove and East Challow (Wilts and Berks canal). Includes great crested newt survey data	Vale of White Horse
Martson hamm Surveys	Oxford City
New Marston Meadows	Oxford City
Stachys germanica records, all records up to 2013 from Cotswold Rare Plant Group	West Oxfordshire
Oxon records from Conservation Constructions LTD (via Brian Laney not just botanical)	South Oxfordshire

## Appendix II – Details of LWS surveys carried out 2013

Panel decision	Meaning
Retain	Existing LWS resurveyed and designation as LWS confirmed
Accept	Proposed LWS surveyed and designated as LWS
Deselect	Existing LWS resurveyed and de-designated as LWS
Reject	Proposed LWS surveyed and not designated as LWS
Deferred	Insufficient information to make decision e.g. further surveys required.

### Oxfordshire 2013 Surveys

38 sites were taken to panel in January and February 2014. For a few additional surveys (providing supporting species group data) the sites were not re-assessed by the panel. 3 Local Geological Sites (LGS) were also taken to panel

#### *Cherwell*

Site Name	Site Code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
37 Acre Field/Meadow adjacent to SSSI near Charlton on Otmoor	51S01/4	Fencott and Murcott	Botanical and birds	Retain
Bicester wetland reserve	52Q16	Ambrosden	Botanical and additional bird data processed	Retain
Blackthorn Meadow	61E16	Blackthorn	Botanical	Retain
Hornton Meadows	34Y01	Hornton	Botanical	Retain
Jarvis Lane	52W02	Bicester	Birds	Reject
Kirtlington Quarry - Washford Pits Extension	<b>LGS</b>	Kirtlington	Not surveyed in 2013	Accept
Skimmingdish Lane Fields	52X11	Launton	Scoping survey	Reject part; defer part
Upper Heyford airfield proposed Extension	52I05	Ardley	Botanical	Accept
Robert's Barn Grassland	34R07	Shenington with Alkerton	Botanical	Accept
Saltway, Banbury	n/a	Banbury	Butterfly	No decision

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Site Name	Site Code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
Meadows Near Charlton-on-Otmoor	51S01/3	Fencott and Murcott	Botanical	No decision
Begbroke Wood	41R03	Begbroke	Butterflies	No decision
Swere Bank	33K01	Hook Norton	Botanical	Retain

### South Oxfordshire

Site name	Site code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
Bank by Pindars Wood	78G10	Rotherfield Greys	Botanical	Retain
Didcot Marshalling Yard	58P03	South Moreton	Botanical	Reject
Easington Fen	69T09	Pyrton	Botanical and invertebrate	Reject
Field on Shotover Hill	50T04	Forest Hill and Shotover	Botanical	Defer
Hernes	78L01	Rotherfield Greys	Botanical	Retain
Millfield	70F03	Sydenham	Botanical	Reject
Nuffield Common	68T05	Nuffield	Botanical	Retain
Pockets Piece Wood (Pitmans Shaw and Checkendon Common proposed extension)	68R07/2	Checkendon	Botanical	Accept
Shillingford Boathouse Carr	59W15	Warborough	Botanical	Retain
Shiplake marsh	77T02/1	Shiplake	Botanical	Retain

### Vale of White Horse

Site name	Site code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
Alfred's Well, Wantage	LGS	Wantage	Not surveyed in 2013	Accept
Childrey Quarry	LGS	West Challow	Not surveyed in 2013	Accept
Hutchins's Copse	49F01/2	Ardington	Botanical	Combine with Cuttings
Kingstone Coombes	28S04/2	Ashbury	Botanical and butterflies	Retain
Letcombe Reed Swamp	38Y01	Letcombe Regis	Botanical	Retain
Matthew Arnold Field	40W01	Wootton	Botanical	Reject
Odstone Coombes	28S04/1	Ashbury	Botanical and butterflies	Retain
Odstone Hill Lane	28S05	Ashbury	Botanical and butterflies	Retain
Radley Large Wood	50F05	Radley	Botanical	Retain
Raleigh Park	40X03	North Hinksey	Botanical and invertebrate	Accept
The Cuttings (Cottrell)	49F01/1	Ardington	Botanical	Retain
Site in Faringdon	n/a	Great Faringdon	Site visit	No decision

### West Oxfordshire

Site name	Site code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
Blindwell Wood	31H05	Leafield	Botanical	Accept

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Site name	Site code	Parish	Type of survey	Panel decision
Cassington Road Meadows Yarnton	41W03	Yarnton	Not surveyed in 2013	Reject
Coldron Mill Complex	32K08	Spelsbury	Botanical	Retain
Dean Grove	32K21	Spelsbury	Botanical	Retain
John's Wood		Filkins and Broughton Poggs	Botanical	Reject
Oakham Quarry	23V01	Rollright	Botanical and invertebrate	Retain
Pasture near Spelsbury	32K01	Spelsbury	Botanical	Retain
The Bog, Filkins	20H01	Filkins and Broughton Poggs	Botanical and invertebrate	Retain
Woodstock Water meadows	41N01	Woodstock	Botanical	Accept
Minster Lovell Bank	31F05	Minster Lovell	Not surveyed in 2013	Boundary amendment
Grimes Meadow	30U01	Witney	Botanical	No decision
Meadows East of Brize Norton	30C03	Brize Norton	Orchid survey	No decision
#Swere Bank	33K01	Hook Norton	Botanical	Retain

# Partly in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell districts

### Berkshire 2013 surveys

17 sites were taken to panel in April 2014. 2 Local Geological Site (LGS) were also taken to panel. For some local authority areas, time was spent on finding landowner details and organising the landowner database rather than on carrying out surveys. This will ensure that permissions are more easily received for surveys in subsequent years.

#### *Bracknell Forest*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Swinley Forest	SU96C02	Botanical	Defer
Other areas fringing Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths & Woods - Forester's Way Verges	SU86M01	Botanical	Deselect / Defer
Tarmans Copse	SU86P04	Botanical	Retain

#### *Windsor and Maidenhead*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Hungerford Meadows	SU87H02	Botanical	Deselect
Grassland at Holyport WHS	SU87Y01	Botanical	Deselect
South Ascot	SU96I07	Botanical	Retain
Queen Mother Reservoir WHS	TQ07D01	Botanical	Retain

#### *Reading*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Holy Brook	SU77B01	Botanical	Defer
Fobney Island	SU77A08	Botanical	Defer
Disused Railway Line	SU77A04	Botanical	Deselect
Southcote Linear Park (proposed extension)	SU77A03	Botanical	Reject / Accept

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Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Fobney Meadows	SU77A03	Botanical	Retain

### *Slough*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Cocksherd Wood geology site	SU98L01	Geological	Accept

### *West Berkshire*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Hosehill Lake	SU66P05	Botanical	Retain

### *Wokingham*

Site name	Site code	Type of survey	Panel decision
Charvil Meadows	SU77T06	Botanical	Deselect
The Moors (Bader Way)	SU77R05	Botanical	Retain
Berkshire Aviation Museum	SU77R06	Botanical	Retain
Happy Valley and Conways Bridge	SU78Q01	Botanical	Retain
Barkham Iron Rich streams	SU76X07	Geological	Accept