

DATA SEARCHES

Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC)

Data quality and reporting

LRERC has done a fundamental check and review of all its data holdings for protected species, UKBAP/NERC section 41 species, Local BAP species, and all other vertebrates.

As far as possible, all these records have been sourced, checked, standardised in format, and validated. Duplicates have been removed, and we have extracted many more records from our digital and paper archive. Additional information on the source of the data, the record type/sample type, breeding status and numbers of individuals has been added to many of the records, and are provided as part of our standard commercial search.

We have improved our data reports to remove species duplication within the reports, and to add the additional information described above. The species reports are more concise, and the flexibility of format will help the customer sort, analyse and interpret the data.

This is a significant improvement in the quality and usefulness of the data we provide, and in the confidence levels associated with the data.

Charging policy

Please see separate documents 'New Charging Policy (November 2013) and new Authorisation Form (November 2013) for our tariff of charges for standard searches. All non-standard searches not included in the tariff, and additional requests for archive information such as source documents, will be quoted for separately.

Commissioning a search

Please complete and sign the new Authorisation Form (November 2013). We cannot accept data search requests on one of our old forms.

Content and format of the information supplied

We supply as standard two copies of each species report; one as a .pdf for inclusion in reports (with sensitive information removed) and one as a spreadsheet for the customer's own use.

Further information on the categories of site and species data provided are in 'Explanation of Data-searches' – see below

LRERC provides all data after 1985, unless otherwise requested.

All search results are provided as attachments to an e-mail; we are unable to provide paper copies as standard. Site maps and species lists for inclusion in a report are provided as .pdfs; additional species lists NOT for publication are provided on Excel spreadsheet for the customer's own use.

We recommend that you ask for searches within our standard tariff, which are based on a radius from a point location identified by, at least a 6-figure grid reference ("SK123456").

However, we can carry out searches using the customer's own search parameters – for example:

- within a specific site polygon;
- for a non-standard species group;
- a group of km squares, etc.;
- records before a certain date.

Alternative formats to .pdfs must be discussed with LRERC beforehand, as we may not be able to produce information in some formats. Information on designated sites or species distribution can alternatively be provided as ESRI shapefiles or MapInfo files.

All data can be supplied on paper, but this will incur additional costs.

We can supply electronic or paper copies of source documents, where these exist, with electronic scans being the preference. This includes Local Wildlife Site citations. We may redact personal information from source documents. Provision of source documents may incur additional charges.

Use of OS maps

Any copies of Ordnance Survey maps included in our response are there as an aid to geographically locate the information that we have supplied in answer to your enquiry. Any such maps can only be used for that purpose and they should not be used for any other purpose. Our charges are for the supply of our information only and we are not supplying any copy of any Ordnance Survey map as part of that commercial arrangement. If you wish to re-use any Ordnance Survey map you will need to agree a separate contract with the Ordnance Survey.

Sensitive and confidential data

Records are supplied with a maximum resolution of 100m² (e.g. with grid references in the format 'SK123456'). We are unable to provide records a resolution greater than this.

LRERC has agreed with some of its data suppliers and County Recorders to withhold certain parts of some records.

- Records provided by LROS (the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society) are not shown with the recorder's name; instead the generic name 'LROS' is given.
- Site names for Bat roosts and Badger setts have been edited to remove those parts of addresses that may reveal precise locations of a record (e.g. house numbers).

Locations of confidential bird records (such as breeding sites for vulnerable species) are provided within the species data-search. These records will be highlighted in yellow as part of the species list 'not for publication' Excel spreadsheet. LROS do regard these records as confidential but have agreed for them to be released only to assist you in your work. We would therefore ask for this

information not to be published in any way. The records have been deleted from the .pdf of records for publication.

Use of data

Under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004) holders of public information are expressly allowed to charge a market-based charge to commercial users, as long as it is fair. We can include in any charge an element to cover the cost of the original collection and organisation of the information and its maintenance, as long as this charge is fair, as well as the administrative costs of processing the data search.

Information supplied by ourselves to a customer can be used only for the stated purpose, and any repeated use or use for other purposes is not allowed.

You MUST NOT publish the information held on the spreadsheet of data provided for your own use; LRERC will supply a copy of the same data, with sensitive information removed, as a .pdf for inclusion in documents.

Sue Timms/Elaine Connor, Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre, November 2013

Explanation of data-searches

A: SPECIES

Sources of data

The species lists show data extracted from the electronic database held at Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC). This database is updated regularly. For protected species, this is done on a monthly basis. Data is collated from a variety of sources, including the NBN, County Recorder's Network, in-house surveys carried by LRERC staff and contractors, national recording schemes, Leicestershire County Council staff, casual records and public surveys, amateur naturalists, surveys carried out by ecology consultants working for developers, etc. The source appears in the species lists provided, using the following codes:

AWA	Anglian Water Authority	LRWT	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
BRG	Bryophyte Recording Group	LWS	Local Wildlife Site survey
BW	British Waterways	MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food
CRN	County Recorders' Network	MBNHS	Market Bosworth Natural History Society
CWP	Charnwood Wildlife Project	MoP	Member of the Public
EA	Environment Agency	NBBWC	Nuneaton & Bedworth Bird Watching Club
EcoCons	Ecology consultant	NBN	National Biodiversity Network
EMBC	East Midlands Butterfly Conservation	NE	Natural England/ English Nature /Nature Conservancy Council
EPS	European Protected Species licence return	NR	National Recorder
FC	Forestry Commission	NRS	National Recording Scheme
FE	Further Education institution	NT	National Trust
Groundwork	Groundwork Leics./Environ/ City Wildlife Project/ Leicester Ecology Trust	Other WT	Wildlife Trust other than LRWT
HDNHS	Hinckley & District Natural History Society	p/cLWS	Potential or Candidate Local Wildlife Site survey
ITE	Institute of Terrestrial Ecology	Publ.	Publication
LARN	Leicestershire Amphibian and Reptile Network	RC/LA	Record Centres/Local Authority other than LRERC/LCC
LBG	Leicestershire Badger Group	Recorder	Local Recorder/Naturalist
LCC	Leicestershire County Council	RNHS	Rutland Natural History Society
LFSG	Leicestershire and Rutland Fungi Study Group	RPR	Leicestershire & Rutland Rare Plant Register
LLPS	Leicestershire Literary & Philosophical Society	STW	Severn Trent Water
LLRS	Leicestershire Lepidoptera Recording Society	TMS	The Mammal Society
LNC	Loughborough Naturalists' Club	U	Unknown
LRBG	Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group	WBDG	Warwickshire Badger Group
LROS	Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society	WBG	Warwickshire Bat Group

Date range

All post-1985 data held by LRERC is included. If required, searches can be limited to a specific date-range.

Species names

Names follow the recommended Dictionaries within Recorder database, which have been provided by the Natural History Museum.

Validation

Wherever possible, the records are validated by local experts in the County Recorder's Network, but not all of our data (especially the historic information) has been through this process. LRERC has removed all records for Vertebrates, protected species and UK/Local BAP species that we feel are likely to be invalid.

Protected and BAP species

Data-searches are usually of the following categories of species:

Protected species

This includes species protected under the following legislation:

- Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (*NB: this includes species (such as Adder, Palmate Newt, Slow-worm, Common Toad, etc. that are listed in Schedule 5 but subject only to Section 9(5) preventing sale or possession of these species)*)
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994

Biodiversity Action Plan/Priority species

- Species listed in the UK BAP and/or in the NERC Act Section 41 lists of priority species (there are slight differences). See <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5> for a full list of these species.
- Species listed in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local BAP <http://www.lrwt.org.uk/wildlife/biodiversity-action-plan/species-action-plans>

National Biodiversity Network

LRERC records for some taxa appear on the National Biodiversity Network. The full data cannot be downloaded from the NBN, and the information on the NBN is not always up-to-date. As the NBN may hold data that is not at LRERC, and *vice versa*, we recommend that searches of both LRERC and NBN are undertaken for a desk study.

B: DESIGNATED SITES

LRERC holds historic data on sites and habitats going back to the 1950s. This is held on paper files for each Parish in Leicestershire and Rutland. Most has been catalogued and scanned and is available as an electronic copy.








Most of the information on historic designated sites is information from surveys carried out by Leicestershire County Council staff in the 1980s and early 1990s.

LRERC does not hold historic site and habitat information for Leicester City; this can be obtained from Leicester City Council.

More recent data (post 2000) is mainly linked to the Local Wildlife Site survey programme, to Phase 1 Habitat surveys or to site-specific surveys. Much of this information is available as an electronic copy or scan. It includes survey work undertaken by external partners and organisations as well as Leicestershire County Council staff.

The boundaries of designated sites and basic information about the site are held on a GIS 'MapInfo' database.

Key to Maps

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (includes SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, NNRs and candidate SSSIs)	
	
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	
	
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	
	
Candidate and Potential Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS and pLWS)	
	
Parish, District and County Level Sites	
	County Level
	District Level
	Parish Level

Sites with statutory biodiversity protection

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection areas (SPAs)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Sites with a non-statutory biodiversity designation

1 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

Formerly known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), these are designated following the criteria and procedures set out in the '*Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (revised 2011)*' published by Leicestershire County Council. The definition of LWS given in this publication is:

'Local Wildlife Sites are important reservoirs of rare, local and declining native species and are the best examples of typical Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland habitats. LWS may also be areas of ecological interest that provide people with the opportunity to learn about, appreciate and experience habitats and species of the natural world.'

The first LWS were designated in 2000. It is not a comprehensive series of sites, as the designations are not based on a comprehensive survey of habitats.

LWS are designated with the consent of the landowner.

Electronic copies of notification forms and survey information for these sites are available on request.

2 Proposed and/or candidate Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS and cLWS)

These are sites that have not been through the formal notification process as a LWS but for which there is evidence that the site meets the criteria necessary for designation as LWS. *(Please note that, for the purposes of planning decision-making, many of these sites have the same status as designated LWS.)*

- **Candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS)** are defined as those which are known through survey data to meet the LWS criteria.
- **Potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS)** are defined as those that are likely to meet the LWS criteria, but further survey is needed to confirm.

Further information/electronic copies of sources documents are available on request.

3 Parish, County and District-level sites. These sites were designated during the late 1980s/early 1990s, based on comprehensive habitat surveys done largely in the 1980s. Although the system of designation has been superseded by the LWS process, many of these sites have retained their biodiversity value and this series of sites remains an important part of our local biodiversity 'alert' system. Further information on the majority of these sites is available on request.

Local and National priority BAP habitats.

LRERC is not able to supply this information.

C: SPECIES MAPS

LRERC is able to supply a map of the locations of species that appear in the standard data-search. This is an additional service that must be requested and is charged separately for; it is no longer part of the standard search.

Usually, a map is produced per species, but in some cases where there is no (or slight) overlap of species locations, a single map will be provided with locations of multiple species.

Locations of species records will be presented as either a 100m or 1km square overlaying the relevant grid square in which the record is located. 100m² relates to a 6-figure reference ('SK123456') and 1km² to a 4-figure grid reference ('SK1234').

We are not able to supply maps showing point locations of species, as we do not hold comprehensive data at the required resolution.