



Hampshire Biodiversity
Information Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Annual Report for 2019-20



HBIC examining Ash Dieback in Netherton Hanging Copse May 2019

Sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

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1. Summary of Key Activities for 2019-20

- a. Delivered services to 25 funding partners set through Service Level Agreements & Data supply Agreements. Includes field survey & provision of comprehensive GIS data
- b. Reported to the HBIC Steering Group which met twice in July 2019 & January 2020 and the HBIC Users Advisory Group which met twice in May 2019 and November 2019.
- c. Organised the 17th Annual HBIC Recorders Forum attended by **87** local recorders from 48 different organisations - see page 28 for organisations represented
- d. Carried out a Habitat Survey Programme (Phase 2/NVC) of 307 sites (up from 269 last year) which included a review of **141** Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (up from 133 last year).
- e. Evaluated the 2018 survey data and recommended 22 new SINC's (down from 25 last year), 44 amended SINC's (same number as last year) and 3 SINC's for deletion (down from 10 last year) to the SINC's Panel.
- f. Imported **471,988** new species records through on-going Data Exchange Agreements with the species recording groups, other individuals, and HBIC's own survey programme. The Recorder and MapMate databases now hold **7,385,788 species** records again up 7% on the previous year.
- g. Continued to support Living Record as an efficient user-friendly on-line data capture tool for many recording groups/local community groups with **88,620** new records entered for 2018/19, up from 72,604 in 2018/19
- h. Responded to **715** requests for biodiversity information, up slightly from 711 last year with chargeable time also increasing again from 76% to 79%, and an increase in income of **10%**. **98%** of requests were dealt with within 10 working days, up from 95% last year.
- i. Screened **12,371** planning applications – down 5% on last year. 17% were flagged as having a potential impact on designated sites, priority habitats and notable species - down from 22% last year.
- j. Further developed and updated the Ecological Network Map for Hampshire and rolled it out to all LPAs in March 2020. Now provided as part of a standard data search.
- k. Provided training and work experience to 3 volunteers.
- l. Supported four Bioblitz activities at Broxhead Common SSSI, Basing Forest, Bramshott Farm and Southampton Common.

Acknowledgements

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre is grateful to the HBIC Steering Group*, for support and guidance and to the many species recording groups who provide specialist advice and regular updated copies of their data: Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Network, Hampshire Bat Group, Hampshire Ornithological Society, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the Hampshire Mammal Group, and several other national schemes & societies including the Bees, Wasps & Ants Recording Society, the British Dragonfly Society, the British Bryology Society, and PTES.

The following organisations provide funding and other in-kind support to HBIC in return for a Biodiversity Information Service; Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Forest England, Environment Agency, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Hart District Council, Havant Borough Council, National Trust, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Portsmouth Water, Rushmoor Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Southampton City Council, Southern Water, Test Valley Borough Council, Thames Water, Wessex Water and Winchester City Council.

* See page 4 for Steering Group members, and 3 District/Unitary Councils per year in rotation.

2. Staffing & Contact Details

Table 1 : Summary of HBIC staff roles and contact details

Role	Staff	Email	Tel.
Specialist Environmental Services/HBIC Manager	Nicky Court	nicky.court@hants.gov.uk	01962 832322
IT databases/GIS/Species data/Special Projects	Wolfgang Ritter Senior Ecologist (Data Manager)	Wolfgang.ritter@hants.gov.uk	01962 832324
SLA Lead inc. Survey Programme organisation and validation. SINC Programme	Sarah Callegari Ecologist (part-time Mon –Thurs)	sarah.callegari@hants.gov.uk	01962 832320
Habitat Surveys & SINC evaluation – mainly West & South Hampshire	Ian Ralphs Field Ecologist	ian.ralphs@hants.gov.uk	01962 832328
Habitat Surveys & SINC evaluation – mainly North and East Hampshire	Joel Miller Field Ecologist	joel.miller@hants.gov.uk	01962 832326
Data requests, planning screening and collation/validation of species data	Lizzy Peat Ecologist	lizzy.peat@hants.gov.uk	01962 832327
Data requests, planning screening, survey validation and habitat mapping.	Amy Robjohns Assistant Ecologist	amy.robjohns@hants.gov.uk	01962 832321
Data management tasks (volunteer)	Nicole Hawkings (Aug 2018 to Dec 2018, April to May 2019 and October to March 2020, Victor Piotrowicz (January to May 2019), Marianne Lotter-Jones (Nov 2019-Jan 2020)		01967 832327

Address: 1st Floor, Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD

General email: enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk

HBIC Steering Group for 2019/20

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland – Martin Rand
 Butterfly Conservation – Andy Barker
 Eastleigh Borough Council – Sarah Boyd
 East Hampshire District Council – Kevin Thurlow/Amanda Dunn
 Environment Agency – no representative
 Hampshire County Council - Economy, Transport & Environment Department – Gary King
 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust – Debbie Whitfield/Sarah Jackson
 Hampshire Ornithological Society – Keith Betton
 Natural England – Becky Aziz
 New Forest National Park Authority – Ian Barker
 Portsmouth City Council – Rachel Cutler
 South Downs National Park Authority – Adam Brown

*3-4 District/Unitary Councils rotate once every four years.

3. Habitat Survey Programme Update

3.1 Overview

The survey season began on the 4th April 2019 and 225 requests have been completed, resulting in the survey of 334 sites. A summary of the survey days scheduled for each partner is presented in Table 2; these figures include time allocated for field surveys and write-up.

Most of the partner allocations have been filled or exceeded. However, there is a need to target a small number of extra SINCs for survey in New Forest NPA in the 2020 season to fill the shortfall. Where allocations have been significantly exceeded, there will be an informal reduction in the allocations next year.

Table 2: Request for Surveys Allocated to each Partner

Partner	Requests	Sites	Days Spent	Days Left ¹	Days Total ¹	Days Allocated	²
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	15	22	29.35	0.00	29.35	24	↑
East Hampshire District Council	13	24.5	29.76	0.00	29.76	28	→
Eastleigh Borough Council	15	17	24.88	0.00	24.88	18	↑
Fareham Borough Council	10	19	14.54	0.00	14.54	14	→
Gosport Borough Council	5	17	9.00	0.00	9.00	8	↑
HCC - Countryside Services	7	12	15.74	0.00	15.74	15	→
HCC - Environment	23	28.5	21.33	0.00	21.33	20	→
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	5	9	15.22	0.00	15.22	15	→
Hart District Council	16	21	20.04	0.00	20.04	20	→
Havant Borough Council	11	11	12.68	0.00	12.68	12.5	→
New Forest District Council	13	13	11.84	3.50	15.34	14	→
New Forest National Park Authority	7	8	11.54	0.00	11.54	14	↓
Portsmouth City Council	9	9	7.07	0.00	7.07	6	↑
Rushmoor Borough Council	1	20	10.00	0.00	10.00	10	→
Southampton City Council	6	19	10.25	0.00	10.25	10	→
South Downs National Park Authority	13	13	23.78	3.01	26.78	28	→
Test Valley Borough Council	13	21	29.65	0.00	29.65	24	↑
Winchester City Council	25	25	29.91	0.00	29.91	28	→
Sub-total (survey programme)	207	309	326.57	6.51	333.07	309	
Spare capacity³	18	25	53.21	0.00	53.21	21.5	
Total	225	334	379.78	6.51	386.28	330.5	

Notes:

- 'Days Left' and 'Days Total' are projected and may not reflect the eventual figures.
- Arrows indicate whether an allocation has been filled (→), exceeded (↑) or not been filled (↓). Thresholds are set at ±10% of the total allocation.
- Additional surveys requested are over the capacity available. An external consultant has been contracted to backfill 10-20 days (see section 3.4 for more detail).

This year, the HBIC partners have requested 68% of the survey requests, with a further 1% coming directly from land managers/owners to inform site management or to update the SINC data. The remaining 31% of requests have been organised by HBIC on behalf of the partners; either to contribute to SINC monitoring or to identify sites of potential SINC quality. This represents quite an increase on the number of requests from partners compared to last year and possibly reflects that a number of the partners are concentrating on Local Plan work again this year.

3.2 SINC Monitoring

This year, HBIC sent survey requests to 85 landowners requesting permission to re-survey 139 SINC sites where data is old. Of these, 60 landowners gave permission to survey 96 SINC sites, which is a positive return rate of 70% of landowners and 69% of sites targeted, comparable with this time last year. Twelve landowners denied access to 14 sites and 20 landowners did not respond, which would have given access to another 30 sites. Out of the positive responses, 29 sites have been postponed to next year as the respective allocations were filled. The SINC sites targeted this year have been a near equal mix of woodlands (52%) and non-woodland (48%) sites.

This year, 141 SINC sites have been surveyed, which includes specific SINC monitoring requests, follow-on requests from the previous years and where SINC sites fall within sites requested by partners.

3.3 Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEIs) Monitoring

This year, HBIC surveyed 20 road verges, all of which are currently RVEIs. Survey time comes out of the ETE allocation. Two of the verges are RVEIs that are under special management, these are reviewed annually to monitor the management that is taking place.

3.4 Purpose of Surveys

Figure 1a presents data on the purpose of surveys as a percentage of the number of requests; Figure 1b represents the data as a percentage of survey allocation time.

This year, 56% of survey programme requests were for SINC monitoring, which is considerably higher than last year (37%), and possibly reflects that apart from BDBC, TVBC and EHDC, most other partner's survey work has been requested for SINC monitoring. The figure decreases slightly to 51% when considered as a percentage of the survey programme days.

The next largest category but accounting for considerably fewer requests than SINC monitoring at 15%, includes requests to look at Local Plan allocation sites. These requests are so far scheduled to take 25% of the survey allocation time, which is higher than in previous years and reflects the time-consuming nature of bird survey work that has been requested to support the Local Plan in East Hampshire.

A further 10% of surveys have been requested to inform management. As a percentage of the survey programme time allocation, the figure is a little higher at 12%.

The number of requests for road verge surveys also stands at 9%, but taking only 4% of the time allocation, reflecting that they're usually small and uncomplicated sites.

New surveys to establish if there is any interest stand at 8% of requests but take slightly less of the survey allocation time (6%).

Three requests fall under the species monitoring category, counting for 1% of requests and survey time, reflecting that the surveys were brief visits to check the continued presence of the species of interest.

The 'other' category (1% of requests and 0.3% of survey time) is comprised of two sites, which don't fit any of the other categories; they have previous survey but aren't SINC quality.

Three hedgerows were surveyed under the Hedgerow Regulations, accounting for 0.5% of requests and 0.3% of survey time.

Figure 1a. Purpose of Survey Requests – by number of requests

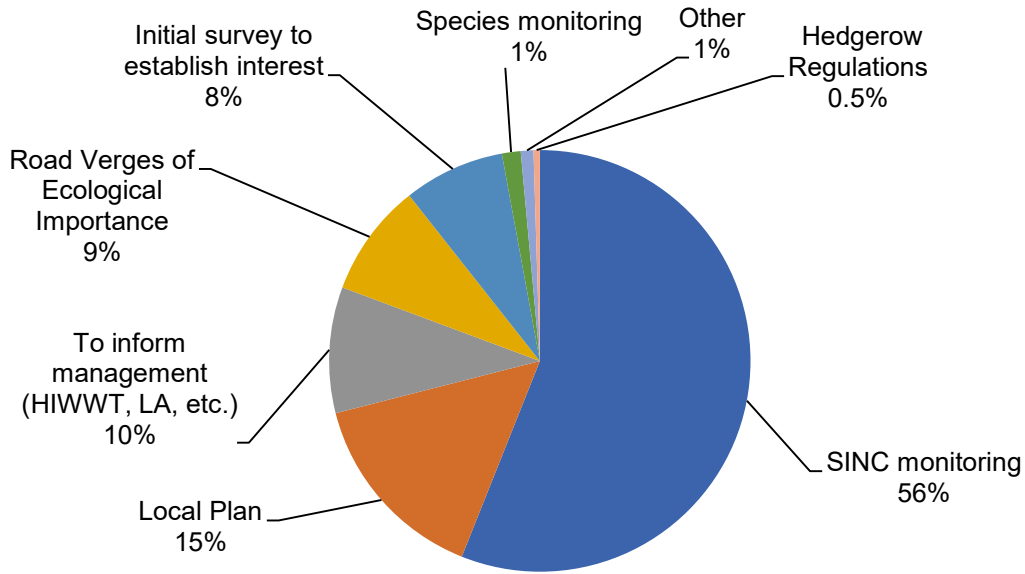


Figure 1b. Purpose of Survey Requests – by time spent

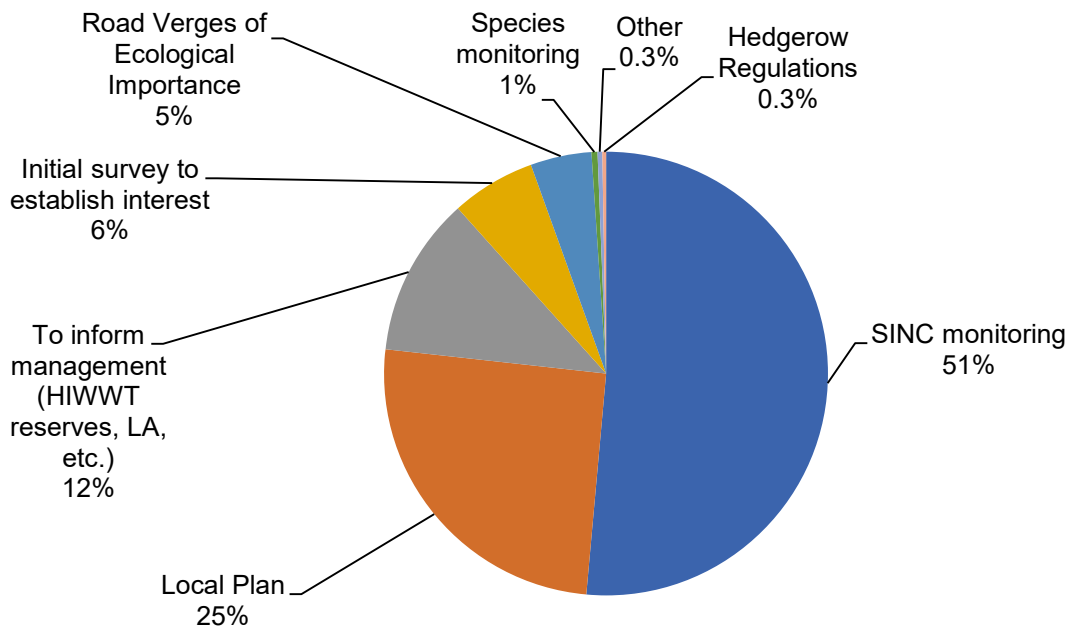
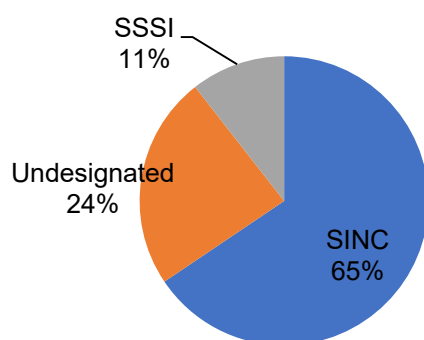


Figure 2 presents data on how the requests are divided by designation. This year, 65% of the survey allocation has been allocated to surveying sites designated as SINC, with 24% spent on undesignated land. Only 11% of requests have been for SSSI sites, which is far lower than last year, when the survey of the SSSI, Winnall Moors, took place.

Figure 2. Percentage of Survey Requests (allocation of time) by Designation

3.5 Additional surveys from spare capacity

This year, the 'spare' survey capacity was 21.5 days.

Fourteen "projects" were completed, totalling 53 days and £19,333.33 in additional income. Seven of these projects, listed below (*), were carried out by other HBIC staff, and are not accounted for within the 21.5 days spare capacity. However, as the additional survey days completed by the HBIC field ecologists still accounted to more than the 21.5 days available, Phil Wilson was contracted to backfill 12 days.

Table 3: Additional Requests for survey and funding

Project	Partner	Final days	Fees (excl VAT)	
BDBC habitat survey	BDBC	6.57	£4,109.43	
EHDC Bird survey work	EHDC	20.50	£7,617.90	
EHDC Habitat survey	EHDC	3.00	£1,287.20	
HCC Training - grasses, sedges and rushes	HCC	1.00	£288.60	
LEB Bird survey	HCC	2.00	£634.00	*
LEB Bat survey	HCC	2.20	£600.00	*
Ipley Road junction	HCC	5.00	£1,505.90	
Delme Roundabout, Fareham - bird survey	HCC	3.78	£879.00	*
Southampton Road, Paulsgrove - bird survey	HCC	3.24	£720.00	*
Gosport Bus route bat survey (AR D Grade)	HCC	0.41	£117.00	*
Reptile surveys (Oak Park and Test Lane)	HCC	1.42	£409.50	*
Standford Grange/Eveley Wood habitat survey	HCC	2.00	£577.20	
Standford Grange birds (initial visit 2020 surveys)	HCC	1.08	£299.00	*
HWT Training - grasses, sedges and rushes	HWT	1.00	£288.60	
Total (survey)		53.2	£ 19,333.33	
Non-survey support to HCC Ecology	HCC	4.14	£1,146.85	
Total		47.34	£20,480.18	
Expenditure - Phil Wilson contract (Grassland SINC's)	Numerous (backfilling)	12	-£3,540	
Revised income			£16,940.18	

¹ Invoiced amount includes mileage where charged

3.6 Highlights of the 2019 Survey Year

Willow Tits, Nightjars and Catchfly's.

A personal milestone was passed in 2019 as August the 7th was the 30th anniversary of my starting work with the Habitat Survey Team, first with the Wildlife Trust and then with HBIC from 2002. As always, the work at HBIC is unpredictable, and part of the reason I'm still here! Sites surveyed during the season covered pretty much every habitat in the lowlands you can possibly imagine and a few you probably can't.

The year's highlights are many and varied with some good finds including a pair of Willow Tits, in a small copse near the north-western county boundary, singing away all morning as if they were the commonest breeding bird in the county, whereas almost the opposite.

By early summer we were undertaking a large-scale survey of proposed in East Hampshire, which required both dawn and dusk surveys for birds, Nightjars in particular. It's always a treat to go out looking for Nightjars and they were successfully recorded on the site in question.

The big surprise however was while putting on my boots prior to walking to the site I realised I had almost stood on a small patch of *Silene gallica* (**Small-flowered Catchfly**) this particular population being a rare variety *var quinquevulnera* which has exquisite deep scarlet petals fringed white and is an absolute stunner.



And a new record for Hampshire!

Ian Ralphs, HBIC Field Ecologist

And on the military side...

This season saw the completion of a three-year survey of the naval bases at Bedenham in Gosport which support extensive areas of coastal grassland, saltmarsh, meadow and woodland, whilst still being run as an active naval site. The survey confirmed the site as an important wildlife haven within Gosport and will inform positive management of the site.

A similarly survey was begun at Farnborough Airfield to re-map the extensive areas of species rich acid/neutral grassland & heathland to inform a new management plan. With well over a hundred compartments to visit and live runways to contend with, this survey is difficult to organise but fascinating to carry out. An impressive 16 meadow indicators were recorded.

Another complicated but fascinating site to survey was the MOD land at The Slab in East Hampshire. This area of plantation on heathland is used a tank training area, and as a consequence, there is a complex mosaic of open heathland, acid grassland, mire and bare sand within the plantation. These areas support a wide range of Notable Species such as hoary cinquefoil (*Potentilla argentea*), smooth cat'sear (*Hypochaeris glabra*), coral-necklace (*Illecebrum verticillatum*) and shepherd's-cress (*Teesdalia nudicaulis*).

Joel Miller, HBIC Field ecologist

4. SINC and RVEI Programmes

4.1 SINC Evaluation and notification

4.1.1 Work carried out for the Nov 2018 SINC Panel List

- All submissions to the Panel were sent to Panel members on the 20th December 2018.
- 25 new SINC, 44 amendments and 10 deletions were proposed as set out in the 2018-19 Annual report
- The Panel met on the 14th March 2019 and unanimously approved 72 of the proposals, 2 proposals were deferred pending further information or impending planning applications and 5 of the proposals were rejected.
- The candidate SINC proposed to the Panel for review (Nightingale site in Test Valley) has been deferred by the Panel for a further year to allow 2019 data on Nightingale use of the site to be gathered and reviewed.
- Landowner notification letters were sent out on the 25th April 2019 and landowners were given until the 24th May 2019 to respond with comments. See table 4.1.2
- The SINC GIS layer has been updated and was sent to partners in September.
- The SINC Panel consists of Debbie Whitfield (HIWWT), Megan Owen (HCC) and Becky Aziz from NE.

4.1.2 Details of Objections from Nov 2018 SINC Panel

SINC Ref	SINC Name	Grid Ref	District	Objection	Status
EA0154	Lower Itchen Headwater, Stocks Farm	SU49431896	EBC	Objection raised to proposal of new SINC	Evidence submitted to 2019 Panel – Panel agreed if site meets new SINC criteria, then approve. If not, reject.
HV0019	Camp Down Grassland Remnants	SU69000651	HVBC	Objection to the deletion of the SINC, attempt was made to engage with landowner to discuss plans for site and whether we could defer deletion.	No response or evidence received – to be deleted
NF0175	Shorefield Copse	SZ28009230	NFDC	Objection to the deletion of the SINC, landowner has a management plan for the site, to manage the site more appropriately	Resolved - agreed not to delete, to review in 5 years
NF0411	Meadow south of Jacob's Gutter Lane	SU35991192	NFDC	Objection raised to proposal of new SINC - site is already allocated in local plan, SINC designation will add an 'unnecessary constraint'	Planning policy issue, sent to NFDC for comment - ongoing
NF0412	Hythe Road Meadow North	SU38700970	NFDC	Objection raised to proposal of new SINC	Evidence submitted to 2019 Panel – Panel agreed that site still met SINC criteria but LPA likely to reject

4.1.3 Work carried out for the Nov 2019 SINC's Panel List

- The initial evaluation of 2018 survey data was completed by the field ecologists February/March 2019. This included an evaluation of the 133 SINC's surveyed.
- Final checks and paperwork for submission to Panel was started in September and finished end of December. The proposals were sent to the SINC Panel on the 13th January 2020.
- 22 New SINC's, 44 amendments, 3 deletions and 2 reviews have been proposed (Table 4 and section 4.4 for details).
- The Panel met on the 16th March 2020 to consider HBIC's proposals. The Panel unanimously approved 66 of the proposals, 3 proposals have been deferred pending further information and 2 of the proposals were rejected. A proposal to delete a road verge SINC was rejected as it was felt that the verge would qualify under the new hedgerow criteria, to be introduced as part of the review (criteria to be changed from woodland to hedgerow when implemented). A further proposal to designate a new site was rejected as the Panel agreed the site was not quite of SINC quality.
- 2 candidate SINC's were proposed to the Panel for review; one has been approved by the Panel (but is likely to be rejected by the LPA) and the other was considered to be borderline and is to be assessed against the new SINC criteria to determine whether it would qualify going forward.
- Landowner notification letters have yet to be sent out, it is hoped they will go out by mid-May 2020 and landowners will be given 3 weeks to respond with comments. Landowners who do object will be given some leeway with respect to obtaining evidence due to the current coronavirus situation and potentially fewer consultant ecologists working.
- The SINC's Panel consists of Debbie Whitfield (HWT), Megan Owen (HCC) and Becky Aziz from NE.

Table 4: Number of Proposed new/amended/deleted SINC's evaluated from 2018 survey data and submitted to the SINC's Panel for deliberation during Jan/Feb 2020

Partner	New SINC's	Amended SINC's	Deleted SINC's	SINC's for Review	Total
Basingstoke & Deane BC	10	6			16
Eastleigh BC		2		1	3
East Hampshire DC	1	1			2
Fareham BC					
Gosport BC					
HCC-Countryside Service	2	2			4
HCC –ETE Dept.	1	2	1		4
Hart DC	1	2			3
Havant BC		1			1
Hampshire& IOW Wildlife Trust	1	1			2
New Forest DC		2	1	1	4
New Forest NPA	1	4			5
Portsmouth CC		1			1
Rushmoor BC					
Southampton CC		4			4
South Downs NPA	1	5			6
Test Valley TVBC	3	5	1		9
Winchester CC	1	6			7
Total	22	44	3	2	71

4.1.4 Details of the proposed 'New/Deleted/Amended SINC's are as follows

Deleted SINC's: Three sites have been proposed for deletion; one site (road verge) is being deleted for a lack of management, which has led to the loss of SINC quality habitat; one site has been agriculturally improved and has lost its SINC quality habitat and the final SINC (road verge) has been proposed for deletion as the notable species is no longer notable in the vice county and the site is not SINC quality habitat.

New SINC's: The twenty-two new SINC's comprise:

- 1 aquatic habitat, also supporting notable species
- 4 areas of previously unsurveyed species rich wet grassland or fen meadow
- 8 area of species rich neutral or calcareous grassland
- 8 areas of previously unsurveyed ancient and/or wet woodland
- 1 site that has been proposed solely for a significant population of a notable species, (*Cynoglossum germanicum* s41, NR, CR); 3 further sites also have notable species interest, but they also support qualifying habitats.

Amended SINC's: The forty-four amended SINC's comprise;

- 9 SINC's whereby the habitat had reflected a positive change, usually because of good management, restoration or re-creation, enabling a criteria change or boundary extension
- 18 SINC's where the habitat had shown a decline in quality or actual loss due to inappropriate management, forcing a boundary or criteria change
- 5 SINC's which had lost some habitat, because of development, amenity or extended gardens
- 12 SINC's where better or more detailed survey has necessitated a criteria change or a boundary change, including where additional Priority habitat had been discovered adjacent

In total new SINC's accounted for an additional 62.2 ha (up from 35 ha last year), deleted SINC's a loss of 2.75 ha (down considerably from the 267 ha last year, due to the deletion of one very large SINC last year), and amended SINC's a net gain of 138.30 ha (up from 14 ha last year due to large increases in area in 2 SINC's), resulting in a **total gain of 197.77 ha in SINC coverage** (against a total loss of 218 ha last year).

Table 5: Time spent on SINC evaluation & reporting to the Hampshire SINC's Panel

Partner	Preparation of SINC's list for Nov 2019 SINC's Panel ¹ (hrs)	Evaluation of 2019 survey data for Nov 2018 SINC's Panel		Total time spent (hrs)
		No. of surveys evaluated ²	HBIC Field ecologists (hrs) ³	
BDBC	72.0	23	5.8	77.8
EBC	13.5	15	3.8	17.3
EHDC	9.0	11	2.8	11.8
FBC	0.0	10	2.5	2.5
GBC	0.0	5	1.3	1.3
HCC C'side	18.0	3	0.8	18.8
HCC - ETE	18.0	19	4.8	22.8
HDC	13.5	16	4.0	17.5
HvBC	4.5	9	2.3	6.8
HWT	9.0	4	1.0	10.0
NFDC	18.0	13	3.3	21.3
NFNPA	22.5	6	1.5	24.0

¹ Time spent producing statements and maps for reporting to the SINC's Panel, updating the database, GIS editing and notifying landowners - a total of 4.5 hrs per site

² Excludes any SSSIs and hedgerows surveyed

³ Time spent evaluating 2019 survey data by field ecologists – undertaken in February 2020 (0.25 hr/site)

Partner	Preparation of SINC list for Nov 2019 SINC Panel ¹ (hrs)	Evaluation of 2019 survey data for Nov 2018 SINC Panel		Total time spent (hrs)
		No. of surveys evaluated ²	HBIC Field ecologists (hrs) ³	
PCC	4.5	6	1.5	6.0
RBC	0.0	1	0.3	0.3
SCC	18.0	4	1.0	19.0
SDNPA	27.0	13	3.3	30.3
TVBC	40.5	13	3.3	43.8
WCC	31.5	25	6.3	37.8
Total	319.5 (43.2 days)	196	49 (6.6 days)	368.5 (49.8 days)

From this table HBIC spent in total **49.8 days (~0.25 FTE)** maintaining the SINC system, based on the calculations in the footnotes above. We have not added time spent dealing with landowner objections to notifications which can be very time-consuming. Separate time spent dealing with landowners and other interested parties who have general queries on SINC are logged in the data request database and allocated to Districts & Unitaries under 'non-chargeable data requests'.

4.2 Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI) Evaluation and Review Programme

The deadline for the evaluation of road verges/RVEIs and updating the RVEI GIS layer is the end of January of the following year. This is a new deadline in the process, to allow County Highways time to update their GIS systems and get the information in the correct format for the contractor before the start of the new financial year. Prior to this, RVEIs were generally evaluated much later in the following year, and changes to management might not have been implemented until 2 years after the survey.

As this is the first year of working towards this new deadline, the 2018 and 2019 surveyed RVEIs (& other road verges) needed to be evaluated and the GIS layer updated. There were 24 road verges surveyed in 2018 and 20 in 2019.

Of the 44 verges evaluated, 19 RVEIs have been amended, 3 RVEIs deleted and 11 created. The details of which are below (primary reason).

Amendments

- 6 have reduced in size either as a result of loss of RVEI quality habitat or to improve accuracy.
- A further 3 have reduced in size in addition to a change of cut and/or interest feature.
- 3 have increased in size to include adjacent RVEI quality habitat or historic distribution of the species of interest.
- A further 2 have increased in size in addition to a change of cut or interest feature.
- 4 have had a change in the timing of the management cut.
- 1 has had a change in the timing of the management cut and a change of interest feature.

Deleted

- 1 deleted as species of interest is no longer notable.
- 2 deleted due to lack of management and resultant loss of habitat quality, too little remains to justify continued management.

Proposed

- 4 proposed for chalk flora.
- 1 proposed for ancient woodland flora.
- 6 proposed for a species of interest.

4.3 SD160 Local Sites Reporting – “Local Sites in positive conservation management”

The National Indicator, NI197 has been replaced by the Single Dataset indicator, SD160-00 called “**Local Sites in positive conservation management**” and is defined as for II187. The invitation to submit data for this year was received from Defra with a very short timeframe for a response and again Hampshire County Council declined to respond. Only **58%** of local authorities reported on this indicator last year. The 2018-19 Defra report for England is now available

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management--2>

Previous time spent on this Indicator has never been included within the partnership SLAs.

Nicky Court, HBIC Manager April 2020

5. Provision of data

5.1 GIS Data to partners

- Protected/Notable species records and Invasive species layers – update provided in April 2020. Next update is planned for July 2020.
- SINCs: update provided September 2019. Next update July 2020.
- RVEI layer: an update sent out in February 2020. Next update July 2020
- Broad & Priority Habitats - update sent out May 2019. Next update May 2020. These layers are delayed because of the update of our habitat data with OS Master Map data by an external contractor, which is continuing.
- Biosites layer – update sent out in February 2020. Next update in December 2020.
- SDNPA layers with combined Sussex data sent out on 1st April for 2020/21.
- Swift layer of breeding hotspots: update sent April 2019. Next update June 2020.
- Ecological Network Mapping provided in March 2020. Next update December 2020.

Table 6: GIS data to Partners

Partner	Protected & Notable Species	Non-Native Invasive Species	Broad and Priority Habitats	Biosites	SINCs	RVEIs	Swifts	Ecol. Network Mapping
BDBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
EHDC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
EBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
FBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
GBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
HDC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
HvBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
NFDC	16/04/20	16/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
NFNPA	16/04/20	16/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
PCC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
RBC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	27/03/20
SCC	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
SDNPA	01/04/20	01/04/20	01/04/20		01/04/20	01/04/20		
TVBC	15/04/20	15/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
WCC	15/04/20	15/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
HCC CS	14/04/20	17/04/20	21/06/19	**	10/09/19	**		20/04/20
HCC ET	09/04/20	09/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
HIWWT	15/04/20	15/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
EA	14/10/20	14/10/20	14/10/20		14/10/20			
FE	17/04/20	14/04/20			10/09/19			
NE (1)	11/03/16	11/03/16			27/08/15			
P. Water	14/04/20	14/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
S. Water	15/04/20	15/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	30/03/20
T. Water				06/12/18	10/09/19	17/05/19		
W. Water	15/04/20	15/04/20	21/06/19	14/02/20	10/09/19	14/02/20	02/04/19	

** HCC Countryside Service can load these datasets directly from the HCC GIS catalogue.

- (1) Natural England no longer fund HBIC for county-wide datasets. SINCs were provided as pdfs in 2017 as a one off, and are now out of date
- (2) EA do not receive Broad habitats

Wolfgang Ritter, 21st April 2020

5.2 Data requests

98% of data requests were responded to within the target of 10 working days.

Table 7: Data requests summary

Summary	2019/2020	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Total no. of requests	715	711	649	659
Total no. of chargeable requests	534	508	492	475
Total time logged (hrs)	750.25	734.41	728.95	696
Total time logged to chargeable requests (hrs)	590.25	560.55	549.10	470
Proportion of time chargeable	79%	76%	75%	68%
Total income	£128,267.50	£116,161	£107,131	£93,891

To contribute towards our direct costs and overheads, our target income for 2019-20 has been set at £120,000 in the HBIC Business Plan.

Between Saturday the 14th of March and 3pm on Monday the 16th of March HBIC suffered its first cyber-attack. An automatic programme completed our online form every 5 seconds with gobbledegoop. The problem was solved by taking the online form down and changing its file path. It took a day to sort out 25,000 emails, however no real data requests were lost, and there is no link between our databases and the online form so no risk to our data holdings.

The coding for the online form has now been amended to prevent multiple Submits being made, if for example a customer has a slow connection and they click the 'submit' button many times this has been duplicating the forms we receive and the receipts they receive.

Table 8: Data requests allocated to each partner

Partner	Total Enquiries	Total Time	Chargeable Time	Non Chargeable Time
Basingstoke & Deane BC	129	130.44	111.5	18.94
Environment Agency	5	4.5		4.5
Eastleigh BC	28	26.8	21	5.8
East Hampshire DC	44	52.55	48.5	4.05
Fareham BC	39	40.8	37.75	3.05
Gosport BC	7	6.05	6	0.05
HBIC (Note 1)	34	45	5	40
HCC - Countryside	5	6.25		6.25
HCC - Ecology	1	0.5		0.5
HCC – Highways (Note 2)	6	16.75		16.75
Hart DC	51	47.1	43.75	3.35
Hampshire & IoW WT	7	4.35		4.35
Havant BC	26	24.55	21	3.55
Natural England (Note 3)	3	8.5	7	1.5
New Forest DC	61	63.65	54.75	8.9
New Forest NPA	35	32.58	27.25	5.33
Portsmouth CC	12	10.8	10	0.8
Portsmouth Water	1	0.5		0.5

Partner	Total Enquiries	Total Time	Chargeable Time	Non Chargeable Time
Rushmoor BC	19	18.7	16.5	2.2
Southampton CC	16	16.55	14.5	2.05
South Downs NPA	54	56.15	46.75	9.4
Southern Water	4	2.75		2.75
Test Valley BC	80	76.29	66.5	9.79
Winchester CC	64	57.64	52	5.14
Total	731 (Note 4)	749.75	589.75	159.5

(Note 1) Requests carried out to support recording groups, developing relationships with new partners and time spent dealing with out of county requests, some of which we charged for as search areas overlapped the Hampshire boundary.

(Note 2) Requests carried out to directly support the Highways department, such as road verge mowing enquiries and data supporting new road schemes. For new road schemes and HCC development charges are levied per search and recharged at year end.

(Note 3) The non-chargeable time for Natural England resulted from us quoting for work which was subsequently cancelled.

(Note 4) The total number of enquiries may include those 'double-counted' where they are allocated to more than one partner organisation.

Table 9: Data requests by type of enquirer

Contact Type	Total Enquiries	Total Time	Total
Consultancy/Developer	559	561.27	£123,625.00
Public Utility	7	7.50	£1,360.50
Landowner/Agent/Tenant	11	13.25	£1,180.00
Government Agency	13	18.00	£810.00
Non-Governmental Organisation	10	8.35	£725.00
Local Authority/Parish Council	43	44.58	£507.00
Member of the public/Local group	30	30.55	£60.00
Consultancy/Developer (for Partner)	9	10.25	£0.00
Local Record Centre	14	24.25	£0.00
National Park Authority	9	10.50	£0.00
Public Utility (for Partner)	4	2.75	£0.00
Researcher/Student/School/College	6	19.00	£0.00
Total	715	750.25	£128,267.50

Table 10: Data requests by reason

Enquiry Reason	Number of Requests
Proposed development/EIA	567
Community/Planning	46
Conservation/Land management	35
Research/Study	30
SINC Query	13
Utilities	11
Agri-Environment Scheme specific	8
Other	3
Not given	2

Lizzy Peat 24th April 2020

5.3 Production of Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report for District AMRs

As in previous years HBIC produced an Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report in Autumn 2019 covering the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 for changes in the following at the county level:

- Area covered by different priority habitats and designated sites.
- Extent of priority habitats within designated sites.
- Conditions of SSSIs.
- Extent and number of SINC's including gains and losses

The Report can be found at: at:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/HBICAnnualBiodiversityMonitoringReport2018-19.pdf>

It now includes detailed chapters for Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth and Winchester

All GIS layers are archived at the end of March each year and the figures are broken down by district using GIS models, an Access database and VBA scripts to make the extraction of the statistics quicker and easier.

Wolfgang Ritter 24th April 2020

6. Screening Planning Lists

Table 11: Planning applications screened for each partner organisation

District/Partner	Checked	Flagged	Hours spent Pro Rata
East Hampshire DC	1,112	156 (14%)	43
East Hampshire DC - SDNP	665	114 (17%)	31
Eastleigh BC	1,582	145 (9%)	40
Fareham BC	1,164	165 (14%)	45
Gosport BC	422	83 (20%)	23
Hampshire CC	77	23 (30%)	6
Havant BC	900	86 (10%)	23
New Forest DC	1,366	232 (17%)	63
New Forest NP	853	319 (37%)	87
Test Valley BC	2,307	455 (20%)	124
Winchester CC	1,437	227 (16%)	62
Winchester CC - SDNP	486	90 (19%)	25
Total	12,371	2,095 (17%)	572
Last Year's Total	12,971	2,793 (22%)	572

The hours spent per week pro rata on the screening has remained at about an average of 11 hours staff time per week despite a slight decrease in the number of planning applications screened overall. The percentage of applications flagged this year is around 17% compared with 22% of applications in 2018-2019.

Table 12: Highways - Road Verge Screening

New	Updated	Flagged	Time Spent (hours)
246	7 (2.85%)	68 (26.88%)	51

A weekly spreadsheet is sent to the HBIC Inbox from Highways containing all works which may affect a Road Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI). This also include all dropped kerb applications. The list is then filtered by HBIC to show only 'new' and 'updated' works each week. Updated works are those which have previously been screened but the entry has been changed in some way, so must be checked again. Each of these works is then checked against the RVEI layer.

Any works which are thought likely to impact on a RVEI are noted and comments submitted directly to the organisation/utility who raised the job through 'Confirm'. Approximately one hour per week is spent screening road verges.

Time spent dealing with complaints on cutting, and advice on re-seeding still needs to be recorded.

Lizzy Peat 24th April 2020

7. Data Holdings (to end of March 2020)

Table 13: Total Species data holdings by database

Database	Total no. of species	Total no. of records to 31 st March 2019	Total no. of records to 31 st March 2020	An increase of...
MapMate (see below) <i>From the species recording groups</i>	14,502	5,508,709	5,812,592	303,883
Recorder (Vascular plants from HBIC surveys, plus Stag beetles, Hymenoptera, Odonata, recent HOS records, Malcolm Storey's datasets, spiders, earthworms and Bryophytes)	6,870	1,405,091	1,573,196	168,105
Totals		6,913,800	7,385,788	471,988

Approximately **20%** of all species records held in MapMate are protected, Near threatened and/or notable species. This figure has stayed remarkably consistent over previous years.

Table 14: MapMate Holdings only

Taxonomic Group	Total no of Records	Net change over the year	Total no of notable and protected records
Amoebozoa	3	0	
Amphibians & Reptiles	30,987	773	24,257
Bacteria	2	0	
Birds	831,018	0	504,225
Fish	2,229	0	858
Fungi	926	0	1
Higher plants - Clubmosses & Quillworts	1,133	67	1,077
Higher plants – Conifers	12,840	1,138	879
Higher plants – Ferns	31,677	2,183	3,061
Higher plants - Flowering Plants	1,180,025	99,105	105,418
Higher plants – Horsetails	4,437	271	298
Invertebrates – Acarina	2	0	
Invertebrates – Annelida	40	0	3
Invertebrates – Araneae	4,241	3	271
Invertebrates – Archaeognatha	1	0	
Invertebrates – Blattaria	229	7	225
Invertebrates – Bryozoa	1	0	
Invertebrates – Chilopoda	131	0	0
Invertebrates – Cnidaria	1	0	0
Invertebrates – Coleoptera	67,923	516	10,092
Invertebrates – Collembola	4	0	
Invertebrates – Crustacea	1,329	2	549
Invertebrates – Dermaptera	608	4	43
Invertebrates - Diplopoda	121	0	2
Invertebrates - Diptera	47,094	647	1,966
Invertebrates - Echinodermata	2	0	0

Taxonomic Group	Total no of Records	Net change over the year	Total no of notable and protected records
Invertebrates - Ephemeroptera	146	0	1
Invertebrates - Hemichordata	0		
Invertebrates - Hemiptera	18,534	191	435
Invertebrates - Hymenoptera	33,362	3,352	2,745
Invertebrates - Lepidoptera	3,452,411	184,627	424,608
Invertebrates - Mantodea	4	1	
Invertebrates - Mecoptera	150	2	
Invertebrates - Megaloptera	44	2	0
Invertebrates - Mollusca	2,783	1	134
Invertebrates - Neuroptera	303	14	0
Invertebrates - Odonata	6,487	5	861
Invertebrates - Orthoptera	4,862	67	499
Invertebrates - Plecoptera	48	3	2
Invertebrates - Porifera	1	0	0
Invertebrates - Psocoptera	15	12	
Invertebrates - Raphidioptera	19	0	
Invertebrates - Thysanura	1	0	
Invertebrates - Trichoptera	638	38	20
Invertebrates - Turbellaria	2	0	
Lichens	905	0	10
Lower plants - Algae	66	0	0
Lower plants – Liverworts/Hornworts/Mosses	4,227	0	239
Lower plants - Stoneworts	257	9	255
Mammals - Marine	938	19	938
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	36,668	7,270	36,639
Mammals - Terrestrial (non-bats)	32,717	3,554	16,526
	5,812,592	303,883	1,137,137

Large increases are due to normal major updates from key species groups with data exchange agreements.

Species with the only designation “IUCN Near Threatened” are not counted as notable any longer. The number of notable species has therefore decreased since the last report.

Table 15 Selected Recorder holdings

Taxonomic Group/Survey	Total no of records	An increase of
Birds (Hampshire Ornithological Society) from 2014	532,475	126,513
British Dragonfly Society's Dragonfly Recording Network	60,334	3,115
Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording society)	26,782	0
Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts (British Bryological society dataset)	20,808	0
PTES, covering Stag beetles only	7,406	5,878
National Earthworm Recording Scheme (Great Britain)	1,867	0

Taxonomic Group/Survey	Total no of records	An increase of
Hampshire Cultural Trust - Fungi Collection	1,945	0
Malcolm Storey's Personal Records	1802	202
Hampshire Cultural Trust - Marcus Charig Spider Collection	488	0

The Hampshire MapMate records for the Hymenoptera, Caddisflies and Orthoptera have been (and Bryophytes will eventually be) sent to the national schemes for incorporation into their datasets, thus removing any possible duplicates, and returned to us as part of their annual download as non-editable copies.

We are currently in discussion with HOS to re-import all their previous records again, to replace what we have - they have made many corrections to the data they hold, which are not reflected in our current data. This complete re-import will ensure everything is up to date.

There are plans to collate the following additional data sets in future, subject to workloads:

- Birds - ~20,000 records received from HIWWT as a result of the Brent Goose and Wader Strategy will stay in a separate useable GIS alert layer and not be imported into MapMate or Recorder.
- Coleoptera - Derek Lott Coleoptera Dataset, sourced from the NBN Atlas
- British Arachnological Society/Spider Recording Scheme's Provisional Atlas of British Spiders dataset. This is the dataset used in the Spider Recording Scheme's publication Provisional Atlas of British Spiders (Arachnida, Araneae), Volumes 1 & 2 - Peter R. Harvey, David R. Nellist & Mark G. Telfer' From the NBN Atlas.
- Fish from the Environment Agency

And we plan to set up a data exchange agreement with the Hampshire Fungus Study Group.

Currently we organise our data holdings as follows:

- Newer HOS records are held in Recorder, Older HOS records are in MapMate at present. Each year the previous survey season's data is imported into Recorder
- The British Bryological Society provide an Excel spreadsheet once a year, which is imported into Recorder.
- One copy of MapMate (Identification **6dn**) holds data from Butterfly Conservation only
- Another copy (Identification **5pw**) holds all other MapMate data.

Updates provided as follows so far this year:

- Butterfly records were imported May 2019
- BSBI records were imported in June 2019 and December 2019
- Hampshire Bat Group's records were imported in June 2019, December 2019 and January 2020
- Hampshire Mammal Group records were imported November 2019
- Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Recording Network December 2019
- Moth records were imported December 2019
- Odonata from i-Record care of the Dragonfly Society December 2019
- Malcolm Storey update December 2019
- Stag beetles from the PTES (Via an NBN Dwnload) January 2020
- Richard Dickson's Records were imported in January 2020
- HOS Imported January 2020

Wolfgang Ritter and Lizzy Peat, 24th April 2020

8. Additional Community Recording

8.1 BioBlitz Events

HBIC have taken part in **four BioBlitz's** this year. In addition, we have given data management advice to the Gilbert White & The Oates Collections Nature festival which was held on Monday 27th May 2019.

- Broxhead Common BioBlitz was held on the 28th of May 2018. Lizzy and Amy attended, HCC Countryside Service kindly lent us a gazebo and Jamie Fletcher lent his generator to power the laptops. This event was run by the South Downs National Park in association with the MOD and HCC as part of the 'Heathlands Reunited' project, made possible thanks to a National Lottery Heritage Funded Grant.
- The Southampton BioBlitz was attended by Sarah, on the understanding that a student would help with the data entry on the day. This person did not materialize, so some additional hours were spent entering the remaining data. Southampton University will cover these extra hours.
- The Basing Forest BioBlitz was a joint event between the Forestry Commission, through their 'The Big Forest Find' national drive, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. They each agreed to cover half of our charges. The Forestry commission were pushing the iNaturalist app. However, to get the final total and make sure our recording groups receive the data we did not encourage its use and focussed on entering the data into MapMate. Consequently, there are some additional records on iNaturalist, which are not currently available to the HBIC Partnership. This event was attended by Lizzy and Wolfgang.
- Two entomologists Jonty Denton and Scotty Dodd boosted invertebrate species numbers at the Bramshot Farm BioBlitz, hosted by Hart DC, to give an impressive total. Nicky, Ian and Amy from HBIC attended.

Table 16: BioBlitz Results








Location	Date	Number of Records made	Number of Species Recorded
Broxhead Common, Bordon	28 th May 2019	355	278
Southampton Common & University	8 th June 2019	339	209
Basing Forest, Basingstoke	20 th July 2019	584	357
Bramshot Farm BioBlitz	6 th August 2019	727	477

HBIC staff provide data entry, identification and verification support at all Bioblitzes. 50% of time spent by HBIC supporting Bioblitz events is either allocated to SLAs or charged for separately. The other 50% time is provided by HBIC in kind.

8.2 Living Record

HBIC are promoting and supporting the use of Living Record in Hampshire, which allows recorders to easily add records to an online mapping system (using it as their own database) but also allowing County Recorders to log on and download relevant records to incorporate into their databases. It is particularly useful for people wanting to record across taxon groups.

Table 17 : Living Record Verification (showing records entered between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2020 for Hampshire)

Hampshire	Total	New	Record Cleaner		Query	Reject	Accept	Locked
			Pass	Fail				
Subject								
Mammals (excluding bats)	775	307						468
Bats	2,397				1	3	55	2,338
Otters	1							1
Badger Setts	1							1
Birds	14,125	710			25	4	5,767	7,619
Reptiles	2,337	11			706	5	280	1,335
ARC Reptile Survey (note 1)	709	688						21
Amphibians	256	112			7		58	79
ARC Natterjack Toad Survey (2018-)	501	119					14	368
Freshwater Fish	42	42						
Insects: Bees, Wasps & Ants	1,062	984					78	
Insects: Sawflies (Symphyta)	2	2						
Insects: Moths	28,805	28,805						
Insects: Butterflies	6,485	1,812					139	4,534
Insects: Caddisflies	26	26						
Insects: Flies (Diptera)	118	118						
Insects: Beetles	320	318				1		1
Insects: Orthoptera - Grasshoppers etc.	77	77						
Insects: Bugs	98	98						
Insects: Dragonflies	1,204	23					206	975
Spiders, Harvestmen & Pseudoscorpions	109	109						
Isopods: Woodlice & Waterlice (+Landhopper)	11	11						
Molluscs: non-marine	9	9						
Vascular plants	28,764	1			11	18	147	28,587
Plant Galls	11	11						
Bryophytes	21	21						
Fungi	150	150						
Lichens	1	1						
Seaweeds	13							13
Marine Fish	16							16
Tunicata: sea squirts	6							6
Marine Arthropods: Crabs, shrimps, barnacles etc.	19							19
Echinoderms: starfish, sea urchins etc.	2							2
Marine Molluscs - slugs, snails, chitons, squid etc.	22	1						21
Marine Worms	8							8

Hampshire	Total	New	Record Cleaner		Query	Reject	Accept	Locked
			Pass	Fail				
Subject								
Marine Bryozoa: moss animals	3							3
Marine Cnidaria: jellyfish, anemone, coral etc.	9							9
Marine Sponges	7							7
Survey: Invasive Plants	2	2						
Survey: Riverfly Monitoring	24	24						
Dragons (for training)	56	56						
FHT Water Quality Survey Mk2	10	10						
Source to Sea method - for invasive plants	6	6						
Totals	88,620	34,664			750	31	6,744	46,431

(Note 1) Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Datasets are not currently being verified or accepted into the HAARN dataset. HAARN are working with Rob Ward from ARC to decide how data flow and verification should work between them in Hampshire. They are currently working on a data sharing agreement.

- “New” records have been entered by users but the verifiers have not yet looked at them.
- “Accepted records” have been checked for errors and accepted but not yet downloaded.
- “Locked records” are those which have been verified and downloaded by the County recorders and passed through to HBIC in the usual way.
- The number of queried and rejected records can also be seen, feedback is provided by email within the system.

HBIC has the admin rights to allocate users as County Recorders to specific taxon groups and is in the process of approaching and training people to carry out this role in order to complement the existing network.

HBIC met with Adrian Bicker (the developer and owner of Living Record) on the 11th of July 2019. We discussed users of Living record (who on requesting permission from Adrian) had been given access to areas covering a large proportion of Hampshire- such as an entire district or region, and as such were able to query other records over a large area. We pointed out to Adrian that these users were in effect accessing species group data without our knowledge. Apart from the obvious issues with this, the users might not understand what they were looking at, for example not all records on Living Record have been verified, not all records are on Living Record, and they will be missing much information by not coming to HBIC directly.

Consequently, Adrian agreed to remove them and to check with us first when landowners covering large areas or people with a ‘conservation remit’ are wanting to be added.

Lizzy Peat, 24th April 2020

9. Updating the HBIC GIS Habitat Layer & Dataset

Good progress had been made to clear the backlog of 2015 and 2016 site surveys awaiting translation into the habitat layer. Both years have been completed except for 5 surveys where polygon errors were found and are currently being investigated. Good progress has also been made with the 2017 surveys and this will take approximately 9 days to complete. However, translating survey data has now been temporarily paused whilst work to update the HLU Tool and import everything into the latest OSMM mapping takes place. The 2018 surveys have all been verified ready for translating in 2020 and are expected to take approximately 26 days to complete. It is hoped that all 2017 and 2018 survey will be translated by early 2021. 2019 surveys have been written up and are in the process of being verified, so it might be possible to be up to date by the end of 2021.

Table 18 shows remaining time it will take to complete all surveys from past 4 years.

Table 18: Survey updates outstanding on the GIS Habitat layer at 23rd April 2020

Year of survey	Total Site Surveys for Year ¹	Outstanding work as at 26/09/2019
2015	264	2 (1%)
2016	224	3 (1%)
2017	257	83 (32%)
2018	262	262 (100%)
Total	1007	350

Outstanding work

Total number of surveys to translate = **350**

Number of site surveys that can be translated/day = approx. 10

Number of days to complete all surveys = **35** days (at 1 day/week) ~ 8 months

Further work is also required verify and incorporate into the GIS Habitat Layer the following:

- PTES Traditional Orchards national inventory data
- RSPB/EA Reedbeds regional inventory data
- Brownfield “Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land” data from BugLife

Maps of the above three datasets are being produced to enable the field ecologists to ground truth areas they may come across during the survey programme, subject to access.

Amy Robjohns, 23rd April 2020

10. Special projects

10.1. Ecological Network Mapping – An LNP project

The ecological network mapping was updated at the end of 2019 and provided to the local planning authorities and developers in March 2020 after a thorough checking and the correction of some anomalies. The update takes account of recent changes in designated

¹ The number of total surveys may vary slightly from totals in previous reports due to various factors, including imports of data, double counting sample surveys within ‘sites’ and non-standard surveys that didn’t produce habitat data on which IHS classifications could be based (such as Brent Geese counts). The figure reported above does not include these non-standard surveys.

sites and habitat mapping, plus adding in MasterMap polygons labelled as woodland, scrub and rough grassland into the 'opportunity' layer where no survey data exists.

Next phase will be to look at developing strategically important network areas for protected species such as dormice and great crested newts. Different software are being tested.

10.2. Review of the Hampshire SINC Criteria

The SINC criteria are over 20 years old and in need of a review. HBIC does not have the capacity in-house and estimated costs using consultants were put at around c£8000. A £500 contribution was sought from each LPA with 13 LPAs now committed. Six consultancies were approached and 3 eventually submitted detailed quotes. On the basis of best value Dr Phil Wilson was chosen (£7,200). Deadline for completion of the review was mid-March 2020.

All 3 sections have now been drafted: A - Procedures and Guidance, B - Habitats, and C - Species. Section A has been out for consultation and is nearly complete, Section B is being checked by HBIC and will be ready for consultation in May 2020. Section 3 is in an initial draft stage following a workshop with the county recorders in March 2020. Further work is needed before going out for consultation with the species groups initially.

11. IT Development & Improvements

The on-going IT plan for HBIC is to enable greater integration between the HBIC databases and GIS to ensure duplication of effort is kept to a minimum and to enable greater flexibility and speed when interrogating and extracting data. Specifically, this includes:

- Further improvements to the data request database to align it with the new epayments system and to make the data more consistent and easier to extract. The online form with e-payment function went live in September 2017. Customers are using the new form, but the e-payment function is used less often than hoped. A customer feedback survey is now in place and feedback will be reviewed at the end of June 2020.
- Further improvements to the extraction of GIS data are being done using Python code, to replace existing VBA code that will no longer be supported in the new ArcGIS version (10.7). HBIC is using tools in ArcGIS which connect ArcGIS to Access databases. The redevelopment in Python is finished and the tools are being used. There are ongoing minor improvements.
- On-going updates to the Recorder 6 dictionaries and software. JNCC have withdrawn from providing further updates to Recorder 6 so the majority of LERCs have agreed to keep and further develop Recorder and pay a licence fee. Andy Foy, on contract to the SE LERCs, developed a questionnaire to find out who uses Recorder and which components of Recorder 6 are used/not used, with a view to setting up a priority list for the re-development of Recorder 6.
- HBIC uses MapMate for data exchange with several species recording groups and volunteers. MapMate is based on an old database (Access 97) and it is increasingly difficult to run on HCCs computer systems. Since the latest computer upgrade we have to use a work-around. ALERC are approaching the developer to determine his long-term plans for the software.
- Andy Foy has been working on updating the entire County habitat dataset with the most recent version of OS MasterMap. Whilst that is happening, the habitats database is frozen. HBIC and Andy Foy are at the moment in discussion about applying rules for accepting or refusing changes suggested by the updating process.
- Improving the efficiency of extracting GIS data into a Word template via an intermediate database for producing the annual biodiversity monitoring statistics

Wolfgang Ritter, 21st April 2020

12. Financial Report for 2019-20

12.1 Service level Agreements and Data Supply Agreements

Nearly all LA partners are now in the 2nd year of their 3-year SLA for 2018-2021. The National Trust has committed to a data supply agreement (as part of a SE agreement) for 2019-20.

EA's contribution has decreased slightly at the start of a new 4-year agreement due to a 'rebalancing' of fees across all LERCs – for HBIC that means a small reduction from £12,150 to £11,770.

Otherwise a 3% increase was applied across the board.

Table 19: Income from Partners

Partner	Agreement type	Survey days	Hours	Fee
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	24	125	
East Hampshire District Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	28	180	
Eastleigh Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	18	112.5	
Fareham Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	14	100	
Gosport Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	8	55	
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	15	60	
Hampshire County Council ETE	In kind	20	193.5	
Hampshire County Council C'side.	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	15	70	
Hart District Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	20	100	
Havant Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	13	85	
National Trust	Annual DSA	-	5	
New Forest District Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	14	115	
New Forest National Park Authority	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	14	145	
Portsmouth City Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	6	35	
Rushmoor Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	10	45	
South Downs National Park Authority	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	28	185	
Southampton City Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	10	60→40	
Test Valley Borough Council	2 nd yr of 3 yr SLA	24	185	
Winchester City Council	Annual SLA	28	205	
Natural England	None	-		
Environment Agency	1 st yr of 4 y MOA	-	37	
Forestry Commission (New Forest)	Annual DSA	-	5	
Southern Water	Annual DSA	-	5	
Wessex Water	5 th yr of 5yr DSA	-	5	
Thames Water (SINC's only)	4 th yr of 5 yr DSA	-	5	
Portsmouth Water	Annual DSA	-	5	
Total (£148,608 in 2018/19)		303.5	2,098	£153,609

12.2 Main HBIC Revenue Account (J067M)

Table 20: Expenditure and Income for 2019/20

EXPENDITURE	Projected £	Actual End of Year
Salaries & on-costs for 5.85 posts (1.85 x F, 3 x E and 1 x D grade)	£214,000	£221,529
Travel, expenses		£4,843
ALERC fees/Training & CIEEM Professional fees		£1,570
Equipment (Includes £108 for servicing life jackets)	£7,500	£443
Forum costs – Hall & catering (2019)		£534
Epayment charges		£67
10% Income from data requests to species groups (Table 20)	£12,000	£12,600
Phil Wilson contract – 12 days survey		£3,540
Phil Wilson contract – SINC Criteria Review ¹		(£3,770) ² £2,730 c/f
Total	£233,000	£247,856
INCOME	£	£
From partner SLAs (see Table 18)	£150,000	£147,788 ³
Chargeable data requests	£120,000	£128,428
Chargeable 'spare' survey days ⁴		£14,460
Survey & support to HCC Ecology Team	£5,800	£7,177
Support to HCC EIA Team		£452
Internal HCC clients (PS & Highways) – use of HBIC data	£6,000	£5,000
HBIC Forum sponsorship 2020 & paid for lunches		£400 £90
Income from 4 Bioblitzs		£1,950
Projects:		
Updating the Ecological Network Mapping – from LPAs		£4,900
Contributions from LPAs (13) for SINC Criteria Review	Target £10,000	£6,500
Basingstoke Canal Authority – scanning documents and further analysis of survey data		£3,383
Total	£291,800	£320,528
BALANCE	+£58,300	£72,672
Other costs/in-kind:		
Departmental/Corporate overheads (5.85 HBIC posts @ £15K per post)	-£90,000	
Salary/on-costs for 0.5 FTE Manager post (not through HBIC cost centre)	-£33,000	
HCC ETE direct delivery (0.7 FTE mixed grades)	c£34,000	

The updating of the Habitat data capture tool is costing HBIC £6,600 and is part of a wider regional programme of updating the tool with the other SE LERCs. The HBIC contribution is not shown above as it is coming out of a reserve account (of £15K) ring fenced for IT updates to HBIC databases – as these are not supported by HCC.

Fortunately, late payments and late income (footnotes 2, 3 & 4) more or less cancel each other out

¹ Expecting to be cost neutral – HBIC likely to be contributing c£200 plus in-kind time

² Not yet claimed from P Wilson

³ Payment not yet received from HCC Countryside and not included in figures

⁴ Includes £1,156 wrongly attributable to HBIC (meant for Ecology Team) for Surrey Heaths work

12.3 Local Recorders Fund (A985H) 2019-20

Total income from data requests for 2018/19 was £113,678, 10% of this (£11,500¹) was transferred at year end to the Local Recording Fund holding account with 9% divided amongst the species recording groups with data exchange agreements, and remainder available for projects to support local recording groups, increase local recording capacity and available data.

Table 21: Local Recorders Fund expenditure and income

Balance carried forward from 2018-19		£
Includes the £11,500 c/f from 10% data request income from 2018-19		£20,204.29
Expenditure	% Share of yearly Income	£
Data Exchange Agreements		
• Hampshire Bat Group (late invoice – previous yr)	1%	£1,030.00
• Butterfly Conservation	2%	£2,300.00
• Hampshire Ornithological Society	2%	£2,300.00
• <i>Hampshire Bat Group (paid from 2020-21 yr)</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>£1,150.00</i>
• <i>HIOWWT (HARG/HMG/HFG) (paid from 2020-21yr)</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>£4,600.00</i>
Local Recording Fund		
• Titchfield Moth Group: 2018/19 claim, paid 2019-20		£165.50
• Clausentum Fen Group: 2018/19 claim, paid 2019-20		£200.00
Living Record support costs HBIC (£1,125) & HCC C'side (£275)		£1,400.00
Total expenditure		£7,395.50
Balance		£12,808.79
Income from data requests 2019-2020		£12,600.00
Balance at year end 31st March 2020		£25,408.79

Nicky Court, HBIC Centre Manager, 23rd April 2020

¹ This figure had to be projected two weeks before year end to enable carry forward

13.1 HBIC Annual Recorders Forum Programme



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
Annual Recorders Forum 2020
Saturday 7th March 2020: 9.30am – 3.25pm
Littleton Millennium Hall

Programme

Chair: **Nicky Court, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre**

09:30 10:00 **Registration & Coffee**

10:00 10:10 **Welcome & Introduction:** Nicky Court, HBIC Manager

10:10 10:35 **Hampshire Plant Recording: From Atlas 2020 into the Future:** Martin Rand, Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland

10:35 11:00 **Species Records for Havant Thicket Reservoir:** Trevor Codlin, Portsmouth Water

11:00 11:20 *Refreshments*

11:20 11:45 **Bats in Privett Tunnel:** Ruth Holland, Manchester Metropolitan University

11:45 12:10 **Oysters in the Solent:** Jacob Kean Hammerson, Blue Marine Foundation

12.10 12.25 **A series of 5 minute project updates:**

- Eric Janke, 'Fungal DNA Fingerprinting in Hampshire'
- Alison Field, 'The Winchester to River Test Farm Cluster Group'
- Lizzy Peat, 'Wildlife Recording Events HBIC are attending in 2020'

12.25 13.30 **Lunch, displays and Natural History Book Swap**

Chair: **Keith Betton, Hampshire Ornithological Society**

13.30 13:40 **A series of 5 minute project updates:**

- Nicky Court 'The New SINC Criteria'
- Glynne Evans, update on BTO surveys (Breeding Birds BBS, Breeding Waders, Woodcock and Heronries)

13:40 14:05 **Conservation Strategies for Hampshire Lepidoptera:** Steve Wheatley, Butterfly Conservation

14:05 14:30 **Bryophyte Highlights in Hampshire:** Dr Fred Rumsey, British Bryological Society

14.30 14:50 *Refreshments*

14:50 15:10 **White-Tailed Eagles :** Stephen Egerton-Read, White-Tailed Eagle Project Officer

15.10 15.25 **Summary & Close**

Forum kindly sponsored by Vesper Conservation & Ecology Limited



13.2 Organisations attending the 2020 HBIC Recorders Forum

- Ancient Tree Inventory (verifier)
- Andover Trees United
- Aquilina Environmental Quality
- Blue Marine Foundation
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland VC11
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland VC12
- British Bryological Society
- British Myriapod and Isopod Group
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Butterfly Conservation
- Clausentum Fen Conservation Group
- ECOSA
- Fareham Moth Group
- Forestry England
- Friends of Lepe Recording Group
- Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Recording Network
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire Bat Group
- Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd
- Hampshire Flora Group
- Hampshire Fungus Recording Group
- Hampshire Mammal Group
- Hampshire Ornithological Society
- Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
- HCC Countryside Service
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian & Reptile Group
- HIWWT - South Downs Group
- Horndean Biodiversity Group
- Kempshott Conservation Group
- Lepe Country Park
- Living Record
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Milford Conservation Volunteer
- Hampshire Moths
- New Forest National Park Authority
- New Forest Study Group
- Portsdown Hill Countryside Service
- Portsmouth Museums Service
- Portsmouth Water
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Southampton City Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- The Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland
- University of Southampton
- Vesper Conservation & Ecology Ltd
- Winchester City Council
- Winchester to River Test Farm Cluster Group