



Hampshire Biodiversity  
Information Centre

## Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

### Annual Progress Report for 2024-2025



Avocets at Keyhaven Reserve 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024

*Sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

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

## Contents

1. Key Activities .....	3
2. HBIC Partnership & Acknowledgments.....	4
3. Staffing & Contact Details .....	5
4. Habitat Survey Programme .....	6
5. SINC Programme .....	14
6. Provision of Data .....	19
7. Screening of Planning Applications and Road Works .....	23
8. Data Holdings .....	25
9. Additional Community Recording inc. Living Record.....	29
10. Updating the GIS habitat layer & Dataset.....	31
11. Projects.....	32
12. IT Development & Improvements.....	34
13. Financial Statements .....	35
14. Annual Recorders Forum.....	38
Appendix – Acronyms used throughout the Report.....	40

## Tables

Table 1: Summary of HBIC staff roles and contact details .....	5
Table 2: Request for Surveys Allocated to each Partner .....	6
Table 3: Spare Survey Days.....	11
Table 4: Number of Proposed new/amended/deleted SINC's evaluated from 2020-2022 survey data and submitted to the SINC Panel in July 2024. ....	14
Table 5: Time spent on SINC evaluation & reporting to the Hampshire SINC's Panel.....	16
Table 6: Number of SINC's in positive and negative management.....	18
Table 7: GIS data to Partners.....	19
Table 8: Data requests summary.....	20
Table 9: Data requests allocated to each partner .....	20
Table 10: Data requests by type of enquirer.....	21
Table 11: Data requests by reason .....	21
Table 12: Planning applications screened for each partner organisation.....	23
Table 13: Road Verge Screening.....	23
Table 14: Total Species data holdings by database.....	25
Table 15: Data holdings MapMate and Recorder .....	25
Table 16: Living Record Verification (showing records entered between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2025 for Hampshire) .....	29
Table 17: Survey updates outstanding on the GIS Habitat layer.....	31
Table 18: Income from Partners 2024-25 .....	35
Table 19: Expenditure and Income for 2024-25.....	36
Table 20: Local Recorders Fund expenditure and income .....	37

## 1. Key Activities

A full programme of work has been achieved and delivered, as summarised below. HBIC delivered services to **24** funding partners set through Service Level Agreements & Data Supply Agreements. This included field survey and/or provision of GIS datasets

- Reported to the HBIC Users Advisory Group on the 15 May (in person) and 20 November 2024 (on-line), and to the Steering Group on the 4 September 2024 (on-line) and 3 March 2025 (on-line).
- The Annual HBIC Recorders Forum was held on the 22 February 2025 in person at Littleton Village Hall. Presentations were followed by an optional lunch and networking opportunity. Attended by **70** local recorders from 50 organisations.
- Carried out a Habitat Survey Programme (Phase 2/NVC) of **203** sites (down from 276 last year) which included a review of **120** Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, down very slightly from 122 SINCs last year.
- Held a SINC panel meeting in September 2024 with 11 new SINCs approved (down from 17 new SINCs last year), 8 deleted SINCs (up from 4 deleted SINCs last year), and 43 amended SINCs (up from 22 amended SINCs last year), resulting in a **total gain of 9.75ha in SINC coverage** (against a total gain of 120 ha last year).
- Imported **708,833** new species records from the species recording groups and HBIC's own survey programme. The Recorder and MapMate databases now hold **11,355,683 species** records, **up 7%** on the previous year.
- Continued to support Living Record as an efficient user-friendly on-line data capture tool for many recording groups/local community groups with **41,274** new records entered for 2024-25, down 8% from 51,026 records in 2023-24, but only 36,371 records verified and passed to HBIC.
- Responded to **892** requests for biodiversity data, down **5.5%** from 944 last year with chargeable time decreasing by 8%, but an increase in income of **8%**. 99% of requests were dealt with within 10 working days, the same as last year.
- Screened **9943** planning applications, down 18% on last year. **35%** were flagged as having a potential impact on designated sites, priority habitats and notable species, up from 31% last year.
- Supported one BioBlitz at Itchen Valley Country Park

## 2. The HBIC Partnership

### 2.1 HBIC Steering Group – meets twice a year in September and February

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland – Tristan Norton, VC11

Butterfly Conservation – Dr Andy Barker

Environment Agency - no representative attending

Hampshire County Council - US Directorate – Simon Cramp

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust – Sarah Jackson

Hampshire Ornithological Society – Martin Pitt

Hart District Council\* - Mike Barry

Havant Borough Council\* - Tristan Norton

(Natural England – a representative attends the HBIC Users Advisory Group instead)

New Forest National Park Authority – Ian Barker

Rushmoor Borough Council\* - Heather Lewis

South Downs National Park Authority – Kate Stuart

Winchester City Council\* - Zoe Keeble

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

### 2.1 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 regular copies of their data: Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Recording Network, Hampshire & IoW Amphibian & Reptile Group, Hampshire Bat Group, Hampshire Ornithological Society, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the Hampshire Mammal Group, and several other national schemes & societies including the British Dragonfly Society, the British Bryology Society, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species.

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\*, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Fareham Borough Council\*, Gosport Borough Council\*, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust\*, Hampshire County Council US Department\* and the Countryside Service\*, Hart District Council\*, Havant Borough Council\*, 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, South-West Water, Test Valley Borough Council\*, Wessex Water and Winchester City Council\*.

\* Have SLAs with HBIC and sit on the HBIC Users Advisory Group – which meets twice a year (May and November)

### 3. Staffing & Contact Details

**Table 1: Summary of HBIC staff roles and contact details**

Role	Staff	Email
<b>Management of HBIC (0.3FTE) (working on LNRS 0.7FTE)</b>	<b>Nicky Court, Specialist</b> Environmental Services Manager	<a href="mailto:nicky.court@hants.gov.uk">nicky.court@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>SLA Lead: Survey Programme and SINC's Programme Acting HBIC Manager (from Sept 23)</b>	<b>Sarah Callegari, Senior Ecologist</b> (SLA Liaison) (Mon –Thurs)	<a href="mailto:sarah.callegari@hants.gov.uk">sarah.callegari@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>IT databases/GIS/Species data/Special Projects</b>	<b>Wolfgang Ritter, Senior Ecologist (Data Manager)</b>	<a href="mailto:wolfgang.ritter@hants.gov.uk">wolfgang.ritter@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Habitat Surveys &amp; SINC evaluation</b>	<b>Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist</b> (retiring June 25)	<a href="mailto:ian.ralphs@hants.gov.uk">ian.ralphs@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Habitat Surveys &amp; SINC evaluation North and East Hampshire</b>	<b>Joel Miller, Field Ecologist</b>	<a href="mailto:joel.miller@hants.gov.uk">joel.miller@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Habitat Surveys &amp; SINC evaluation West &amp; South Hampshire</b>	<b>Billy Dykes, Field Ecologist</b> (started Mar 25, to take over from Ian Ralphs)	<a href="mailto:Billy.dykes@hants.gov.uk">Billy.dykes@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Data requests, planning screening, and collation/ validation of species data</b>	<b>Natalie Harvey, Ecologist</b> (maternity cover for Lizzy Peat July 2024-July 2025)	<a href="mailto:lizzy.peat@hants.gov.uk">lizzy.peat@hants.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:natalie.harvey@hants.gov.uk">natalie.harvey@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Habitat Mapping, Data requests, planning screening, and survey validation</b>	<b>Amy Robjohns, Ecologist</b>	<a href="mailto:amy.robjohns@hants.gov.uk">amy.robjohns@hants.gov.uk</a>
<b>Habitat Survey organisation, SINC Programme assistance, survey validation</b>	<b>Philip Fernandes, Ecologist</b> Oct 2023 – March 2025 (LNRS backfill) Resigned Feb 2025	
<b>Review of Ancient Woodland Inventory</b>	<b>Pete Bartlett, Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer</b> (March 2022 – July 2024)	
<b>Data requests, planning screening, survey validation, data entry/editing</b>	<b>Evie Templeman, Assistant Ecologist. Resigned Jan 2025</b>	
<b>Data management tasks (volunteer)</b>	No volunteers due mainly to staff homeworking.	

**Address: HBIC, Universal Services Directorate, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD**

**General email: [enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk)**

## 4. Habitat Survey Programme

### 4.1 Overview

The survey season began on 9 April. A summary of the survey days allocated to date for each partner is presented in Table 2; these figures include time allocated for field surveys, write-up and SINC evaluation work. Some partners are currently over their allocated number of survey days whilst others are currently under their allocation. Any over- or under-spends remaining at the end of the year will be addressed next season with informal amendments to allocations and will be discussed with the relevant partners.

**Table 2: Request for Surveys Allocated to each Partner**

Partner	Number of requests	Number of sites	Days spent	Days left	Days total	Allocation	Amended allocation
Basingstoke & Deane BC	17	22	26.22	0.00	26.22	25	26
East Hampshire District Council	22	26	30.20	0.00	30.20	28	26.5
Eastleigh Borough Council	6	8	13.24	0.00	13.24	18	13
Fareham Borough Council	10	10	13.79	0.00	13.79	14	14
Gosport Borough Council	2	7	7.96	0.00	7.96	8	8
HCC - Countryside Services	11	13	20.29	0.00	20.29	18	16
HCC - Environment	14	12	13.78	0.00	13.78	20	13.5
Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust	5	5	11.45	4.00	15.45	15	13
Hart District Council	7	12	17.26	0.00	17.26	20	16.5
Havant Borough Council	5	8	12.96	0.00	12.96	11	11
New Forest District Council	15	16	17.00	0.00	17.00	14	16.5
New Forest NPA	14	15	16.01	0.00	16.01	14	16
Portsmouth City Council	3	5	6.40	0.00	6.40	6	6
Rushmoor Borough Council	7	7	9.29	0.00	9.29	10	9
South Downs NPA	12	16	26.50	0.00	26.50	28	28
Southampton City Council	9	11	12.20	0.00	12.20	10	11.5
Test Valley Borough Council	19	22	29.59	0.00	29.59	24	28
Winchester City Council	18	31	25.85	0.00	25.85	28	23
	<b>196</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>309.99</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>313.99</b>	<b>311.0</b>	<b>295.5</b>
Basingstoke Canal	1	1	46	0.00	46	46	46
Spare Capacity	5	5	24.81	0.00	24.81	20	35.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>380.80</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>384.80</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>377</b>

**Notes:**

1. Due to over or under spend on allocations in recent years, some allocations were informally increased or reduced to address the balance this year.

The HBIC partners requested 55.0% of the survey requests, with a further 4.0% coming directly from land managers/owners to inform their management plans. The remaining 41.0% of requests were organised by HBIC on behalf of the partners to contribute to SINC/RVEI

monitoring. The percentage of requests from the HBIC partners is slightly higher than what was reported following last year’s survey programme (52.6%).

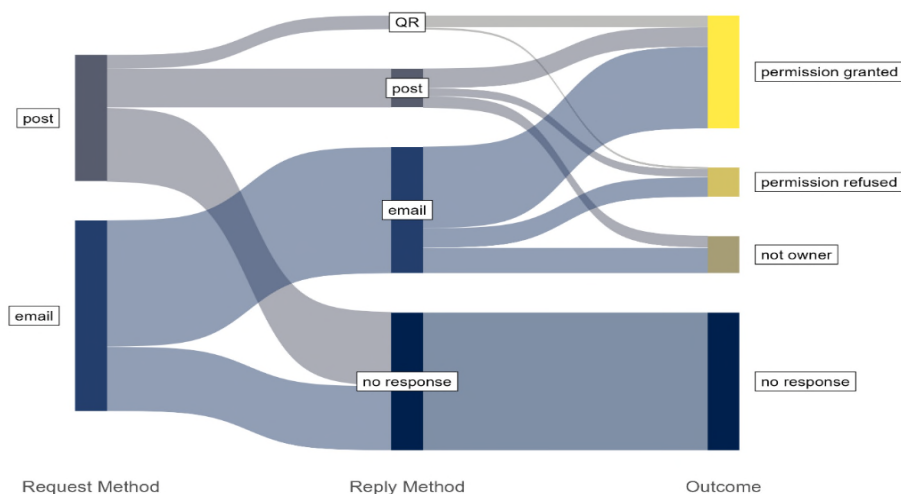
### 4.2 SINC Monitoring

HBIC contacted 163 landowners requesting permission to re-survey 202 SINCS where data is old. Of these, 58 landowners gave permission to survey 72 SINCS. This is a positive return rate of 35.6% of landowners (62.5% last year) and 35.6% of sites targeted (69.4% last year). There are three main reasons for this difference from previous years:

- Last year we targeted a higher proportion of sites in public ownership, whereas this year more letters were sent to private landowners.
- An effort was made at the start of the year to secure permission to survey woodland SINCS with no existing survey data. Often these are sites that are owned by landowners that have refused/not responded to past survey requests or are otherwise either unregistered or have ambiguous ownership.
- In contrast to previous years, most survey requests were made by email as opposed to paper letters (Fig.1), utilising publicly available contact details for estates and farms with large landholdings. Whilst this increases the total number of requests that can be sent out (there is less time-consuming admin work involved) and reduces the number of requests that end up with no response (as it is possible to send follow-up reminder emails), this also enabled more speculative requests to be sent to the nearest farm where our ownership data is incomplete. Many of these speculative requests would have been to people who were not SINC owners, reducing the positive return rate.

This year we trialled adding a QR code to our survey request letters to provide landowners with an alternative method of responding. The QR code linked to a Microsoft Form that allowed landowners to submit their details electronically. Seven landowners used this form to respond to the survey request. Most respondents still choose to use the pre-paid envelope to respond to us (Figure 1), but it is still proposed to keep this QR code in future survey programmes as it requires minimal effort to set up and provides landowners who do not live near letterboxes with a more convenient way of responding.

**Figure 1. Outcome of survey requests for SINC monitoring split by request method**



In total, 120 SINC were surveyed this year (very similar to last years' 122), which includes specific SINC monitoring requests, follow-on requests from the previous years and where SINC fall within other sites requested by partners.

### 4.3 Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEIs) Monitoring

This year, 14 road verges were surveyed under the RVEI scheme. Two of these are current RVEIs under special management; they are reviewed annually to ensure the management is taking place and is successful. One of the other surveys is an initial survey of a verge identified as potential RVEI quality, and another survey relates to a site which is due to undergo changes in management. The remainder are routine resurveys of existing RVEIs.

### 4.4 Purpose of Surveys

Figure 2a presents data on the purpose of surveys as a percentage of the number of requests; Figure 2b represents the data as a percentage of survey allocation time.

This year, 48.0% of survey programme requests were for SINC monitoring, which is very similar to last year (47.4%), continuing to reflect a normal pattern of SINC monitoring and partner requests. The figure is lower, at 38.1%, when considered as a percentage of the survey programme days. Again, this figure is similar to what was reported last year (39.4%). SINC monitoring still makes up the largest proportion of requests and survey days.

A further 14.9% of surveys have been requested to inform management. These requests have taken 18.0% the survey allocation time. These include surveys of HIWWT reserves, HCC Countryside Sites and sites owned by LAs. Most of the landowner-requested surveys also fall in this category. The figure last year was 12.5% for requests and 11.6% for survey allocation time.

New surveys to establish if there is any wildlife interest stand at 9.4% of requests and 6.0% of survey allocation time. This represents a decrease from last year when both of these percentages stood at 14.6%.

A new category of survey for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) surveys was added last year. This year, 17 sites were scheduled for surveys related to capturing baseline data for BNG, more than triple last year's number of five. These generally have included formal BNG survey to UKHABs and condition assessment. In some cases, habitat enhancements were proposed and BNG metrics were calculated. These requests total 8.4% of the total number of requests and 11.3% of survey time. It is anticipated that the number of requests for BNG surveys will continue to increase.

The number of surveys requested for Local Plan purposes decreased slightly from last year (6.4%, compared to 8.9% last year), but still reflects a drop to previous years where it was up at 21%. These requests took 6.3% of survey allocation time.

Requests for surveys for RVEIs comprised 6.4% of the number requests, a small drop from last year (8.3%). The amount of allocation time spent on road verge surveys was broadly

consistent with previous years at 3.4%, reflecting that road verges are often quite simple and quick to survey.

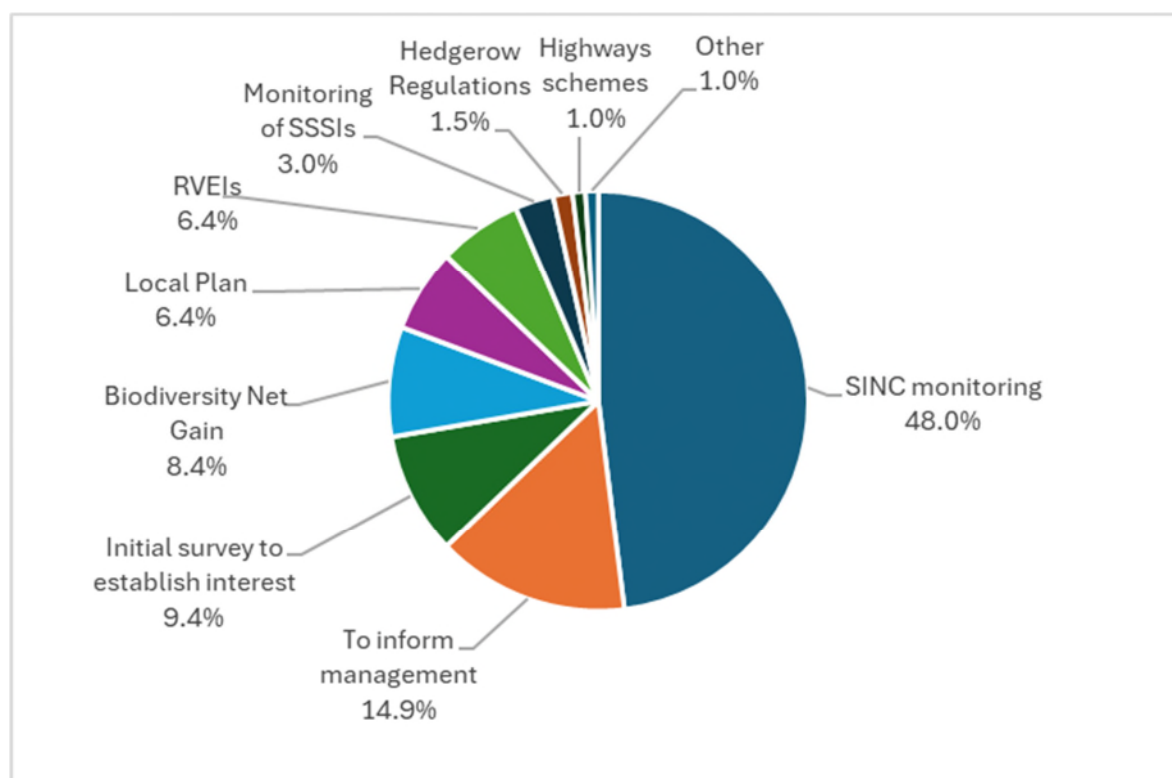
Monitoring of SSSIs comprised 3.0% of requests. This includes five compartments of Hazeley Heath SSSI that are treated as separate requests in our database. When considered as a percentage of survey allocation time, this figure increases to 14.9%. This includes the 46 days allocated to the resurvey of the Basingstoke Canal. Last year, surveys in this category represented 2.1% of requests and 13.4% of survey time.

We received three survey requests for Hedgerow Regulations assessment. These comprised 1.5% of requests, and 0.6% of survey time.

Two surveys have been requested to inform highways schemes, comprising 1.0% of the number of requests. One of these included a resurvey of a section of the River Meon, currently designated as a BOAT, over which there are concerns that vehicular access is damaging the river. The other request was to monitor the Holmsley Rail Bridge site following completion of works there. 1.3% of survey time was spent on these requests.

Two requests have a purpose marked as “other” in the below figures. These correspond to two requests for training/shadowing days with the SDNPA ranger team.

**Figure 2a. Purpose of Survey Requests – by number of requests**



**Figure 2b. Purpose of Survey Requests – by time spent**

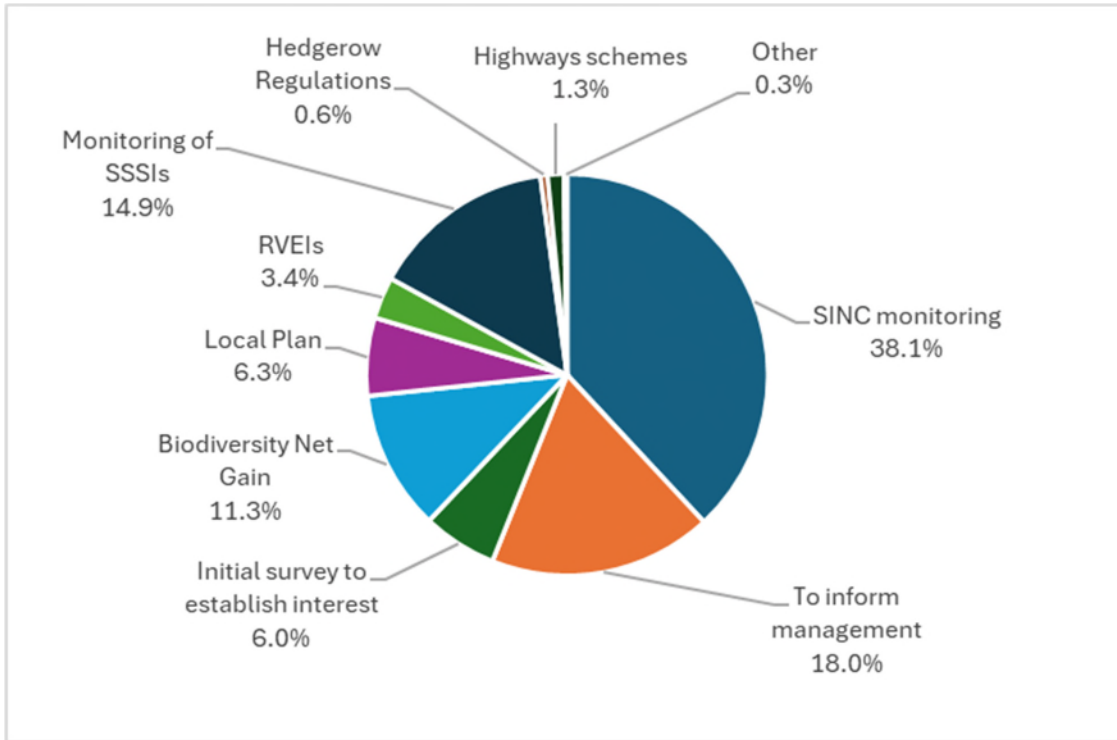
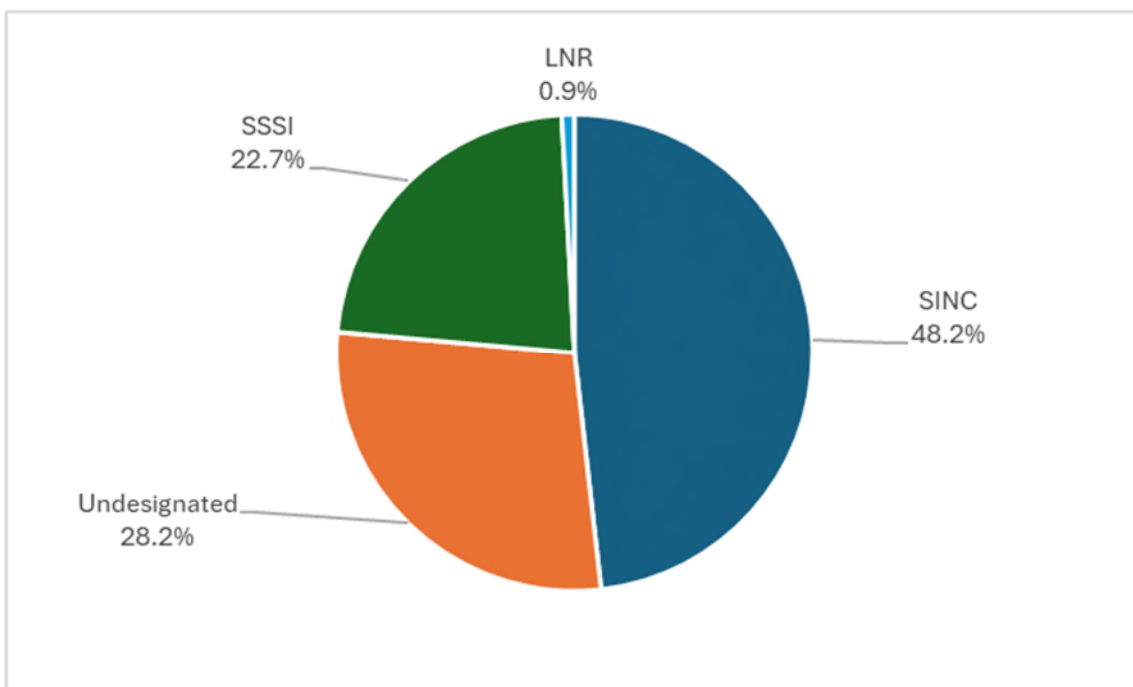


Figure 3 presents data on how the requests are divided by designation. This year, 48.2% of the survey allocation time was allocated to surveying SINCs, a slight decrease compared to last year (50.5%). 28.2% has been spent surveying undesignated land, again a small decrease from last year (29.2%). 22.7% of allocation has been spent on SSSI sites, an increase from last year (20.2%) due to the fact that this includes the Basingstoke Canal survey. Three subsites within a single LNR were also surveyed this year.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Survey Requests (allocation of time) by Designation**



#### 4.5 Additional surveys from spare capacity

This year, HBIC were commissioned by the Basingstoke Canal Authority to perform the 4-yearly-repeat survey of the wetland flora of Basingstoke Canal. The surveyor time needed to carry out this work was estimated at 46 days. To minimise the effect on the HBIC survey programme whilst still leaving some capacity to take on additional surveys, an external surveyor was contracted to provide additional survey capacity, up to a maximum of the full 46 days taken up by the Basingstoke Canal resurvey.

Excluding the time spent on Basingstoke Canal, we had 35.5 spare survey days this year. Five additional surveys were completed this year, with details shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Spare Survey Days**

Project	Partner	Survey Days	Data Management Days	Amount (excl VAT)	Mileage
Basingstoke Canal	n/a (Basingstoke Canal Authority)	46	19	£18,529.60	£745.20
Holmsley Bridge Monitoring	HCC Ecology	4	0.27	£1,490.20	£55.80
Land East of Basingstoke	HCC Ecology	6	0.27	£2,349.00	£58.05
North Whitely Secondary School	HCC Ecology	3	0.27	£1,804.50	£28.80
River Meon, Mill Lane, Droxford	HCC Ecology	1	0.27	£454.50	£11.25
Royal Winchester Golf Course (Teg Down)	n/a	10.5	4	£6,682.20	£4.05
<b>Total</b>		<b>70.5</b>	<b>24.81</b>	<b>£31,310.00</b>	<b>£903.15</b>
<b>Total (excluding Basingstoke Canal)</b>		<b>24.5</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>£12,780.40</b>	<b>£157.95</b>

Philip Fernandes, HBIC Ecologist & Sarah Callegari, Acting HBIC Manager

## 4.6 Highlights of the 2024 Survey Year

### Ian Ralphs, Field Ecologist, HBIC

The 2024 survey season started in earnest on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and ran until 14<sup>th</sup> October, covering roughly 100 sites, plus the Basingstoke Canal monitoring, which took a full 22 days from early June until early July. The step count for this six-month period well exceeded 1.3 million.

The years' highlights as always are many and varied, but Brittle Bladder-fern at a lock gate on Surrey section 24 of the Basingstoke Canal, was only the second time I've seen this delicate fern outside my native North Wales, and recording both Stone Curlew and Great White Egret (and Long-stalked Yellow-sedge) on the same farm on the same day in September was a super "day-double".

I spent a significant amount of time on both HIWWT and HCC reserves undertaking detailed vegetation monitoring, and as always it was a real treat to visit reserves that have undergone significant management input and are showing continued improvement with careful stewardship from the reserve managers.

Once a year I lead a training day for the HBIC staff, this year the day was 8<sup>th</sup> July and we were able to spend the day at both Hurst Castle and, with the kind permission of Pete Durnell, the Keyhaven and Pennington Marshes nature reserve. Although not the driest day of the year we were able to catch up with a mouth-watering variety of species including, Fox-tail Stonewort, Spiral Tasselweed, Beaked Tasselweed, Dotted Sedge, Parsley Water-dropwort, Divided Sedge, Sea Wormwood, Bulbous Meadow-grass, Toothed Medick, Ray's Knotgrass, Golden Samphire and Rough Dog's-tail.



**Joel Miller, Field Ecologist, HBIC**

Looking back at survey highlights from previous years, I generally write about how surveying the big sites is best, wandering around all day and getting lost in nature. Well, I now know a way of spoiling all of that – Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). It takes all day and gets you lost in tables and forms, and the cold, mechanical drabness of giving nature a score. Like golf, BNG is a good walk spoiled. Moaning aside, the shiny new BNG era truly started this summer. It will be intriguing to find see just how much future work will be BNG-based.

Enough about the technical habitat surveying, let's get onto all the pretty flowers. Well, a bit of a top-loaded season for these. Visits to Beachlands, Hayling Island in spring, resulted in a plethora of rarities and new species for me. It also resulted in me probably spending more time scouring the ground on my knees than walking. Eventually I did manage to find many of the species the area is famous for - Bur Chervil, Heath Pearlwort, Bird's-foot Clover, Marram Grass, Mossy Stonecrop, Toothed Medick, Lyme Grass, Dune fescue, Bulbous Meadow-grass Sand Cat's-tail, Sand Couch and Little Robin.



The rest of the season could not compete with this glut of floristic delight. However, springtime surveys of woodland near Wickham were delightful and the FC site at West Walk was a fun few days, trying to find remnant standing Small-leaved Lime within the plantations. A visit to an old estate near the Meons showed an interesting case of historic parkland on downland, succeeding to woodland and now potentially reverting back thanks to the decimations of ash dieback.

Other highlights include returning to the positive success story of the chalk downland on Magdalen Hill Down and the potential success story of the generously named 'The Mountain' where Round-headed Rampion and Juniper still reside. Finding Dune Fescue's more hirsute cousin, Bearded Fescue on a roadside near Woolmer was also good.

I finished the year with two big surveys reflecting how on-trend HBIC is. A survey of an estate near Fareham, which is to be rewilded (truly the management choice *du jour*) found plenty of exciting potential for wildlife benefit. The other survey was a BNG survey of course, tramping long hours up and down a downland golf course, battling errant tee shots and fly-away forms.

## 5. SINC Programme

### 5.1 Work for the July 2024 SINC Panel - See Table 4 and section 4.1.1 for details.

- All HBIC surveys carried out until 2022 have now been evaluated against the SINC criteria.
- Due to the large number of sites involved, it was decided that the proposals resulting from these evaluations would be split across the next two SINC Panels.
- The first batch of 63 SINC was sent to the Panel on 25 July 2024. Due to staffing changes at Natural England, the list of SINC was eventually sent to them at the later date of 9 August. Panel members were given just over a month to respond with their decisions.
- 11 new SINC were proposed, 8 SINC were proposed for deletion and 43 SINC had major amendments proposed to the boundary and/or criteria (Table 4).
- The Panel meeting was held on 23 September 2024.
- One major boundary amendment was rejected by the Panel. Another two deletions were withdrawn by HBIC due to new information which was gained between compiling the list of SINC and holding the SINC Panel Meeting (the SINC Panel approved the initial deletions but subsequently agreed to retain the two SINC because of the new information).
- Landowner notification letters were sent out w/c 7 October 2024 and landowners were given until the end of the month to raise objections or comments.
- Following the 31 October deadline, no landowners had submitted formal objections, and so the proposed changes were made to the HBIC SINC layer on 1 November 2024
- The SINC Panel consisted of Sarah Jackson (HIWWT), Megan Owen (HCC) and Helen Demopoulos (NE).

**Table 4: Number of Proposed new/amended/deleted SINC evaluated from 2020-2022 survey data and submitted to the SINC Panel in July 2024.**

Partner	New SINC	Amended SINC	Deleted SINC	Total
Basingstoke & Deane BC	1	1	0	2
Eastleigh BC	0	1	0	1
East Hampshire DC	2	3	1	6
Fareham BC	0	1	0	1
Gosport BC	0	1	0	1
HCC – Countryside Service <sup>1</sup>	0	1	0	1
HCC – Ecology <sup>1</sup>	0	0	1	1
Hart DC	4	4	2	10
Havant BC	0	7	0	7
Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust <sup>1</sup>	2	2	0	4
New Forest DC	0	2	1	3
New Forest NPA	0	2	1	3
Portsmouth CC	0	1	0	1

Partner	New SINC	Amended SINC	Deleted SINC	Total
Rushmoor BC	0	0	0	0
Southampton CC	0	2	0	2
South Downs NPA	2	12	1	15
Test Valley BC	0	0	0	0
Winchester CC	0	4	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>

**Notes:**

1 – Proposals listed for HCC – CS, HCC – Ecology, and HIWWT have been subtracted from respective LPA totals

**5.1.1 Details of the proposed New/Deleted/Amended SINC**

**Deleted SINC:** The 8 deleted SINC

- 2 SINC
- 2 SINC
- 1 SINC
- 1 SINC
- 1 SINC
- 1 SINC
- 1 SINC

**New SINC:** The 11 new SINC

- 5 areas of previously unsurveyed ancient woodland, plantation on ancient woodland or wet woodland
- 1 area of afforested heathland
- 1 area of species-rich calcareous grassland
- 1 area of recently (pre-2011) recreated species-rich hay meadow
- 1 area of fen meadow/purple moor grass and rush pasture priority habitat
- 1 area of open freshwater supporting a good floristic assemblage
- 1 area of reedbeds and saltmarsh that is excluded from the adjacent SSSI, likely due to a mapping error

**Amended SINC:** The 44 amended SINC

- 21 SINC

- 6 SINC where the habitat had shown a decline in quality or actual loss due to inappropriate management, forcing a boundary or criteria change
- 6 SINC which had lost some habitat, because of development, amenity, or extended gardens
- 5 SINC whereby the habitat had reflected a positive change, usually because of good management, restoration or re-creation, enabling a criteria change or boundary extension
- 5 SINC with major boundary amendments marked as data correction/reinterpretation. The quality of habitats in these SINC has not necessarily changed but a different approach to digitising SINC boundaries has resulted in a change in SINC area. This includes the removal of the heavily managed greens and fairways from a golf course SINC, leading to a loss of 33.65ha of SINC area.
  - One of these amendments was rejected by the SINC Panel. This was an area of amenity lawn next to a strip of saltmarsh habitat in Southampton that the panel retained under criterion 7A (social value).
- 1 SINC where agricultural improvement has reduced the quality of grassland habitat, leading to a criteria change

In total, following the SINC Panel and the landowner objection period, new SINC account for an additional 60.39ha (up from 45.8ha last year), deleted SINC a loss of 8.9ha (up from 2.2ha last year), and amended SINC a net loss of 41.74ha (down from a net gain of 33ha last year, including candidate amendments). Combined, this results in a **total gain of 9.75ha in SINC coverage** (against a total gain of 76.5ha last year). This figure is heavily influenced by the substantial boundary amendment to the golf course SINC, excluding this amendment would change this statistic to a net gain of 43.40ha. There are currently 4,153 confirmed SINC in Hampshire.

## 5.2 Work carried out for the 2025 SINC Panel

The remainder of 2023 survey data (and priority sites from 2024, plus some sites surveyed between 2020-2022 that were not evaluated in time for the 2024 SINC Panel) was sent to the panel at the beginning of February 2025 and reviewed by the panel in March. However, due to staffing issues, the panel sign off meeting has yet to take place (hope is for late May/early June). Survey data from 2024 is currently being evaluated and prepared for the November 2025 panel.

NE has confirmed that it will no longer be able to give resource to the SINC Panel. Andy Barker has been approached as a third, independent all-round naturalist with experience of the SINC system. He is unable to assist with this panel but should be able to sit on the November 2025 panel.

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

Partner	Preparation of SINC list for September 2024 SINC Panel (hrs) <sup>1</sup>	Preparation of SINC list for April 2024 SINC Panel (hrs) <sup>1</sup>	Initial evaluation of 2024 survey data (hrs) <sup>2</sup>	Total time spent to date (hrs)
BDBC	9	31.5	5.00	<b>45.50</b>
EBC	4.5	18	1.50	<b>24.00</b>

Partner	Preparation of SINC lists for September 2024 SINC Panel (hrs) <sup>1</sup>	Preparation of SINC lists for April 2024 SINC Panel (hrs) <sup>1</sup>	Initial evaluation of 2024 survey data (hrs) <sup>2</sup>	Total time spent to date (hrs)
EHDC	27	45	5.50	<b>77.50</b>
FBC	4.5	22.5	2.38	<b>29.38</b>
GBC	4.5	18	0.50	<b>23.00</b>
HCC – CS	4.5	4.5	2.50	<b>11.50</b>
HCC – Ecology	4.5	36	3.50	<b>44.00</b>
HDC	45	27	0.50	<b>72.50</b>
HvBC	31.5	13.5	0.75	<b>45.75</b>
HIWWT	18	13.5	0.75	<b>32.25</b>
NFDC	13.5	31.5	4.00	<b>49.00</b>
NFNPA	13.5	36	3.50	<b>53.00</b>
PCC	4.5	9	0.75	<b>14.25</b>
RBC	0	18	1.75	<b>19.75</b>
SCC	9	18	2.25	<b>29.25</b>
SDNPA	67.5	36	3.00	<b>106.50</b>
TVBC	0	22.5	4.75	<b>27.25</b>
WCC	22.5	40.5	3.38	<b>66.38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>283.5 (38.3 days)</b>	<b>441.0 (59.6 days)</b>	<b>46.25 (6.25 days)</b>	<b>770.75 (104.2 days)</b>

**Notes:**

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

2 - Time spent evaluating 2024 survey data by field ecologists – to be undertaken in February 2025 (0.25 hr/site). Excludes any SSSIs and hedgerows surveyed. One site on the FBC/WCC boundary has been split equally between the two partners.

From the data in Table 5, HBIC have spent in total **104.2 days (~0.40 FTE)** maintaining the SINC system, based on the calculations in the footnotes. This is considerably higher than last year (when 32 days were spent on the SINC system) and represents the opportunity to clear the backlog afforded by taking on Phil Fernandes full-time. This figure does not include time spent dealing with landowner comments/objections to notifications (which can be time-consuming) or time spent on minor amendments. Separate time spent dealing with landowners and other interested parties who have queries on SINC are logged in the data request database and allocated to Districts/Unitaries under 'non-chargeable data requests'.

### 5.3 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 now early January following the year of survey. This was a new deadline introduced two years ago to allow County Highways time to update their GIS systems and get the information in the correct format to the contractors and districts before the start of the new contract year in April. Prior to this, RVEIs were generally evaluated much later in the following year, and changes to mowing regimes might not have been implemented until 2 years after the survey.

#### 5.3.1 Work carried out for the Jan 2025 update to County Highways

14 verges were surveyed this year. The reports and RVEI evaluations for these were completed in December 2024, and the list and GIS layer of new, amended, and deleted RVEIs were sent to Highways in early January 2025.

Three new RVEIs have been proposed; two for species interest and one for lowland meadow flora. One of these is a new site with records of tower mustard (*Arabis glabra*), a species with a high degree of notability, being listed on Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006), the IUCN Red List (Endangered – GB), and is both Nationally Scarce and County Scarce. This verge will join an existing RVEI with tower mustard records as requiring special management going forwards.

Only one RVEI has been proposed for deletion. This is in a site where the road has been recently realigned. Areas of good-quality habitat still remain; these have been merged with an adjacent RVEI. A further four RVEIs have had amendments made to their boundary and/or management schedule.

Philip Fernandes, HBIC Ecologist

#### 5.4 Indicator SD160 Local Sites in positive conservation management

Defra paused the collection of data for this indicator for two years due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In March 2022 they resumed requesting data from local authorities for the 2021-22 year but “Due to the high resource demand on data providers, and the effect on quality of a declining response rate” they then considered discontinuing it. The response rate in 2021/22 (47%) was the lowest it has been since this publication began.

However, since then, Defra have decided that with the advent of Local Nature Recovery Strategies that having data on the management of SINC’s would be a good thing and so have decided to continue with the indicator. Percentage returns from local authorities have since dropped to 46% for the 22/23 period.

See [ENV10 - Local sites in positive conservation management - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/env10-local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management)

Hampshire County Council has not reported on this indicator since 2011 due to lack of resources and concern over the usefulness of the indicator. Previous time spent on collating data for this Indicator has never been included within the partnership SLAs. However, HBIC has been recording condition on SINC’s it has surveyed over the past 10 years – now standing at over 1,000 SINC’s. The stats produced will ensure that SINC’s known to be in poor or uncertain condition will be included in the LNRS mapping for biodiversity improvements.

**Table 6: Number of SINC’s in positive and negative management**

Total Number of SINC’s	Total Number of SINC’s in positive management	Total Number of SINC’s in negative management	Total number of SINC’s in unknown	SINC’s surveyed in 2024/25	
				Number of SINC’s in positive management	Number of SINC’s in negative management
4163	1721 (41%)	693 (17%)	1,749 (42%)	51	36

Nicky Court, HBIC Manager

## 6. Provision of data

### 6.1 GIS Data to partners

7. Protected/Notable species and Invasive species layers: update provided in May 2024. Next update May/June 2025.
8. SINC: update provided February 2025. Next update February 2026
9. RVEI layer: an update provided February 2025. Next update February 2026.
10. Broad & Priority Habitats - update sent out February 2025. Next update August 2025.
11. Biosites: update provided in April 2024. Next update May 2025.
12. SDNPA layers sent out end of mid-April 2025 for 2025/26. Species layers for SDNPA to follow in May/June 2025. Next layers March 2026.
13. Swift layer of breeding hotspots: update sent January 2024. Next update May/June 2025

**Table 7: GIS data to Partners**

Partner	Protected & Notable Species	Non-Native Invasive Species	Broad & Priority Habitats	Biosites	SINCs	RVEIs	Swifts
B'stokes & Deane BC	13/05/24	13/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
East Hants DC	13/05/24	13/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Eastleigh BC	13/05/24	13/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Fareham BC	13/05/24	13/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Gosport BC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Hart DC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Havant BC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
New Forest DC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
NFNPA	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Portsmouth CC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Rushmoor BC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Southampton CC	14/08/24	14/08/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Test Valley BC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Winchester CC	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Forest Enterprise	14/08/24	14/08/24			03/02/25		
HCC Countryside	21/05/24	21/05/24	04/04/24	**	**	**	
HCC Universal Serv.	03/05/24	03/05/24	27/01/25	08/05/24	31/01/25	31/01/25	19/01/24
HIWWT	15/08/24	15/08/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Nat. England (1)	11/03/16	11/03/16			27/08/15		
Env. Agency (2)	31/05/23	31/05/23	31/05/23		04/08/23		
Portsmouth Water	20/05/24	20/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
SDNPA	13/05/24	13/05/24	15/04/25		15/04/25	15/04/25	
Southern Water	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Thames Water (3)	17/05/24	17/05/24		08/05/24	19/01/24	17/05/19	
Wessex Water	17/05/24	17/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24
Southwest Water	20/05/24	20/05/24	03/02/25	08/05/24	03/02/25	03/02/25	19/01/24

(1) Natural England no longer fund HBIC for county-wide datasets.

(2) EA do not receive Broad habitats

(3) Thames Water have withdrawn from their data supply agreement as of July 2024 due to their financial circumstances and have deleted all data from their databases.

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

Wolfgang Ritter, HBIC Senior Ecologist

## 6.2 Data requests

An unusually large job from Network Rail at the start of the year has been excluded from these figures (job number 12329) as it appears separately in the SLA table. Two requests relating to ongoing HBIC partnership work for the LNRS project work have also been excluded (job number 12538 and 12878) as they are funded from the LNRS budget.

99% of data requests were responded to within the target of 10 working days, consistent with last year.

**Table 8: Data requests summary**

Summary	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23
Total no. of requests	892	944	826
Total no. of chargeable requests	706	688	643
Total time logged (hrs)	875.25	1072	870
Total time logged to chargeable requests (hrs)	764	828	699
Proportion of time chargeable	87%	77%	80%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£208,109.77</b>	<b>£192,115</b>	<b>£170,091</b>

HBIC's data request target income for 2024-25 was £190,000 in the 2024-27 Business Plan.

**Table 9: Data requests allocated to each partner**

Partner	Total Enquiries	Total Time	Chargeable Time	Non Chargeable Time
Basingstoke & Deane BC	113	108.5	97.25	11.25
Eastleigh BC	46	45.8	42.5	3.3
East Hampshire DC	85	78.75	70.4	8.35
Fareham BC	27	24.65	21.9	2.75
Forestry England	1	0.25	0	0.25
Gosport BC	13	14	13	1
HBIC (Note 1)	47	35.13	16.25	18.88
HCC Countryside Service	3	5	0	5
HCC – Ecology Team	2	1	0	1
HCC Highways (Note 3)	1	0.5	0.5	0
Hart DC	52	53	51	2
Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust	2	2	1	1
Havant BC	31	31.53	27.9	3.63
New Forest DC	77	70.37	65	5.37
New Forest NPA	78	73.62	61	12.62
Portsmouth CC	16	14.35	12.9	1.45
Portsmouth Water	1	0.5	0	0.5
Rushmoor BC	11	11	10.75	0.25
Southampton CC	37	35.1	29.75	5.35
South Downs NPA	41	42.45	33.9	8.55
Southern Water	7	5	0	5
South West Water	1	1	0	1
Test Valley BC	125	123	118.75	4.25
Winchester CC	98	98.75	90.25	8.5
<b>(Note 2) Total</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>875.25</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>111.25</b>

(Note 1) Includes time spent on requests carried out to support recording groups, developing relationships with new partners and time spent re-directing out of county requests.

(Note 2) The total number of enquiries includes those 'double-counted' where they are allocated a proportion of time spent to more than one partner organisation.

(Note 3) There is a separate levy applied to all HCC development projects by the Ecology Team when accessing HBIC data

**Table 10: Data requests by type of enquirer**

Contact Type	Total Enquiries	Total Time	Total
Consultancy/Developer	736	748.3	£202,929.77
Landowner/Agent/Tenant	17	19.25	£2,936.00
Member of the public/Local group	23	19	£1,210.00
Non-Governmental Organisation	18	18.5	£1,034.00
Local Authority/Parish Council	48	31.9	£0.00
Consultancy/Developer (for Partner)	21	10.25	£0.00
Government Agency	9	7.75	£0.00
Public Utility (for Partner)	6	5.25	£0.00
Researcher/Student/School/College	5	5	£0.00
Local Record Centre	3	5	£0.00
National Park Authority	5	4.55	£0.00
Public Utility	1	0.5	£0.00

**Table 11: Data requests by reason**

Enquiry Reason	
Proposed development/EIA	747
Conservation/Land management	65
SINC Query	26
Utilities	17
Research/Study	15
Community/Planning	8
Other (Note 1)	8
Woodland Creation (Note 2)	4
Parish Pollinator Network	2

(Note 1) Five of the 'other' reasons were data requests to support police investigations. The sixth 'other' reason was a HCC Highways request for White Letter Hairstreak records to inform the additional and replacement planting of Dutch Elm disease-resistant elms. The seventh 'other' reason was a request for status and distribution data of Cetti's Warbler by HCC Ecology to inform noise disturbance mitigation during site works. The eighth 'other' reason was a request for data to inform a nature booklet to be sold for charity.

(Note 2) The FC England Woodland Creation Offer grant scheme requires a HBIC data search before applications are considered

Natalie Harvey, HBIC Ecologist

### 6.3 Production of Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report for District AMRs

As in previous years HBIC produced an Annual Biodiversity Monitoring Report in the autumn/winter covering changes in 2023-2024 for:

- Area covered by different priority habitats and designated sites by district.
- Extent of priority habitats within designated sites by district
- Conditions of SSSIs by District.
- Extent and number of SINCs and reasons for loss by district.

All GIS layers had been archived at the end of March 2024 and the figures were broken down by district using GIS models, an Access database and VBA scripts to make the extraction of the statistics quicker and easier. The report was sent in December 2024 to partners and is available on our web pages along with previous year's reports.

[HBIC policies and reports | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Wolfgang Ritter, HBIC Senior Ecologist

## 7. Screening Planning Lists

**Table 12: Planning applications screened for each partner organisation**

District/Partner	Checked	Flagged	Hours spent pro rata
East Hampshire DC	798	253 (32%)	39
East Hampshire DC - SDNP	573	238 (42%)	37
Fareham BC	961	319 (33%)	49
Gosport BC	375	137 (37%)	21
Hampshire CC	47	28 (60%)	4
Havant BC	742	232 (31%)	36
New Forest DC	1,056	536 (51%)	82
New Forest NP	1,298	436 (34%)	67
Test Valley BC	2,139	592 (28%)	91
Winchester CC	1,497	520 (35%)	80
Winchester CC - SDNP	457	155 (34%)	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,943</b>	<b>3,446 (35%)</b>	<b>530</b>
<b>Total 2023-24 Total</b>	12,085	3,696 (31%)	572
<b>Total 2022-23 Total</b>	12,350	3,623 (29%)	572

We stopped checking applications for Basingstoke and Deane at the end of November 2023, and Eastleigh at the end of March 2024. These two districts combined accounted for 1,559 of the 12,085 applications checked during 2023-24.

An average of 10 hours per week pro rata is currently spent on the screening, based on numbers flagged, down from 11 hours per week.

### Highways

#### Screening road works which may affect a Road Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI)

**Table 13: Road Verge Screening**

	New	Flagged	Time Spent (hours)
<b>2024-25</b>	391	119 (30.4%)	53
<b>2023-24</b>	309	73 (23.6%)	52
<b>2022-23</b>	566	94 (15.4%)	53

A weekly spreadsheet is sent to the HBIC Inbox from Highways containing all new road works which may affect a Road Verge of Ecological Importance (RVEI). 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. Approximately one hour per week is spent on this despite an increasing number – the Confirm system is now easier to navigate.

A review of RVEIs to ensure that all records on Confirm match the current GIS layer was undertaken in September 2024. A total of 60 past designations were removed, and six were added.

### **Cultivation Licences**

We are being consulted by Hampshire County Council when they receive a cultivation licence application. HBIC comments on the proposed seed mix and the areas proposed, especially in relation to existing RVEI's and SINCS.

We commented on 14 completed cultivation licence applications through the Confirm system.

Guidance is published on the HCC website [Apply for a licence or consent to plant alongside the highway | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/apply-for-a-licence-or-consent-to-plant-alongside-the-highway)

Natalie Harvey, HBIC Ecologist

## 8. Data Holdings (to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025)

**Table 14: Total Species data holdings by database**

Database	Total no. of species	Total no. of records to April 2024	Total no. of records to end of March 2025	An increase of...
<b>MapMate</b> ( <i>From the species recording groups</i> )	<b>10,544</b>	<b>5,093,765</b>	<b>5,098,346</b>	<b>4,581</b>
<b>Recorder</b> ( <i>Vascular plants from HBIC surveys, plus Stag beetles, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Butterflies, recent HOS records and Bryophytes</i> )	<b>17,233</b>	<b>5,553,085</b>	<b>6,257,337</b>	<b>704,252</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,955</b>	<b>10,646,850</b>	<b>11,355,683</b>	<b>708,833</b>

Approximately **21%** of all species records held in MapMate and Recorder are protected and/or notable species. This figure has stayed remarkably consistent with previous years.

**Table 15: Data holdings MapMate and Recorder**

Group	Total no of records in Recorder	Total no of records in MapMate	Total no of records	Total no of notable or protected records	Net change over the year
Amoebozoa		3	3		0
Amphibians & Reptiles	64,794	27,976	92,770	47,407	7,924
Bacteria	3	2	5		0
Birds	2,612,826	825,675	3,438,501	1,515,472	504,717
Fish	14,540	2,229	16,769	6,034	9
Fungi	63,338	927	64,265	1,412	66
Higher plants - Clubmosses & Quillworts	131	1,119	1,250	1,230	20
Higher plants - Conifers	9,879	13,395	23,274	1,294	412
Higher plants - Ferns	26,833	32,895	59,728	2,788	869
Higher plants - Flowering Plants	1,045,231	1,254,280	2,299,511	108,378	36,641
Higher plants - Horsetails	3,747	4,783	8,530	538	140
Invertebrates - Acarina	61	2	63		0
Invertebrates - Annelida	18,769	40	18,809	25	0
Invertebrates - Araneae	1,423	4,746	6,169	399	1
Invertebrates - Archaeognatha	7	1	8		0
Invertebrates - Blattaria	308	242	550	488	91
Invertebrates - Bryozoa		1	1		0
Invertebrates - Chilopoda		131	131	0	0
Invertebrates - Cnidaria	2,735	1	2,736	28	0
Invertebrates - Coleoptera	45,827	69,376	115,203	27,072	3
Invertebrates - Collembola		5	5		0
Invertebrates - Crustacea	11,486	1,186	12,672	764	-4

Group	Total no of records in Recorder	Total no of records in MapMate	Total no of records	Total no of notable or protected records	Net change over the year
Invertebrates - Dermaptera	560	625	1,185	66	0
Invertebrates - Diplopoda	4	121	125	0	0
Invertebrates - Diptera	19,277	49,166	68,443	4,731	-12
Invertebrates - Echinodermata	329	2	331	10	0
Invertebrates - Ephemeroptera	10,881	148	11,029	451	0
Invertebrates - Hemiptera	2,708	19,271	21,979	589	-7
Invertebrates - Hymenoptera	29,420	39,011	68,431	6,188	-2
Invertebrates - Lepidoptera	2,006,352	2,627,663	4,634,015	527,035	152,819
Invertebrates - Mantodea	1	3	4		0
Invertebrates - Mecoptera	7	159	166		0
Invertebrates - Megaloptera	747	44	791	18	0
Invertebrates - Mollusca	23,698	2,783	26,481	1,105	0
Invertebrates - Nematoda	3		3		0
Invertebrates - Neuroptera	32	326	358	1	-2
Invertebrates - Odonata	119,910	6,527	126,437	7,543	28
Invertebrates - Orthoptera	10,094	5,038	15,132	2,632	-90
Invertebrates - Phasmatodea	23		23		0
Invertebrates - Platyhelminthes	1,821		1,821		0
Invertebrates - Plecoptera	1,688	51	1,739	25	0
Invertebrates - Porifera	2,159	1	2,160	4	0
Invertebrates - Pseudoscorpionida	1		1		0
Invertebrates - Psocoptera	7	22	29		0
Invertebrates - Raphidioptera	10	22	32		0
Invertebrates - Thysanoptera	3		3		0
Invertebrates - Thysanura		4	4		0
Invertebrates - Trichoptera	21,012	777	21,789	609	-4
Invertebrates - Turbellaria		2	2		0
Invertebrates - Urochordata	1,743		1,743	19	0
Lichens	48,924	905	49,829	7,419	103
Lower plants - Algae	3,297	72	3,369	21	0
Lower plants - Liverworts, Hornworts & Mosses	28,384	4,225	32,609	4,326	393
Lower plants - Stoneworts	76	293	369	298	5
Mammals - Marine	1	1,047	1,048	1,049	0
Mammals - Terrestrial (bats)	6	57,918	57,924	57,873	4,629
Mammals - Terrestrial (non-bats)	2,221	43,105	45,326	21,974	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,257,337</b>	<b>5,098,346</b>	<b>11,355,683</b>	<b>2,357,315</b>	<b>708,833</b>

Large increases are usually due to the annual or biannual major updates from key species groups with data exchange agreements (birds, moths, butterflies, vascular plants, mammals, bats, amphibians & reptiles), minor changes are normally due to data corrections.

**Updates provided so far this year are as follows:**

- Three updates from Hampshire Bat group (imported 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024). A fourth update was provided in February and imported after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- HOS records for 2023 (imported 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024).
- BSBI records as at 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 (imported 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024). BSBI records as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025.
- Butterfly Conservation records for 2023 (imported 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024).
- ARC update for 2024 (imported 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024). This was an overwrite of older ARC records, with additional 2024 data.
- HARRN update for 2024.

We plan to re-import all HOS's previous records again, to replace what we have as 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.

An email was sent to North-East Hampshire Badger Group in August 2024 to revisit earlier discussions regarding setting up a data sharing agreement. We have received some records directly from The Badger Trust as part of their State of the Badger Pilot project, which involved local badger group volunteers.

We expect to soon receive 2024 records from Hampshire Mammal Group, and 2023 moth data from HantsMoths.

**There are plans to collate the following additional data sets, in order of priority (subject to workloads):**

- Crayfish from HIWWT (only 10km resolution data available from i-record which is where we were directed, follow-up needed)
- The following datasets from the NBN gateway will also be freshly downloaded and imported; 'Aquatic **Heteroptera** Dataset' provided by Aquatic Heteroptera Recording Scheme, 'Atomariine Beetle (**Coleoptera**) records for Britain and Ireland to 1992', 'Ciidae (**Coleoptera**) records from Britain and Ireland to 2004', 'Cranefly (**Diptera**; Tipuloidea) records for Britain to 2016', 'Invertebrate Common Standards Monitoring and ISIS Test Data' dataset which Natural England maintain, 'Ladybird Survey of the UK', , 'Soldier Beetle and Jewel Beetle (**Coleoptera**; Cantharoidea and Buprestoidea) records for Britain and Ireland to 2000' and others.

## Changes with MapMate

HBIC is increasingly facing problems with using MapMate as HCC IT can no longer install it on the HCC network due to the age of the underlying Access database. For that reason, HBIC are independently running two unsupported laptops for it. The data is safe as it is backed up on the HCC server after every import, it is the querying of the number of records within MapMate and the running of the MapMate program that is the difficulty. HBIC hopes to move away from using MapMate for data exchange as it is becoming increasingly difficult to transfer to newer versions of Windows and further development updates are not planned by the MapMate software developer.

The latest MapMate newsletter advised that MapMate creator, Mark Yeates, is planning to retire. From 1st December inclusive, no new business transactions will be accepted and no more MapMate licences will be issued or renewed. User support, updates, maintenance of infrastructure will be maintained through private funding until the last licence has expired. The topic has been raised on the ALERC Knowledge Hub forum, and a discussion session was held at the 2025 HBIC Annual Recorder's Forum.

We no longer receive MapMate updates from the BSBI directly, we instead get an extract of the central BSBI Database which includes MapMate records and subsequent edits to the data. The HARRN update for 2024 was provided as a spreadsheet for import into Recorder, and Hampshire Mammal group will provide data in the same format as HIWWT is no longer supporting MapMate software. MapMate is still used for data exchange with Hampshire Bat Group, Richard Dickson, Hampshire Swift group and for moths. We have previously discussed working with Hampshire Bat Group to move their data into Recorder and to develop reporting for them which they can use for their own data requests (as they currently do within MapMate).

### Currently we organise our data holdings as follows:

- Newer HOS records are held in Recorder, Older HOS records are still in MapMate at present.
- Each year the previous HBIC 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 moth data from Butterfly Conservation only
- Another copy (Identification **5pw**) holds all other MapMate data.
- Any stand-alone datasets received will be imported into Recorder.

Natalie Harvey, HBIC Ecologist and  
Wolfgang Ritter, HBIC Senior Ecologist

## 9. Additional Community Recording

### 9.1 BioBlitz Events

HBIC provided the data entry and support for a BioBlitz event at Itchen Valley Country Park on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Ian and Natalie attended, and a total of 871 records were made, for 511 different species.

50% of time spent by HBIC supporting BioBlitz events is either allocated to SLAs or charged for separately. The other 50% is in-kind and allocated to a 'community engagement' time code.

The farm advisor from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group had enquired into HBIC attendance for a BioBlitz at The Holt on 15<sup>th</sup> June but eventually declined due to funding.

### 9.2 Living Record

HBIC continue to support 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 download relevant records to incorporate into their databases. It is particularly useful for people wanting to record across taxon groups. Lizzy previously noted that use of Living Record is declining year on year, and the total for 2024-25 (41,274) is less than the equivalent period in 2023-24 (51,026). HIWARG, HMG and Butterfly Conservation wish to stop using Living record, mainly due to the time-consuming verification procedure. BSBI prefer it, as do the HCC Countryside rangers - they can see what is recorded within their areas instantly.

**Table 16: Living Record Verification (showing records entered between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2025 for Hampshire)**

Hampshire Subject	Total	New	Record Cleaner		Query	Reject	Accept	Locked
			Pass	Fail				
Mammals (excluding bats)	270	268					2	
Bats	539	63						476
Birds	3,979	300			4		588	3,087
Reptiles	270	224						46
ARC Reptile Survey	545				304			241
Amphibians	98	19						79
ARC Natterjack Toad Survey (2018-)	413	6						407
Insects: Bees, Wasps & Ants	275	260					15	
Insects: Moths	9,076	1,239	445		36	12	170	7,174
Insects: Butterflies	2,998	325			2		37	2,634
Insects: Flies (Diptera)	14	14						
Insects: Beetles	27	27						
Insects: Orthoptera - Grasshoppers etc.	6	5					1	
Insects: Bugs	5	5						
Insects: Dragonflies	455	455						

Hampshire Subject	Total	New	Record Cleaner		Query	Reject	Accept	Locked
			Pass	Fail				
Spiders, Harvestmen & Pseudoscorpions	6	6						
Vascular plants	22,262				23	12		22,227
Plant Galls	1	1						
Bryophytes	2	2						
Fungi	7	6					1	
Marine Fish	1	1						
Marine Molluscs – slugs, snails, chitons, squid, etc.	1	1						
Bats by life stage (Glos)	9	9						
Dragons (for training)	4	4						
Source to Sea method - for invasive plants	11	11						
Totals	41,274	3,251	445		369	24	814	36,371

**Key to table:**

- “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.

Time will be spent by HBIC making sure local and national recording groups have received all relevant records to date.

Natalie Harvey, HBIC Ecologist

## 10. Updating the GIS Habitat Layer & Dataset

Since April 2024, excellent progress has been made on clearing the backlog of survey reports awaiting digitisation into the HLU Tool. The 2020 surveys are nearly all translated except for 2. These will be entered as soon as possible. The 2021 surveys were completed on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 2022 surveys were completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, and 2023 surveys were completed on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025. 2024 survey reports are currently being written up and verified. 5 days a week was being spent on HLU Tool work; however, this has now reduced for a while due to helping with LNRS GIS tasks and to cover data requests and planning screening.

Some time is used to improve the broad habitat layer by looking at polygons currently classed as 'unidentified' habitats and using aerial photos to reclassify them. Most of these are new developments that were not finished when the update using Ordnance Survey MasterMap took place. Other polygons have turned out to be playing fields or allotments.

Some days have also been spent comparing Natural England priority habitat data to our own, focusing on gaps picked out by the LNRS mapping. There are areas where Natural England have mapped an area, but we haven't. Sometimes this is because we haven't surveyed it or the Natural England data is based on Higher Level Stewardship, but in many cases, it is because our survey data is more detailed. An example is where we have mapped out dense scrub on chalk grassland whereas the Natural England layer covers these areas more broadly and mentions additional habitats in the attributes table. Finally, the habitat layers are being improved using the Ancient Woodland update.

**Table 17: Survey updates outstanding on the GIS Habitat layer**

Year of survey	Total Site Surveys for Year	Number of surveys entered before 1st April 2024	Number of surveys entered since 1st April 2024	Outstanding work as at 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
2020	308	278	19	2 (1%)
2021	214	0	212	0
2022	282	27	253	0
2023	289	0	<b>289</b>	0
2024	205	0	<b>0</b>	205 (100%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>207</b>

Total number of surveys to translate = 207

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

Number of days to complete all surveys = 21 days (previously at 1 day/week) ~ 5 months

Amy Robjohns, HBIC Ecologist

## 11. Projects

### 11.1 Review of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) – completed July 2024

The current AWI for Hampshire only maps ancient woodlands 2 hectares or greater, apart from the area within the South Downs National Park and rest of East Hampshire – which HBIC updated 10 years ago to include all AW below 2ha. Natural England and the Woodland Trust funded HBIC to update the rest of Hampshire to the tune of around 70% of the costs of a 2-year post with the remaining funding being provided by the District and Unitary Councils. HBIC recruited an Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer in March 2022 and the project was completed in July 2024.

The final layers and report have been sent to NE for validation and partners have been sent an interim draft layer. 888 polygons have been added to the AWI, 763 of which are smaller than 2ha, adding 2,561ha of ancient woodland.

The updates are due to be published by NE shortly.

### 11.2 A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

The preparation of the Hampshire LNRS is near completion having undertaken a number of stakeholder workshops in 2024. Deadline for the draft Strategy was October 2024 but has been pushed back to March 2025 on the advice of Natural England. HBIC continue to work on the various maps that have to be produced for the LNRS including priority habitat opportunity mapping using the NE habitat network model, that will be used to guide the final maps. HBIC has also been working with the species recording groups on prioritising species targeted for recovery as part of the LNRS.

Because of this extra work for HBIC backfill arrangements have been put in place to hire an 18-month E grade post to support Sarah's work as Sarah became Acting HBIC manager from the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The current HBIC manager is devoting 3.5 days per week as technical lead to the LNRS and remains responsible for some aspects of HBIC management including budgets.

### 11.3 Assessing SINC for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Opportunities for East Hampshire DC

The recent Environment Act 2021 introduces a 'biodiversity net gain' (BNG) requirement for developments and sets out the role local planning authorities will play; this is due to become mandatory in November 2023. Prior to this date, EHDC wish to establish whether there are any Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities in the district. Having already considered 'council owned land', the Council now wishes to establish whether there are any opportunities relating to SINC (which will subsequently form part of the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy). EHDC have asked HBIC to run a 3-phase project.

The first phase involved an initial filter of SINC to remove those that would be unlikely to offer significant biodiversity units, this phase was completed last year and resulted in 212 SINC going through to phase 2. The second phase involved a mailshot to SINC owners of the filtered list to establish interest in their SINC being put forward for BNG. The mailshot went out at the end of July. 21 (11%) landowners gave permission for 29 SINC (14%) to be put forward to phase 3, although 8 of those responses only covered part of a SINC.

Phase 3 took place in August and assessed the 29 SINC's against further criteria and any previous survey. Of the 579 SINC's within East Hampshire, 19 were finally assessed as having potential for BNG.

Nicky Court, HBIC Manager and Sarah Callegari, HBIC Senior Ecologist

## 12. 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 (& ongoing) improvements to the extraction of GIS data using Python code. HBIC uses tools in ArcGIS to connect it to its Access databases.

HCC IT have decided to make Access unavailable from October 2025 onwards. Therefore, HBIC will have to re-develop its databases into a new system. IT thinks it might be possible to replace Access databases with Power Apps and have promised support.

HBIC currently uses MapMate for data exchange with several species recording groups. It is also used by many other LERCs and national species groups. However, it is based on an old version of Access (97) and HCC IT has now upgraded MS Access to Office 365. That means the Access databases from MapMate can no longer be opened in Access, which is necessary for extracting notable and invasive species layers. MapMate is now held on two HBIC standalone laptops. Access 97 tables can be directly read by SQL Server, which is easier than exporting via .csv files. The developer of MapMate retired at the end of 2024, HBIC is in discussion with its data providers who use MapMate and with other LERCs about how to go forward.

HBIC has met with HCC IT and discussed the first steps on how to integrate species data from MapMate and Recorder6 into SQL Server. Ideally that can lead to easier ways of extracting species layers and analyzing the data. It would also remove the reliance on Access for these datasets. HBIC now has access to its own database on SQL Server and has started transferring some Access databases into SQL Server.

HBIC are continually improving the efficiency of extracting GIS data into a Word template via an intermediate database for producing the annual biodiversity monitoring statistics.

JNCC no longer support Recorder 6 so the majority of LERCs have agreed to keep and further develop Recorder and pay a license fee (£250) which funds on-going updates to its dictionaries and software. Andy Foy, on contract to the South East LERCs, has asked all Recorder users which components of Recorder 6 are used/not used, with a view to setting up a priority list for its re-development. LERCs have agreed on not joining the Scottish project for a new database but develop their own based on the existing data model and probably using Python.

The South East LERCs are progressing the integration of the new habitat classification system UKHab into the Habitat Data Capture Tool (HLU tool) because of BNG requirements. The result is that Andy Foy, with funding from GiGL, is developing the necessary structures in the HLU tool for this. HBIC will then have to develop a local version of a translation table between IHS and UKHab and prepare its database for the new structures. This work has been hampered by UKHab releasing Version 2 with different coding. HBIC is committed to funding this work from a small amount held in its holding account, of between c£7,000 - £8,000.

Wolfgang Ritter, HBIC Senior Ecologist

## 13. Financial Statement for 2024-25 to end January 2025

### 13.1 Service level Agreements and Data Supply Agreements

Most LA partners and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their 2024-2027 SLAs. A new 4-year agreement with EA was signed in April 2023, with an annual uplift in line with the CPI. A 5% annual uplift was applied to data supply agreements with the utilities and FE not within 5-year agreements. For 2025/26 all agreements will need to increase by 10% to cover this year and next year's projected pay awards to bring us up to date. The charging rate is still below HCC's internal and external charging rates, due to HBIC covering its costs with contributions from the private sector with regard to data searches.

**Table 18: Income from Partners 2024-25**

Partner	Agreement type	Survey days	Hours	Fee Paid
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	25	147	
East Hampshire District Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	28	174	
Eastleigh Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	18	74	
Fareham Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	14	105	
Gosport Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	8	60	
Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	15	52	
Hampshire County Council US	In kind	22	194	
Hampshire County Council C'side.	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	18	70	
Hart District Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	20	106	
Havant Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	11	75	
New Forest District Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	14	146	
New Forest National Park Authority	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	14	160	
Portsmouth City Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	6	30	
Rushmoor Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	10	41	
South Downs National Park Authority	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	28	166	
Southampton City Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	10	47	
Test Valley Borough Council	1st yr of 3 yr SLA	24	224	
Winchester City Council	Annual SLA	27	203	
Environment Agency	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr of 4 yr MOA	-	0	
Forestry England (New Forest)	Annual	-	5	
Southern Water	5 <sup>th</sup> yr of 5yr DSA	-	5	
Wessex Water	5 <sup>th</sup> yr of 5yr DSA	-	5	
Thames Water - withdrawn	Annual	-	0	
Portsmouth Water	Annual	-	5	
South-West Water	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr of 5 yr DSA	-	5	
Network Rail	Annual		0	
<b>Total (£180,508 in 2023/24)</b>		<b>312</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>£189,997</b>

**13.2 Main HBIC Revenue Account (J067M)****Table 19: Expenditure and Income for 2024-25**

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>From Business Plan</b>	<b>Actual at year end</b>
Salaries/on-costs for 6.85 posts permanent posts (0.85 F/G, 1xF, 4xE, 1xD, and 1x temp E (LNRS backfill) & 3 months E (AWI) And maternity pay. See Note 1	£365,000	£378,924.23
Travel, training, printing, equipment, subscriptions	£8,500	£7,663.63
Backfilling survey programme RSK contract (c/f)		£2,464.39
Additional spare survey contract		£16,560.00
10% Income from data requests to species groups	£19,000	£21,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£392,500</b>	<b>£426,612.25</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>£</b>
From partner SLAs & data licences (see Table 17) HCC C'side Service SLA moved to 'Internal' below	£182,000	£181,858.91
From AWI recharge (from NE/WT/LPAs)	£14,000	£12,079.00
Chargeable data requests	£190,000	£209,985.70
Chargeable survey days & Additional Projects: NE Beacon Hill survey (2023 – paid this year) Basingstoke Canal EHDC BNG SINC Assessments SDNPA BNG SINC Assessments GBC BNG Assessments Royal Winchester Golf Course BNG Assessments	£18,000	£1,490.70 £23,700.00 £4,038.50 £4,038.50 £4,249.48 £6,686.25
Internal: HCC Property Services/Highways – data fees 2023/24 HCC Property Services/Highways – data fees 2023/24 HCC Ecology surveys Countryside Service SLA LNRS (backfill posts) and mapping	£2,600  £8,000 £42,000	£2,574.00 £4,445.00 £6,651.05 £8,012.00 £71,108.53
BioBlitzes	x	£588.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£456,600</b>	<b>£541,505.62</b>
<b>Balance (Note 2)</b>	<b>£64,100</b>	<b>£114,893.37</b>
<b>Other costs/in-kind:</b>		
To cover full HCC overheads from 25/26 onwards @ 15% of either staff costs or income, as yet not clarified		
Salary/on-costs for 0.5 FTE HBIC Manager post (not put through HBIC cost centre)	£39,500	
HCC Universal Services - direct delivery ( <i>at least 0.7 FTE mixed grades</i> ) & 10% data management costs	c£40,000	

**Note 1:** Changes to HBIC Team for 2024/25: Acting G and 1 FTE temp E Funded from LNRS budget to March 2025 plus 3.5 months extension to AWI post funded by NE (ended July 2024) And maternity pay for year c£6,000

**Note 2:** HBIC currently has a budget set at achieving a net surplus of £6,000 in the HCC Budget. Any projected 'surplus' goes towards offsetting overheads, and future bids for HCC IT/External assistance with alternative Access solutions

Nicky Court, HBIC Centre Manager

### 13.3 Local Recorders Fund (Holding Account A985H)

£21,000 (10% income from data requests for 2024/25) was transferred at year end to the Local Recording Fund holding account with 90% of it divided amongst the species recording groups with data exchange agreements, and remainder available for grants for projects to increase local recording capacity, expertise and available data.

**Table 20: Local Recorders Fund expenditure and income**

<b>Balance carried forward from 2023/24</b>		£
Includes £19,000 c/f from data request income from 2023/24		<b>£25,909.94</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		£
<b>Data Exchange Agreements</b>		
• Butterfly Conservation	20%	
• Hampshire Ornithological Society	20%	
• Hampshire Bat Group – invoice sent	10%	
• HIWWT (HARG/HMG/HFG)	35%	
• HIWARG	5%	
<b>Local Recording Fund</b>		
• Itchen Valley Country Park AudioMoth		
• Alton & Villages Action for Nature (AVLAN) River Wey Riverfly Group water testing kit		
• Hocombe Mead Camera Trap		
• Friends of Blacknest Fields survey equipment (paid in 25/26 yr)		
Living Record support costs HBIC 2024-25		
Total expenditure		£19,282.45
<b>Income</b>		
Living Record support costs from Countryside Service		£275.00
<b>Balance</b>		<b>£6,902.49</b>
Carry forward income from data requests 2024-2025		£21,000
<b>Balance at year end</b>		<b>£27,902.49</b>

Nicky Court, HBIC Centre Manager

## 14. HBIC Annual Recorders Forum

### 14.1 Programme



## Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Annual Recorders Forum 2025

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025: 10am – 12:50pm

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall, SO22 6QL

### Programme: Innovative Technology in the Recording World

Chair: Nicky Court, HBIC Manager

09:30 10:00 *Hall open for tea/coffee and to find your seats*

10:00 10:15 **Welcome & HBIC update:** Nicky Court, HBIC Manager

10:15 10:35 **Thermal imaging cameras for surveying wildlife:** Dr Ian Baker,  
Hampshire Bat Group

10:35 10:55 **The acoustic monitoring of woodland birds:** Ken Smith,  
Hampshire Ornithological Society

10:55 11:15 **Monitoring with AI-based applications - My back garden  
experience:** Kelvin Richards

11:15 11:35 *Break*

11:35 11:55 **The future of MapMate - Discussion:** Wolfgang Ritter, HBIC  
Senior Ecologist

11:55 12:15 **Nature in Harmony: A project update:** Katie Sell, Andover Trees  
United

12:15 12:30 **Monitoring the Basingstoke Canal:** Ian Ralphs, HBIC Field  
Ecologist

12:30 12:45 **Update on the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy:** Nicky  
Court, HBIC Manager

12:45 12:50 **Close**

12:50 14:00 *Lunch and networking opportunity (optional)*

**14.2 Organisations attending the Recorders Forum:**

Alton Natural History Society  
aLyne Ecology  
Andover Trees United  
British Entomological and Natural History Society  
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership  
British Bryological Society  
British Dragonfly Society  
British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)  
Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)  
Butterfly Conservation  
East Hampshire District Council  
Fareham Moth Group  
Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard  
Froyle Wildlife  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) South East  
Hall Lands Copse  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group (HIWARG)  
Hampshire Bat Group  
Hampshire Countryside Service  
Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd  
Hampshire Flora Group  
Hampshire Mammal Group  
Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS)  
Hardy Orchid Society  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (South Downs Group)  
Horndean Biodiversity Group  
Leckford Estate  
Leonardo UK Ltd  
Living Record  
Natural England  
New Forest National Park Authority  
New Forest Study Group  
Petersfield Area Lichen Enthusiasts (PALE)  
Portsmouth Water  
Sandplover Ecology  
SJM Ecology  
South Downs National Park  
Southampton City Council  
Southampton Natural History Society  
Stoke Park Farm Bishopstoke Volunteers  
Telegraph Woods Nature Recovery Group  
The River Wey Trust

The University of Southampton  
Vesper Conservation & Ecology Limited  
Watercress & Winterbournes  
Wilder Hook  
Wildern Nature Friends  
Wings Wildlife Heritage  
Woodpecker-Network

## **Appendix – Acronyms used throughout the Report**

ALERC Association of Local Environmental Records Centres  
ARC Amphibian and Reptile Conservation  
AWI Ancient Woodland Inventory  
BC Borough Council  
BNG Biodiversity Net Gain  
BOAT Byway Open to All Traffic  
BSBI Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland  
CC City Council  
c/f Carried forward  
CPI Consumer price index  
DC District Council  
DEFRA or Defra Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
DSA Data Supply Agreement  
EA Environment Agency  
FE Forestry England  
FTE Full-Time Equivalent  
GIS Geographical Information System  
GiGL Greenspace Information for Greater London  
HARG Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Group  
HARRN Hampshire Amphibian and Reptile Recording Network  
HBIC Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre  
HCC Hampshire County Council  
HCC IT Hampshire County Council's Information Technology Team  
HFG Hampshire Flora Group  
HIWWT Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
HIWARG Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group  
HLU Habitat and Land Use – data capture tool  
HMG Hampshire Mammal Group  
HOS Hampshire Ornithological Society  
JNCC Joint Nature Conservancy Council  
LA Local Authority  
LERC Local Environmental Records Centre  
LNR Local Nature Reserve  
LNRS Local Nature Recovery Strategy  
LPA Local Planning Authority  
MOA Memorandum of Agreement

NBN National Biodiversity Network  
NE Natural England  
NF New Forest  
NPA National Park Authority  
NVC National Vegetation Classification  
RVEI Road Verge of Ecological Importance  
SD South Downs  
SINC Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation  
SLA Service Level Agreement  
SSSI Sites of Special Scientific Interest  
UKHABS UK Habitat Classification  
US Universal Services Directorate  
VBA Visual Basic for Applications  
w/c Week Commencing  
WT Woodland Trust