



Hampshire Biodiversity
Information Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Annual Report

1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011

Sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife

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

Summary of Key Activities for 2010/11

The following is a summary of the main activities undertaken by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre during its tenth year of operation.

- The delivery of services to **24** Partner organisations through Service Level Agreements, including provision of comprehensive GIS layers of designated sites, land use/habitat polygons and notable species data
- Reporting to the Strategic Management Group which meets three times year
- Held two meetings of the HBIC Users Advisory Group
- Organised the 9th Annual HBIC Recorders Forum - see programme on page 20
- Has Data Exchange Agreement with the Hampshire Ornithological Society, Butterfly Conservation, Botanical Society of the British Isles, Hampshire Mammal Group, the Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group and the Hampshire Bat Group
- Imported **359,395** new species records from the species groups. The combined databases now hold **3,738,836** species records to be used to evaluate Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), refresh the notable species GIS layer and inform decision making.
- Implemented a Survey Programme (Phase 2/NVC) of **304** sites covering over **4,136** hectares, and including **163** SINCs
- Responded to **642** enquiries for biodiversity information, **84%** within 10 working days and **92%** within 15 working days
- Screened **19,429** planning applications and flagged **4,076** applications (**21%**) as having a potential impact on designated sites, BAP habitats or notable species
- Evaluated all the 2009-10 survey data and identified **23** proposed new SINCs, **64** major amendments and **7** SINCs for deletion
- Identified **1,658** SINCs (**43.8%**) in positive management by analysing the potential impact from agri-environment and woodland grant schemes on SINCs and collating information on the management of SINCs from land owners and management advisors for National Indicator 197
- Surveyed **9** hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations of which **3** were classified 'Important'
- Continued the input of site data (**404** surveys), species records (**53,508** species records) and habitat data from 2010-11 surveys into Recorder 6
- Tested and implemented the new OS MasterMap framework version of the habitat and land use GIS layer and installed the new GIS tool (developed by exeGesIS) to support the new layer
- Represented LRCs on the on the National Biodiversity Network Data Access Group
- Represented HBIC on the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) Board of Directors
- Represented the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) on the DEFRA Fund for Local Biodiversity Recording Steering Group
- Provided training and work experience to three graduate volunteers

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre is grateful for the support of : Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Botanical Society of the British Isles, Butterfly Conservation, East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Environment Agency, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group, Hampshire Bat Group, Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Mammal Group, Hampshire Ornithological Society, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hart District Council, Havant Borough Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Southampton City Council, Southern Water, Test Valley Borough Council, Wessex Water and Winchester City Council.

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1. Staffing & Contact Details

Table 1 : Summary of HBIC staff roles and contact details

Role	Staff	Email	Tel.
HBIC Centre Manager	Nicky Court	nicky.court@hants.gov.uk	01962 832322
IT databases/GIS/Species data/Special Projects	Andy Foy Senior Ecologist	andy.foy@hants.gov.uk	01962 832324
SINCs and Survey Data Validation from 28.06.10 Plus Survey Programme from 01.10.10 Covering Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, HCC C'side Service, Havant, New Forest (DC/NPA), Portsmouth, Southampton & Winchester	Sarah Callegari Ecologist (part-time Mon-Wed)	sarah.callegari@hants.gov.uk	01962 832320
Survey programme & SINCs to 01.10.10 Covering Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, HCC C'side Service, Havant, New Forest (DC/NPA), Portsmouth, Southampton & Winchester	Simon Boswell Ecologist	simon.boswell@hants.gov.uk	01962 832320
Survey programme, SINCs & Data Validation Covering Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Environment Agency, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Hart, Rushmoor, & Test Valley	Becky Coneybeer Ecologist	rebecca.coneybeer@hants.gov.uk	01962 832321
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 lists	Lizzy Peat Ecologist Simon Boswell Ecologist	lizzy.peat@hants.gov.uk simon.boswell@hants.gov.uk	01962 832327 01962 832320
Species data – collation & validation	Lizzy Peat Ecologist	lizzy.peat@hants.gov.uk	01962 832327
Habitat data – validation	Becky Coneybeer Ecologist	rebecca.coneybeer@hants.gov.uk	01962 832321
Data management tasks (volunteer)	Jessica Batchelor Ruth kernohan Barney Scott	Jessica.batchelor@hants.gov.uk Ruth.kernohan@hants.gov.uk Barney.scott@hants.gov.uk	

Address : 3rd Floor, Capital House, 48-52 Andover Road, Winchester, SO23 7BH

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

2. Habitat Survey Programme

Summary of 2010/11 season

The 2010/2011 HBIC survey programme started in the first week of April and ran until the beginning of October. A summary of the survey days for each partner is presented in Table 1; these figures include time allocated for field surveys, write-up and SINC evaluation work. 13 of the 17 HBIC partners are projected to fill or exceed their survey allocation, only two of the remaining four partners are significantly below their allocated survey days.

This year 350 sites have been requested for survey throughout the County, 333 of which were from within the survey programme. The remaining surveys were from 17 additional sites, details of which appear below. In total 472 days were scheduled for survey and write-up, including the additional surveys, representing a 3% increase over the 2009/10 season.

Table 2 : Request for Surveys Allocated to each Partner

Partner	Requests	Sites	Days Spent	Days Left	Days Total	Days Allocated	
Basingstoke & Deane	29	52	51.1	0.0	51.1	30	↑
East Hampshire District Council	20	20	31.6	0.0	31.6	30	↑
Eastleigh Borough Council	14	15	15.3	0.0	15.3	15	→
Fareham Borough Council	11	11	17.5	0.0	17.5	15	↑
Gosport Borough Council	4	4	6.0	0.0	6.0	10	↓
HCC - Countryside Services	10	10	30.1	0.0	30.1	18	↑
HCC - Environment	57	57	67.2	0.0	67.2	40	↑
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	10	12	17.3	0.0	17.3	15	↑
Hart District Council	5	16	18.5	0.0	18.5	26	↓
Havant Borough Council	13	13	13.7	0.0	13.7	15	↓
New Forest District Council	13	14	17.1	0.0	17.1	15	↑
New Forest NPA	23	23	24.1	0.0	24.1	15	↑
Portsmouth City Council	8	8	9.3	0.0	9.3	5	↑
Rushmoor Borough Council	9	16	17.5	0.0	17.5	10	↑
Southampton City Council	6	7	8.9	0.0	8.9	15	↓
Test Valley Borough Council	25	25	51.6	0.0	51.6	30	↑
Winchester City Council	30	30	45	0.0	45	30	↑
Sub-Total (Survey Programme)	287	333	441.8	0.0	441.8	334	
Additional Requests	12	17	30.0	0.0	30.0		
Total	299	350	471.8	0.0	471.8		

NB. 'days left' and 'days total' are projected and may not reflect the eventual figures

The HBIC partners made 50% of survey requests, 4% came directly from landowners to inform site management, the remaining 46% were organised by HBIC on behalf of the partners; either to contribute to SINC monitoring, or to identify sites of potential SINC quality. The percentage of surveys organised by HBIC has increased by 21% compared to last years figures due to a combination of access to two large estates with unsurveyed SINC's and personnel changes in Eastleigh Borough Council requiring HBIC staff to organise a larger proportion of their surveys than usual. Where HBIC have re-surveyed existing SINC's, these have been allocated to the relevant Partner. However, where landowners have requested initial surveys to establish conservation value, these have been placed within the HCC Environment Dept. allocation.

November 2011

SINC Monitoring

For this year's survey programme, HBIC sent out letters to 76 land owners to request access to 193 sites mainly for SINC monitoring purposes (88%). A large proportion of the sites requested for survey were woodland (61%), grassland sites made up a quarter of the sites; the remaining surveys were made up of salt-marsh, heathland, farmland sites and a small percentage that covered more than one habitat type. A breakdown of the permission statuses of the 193 sites is shown below (Table 3). In total we were denied access or had no response regarding 54 sites (28%) this compares favourably with the total from last year (56%).

Table 3 : Summary of survey requests by permission status

Status	Number of Sites	% of Total Sites	Number of Owners
Access Granted	130	67	51
No Response Received	42	22	11
Access Denied	12	6	7
Postponed until 2011	9	5	7
Total	193	100	76

Access permission to all remaining privately owned land was sought and gained by the 17 partners. We were fortunate to gain access to two large estates; Biddenfield in Winchester and Pylewell in the New Forest National Park, this resulted in a number of ancient woodland SINCs being surveyed that had old or no data. Additional Basingstoke and Deane were able to secure access to Bramley Training Area which HBIC have been attempting to access for a number of years. Another site that is worth mentioning are the SINCs that make up Watership Down which have a complicated ownership for which we were able to secure access from a variety of landowners.

Road Verges

Following on from the review and re-digitisation of the Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI) layer earlier this year HBIC have targeted a number of verges in the 2010/11 season to update our survey information. This resulted in 53 road verges being surveyed, consisting of a mixture of sites that were either SINCs, RVEIs or were unsurveyed. The unsurveyed sites mainly came from members of the public who had spotted orchids or other flowers in a verge. The intention is to monitor a small number each year to provide more accurate information for all the RVEI and road verge SINCs in the County.

Additional Surveys

In addition to the HBIC Partnership (SLA) survey programme a number of surveys were requested that were funded separately:

The HWT requested:

- Condition assessments of five large heathland sites to inform future management (13.5 days survey and write-up, funded by the MOD)
- A survey of the Lymington River to monitor the condition of the SSSI (4 days survey and write-up, funded by EA)
- A resurvey of Boldre Bridge Meadows East, an area of reed-bed and wet woodland with associated areas of flood pasture situated in the valley of the Lymington River (2 days survey and write-up).

Portsmouth County Council funded a Phase II and quadrat survey of Portsdown SSSI, carried out by Dr Phil Wilson. The last survey of the site was in 2000 making 2010 a fitting time to re-evaluate the area. The survey results should give a good indication of how scrub clearance over the last decade has impacted the condition of the habitat. HBIC funded a survey of the grassland SINC High Tor adjacent to Portsdown SSSI as part of the Phil Wilson survey.

'The Friends of Priors Hill Copse', funded a survey of the eastern section of Priors Hill Copse, a semi-natural ancient woodland SINC in Eastleigh which they manage. Again this work was carried out by Dr Phil Wilson who provided some useful management advice. We are hopeful that the rest of the copse, which is owned by private landowners, will be surveyed during the 2011 survey season.

Finally, the north-eastern section of Farnborough Airfield SINC was surveyed for Farnborough International to re-evaluate whether the area was still of SINC quality. This survey has resulted in the proposed removal of a number of fragments of the SINC that have either become degraded or tarmacked as a result of activities associated with the Farnborough Air Show.

Simon Boswell, HBIC Ecologist & Sarah Callegari, HBIC Ecologist

3. Provision of Data

Data requests for 2010/11

Table 4 : Data requests summary

	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8	2006/7
Total no. of requests	642	577	554	495	485
Total no. of chargeable requests	286	241	286	236	161
Total time logged (hrs)	1,005.06	806	766.00	747.58	988.45
Total time logged to chargeable requests (hrs)	341.46	282	376.00	346.50	443.50
Proportion of total time chargeable	37%	35%	49%	46%	45%
Total income	£35,775	£28,475	£30,205	£20,010	£13,199

Table 5 : Data requests allocated to each partner

Partner	No. of Enquiries	Total Time (hrs)	Time (consultants)	Time (consultants) 2009/10	Time (non-consultants)
Butterfly Cons.	2	1.75			1.75
BDBC	59	67.62	47.37	34.25	20.25
BSBI	1	1.00			1.00
EA (Southern)	11	22.62	3.12	13.00	19.5
EA (Thames)	5	10.00			10.00
EA (Wessex)	0				
EBC	36	61.33	28.08	16.00	33.25
EHDC	58	88.40	34.33	32.83	54.07
FBC	19	15.36	12.66	13.50	2.70
Forestry Commission	2	3.25			3.25
GBC	4	4.17	3.67	12.75	0.50
Hants Bat Group	1			3.00	
HCC – Countryside	11	26.75		3.00	26.75
HCC – Environment	80	193.78	7.53	31.25	186.25
HDC	35	47.35	38.10	18.50	9.25
Hants Ornith Soc	1	1.50			1.50
HvBC	22	29.42	15.42	2.68	14.00
Hants Wildlife Trust	28	40.00	1.50		38.50
Natural England	8	20.00	2.00	3.00	18.00
NFDC	46	69.70	33.08	11.00	36.62
NFNPA	35	54.33	11.58	7.00	42.75
PCC	17	22.92	10.92	7.00	12.00

Partner	No. of Enquiries	Total Time (hrs)	Time (consultants)	Time (consultants) 2009/10	Time (non-consultants)
RBC	8	9.50	8.50	7.30	1.00
SCC	34	49.07	20.70	15.00	28.37
TVBC	71	84.66	52.91	44.50	31.75
WCC	71	79.57	38.20	46.08	41.37
Wessex Water	1	1.50	1.50		
Totals	667	1,005.55	371.17	321.64	634.38

Notes:

1. The total no. of enquiries may include those 'double-counted' where they relate to more than one partner organisation. The hours spent are not double counted.

Table 6 : Data requests by type of enquirer

Type of Enquirer	No. of Enquiries	Time spent (hrs)	Income (£)
Consultancy/Developer	280	335.46	35,100.00
Consultancy (for Partner)	33	38.75	0.00
Landowner/Agent/Tenant	29	24.75	225.00
Government Agency	26	65.25	150.00
General Public	32	64.50	100.00
Non-Governmental Organisation	58	95.75	100.00
Recording Group/Individual	12	16.00	100.00
Councillor	2	3.00	0.00
Local Authority	76	135.20	0.00
Local Community Group	7	89.70	0.00
Local Record Centre	5	5.25	0.00
Local Voluntary Group	7	8.50	0.00
Other	7	12.50	0.00
Parish/Town Council	16	34.75	0.00
Public Utility	1	0.00	0.00
Public Utility (for Partner)	2	4.25	0.00
Researcher/Student/School/College	49	72.00	0.00
Totals	642	1,005.61	35,775.00

Andy Foy, Senior Ecologist

4. SINC Evaluation

SINC Updates

Table 7 : Proposed new/amended/deleted SINC evaluated from 2009 survey data

Partner	New SINC	Amended SINC	Deleted SINC	Total SINC
BDBC	3	9	2	14
EBC	3	4	0	7
EHDC	0	11	2	13
FBC	0	1	0	1
GBC	2	2	0	4
HDC	9	1	0	10
HvBC	2	0	0	2
NFDC	1	5	1	7
NFNPA	0	13	0	13
PCC	0	2	0	2
RBC	0	3	1	4
SCC	2	1	0	3
TVBC	1	4	0	5
WCC	0	8	1	9
Total	23	64	7	94

Table 8 : Time spent on SINC evaluation & supporting the Hampshire SINC Panel

Partner	Preparation of SINC list for Nov 2010 SINC Panel ¹	Evaluation of 2010 survey data for next (2011) SINC Panel		Total time spent (hrs)
		No. of surveys evaluated ²	HBIC Field ecologists (hrs) ³	
BDBC	49.0	45	22.5	71.5
EBC	24.5	14	7.0	31.5
EHDC	45.5	35	17.5	63.0
FBC	3.5	13	6.5	10.0
GBC	14.0	5	2.5	16.5
HDC	35.0	19	9.5	44.5
HvBC	7.0	13	6.5	13.5
NFDC	24.5	24	12.0	36.5
NFNPA	45.5	22	11.0	56.5
PCC	7.0	8	4.0	11.0
RBC	14.0	10	5.0	19.0
SCC	10.5	6	3.0	13.5
TVBC	17.5	31	15.5	33.0
WCC	31.5	43	21.5	53.0
Total	329 (45 days)		144 (20 days)	473⁴ (65 days)

¹ Time spent producing justification statements, updating database, GIS editing, map production, and notifying landowners by HBIC ecologists and time spent checking, consulting, collating, reporting for Panel by HBIC Centre Manager (a total of 3.5 hrs per site)

² Excludes SSSIs surveyed in 2010

³ Time spent evaluating 2010 survey data – undertaken in March 2011 (0.5 hr/site)

⁴ Exceeds the estimated amount by 28 hours

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Explanatory Note : The above table summarises the time spent by HBIC staff on the completion of the evaluation of all 2009 survey data against SINC criteria (plus updating the GIS layer and SINC database) and the initial evaluation of 2010 survey data by the field ecologists. Column 1 shows the HBIC 'office' ecologist staff time spent on preparing SINC for the Panel based on 2009 data. Columns 3 & 4 show the estimated time spent by the HBIC field ecologists initially evaluating the 2010 survey data.

All proposed new/amended/deleted SINC identified from the 2009 survey data were submitted to the Hampshire SINC Panel in December/January 2011 for approval. This Group is convened by HBIC under the Hampshire BAP Partnership Steering Group and comprises representatives from NE, HIWWT & HCC Ecology Group, following Defra good practice.

Landowners will be notified and the GIS layer/database updated and circulated in April-May 2011

Local Sites Reporting – National Indicator 197

HBIC (NC/AF/BC) spent approximately 120 hours (c16 days) during April-June 2010 assembling and analysing the data on SINC ownership & management, specifically ;

- SINC within agri-environment schemes & woodland grant schemes – to see if the management option(s) benefit the features for which the sites are designated
- information on the management of SINC that were surveyed by HBIC during the previous year,
- information received from land management advisors and 'public' owners of SINC obtained by the Ecology Group's Land Management Team,

Having analysed the data HBIC were then able to report the % of SINC in positive management by the end of June as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| • SINC in +ve management | 1,658 (43.8%) |
| • SINC in -ve management | 265 (7%) |
| • SINC in unknown management | 1,864 (49.2%) |

The number of hours spent is a similar number to last year and is not included in the partnership SLAs.

Nicky Court, HBIC Centre Manager

5. Screening of Planning Applications

Summary for 2010/11 (to 31st March 2011)

Table 9 : Planning applications screened by partner

District/Partner	Checked	Flagged	Hours spent (pro rata)
Basingstoke and Deane BC	1,792	355 (19.8%)	71
East Hampshire DC	2,001	475 (23.7%)	79
Eastleigh BC	861	209 (24.2%)	34
Fareham BC	1,035	172 (16.6%)	41
Gosport BC	465	121 (26.0%)	18
Hampshire CC	376	111 (29.5%)	15
Hart DC	1,811	326 (18.0%)	72
Havant BC	911	137 (15.0%)	36
New Forest DC	1,281	339 (26.4%)	51
New Forest NP	1,167	432 (37.0%)	46
Portsmouth CC	947	89 (9.39%)	38
Rushmoor BC	726	106 (14.6%)	29
Southampton CC	1,419	265 (18.6%)	56
Test Valley BC	1,932	397 (20.5%)	77
Winchester CC	2,705	542 (20.0%)	107
Total	19,429	4,076 (20.9%)	770

Notes

1. Two man days/week (14.8 hours/week) are currently spent on screening planning applications which equates to 770 hours (52 weeks x 14.8 hours) spent between 07/04/2010 and 31/03/2011.
2. On the 27th May we reduced the search area for householder developments in an urban setting to 50m for protected and notable species (the search area for rural areas remained at 100m).
3. On the 4th June we registered an account on Hart District council's planning website. After doing this the weekly searches have returned more planning applications than previously.
4. On the 2nd August HBIC began screening the County Council's own planning applications including Mineral and Waste applications, totals included above.
5. On 26th January 2011 HBIC started checking planning applications against Inland water (derived from the 'OS MasterMap topography layer' created on 26/01/2011) which includes many ponds, ditches and streams. It should be noted that this does not include all inland waters, only those which have been digitised by Ordnance Survey.
6. Also on 26th January 2011 HBIC began to restrict screening to records of protected species & notable plant species for householder applications as it was felt that several UK BAP species (relatively common but declining species) such as Hedgehog and Stag beetle, and many Amber list bird species will be present in many gardens and unlikely to be affected by any 'householder' development. These species will continue to be flagged in other types of applications.

7. In the same time period last year we checked 15,627 planning applications and flagged 4,355 of these (28%). This year we have checked 3,802 more planning applications and actually flagged 279 fewer applications compared with last year. Using the total applications checked this year we have been in flagging an average of 21% of the planning applications.
8. The number of applications checked for Winchester has more than doubled since last year. This is probably due to the published weekly list being used for screening rather than searching purely using the Winchester website (which sometimes experiences delays.) The number of planning applications checked for Southampton City Council has gone up by 15%.
9. Pro rata figures are given for each District based on the number of applications checked. HBIC are continuing to liaise with other LRCs to develop a more automated way of screening.

Lizzy Peat, Ecologist

6. Data Holdings

Summary of species holdings

Table 10 : Total Species data holdings by database

Database	Total no. of species	Total no. of records	Total no. of records (as at 31 st March 2010)
MapMate (<i>see below</i>)	11,404	3,059,295	2,463,900
Recorder (<i>mainly vascular plants</i>)	4,021	679,541	626,033

Table 11 : MapMate holdings only by taxon group

Taxonomic Group	Total no. of records	Total no. of notable or protected records
Amphibians & Reptiles	14,391	8,830
Birds	637,922	394,941
Fish	2,143	833
Fungi	729	1
Higher plants (Clubmosses & Quillworts)	760	754
Higher plants (Conifers)	4,837	1,423
Higher plants (Ferns)	14,129	2,154
Higher plants (Flowering Plants)	559,546	55,399
Higher plants (Horsetails)	2,312	281
Invertebrates (Annelida)	21	1
Invertebrates (Araneae)	1,684	6
Invertebrates (Blattaria)	71	0
Invertebrates (Chilopoda)	70	0
Invertebrates (Coleoptera)	17,731	6,696
Invertebrates (Crustacea)	661	222
Invertebrates (Dermaptera)	75	0
Invertebrates (Diplopoda)	78	1
Invertebrates (Diptera)	20,607	1,741
Invertebrates (Ephemeroptera)	109	0
Invertebrates (Hemiptera)	5,002	102
Invertebrates (Hymenoptera)	24,883	1,246
Invertebrates (Lepidoptera)	1,711,587	248,972
Invertebrates (Mecoptera)	9	0
Invertebrates (Megaloptera)	16	0
Invertebrates (Mollusca)	1,747	72
Invertebrates (Neuroptera)	37	0
Invertebrates (Odonata)	4,858	751
Invertebrates (Orthoptera)	1,704	12
Invertebrates (Plecoptera)	27	1
Invertebrates (Raphidioptera)	6	0
Invertebrates (Trichoptera)	247	0

Taxonomic Group	Total no. of records	Total no. of notable or protected records
Lichens	205	0
Lower plants (Liverworts, Hornworts & Mosses)	2,184	43
Lower plants (Stoneworts)	7	4
Mammals (Marine)	32	32
Mammals (Terrestrial)	28,868	10,052
Total	3,059,295	734,570

Notes:

1. Birds listed only in the EU Birds Directive as Annex 2 are no longer included in the protected & notable species list.
2. Approximately 24% of all species records held in MapMate are protected and/or notable species.

MapMate data changes

Due to workloads plans to collate the following additional data records have been carried over until 2011/12:

- Diptera (Hoverflies) - c12,000+ records entered from the Hampshire Museums Service by Phil Budd
- Birds - c20,000 records expected from HWT as a result of the Brent Goose and Wader Strategy
- Fungi – c2,000 records catalogued by the Hampshire Museums Service
- Lower plants – c6,000 records catalogued by the Hampshire Museums Service

Scheduled updates from BC, BSBI, HOS, HMG, HARG and HBG are expected in the Autumn of each year with additional updates from HARG & HMG expected soon.

Andy Foy, Senior Ecologist

7. Data entry & Validation

Updating the GIS Habitat Layer in 2010/11

Due to the two major projects relating to the conversion of the habitat and land use GIS layer (see IT Development & Improvements) no progress was made in 2010/11 to reduce the GIS updates backlog. The outstanding work therefore is as below :

Table 12 : Survey updates outstanding on the GIS Habitat layer

Year of survey	Total Surveys for Year	Outstanding surveys
2003	419	13 (3%)
2004	382	15 (4%)
2005	406	163 (40%)
2006	326	189 (58%)
2007	300	124 (41%)
2008	363	64 (18%)
2009	258	258 (100%)
2010	404	404 (100%)
Total sites	2,858	1,230

Outstanding work

- Total number of surveys to update = **1,230**
- Number of surveys updated/day = approx. **10**
- Number of days required = approx. **123**

There is therefore approx. **6 to 7 man-months** work outstanding to complete the GIS updates backlog based on 21 working days in a month.

Notes

1. The habitat layer has finally (following repeated delays by GeoData) been converted into the OS MasterMap framework by the Geodata Institute as part of a regional project funded by Natural England. Updates to the habitat layer have therefore been on hold until this conversion was complete.
2. At the same time a new GIS tool for managing the new MasterMap framework habitat layer has been developed by exeGesIS as part of a regional project funded by Natural England and all the South East LRCs. Development is now complete and the tool has been installed on HCC's IT systems. It will become operational in May 2011 following a final period of user testing.

Andy Foy, Senior Ecologist

8. IT Development & Improvements

The long-term IT development plan for HBIC is two fold:

1. Reduce the number of complex spreadsheets currently in use. These have become established and grown over the years and are now too complex to support their requirements and often require data to be duplicated from existing databases and other spreadsheets. These spreadsheets will be replaced with access databases that should be more able to meet our current and future requirements
2. Enable greater integration of, and between, the databases and the GIS layers. This will ensure that duplication of effort is kept to a minimum and will also enable greater flexibility when interrogating and extracting data

IT Developments progressed during 2010/11

During 2010/11 the following improvements were made to HBIC's databases and GIS layers :

- Continued with the creation and storage of all recent and future site surveys as electronic PDF documents so that they can be accessed through the SINC database, Recorder 6 and via GIS (relies on the availability of assistance by HBIC volunteer staff).
- Tested and implemented the new OS MasterMap framework version of the habitat and land use GIS layer (converted by GeoData).
- Tested and installed the new GIS tool (developed by exeGesIS) to support the new OS MasterMap framework habitat layer.

IT Development planned for 2011/12

During 2010/11 the planned improvements to the efficiency and capability of HBIC's various databases and GIS layers include :

- Continue with the creation and storage of all recent and future site surveys as electronic PDF documents so that they can be accessed through the SINC database, Recorder 6 and via GIS (depending on the availability of assistance by HBIC volunteer staff).
- Continue with the enhancement of the SINC database (when time allows) to enable the relationship between SINC's and biosites to be maintained, thereby enabling the complete survey history of all SINC's to be retrieved automatically.
- Test and implement planned enhancements to the new GIS tool developed by exeGesIS.
- Liaise with HCC's IT Department to test and implement any forthcoming upgrades of the Recorder 6 system (implementation of Recorder v6.16 currently in progress).
- Provide web-based access to all statutory and non-statutory designated sites in Hampshire via the HBIC/HCC website (currently awaiting HCC to implement the required technology).

Andy Foy, Senior Ecologist

9. Financial Statement

HBIC summary of accounts – 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

Table 13 : Projected and actual expenditure and income during 2010-11

	2010-11 Projection (from Business Plan 2008-11)	2010-11 Actual
Expenditure		
Staff salaries & on costs	£268,995	£264,788
Casual staff costs		£3,053
Travel/training/mobiles/volunteer expenses	£7,500	£6,984
Home workers Allowance	£1,400	Included in salaries above
Equipment	£500	£192
Promotional activities	£500	£484
Minor IT enhancements		£700
Income to Species Groups with data exchange agreements (from 2009-10)	-	£5,695
Total expenditure	£278,895	£281,896
Income		
From Partnership SLAs	£113,457	£114,097
Income from provision of data	£25,000	£33,875
HCC Contributions to staff costs	£132,653	£130,336
Transfer from R2K account		£1,269.27
Special Projects (surveys)		£4,950
Total income	£279,110	£284,527
Balance	+ £215	+ £2,631
Holding account closing balance of £189,876 ¹		

¹ £110K of this is expected to be carried forward for ring fenced projects (Opportunity mapping, Ancient woodland project, data capture tool project, and species groups money) & receipts in advance - EA SLA funding for 2011-12

Ancient Woodland Project

This project, due to run from February 2011 – September 2011, is to revise the Ancient Woodland Inventory (to target woods below 2ha) for the South Downs National Park and remainder of East Hampshire. The project is funded by NE, FC and SDNPA.

Table 14 : Ancient Woodland Project financial summary (to 31st March 2011)

Income	£
Funding received from NE, FC & SDNPA	£40,000
In-kind contributions from HBIC (managing project) & EHDC/WCC (survey days)	
Total Income	£40,000
Expenditure (projected)	
Salaries for project officer, survey & data entry plus travel	£29,600
Equipment & digital data	£7,000
Report production & incidentals	£3,000
Total Expenditure (projected)	£39,600
Expenditure to end of 2010-11	
Salaries & travel	£2,120
Equipment & digital data	£1,446
Total Expenditure (to 31st March 2011)	£3,566
Monies to be carried forward to 2011-12	£36,434

Local Recorders Fund

Table 15 : Local Recorders Fund Income and Expenditure during 2010-11

Income		£
• 20% Income from data requests (2009-10)		£5,695
• Royalties (Moth Atlas)		£123.34
Total Income		£5,818.34
Income rolled forward from 2009-10		£4,398
Total Overall Income		£10,216.34
Expenditure	% Share of 2009/10 Income	£
• HWT (HARG/HMG/HFG)	5%	£1,423.75
• Butterfly Conservation	3%	£854.25
• Hampshire Ornithological Society	3%	£854.25
• Hampshire Bat Group	2%	£569.50
• Contribution to the South Hampshire Bryophyte Atlas		£600
Total Expenditure		£4,301.75
Income available		£5,914.59

Total income from data enquiries during 2010/11 = **£35,775**, 20% of which = **£7,155** – to be divided amongst the species recording groups with data exchange agreements, and available for projects to increase recording capacity and available data. This will be shown under expenditure in the 2011/12 finances.

10. Annual Recorders Forum



Hampshire Biodiversity
Information Centre

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

Recorders Forum 2011

Saturday 5th March 2011 : 9.30am – 4.00pm

Littleton Millennium Hall, Littleton (SU 457 323)

The forum is free of charge and aims to give an overview of a variety of ecological projects and topics that affect Hampshire; including the work of HBIC and its partner organisations. It is designed to encourage recorders and local recording groups to share their experiences and ideas. The programme for this year follows an ‘Urban’ theme:

09.30 - 10.00	Registration & Coffee
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome & Introduction - Nicky Court (HBIC, Centre Manager)
10.15 - 10.45	Garden Wildlife Recording – Andy Barker (Butterfly Conservation & Sparsholt College)
10.45 - 11.15	Revising the Biodiversity Action Plan for Eastleigh Borough – data capture, analysis and priorities – Rachel Hardy (Eastleigh Borough Council, Biodiversity Officer)
11.15 - 11.30	Comfort Break
11.30 - 12.00	Bats in the urban environment – Stephanie West (Sparsholt College)
12.00 - 12.30	Birds and Disturbance (Solent Disturbance and Mitigation project and Thames Valley Heathland) – Jonathan Cox (Jonathan Cox Associates)
12.30 - 12.45	Discussion
12.45 - 14.00	***** Lunch ***** Plus a chance to look at the displays of recording groups & organisations, and chat.
14.00 - 14.30	Return of the Urban Vulture – Keith Betton (Hampshire Ornithological Society)
14.30 - 15.00	Greener Shade of Brown: human occupation sites in the New Forest – Martin Rand (Botanical Society of the British Isles)
15.00 - 15.10	Comfort Break
15.10 - 15.40	Southampton’s Green Grid – Lindsay McCulloch (Southampton City Council)
15.40 - 15.55	Summing up and close