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SURVEY OF LOCAL & REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRES

by

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The Biological Records Centre (I.T.E., Monks Wood) and the Biology Curators Group collaborated in 1980 to compile an inventory of local and regional records centres in the United Kingdom. A questionnaire was designed and circulated to all known records centres in September 1980. The last replies to the questionnaire were received in February 1981.

The questionnaire was sent to seventy-four centres, and replies were received from, or on behalf of, sixty-seven of these. Sixty centres are currently operating, are expected to be operational in 1981 or 1982, or are under active consideration. These centres are listed below and the areas they cover are shown in Figure 1. Four centres have ceased to operate (Appendix 1) and three centres are projected (Appendix 2). No replies were received from seven centres (Appendix 3).

The inventory of existing centres is laid out as follows:

- Number: area of coverage (see Figure 1)
- Title and address
- Telephone number and extension (where stated)
- Geographical area covered by centre. The use of v.c. followed by a number refers to the Watsonian vice-county.
- Date when the centre was set up or is expected to be set up. Some centres are listed as being not fully operational or having ceased operation. These centres still retain or have access to records.
- Name of the person to contact. In some cases this may not be the person directly responsible for the records centre. Where no contact is given the centre is staffed only by volunteers.

The questionnaire contained items on many topics concerned with the operation of centres and their data holdings. Replies to these items will be analysed in due course.

We would be grateful if users of the following inventory could report to us any changes affecting the centres listed, any deletions or additions, and any errors. For the inventory to be kept up to date, all changes must be monitored.

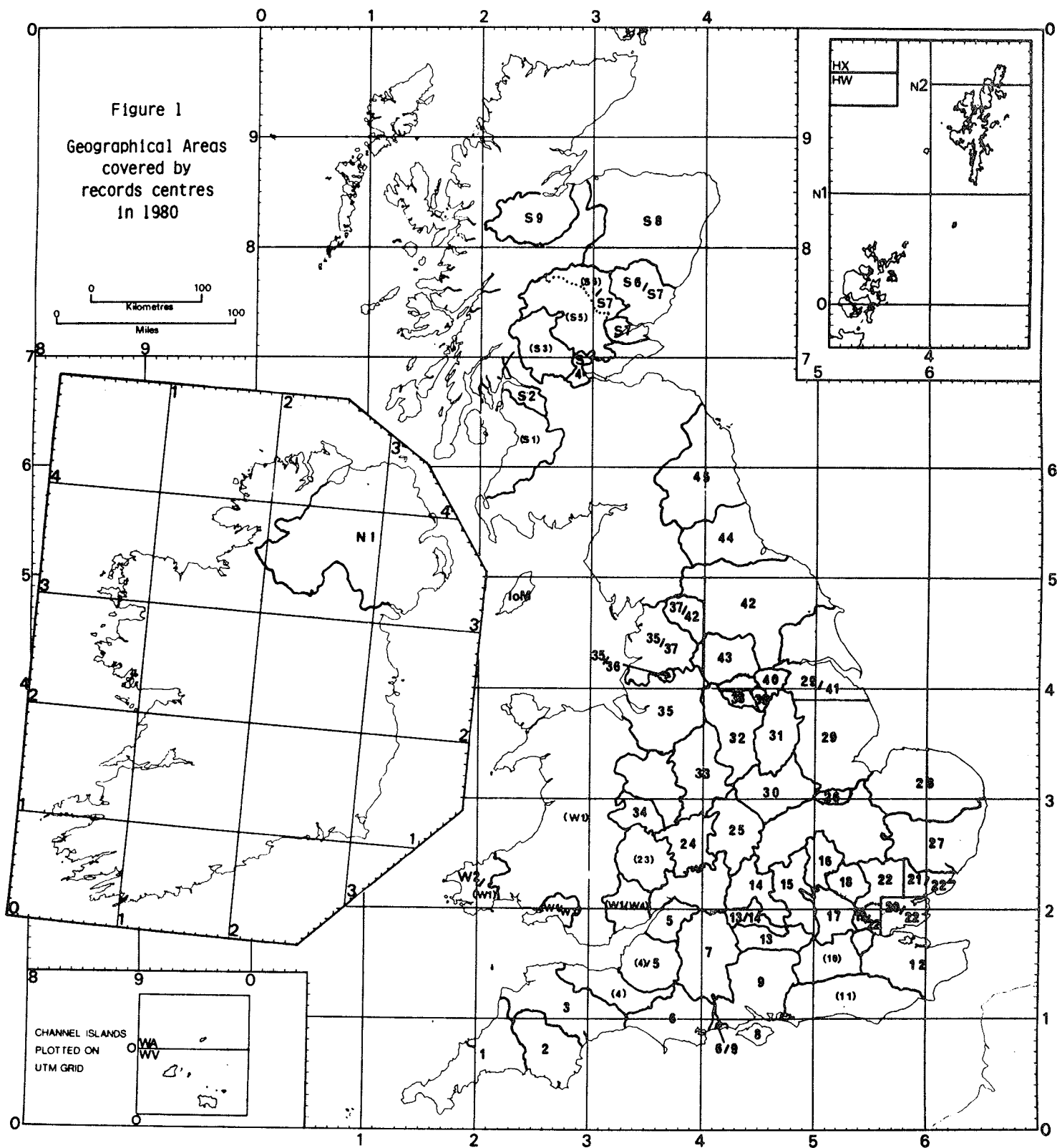


Figure 1: Large type: Centres which were in operation at the time of the survey.

Small type in brackets: Centres no longer or not yet in operation at the time of the survey.

Areas covered by more than one centre are shown thus: 6/9.

1. CORNWALL

Cornish Biological Records Unit
Murdoch House Education Centre
Cross Street
Redruth
Cornwall

Redruth 215736

Area: Admin Co of Cornwall
Set up: 1972
Contact: Dr F A Turk

2. SOUTH & WEST DEVON

Devon Environmental Records
Centre
Dept of Natural History
City Museum, Drake Circus
Plymouth PL4 8AJ

Plymouth 68000 extn 4376

Area: South & West Devon
Set up: 1975
Contact: Mr D A Curry

3. NORTH & EAST DEVON

Royal Albert Memorial Museum
Biological Records Centre (Data Bank)
Queen Street
Exeter
EX4 3RX

Exeter 56724

Area: North & East Devon (see
Plymouth)
Set up: Not stated
Contact: Mr K J Boot

4. SOMERSET

Somerset Records Centre
Somerset County Museum
Taunton Castle
Taunton
Somerset TA1 4AA

Taunton 73451

Area: Old county of Somerset
Set up: 1977 (not fully
operational)
Contact: Mr J D L Fleetwood

5. BRISTOL REGION

Local & Regional Biological
Records Centre
City of Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
Queens Road
Bristol BS8 1RL

Bristol 299771

Area: V.c.s 6 & 34 (east of
R. Severn)
Set up: Not stated
Contact: Mr C J T Copp

6. DORSET

Dorset Environmental Records
Centre
c/o Dorset County Museum
Dorchester
Dorset

Dorchester 2735

Area: Dorset
Set up: 1976
Contact: Ms S Gowers

7. WILTSHIRE

Wiltshire Biological Records Centre
The Museum
41 Long Street
Devizes
SN10 1NS

Devizes 2765

Area: Wiltshire
Set up: 1973
Contact:

8. ISLE OF WIGHT

Isle of Wight Biological Records
Centre
Museum of I.O.W. Geology
Sandown Library, High Street
Sandown, Isle of Wight

Sandown 404344

Area: Isle of Wight
Set up: 1977
Contact: Dr A N Insole

9. HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire Biological Records Centre
Hampshire County Museum Service
Chilcomb House
Chilcomb Lane, Bar End
Winchester
SO23 8RD

Winchester 66242/3

Area: Hampshire (pre-1974
boundaries)
Set up: 1971
Contact: Mrs H L West

10. SURREY

Surrey Biological Records Centre
c/o Croydon Museum
Biology Centre
Chipstead Valley Road
Coulston
Surrey

Area:
Planned to be operative in 1981
Contact: Mr J A Keefe

11. SUSSEX (EAST & WEST)

Booth Museum of Natural History
194 Dyke Road
Brighton
Sussex
BN1 5AA

Brighton 552586

Area: East Sussex & West Sussex
Set up: 1976. No longer operational.
Contact: Dr G Legg

12. KENT

Kent Biological Archives &
Records Centre
c/o Natural History Section
Maidstone Museums & Art Gallery
St Faith's Street
Maidstone ME14 1LH

Maidstone 54497

Area: Admin Co of Kent
Set up: 1971
Contact: Mr E G Philp

13. BERKSHIRE

Berkshire Biological Records Centre
Reading Museum & Art Gallery
Blagrove Street
Reading
RG1 1QH

Reading 55911 extn 2149

Area: V.c. 22 & "Oxford south of
the Chiltern escarpment"
Set up: 1976
Contact: Mr H H Carter

14. OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire Biological
Recording Scheme
Oxfordshire County Council
Dept of Museum Services
Oxfordshire County Museum
Woodstock
Oxford OX7 1SN

Woodstock 811456

Area: Oxfordshire (post-
1974 boundaries)
Set up: 1975
Contact: Mr J M Campbell

15. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Buckinghamshire County Museum
Church Street
Aylesbury
Bucks

Aylesbury 82158

Area: V.c. 24 (also Admin Co
of Bucks)
Set up: 1963
Contact: Ms J Royston

16. BEDFORDSHIRE

Luton Museum Record Centre
Wardour House
Luton
Bedfordshire

Luton 36941

Area: "Bedfordshire"
Set up: 1977
Contact: Mr F Hackett

17. SOUTH HERTFORDSHIRE & MIDDLESEX

City Museum
Hatfield Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
St Albans 56679

Area: South Herts & Middlesex
Set up: Not stated
Contact: Mr E Ibbetson

18. NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

North Herts Biological Records
Centre
North Herts Museum Service
Natural History Dept
Old Fire Station, High Street
Baldock SG7 6AR
Baldock 894352

Area: Herts north of R. Lea
Set up: 1974
Contact: Mr T J James &
Mr B R Sawford

19. SOUTH-WEST ESSEX

Epping Forest Conservation Centre
High Beach
Loughton
Essex
01-508-7714

Area: South-west Essex/
Epping Forest
Set up: 1970
Contact: Mr C R Dale

20. SOUTH-EAST ESSEX

Southend-on-Sea Museums
Central Museum
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea, Essex
Southend-on-Sea 330214

Area: South-east Essex
Set up: 1975
Contact: Mr J F Skinner

21. NORTH-EAST ESSEX

Colchester & Essex Museum
The Castle
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1TJ
Colchester 76071 extn 344

Area: North-east Essex
Set up: 1975
Contact: Mr J J Heath

22. ESSEX

Passmore Edwards Museum
Romford Road
Stratford
London
E15 4LZ
01-519-4296 & 01-472-4785

Area: Geographical county
of Essex
Set up: 1980
Contact: Mr C W Plant

23. HEREFORDSHIRE

Hereford City Museum
Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9AU
Hereford 68121 extn 207/334

Area: Herefordshire - v.c. 36
Set up: 1978 (not fully
operational)
Contact: Mr J Cooter

24. WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire Biological
Records Centre
1 Commandery Drive
The Commandery, Sidbury
Worcester WR1 2HU
Worcester 355071 & 25371

Area: Worcestershire - v.c. 37
Set up: 1979
Contact:

25. WARWICKSHIRE
 Warwickshire Biological Records Centre
 Warwickshire Museum
 Market Place
 Warwick
Warwick 43431 extn 2481
 Area: Warwickshire - v.c. 38
 Set up: 1973
 Contact: Mrs P J E Copson
26. PETERBOROUGH
 Peterborough City Museum & Art Gallery
 Priestgate
 Peterborough
 PE1 1LF
Peterborough 43329
 Area: The old Soke of Peterborough, Hunts, & part of Cambs & Northants
 Set up: 1978
 Contact: Dr P R Crowther
27. SUFFOLK
 Suffolk Biological Records Centre
 The Museum
 High Street
 Ipswich
 IP1 3QH
Ipswich 213761
 Area: Suffolk; v.c.s 25 & 26
 Set up: 1974
 Contact: Mr H Mendel
28. NORFOLK
 Norfolk Biological Records Centre
 Natural History Department
 Castle Museum
 Norwich
 NR1 3JU
Norwich 22233
 Area: Norfolk
 Set up: 1973
 Contact: Mr P W Lambley
29. LINCOLNSHIRE & SOUTH HUMBERSIDE
 Biological Records Centre for Lincolnshire & S. Humberside
 Lincolnshire Museums
 Aquis House
 Clasketgate
 Lincoln LN2 1NG
Lincoln 26866, 30401
 Area: Lincs & S. Humberside
 Set up: 1976
 Contact: Mr M Johnson
30. LEICESTERSHIRE
 Leicester Biological Records Centre
 96 New Walk
 Leicester
 LE1 6TD
Leicester 554100
 Area: Leicestershire (Admin Co & v.c. 55)
 Set up: 1954
 Contact: Dr I M Evans
31. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
 Nottinghamshire Biological Records Centre
 The Natural History Museum
 Wollaton Hall
 Nottingham NG8 2AE
Nottingham 281333
 Area: Nottinghamshire - v.c. 56
 Set up: 1976
 Contact: Mr C P Walley
32. DERBYSHIRE
 Dept of Natural History
 Derby Museum & Art Gallery
 The Strand
 Derby
 DE1 1BS
Derby 31111 extn 401
 Area: "Derbyshire"
 Set up: 1973
 Contact: Mrs S J Patrick

33. STAFFORDSHIRE
 Staffordshire Biological Records
 Centre
 City Museum & Art Gallery
 Bethesda Street
 Hanley
 Stoke-on-Trent ST1 4HS
Stoke-on-Trent 29611
 Area: Staffordshire v.c. 39
 Set up: 1973
 Contact: Mr G Halfpenny
34. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE
 Shropshire Biological Records
 Centre
 Dept of Natural Sciences
 Shropshire County Museum Service
 (Ludlow Museum), Old Street
 Ludlow, Shropshire
Ludlow 3857
 Area: South Shropshire
 Set up: 1977
 Contact: Mr W J Norton
35. NORTH-WEST ENGLAND
 North West Biological Field Data
 Bank
 Merseyside County Museums
 William Brown Street
 Liverpool L3 8EN
051-207-0001
 Area: Merseyside, Gtr Manchester,
 Lancashire, Cheshire
 Set up: 1969
 Contact: Dr J Edmondson
36. BOLTON METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
 Bolton Museum & Art Gallery
 Le Mans Crescent
 Bolton
 BL1 1SA
Bolton 22311 extn 361
 Area: Bolton Metropolitan
 District
 Set up: 1974
 Contact: Mr E G Hancock
37. LANCASHIRE
 Towneley Hall Art Gallery & Museums
 Towneley Hall
 Burnley
 BB11 3RQ
Burnley 24213
 Area: Lancs (v.c.s 59/60) exc.
 Merseyside & Gtr Manchester.
 Yorkshire (v.c.s 63/64) in
 100 km sq SD (34)
 Set up: 1978
 Contact: Dr M A Kirby
38. SHEFFIELD
 Sheffield City Museums
 Weston Park
 Sheffield
 S10 2TP
Sheffield 27226
 Area: Sheffield Metropolitan
 District
 Set up: 1963
 Contact: Mr T H Riley
39. ROTHERHAM
 Clifton Park Museum
 Clifton Lane
 Rotherham
 S. Yorkshire S65 1JH
Rotherham 2121 extn 3559
 Area: Rotherham Metropolitan
 District
 Set up: 1975
 Contact: Mr W A Ely
40. DONCASTER
 Biological Records Centre
 Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery
 Chequer Road
 Doncaster, S. Yorkshire
Doncaster 62095 extn 5
 Area: Doncaster Metropolitan
 District
 Set up: 1965
 Contact: Mr P Skidmore

41. SOUTH HUMBERSIDE

Scunthorpe Museum Biological Records
Centre
Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BD

Scunthorpe 843533

Area: South Humberside & N. Lincs
(E. of SK/SE 700
N. of SK/TF 900)

Set up: 1976

Contact: Dr R Toynton

42. NORTH YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire Museum Biological
Records Centre
The Yorkshire Museum
York
YO1 2DR

York 29745

Area: "North Yorkshire"
Set up: 1978/79
Contact: Mr C Simms

43. WEST YORKSHIRE

Biological Data Bank, West Yorkshire
Region
Cliffe Castle Museum
Keighley
West Yorkshire
BD20 6LH

Keighley 64184

Area: West Yorkshire
Set up: 1974
Contact: Mr J C Lavin

44. DURHAM, CLEVELAND & SOUTHERN
TYNE & WEAR

North Eastern Environmental
Records Centre
Sunderland Museum
Borough Road
Sunderland SR1 1PP

Sunderland 41235

Area: County Tyne & Wear
(south of R. Tyne),
Co Durham & Co
Cleveland)
Set up: 1976
Contact: Mr J Bainbridge

45. NORTHUMBERLAND

Hancock Museum
Barras Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 4PT

Newcastle upon Tyne 22359

Area: Northumberland (old
county)
Set up: 1976
Contact: Mr P S Davis

W1. WALES

Welsh Biological Records Centre
Zoology Department
National Museum of Wales
Cardiff

Cardiff 397951

Area: Wales
Feasibility study in 1978 (not
operational)
Contact: Mr A F Amsden

W2. PEMBROKESHIRE

Pembrokeshire Local Biological
Records Centre
Scolton Manor Museum
Spittal
Haverfordwest, Dyfed

Clarbeston 328

Area: Pembrokeshire - v.c. 45
Set up: 1979
Contact:

W3. WEST GLAMORGAN

Swansea Museum
Victoria Road
Swansea
SA1 1SN

Swansea 53763

Area: West Glamorgan
Set up: 1977. Ceased operation
in 1978
Contact: Dr M J Isaac

W4. GWENT

Gwent Biological Records Centre
Museum & Art Gallery
John Frost Square
Newport
Gwent NPT 1HZ

Newport 840064

Area: Gwent - Monmouthshire
- v.c. 35
Not yet fully operational
Contact: Mr B A Campbell

S1. AYRSHIRE

Ayrshire Biological Records Centre
Dick Institute
Elmbank Avenue
Kilmarnock KA1 3BU

Kilmarnock 26401

Area: Ayrshire (boundaries
before 1975)
Planned to become operational in 1981
Contact:

S2. RENFREWSHIRE

Renfrewshire Biological Records
Centre
Paisley Museum & Art Gallery
High Street
Paisley PA1 2BA

041-889-3151

Area: Renfrewshire - v.c. 76
Set up: 1976
Contact: Mr D G Mellor

S3. STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN DISTRICTS

Central Region Biological Records
Centre
c/o Biology Department Museum
University of Stirling
Stirling

Stirling 3171

Area: Stirling & Clackmannan
Districts
Planned to become operational in 1982
Contact:

S4. FALKIRK DISTRICT

Falkirk Museums
15 Orchard Street
Falkirk
FK1 1RF

Falkirk 27703

Area: Falkirk District
Set up: 1978
Contact: Mr J M Sanderson

S5. PERTH & KINROSS DISTRICT

Perth Museum & Art Gallery
George Street
Perth
Tayside

Perth 32488

Area: Perth & Kinross District
Planned to become operational in 1982
Contact: Mr M A Taylor

S6. ANGUS DISTRICT

Montrose Museum
Museum & Art Gallery
Panmure Place
Montrose, Angus

Montrose 3232

Area: Angus District -
v.c. 90
Set up: 1977
Contact: Mr N K Atkinson

S7. DUNDEE AREA

Dundee Museum Biological Records
Centre

Dundee Museum
Albert Square
Dundee DD1 1DA

Dundee 25492

Area: Dundee, Angus, East
Perthshire & North Fife

Set up: 1974

Contact: Mr R K Brinklow

S8. GRAMPIAN REGION

Grampian Biological Records
Centre

Natural History Museum
Zoology Department
University of Aberdeen
Tillydrone Avenue
Aberdeen AB9 2TN

Aberdeen 40241 extn 6413

Area: Grampian Region

Set up: 1978

Contact: Mr K R Watt

S9. INVERNESS DISTRICT

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery
Castle Wynd
Inverness
IV2 3ED

Inverness 37114

Area: Inverness District

Set up: Not stated

Contact: Mr P Howard

NI. NORTHERN IRELAND

Ulster Museum
Botanic Gardens
Belfast
BT9 5AB

Belfast 668251-5

Area: Northern Ireland

Set up: circa 1975

Contact: Mr P Hackney

IOM. ISLE OF MAN

Manx Museum
Douglas
Isle of Man

Douglas 25125 & 5522

Area: Isle of Man - v.c. 71

Set up: 1922

Contact: Dr L S Garrad

APPENDIX 1

Records centres at the following institutions have ceased to operate or were never fully operational:

Birmingham City Museums & Art Gallery
Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery
Spalding Museum
Stevenage Museum

APPENDIX 2

Records centres are projected or are being considered at the following institutions:

Carlisle Museum & Art Gallery
Kendal Museum
Portsmouth Museums & Art Gallery

APPENDIX 3

Records centres have at some stage been listed at the following institutions. No replies were received from these centres to either the original questionnaire or to a subsequent request for information. These centres are therefore assumed to be no longer in existence, and any records that may have been held are no longer in safe keeping.

County Museum Service, Church Stretton, Salop
Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough
Gray Art Gallery & Museum, Hartlepool
Hitchin Museum
Scarborough Museum of Natural History
Kirkcaldy Museum
(A centre for the Borders Region of Scotland was listed at several addresses but no response was obtained from any)

NOTE

Records centres are believed to have operated at the Manchester Museum and the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. Questionnaires have only recently been sent to these Museums, and replies have not yet been received.