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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

Title: A Survey of Species Recording Schemes in Local Biological Records Centres

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A SURVEY OF SPECIES RECORDING SCHEMES IN LOCAL BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRES ■ DEREK WHITELEY ■

From time to time members receive requests from a number of sources for information or advice on how to keep records of local fauna and flora in a species orientated file. Sometimes enquiries are from embryo L.B.R.C.'s trying to embark on the most cost-efficient and time-efficient system when new curators pick the brains of the "old-timers". Others include naturalists, planners, conservationists etc. etc., and of course colleagues in neighbouring museums who always like to keep an eye on what the other folks are up to!

The "Handbook for Biological Records Centres" by S. W. Flood and F. H. Perring provides some guidance. It recommends that standard B.R.C. species list cards are marked for occurrence in each 10km square, and the use of species record cards with a county map printed on one side showing boundary of recording area and recording units e.g. tetrads. Localities for records can be entered on the reverse and the maps marked with dots etc.

Having tried several different card and loose-leaf formats as a recorder at Sheffield Museum and with the Sorby Nat. Hist. Society, I became interested in seeing how other museums function, and always made a point of sneaking a quick peep inside the filing cabinet on museum visits.

A brief survey seemed to be the answer, and consequently several appeals were made via the B.C.G. Newsletter and by personal contact for examples of recording paraphernalia.

The following is a slightly edited version of the replies to this appeal. At this point I would like to thank all museums and staff who took pains to answer yet another B.C.G. request for information, and express apologies to those who I didn't chase up for one reason or another. The results seem to represent a fair cross section of museums, both geographical and functional, and I hope this review will provide further ideas for some, inspiration for others, and interesting browsing to most of us.





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Miss J. Royston (AYBCM) writes "Herewith a copy of the quarto cards used at AYBCM to record individual sightings of species. Any list of species from a site is filed separately under the site and not cross referenced yet."

BADGER (*Meles meles*)

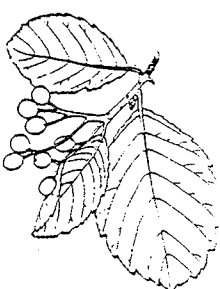
CARD 2

- 26. iv 1970 Cub, Short Heath farm JR)
nr Addington (Exhib 1905)
- 25 iii 1971 Eythrope road. Seen at bend of road below Nursery spinney (AW)
- 26 iii 1971 Waddesdon cross roads (Teacher)
- ✓ iii 1971 Abundant all along border of Ashrodge estate (JW)
- 7 iv 1971 Chartridge Lane- wood near 136 (E Humphreys)
- 3 iv 1971 138 Chartridge Lane (CDNHS)
- ix 1946 Wendover SP 883067 (Arch map)
- 24 ii 1910 ♂ ♂ ♂ Hardwick (BCM 85.10)
- 1946 Spinney N of concord wood. Sett (BCM 137.46)
- ✓ 26 i 1971 Bledlow Ridge SP 76 99 circa (day book)
- 5 v 1971 Hawridge common (day book)
- 18 vi 1971 Speen (day book)
- 28 vi 1971 High Wycombe (day book)
- 28 vi 1971 Chinnot Hill (day book)
- 18 x 1971 Aston Abbots (day book)
- ✓ 1292 Licence to hunt in N Bucks (WB)
- 1925 Creslow (WB)
- ✓ 1971 SP 769179 Sett in covert. 5 young in 1971 (Mr. Beckett, 5000)
- ✓ 1971 SP 797203 circa Possible sett (Mr Beckett, 5000)
- 1971 Sett facing SW on cultivation terr ces SP 749137 in use (CNG)
- 1971 SP 879109 sett about here (JG)
- ✓ 1971 904118 " " " "
- 13 vi 1972 Ilmer - sent to Killingley (Via telephone SC)
- see The Grebe 1971-2
- 11 vi 1972 Amersham hill (CDNHS)
- ✓ end July 1972 Near Latimer (CDNHS)
- 30 ix 1972 SP 774165 on A 41 at Fleet Marston (report)
- 30 ix 1972 SP 723123 on Cuddington to Lower Winchendon Rd (report)
2 v big setts at Shenley (GH)
- ✓ 3 xi 1971 Marlow Su 855888 (day book)
- 5 xi 1972 Aston Clinton (day book)
- 30 xii 1971 Stoke Mandeville (day book)
- 10 vi 1972 Crows nest, Tring Hill (day book)
- 24 viii 1972 Grendon Rd, Ickford (day book)
- 29 ix 1972 Fleet Marston (day book)
- 2 x 1972 Cuddinton - L Winchendon Rd (day book)
- 7 March 1973 SP 718348 (day book)
- 21 May 1974 A413 Boswell. (Day book)

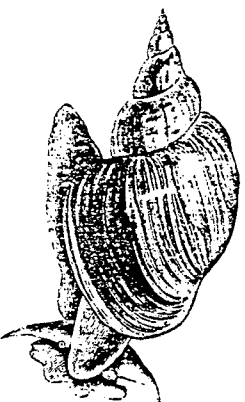
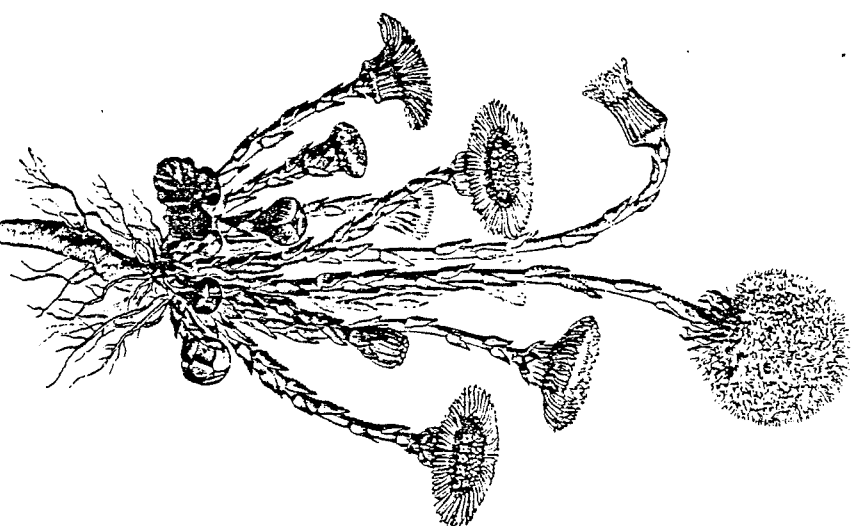
Robert Butler (Supervisor, Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre) enclosed samples of home produced cards, and a very useful information sheet (reproduced here) on the function and activities of the B.R.E.R.C. In addition to these locally orientated species cards, Bristol also uses standard BRC species cards. Robert Butler adds "The Flora of Avon species list was produced by an Avon County Council MSC survey scheme. We are currently using it, but will shortly be extensively revising it."

Flora of Avon species list	Site Name: <i>Dolebury Warren</i>	Site No: <i>0410</i>
Date & Source <i>27.4.82</i>	MUSEUM <i>BRISTOL</i>	Gid-Ref. & Map No:
		Parish/District: <i>CHURCHILL / WOODSPRING</i>
		Vice County:
Habitats: <i>Limestone Grassland + Iron Age campment + modern Warren</i>		

Abies	alba	Amaranth	caudatu	Aster	tripolium	Callitri	stagnal	Carex	polyphylla
Abies	grandis	Amelanch	laevis	Astragal	danicus	Calluna	vulgaris	Carex	pseudocype
Abies	procera	Ammophila	arenar	Astragal	glycyph	Caltha	palustris	Carex	pulicaris
Acer	campestre	Anacampt	pyramid	Athyri	felix-fem	Calysteg	sepium	Carex	remota
Acer	platanoides	Anagal	aven/aven	Atriplex	glabrius	Calysteg	soldane	Carex	riparia
Acer	pseudoplat	Anagal	aven/foem	Atriplex	hastata	Camelina	sativa	Carex	rostrata
Achillea	millefo	Anagalis	minima	Atriplex	patula	Campanul	glomera	Carex	serotina
Achillea	ptarmic	Anagalis	tenella	Atropa	bell donn	Campanul	patula	Carex	strigosa
Acinos	arvensis	Anemone	nemorosa	Avena	fatua	Campanul	rotundi	Carex	sylvatica
Aconitum	napellu	Angelic	sylvestr	Avena	ludviciana	Campanul	trachel	Carex	vesicaria
Acorus	calamus	Anisanth	madrite	BADELLE	ranuncu	Cannabis	sativa	Carex	vulpina
Adonis	annua	Anisanth	sterili	Ballot	nigr/foet	Capsella	burs-pa	Carlina	vulgaris
Adoxa	moschatell	Antennar	dioica	Barbarea	interme	Cardamin	amara	Carpinus	betulus
Aegopodi	podagra	Anthemis	arvensi	Barbarea	stricta	Cardamin	flexuos	Carpobro	edulis
Aesculus	carnea	Anthemis	cotula	Barbarea	verna	Cardamin	hirsuta	Carum	carvi
Aesculus	hippoca	Anthemis	tinctor	Barbarea	vulgari	Cardamin	impatie	Castanea	sativa
Aethusa	cynapium	Anthoxan	odoratu	Bellis	perennis	Cardamin	pratens	Catabros	aquatic
Agrimon	eupatori	Anthrisc	caucali	Berberis	vulgari	Cardaria	draba	Catapodi	marinum
Agrimoni	procera	Anthrisc	cerefol	Bertheroa	incana	Carduus	acanthoi	Catapodi	rigidum
Agropyro	caninum	Anthrisc	sylvest	Berula	erecta	Carduus	nutans	Caucalis	latifol
Agropyro	junceif	Anthylli	vulnera	Beta	vulgari	Carduus	tenuiflo	Caucalis	platyca
Agropyro	maritim	Antirrh	majus	Betonica	officin	Carex	acuta	Centaure	cyaneus
Agropyro	pungens	Antirrh	orontum	Betula	pendula	Carex	acutiformi	Centaurea	jacea
Agropyro	repens	Apera	spicata	Bidens	cernua	Carex	arenaria	Centaure	nigra
Agrostem	githago	Aphanes	arvensis	Bidens	frondosa	Carex	binervis	Centaure	scabios
Agrost	cani/cani	Aphanes	microcar	Bidens	tripartit	Carex	capillaris	Centauri	erythra
Agrosti	gigantea	Apium	graveolens	Bilderdy	convolv	Carex	caryophyll	Centauri	pulchre
Agrostis	setacea	Apium	inundatum	Blackston	perfol	Carex	demissa	Centrant	ruber
Agrostis	stoloni	Apium	nodiflorum	Blechnum	spicant	Carex	depauperat	Cephalan	damsoni
Agrostis	tenuis	Aquilegi	vulgari	Blysmus	compress	Carex	diandra	Cephalan	longifo
Aira	caryophylle	Arabidop	thalian	Borago	officin	Carex	digitata	Cerastiu	arvense
Aira	praecox	Arabis	hirsuta	Botrychi	lunaria	Carex	distans	Cerastiu	diffusu
Ajuga	reptans	Arabis	stricta	Brachipod	pinnat	Carex	disticha	Cerastiu	fontanu
Alchemil	vulagg	Arctium	lappa	Brachipod	sylvati	Carex	divisa	Cerastiu	glomera
Alchemil	glabra	Arctium	minus	Brassica	napus	Carex	divulsa	Cerastiu	pumilum
Alchemil	vestita	Arctium	tormento	Brassica	rapa	Carex	echinata	Cerastiu	semidec
Alchemil	xanthoc	Arenaria	leptocl	Briza	media	Carex	elata	Cerastiu	torment
Alisma	lanceolat	Arenaria	serpyl	Bromus	commutatu	Carex	extensa	Ceratoph	demersu
Alisma	plant-aqu	Armeria	maritima	Bromus	lepidus	Carex	flacca	Ceratoph	submers
Alliaria	petiola	Armoraci	rustica	Bromus	mollis	Carex	flava	Ceterach	officina
Allium	oleraceum	Arnoseri	minima	Bromus	racemosus	Carex	filiformis	Chaenorh	minus
Allium	sphaeroce	Arrhenan	elatius	Bromus	secalinu	Carex	hirta	Chaeroph	temulen
Allium	ursinum	Artemesi	absinth	Bromus	thomini	Carex	hostiana	Chamaeac	lawsoni
Allium	vincale	Artemesi	maritim	Bryonia	cretica	Carex	humilis	Chamaeac	leyland
Alnus	glutinosa	Artemesi	vulgari	Buddleja	davidii	Carex	laevigata	Chamaeac	nobile
Alnus	incana	Arum	italicum	Bupleuru	rotundi	Carex	lepidocarp	Cheirant	cheiri
Alnus	viridis	Arum	maculatum	Bupleuru	tenuiss	Carex	montana	Chelidon	majus
Alopecur	bulbosu	Asparagu	officin	Butomus	umbellat	Carex	muricata	Chenopod	album
Alopecur	genicul	Asperugo	procumb	Buxus	semperviv	Carex	nigra	Chenopod	bon hen
Alopecur	myosuro	Asperula	arvensi	CAKILE	maritima	Carex	otrubae	Chenopod	murale
Alopecur	pratens	Asperula	cynanch	Calamagr	epigejo	Carex	ovalis	Chenopod	polyspe
Althaea	hirsuta	Asplenium	adiant	Calamint	nepeta	Carex	pallescens	Chenopod	rubrum
Althaea	officina	Asplenium	marinu	Calamint	sylvati	Carex	panicea	Chenopod	vulvari
Althaea	rosea	Asplen	ruta-mura	Callitri	interme	Carex	paniculata	Chrysant	segetum
Alyssum	alyssoid	Asplenium	tricho	Callitri	obtusan	Carex	pendula	Chrysosp	alterni
		Aster	novi-belgi	Callitri	platyca	Carex	pilulifera	Chrysosp	opposit



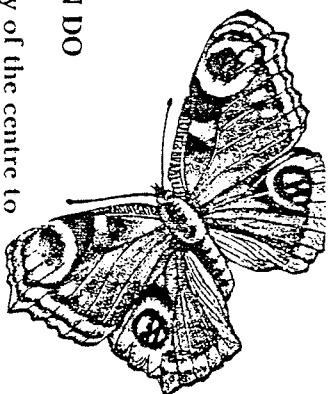
Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre



WHAT YOU CAN DO

It is not the policy of the centre to replace the existing system of data flow based on local and national recorders feeding information directly to specialist societies and the National Biological Records Centre, but rather to fill the gaps which exist in the data-gathering system and to provide a permanent archive for individual and society natural history records and official surveys.

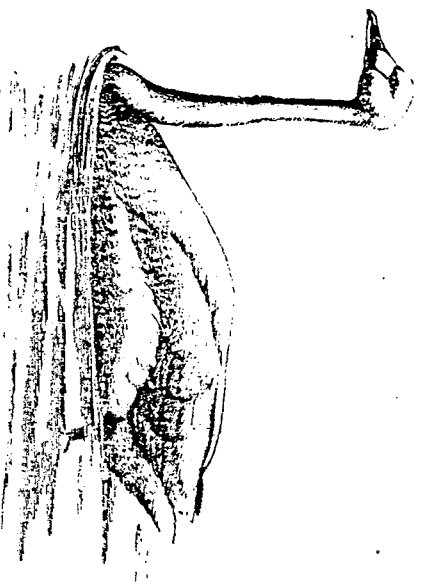
For individuals and groups who are keen to contribute biological records, there are projects run by the centre (see B.R.E.R.C. newsletters) for which recording cards will be made available - alternatively, individuals and groups are encouraged to record for any species or sites in which they are interested. The centre will be glad to advise on surveying methods and to provide specimen recording cards where required.



We can be contacted at:

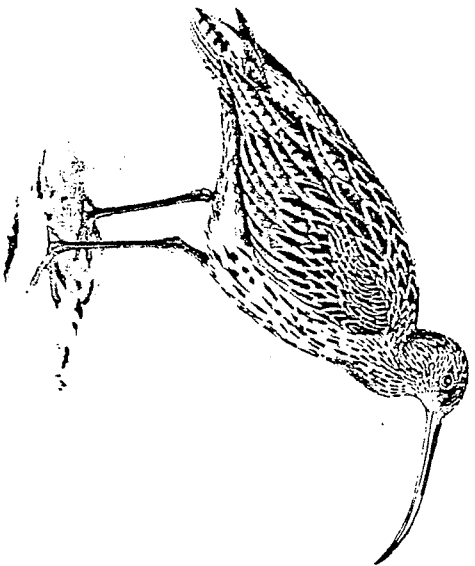
B.R.E.R.C.,
City of Bristol Museum & Art Gallery,
Natural History Section,
Queen's Road,
Bristol BS8 1RL

Tel: (0272) 299771



WHAT IS B.R.E.R.C.?

- * It is the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre.
- * It aims to provide a centre of reference for information on the status and distribution of plants and animals in the region.
- * It aims to maintain and update a record of local sites of natural history and geological interest.
- * It is a regional link with the National Biological Records Centre at Monkswood, Cambridgeshire.
- * It aims to act in an impartial manner concerning the collection and release of information (with necessary restrictions on sensitive data).
- * It is maintained by the staff of the Natural History section of the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery and, currently, by staff employed on a Community Enterprise Project funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

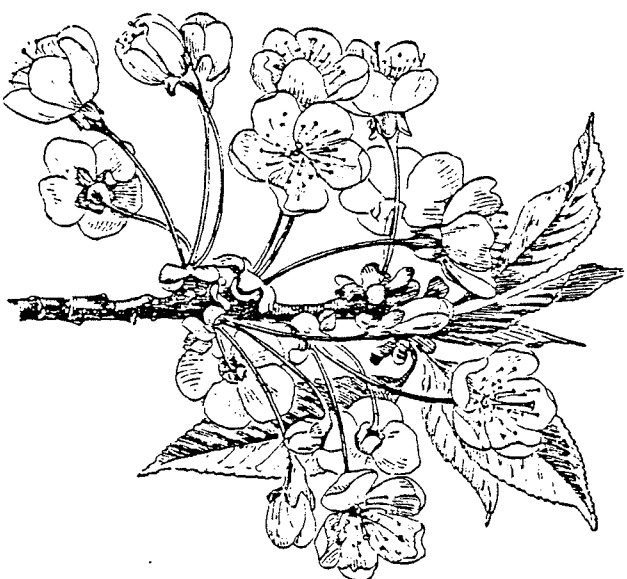


WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF B.R.E.R.C.?

- * To provide a permanent archive for the deposition and management of natural history records which are based on field records, museum collections and published works amassed by individuals, societies and official surveys.
- * To encourage and co-ordinate biological recording by developing a liaison between individuals and organisations.
- * To co-operate with relevant bodies including the local wildlife trusts and planning departments with the aim of identifying sites of significance for conservation and education and to monitor threatened sites or species.
- * To make available information for research.
- * To promote the publication of atlases, guides, surveys and scientific works to disseminate information and to promote a better understanding of wildlife in the region.

WHAT DOES B.R.E.R.C. DO?

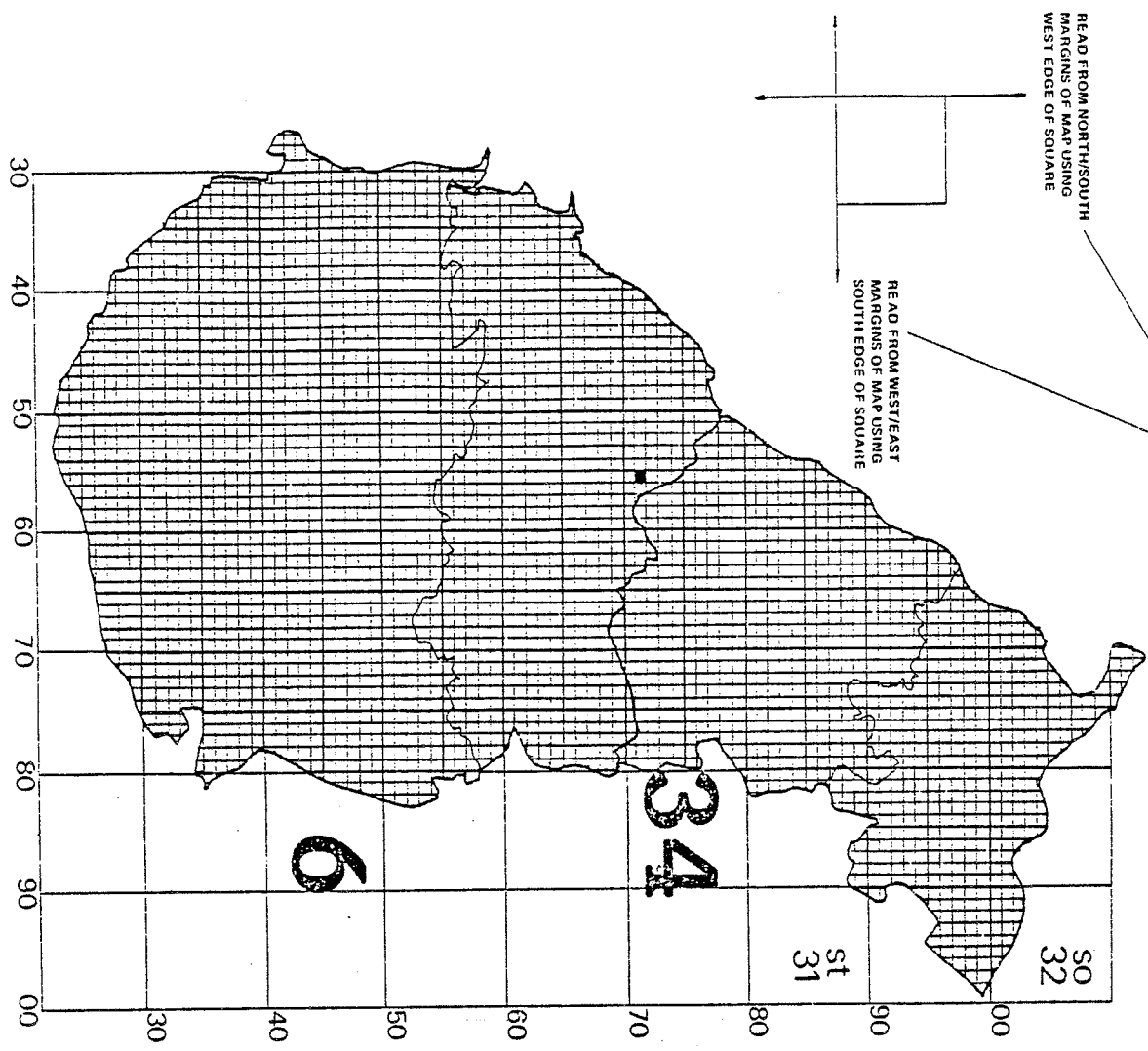
- * Stores information on both cards and a computer which ensures the maximum use of the data through an extensive system of cross references.
- * Offers help and advice concerning collecting, recording and identifying flora and fauna.
- * Maintains a bibliography of the natural history of the region.
- * Encourages standardised recording in the region.
- * Prepares information in response to enquiries.
- * Maintains a directory of local specialists and recorders.





GRID REF'S

100 km SQUARE CODE ——— ST 78 34
DIGITS OR LETTERS
ONLY SO, ST IN AVON



ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Exeter

Kelvin Boot at Exeter Museum uses a home-produced 8" x 5" multi-record card, cross referenced to a site file. Species check-lists are used in a site file.

Species are mapped at the tetrad level, with at least two maps indicating distribution during the period 1950-1976, and more recent records.

Three sorts of hand-outs are provided to encourage the general public or naturalist to submit records

- a) a species recording form
- b) a habitat survey sheet for locality studies
- c) forms for special surveys

Grassland, Heath and Moorland

1. (a) Name and point locality of site
 - (b) National Grid Reference
 - (c) Name and address of recorder(s)

 - (d) Sketch map to indicate survey area as part of overall district

 - (e) Date(s) of visits (with time of day)
 - (f) Outstanding interest(s)
 - (g) Land ownership/management, to include recent objectives and activity (approximately the last 50 years)
-
2. Description - underline accordingly
 - (a) Grassland type; eg. open pasture, arable, grazing land, tall grasses (5' or more), short grasses (6" or less), bunch grasses in clumps, sod-formers with underground rhizomes, non-grassy herbs, woody plants, parkland, scrub, heather, gorse, open heath, moorland
 - (b) Margin; eg. abrupt, diffuse, continual grassland, fence or hedge, wall, water, etc.
 - (c) Soil; eg. acid, peat, alluvium, sand, loam, clay
 - (d) Adjacent land use; eg. scrub, arable, cultivated or rough pasture, marsh or fen, road, rail, river, quarry, seashore, clifftop, housing, industry, military, etc.
 - (e) Additional habitats and microhabitats; eg. ditch, banks, paths, rock outcrops, scree, boulders, marsh, pond, stream, river, lake, canal, buildings, isolated trees, dung-pats, etc.
 - (f) Comment on any features of particular geological interest

3. Natural History Status

Please tick the relevant groups being investigated, and add any comments as a footnote. Separate species can then be written on the relevant group species lists that are subsequently attached.

PLANT GROUPS

TREES

FLOWERS

SHRUBS/GORSE/HEATHER
GRASSES

LICHEN

FUNGAE

ALGAE

FERNS

MOSSES

ANIMAL GROUPS

BIRDS

MAMMALS

ARTHROPODS (insects, etc.)

REPTILES

AMPHIBIANS

FISH

WORMS

MOLLUSCS (slugs, snails, etc.)

Comments

4. (a) Pollution Is there known or visible pollution? (State whether industrial or domestic, effluent or 'solid' - including tipping - the source if known, and whether pollution is permanent or occasional).

(b) Amenity ie. recreational use of the area; eg. nature trails, picnicing, camping, angling, swimming, boating, organised sport, casual use by children. If such use is made by an organised club, please give the name if known.

Further Comments

Group Species Record Sheet

- 1. (a) Name and point locality of survey site :
- (b) National Grid Reference :
- (c) Name and address of recorder :

Date	<u>SPECIES DETAILS</u> Species name	(continue overleaf) Comments; eg. very common, common, rare, stage of development, sex, interesting points of behaviour, whether feeding, etc.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

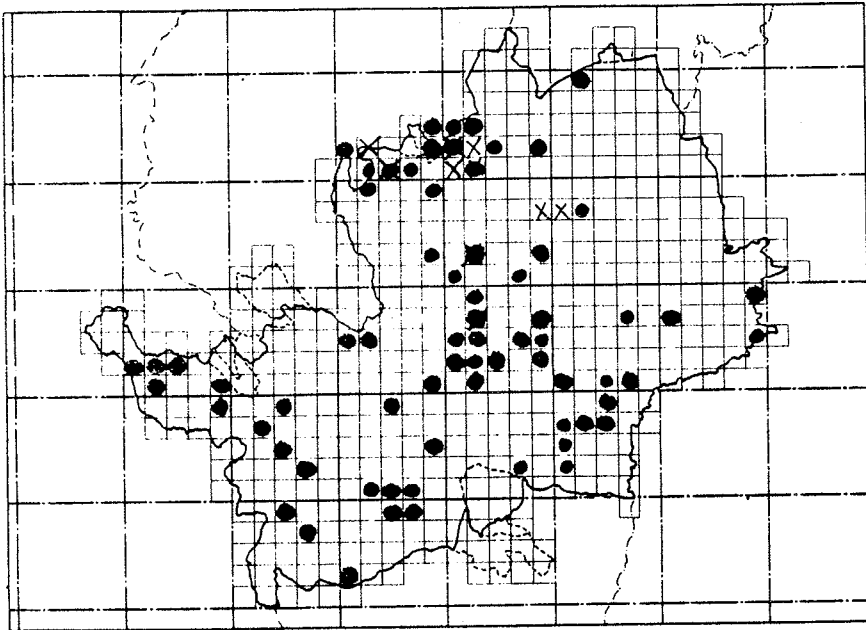
MUSEUMS SERVICES

Brian Sawford (North Herts.) writes "I enclose photocopies indicating the system that we operate. This scheme has been found to be very easy to use, both by ourselves and the various researchers, recorders, etc. that make and take data.

Most data are post-1974 (when the biological data bank was set up), although some earlier records are annotated either by open circles or crosses. We have established a biological recording forum for Hertfordshire that facilitates close contacts with County recorders and national networks, and ensures positive data movement. For some groups we act as County recorders and for others we receive duplicate records. In conjunction with the species distribution we also maintain biological and geological sites files for northern Hertfordshire, which contain a mixture of standard species record cards, maps, photographs, etc.

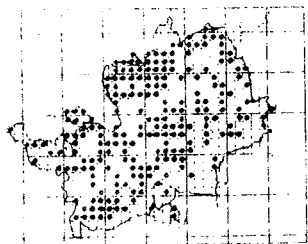
For vascular plants you will note that two maps are used, the smaller has been taken from the extant County Flora, and the larger indicates post-Flora records on a 2x2 Km basis. This facilitates our work as BSBI vice county recorders. Using such integrated data we also have established habitat assessment regimes for relatively rapid evaluation of sites in conjunction with various planning and conservation requirements.

Comma Polygonia c-album

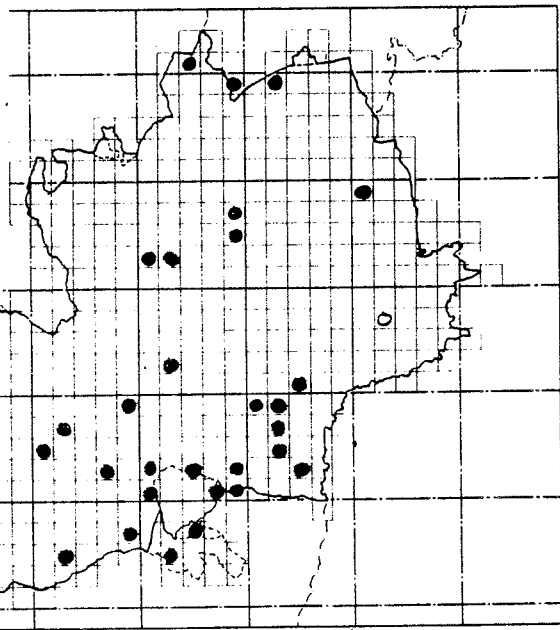


- TL 31/K Hertford Heath 29.8.77. T.J. (+ Balls Wood).
- TL 22/A Graffridge Wood. 4.9.77. T.J.
- TL 32/E Watering place Green. 20.11.1977 T.J.
- TL 13/K. Pirton, several (25/5/77) C. Burton.
- TL 12/J Lebnise Way, w. Telegraph Hill (198/79). BRS.
- TL 10/K. Radlett (1970) B. Wildridge.
- TL 19/P. Radlett
- TL 10/F. Brick Wood (1979) B. Wildridge.

- Norton Common (1922) - Ray Palmer
- Hine (2 records from Letchworth, 1 from Apsley End)
- n. William (1953). R. Edwards
- 'prior to 1833 abundant in Herts' - Illustrations of Brit. Entomology - J.H. Stephens.
- n. Hitchin (21/9/21) - R.T. Easton Jour. LNHS (2).
- Norton Common (7/5/22) - R. Palmer
- (-19/22) - N.T. Easton
- n. Pigeonwidge Knebworth (28/7/35) - R. Palmer
- Baldock Rd. Letchworth (-19/35)
- Letchworth (6/7/47) - S. Bousden. J. LNHS (7).
- Knebworth (27/47)
- n. Welham (1945) Rev. W. Greenham THMS XXI (4)
- Pirton (1971) C. Burton THMS 27(4) (TL 13/K).
- TL 21/I Welwyn. 1945. R. Ferry.
- TL 22/G Knebworth Woods. 1946 R. Ferry.
- TL 23/L. Baldock 23/8/76. B.R. Sawford
- TL 13/Q Oughton Head. 20/6/76. W.O. Morris
- TL 12/W By Hitch Wood. 30.6.76 T. James.
- TL 13/Q Oughton Head. 19.9.75 T.J.
- TL 31/T Cold Christies 1.8.76 T.J.
- TL 30/C Home Farm, Newgate St. 1972. T.J.
- TL 30/B Cuffley occasional 1970+ T.J.
- TL 13/F. Dinton (1976). C. Burton
- TL 23 B. Letchworth (1976) B.R. Sawford.
- TL 21/X Brafield Park Wood. 24.4.77. T. James
- TL 22/Q. Astonbury Wood (1974) Tomkins & Burton
- TL 22/D. Astonbury (1977). Tomkins & Burton
- TL 21/C Dowsdale Wood, 15/4/79 T. James.
- TL 23/B. Norton Common 16/4/80. BRS.
- TL 30/I Broxbourne Woods. 21/7/81. CM James.

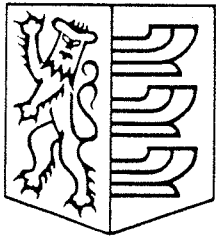


Trifolium campestre



Trifolium campestre. 192. 21

- TL 30/E (1974) J. Killick.
- TL 23/Z Shire Bank, Ashwell. 11.9.77 T.J.
- TL 33/J. Hitches Valley (27/7/78) BRS/TJ
- TL 42/E green Lane, E. of Sparkfield. 1/7/79. TJ.
- TL 24/K. Ashwell Sewage Farm 25/7/79 TJ.
- TL 31/K. Balls Wood 1978/9. P. Maddox.
- TL 41/I. Hadham Towers (1953-1970) J. Fielding

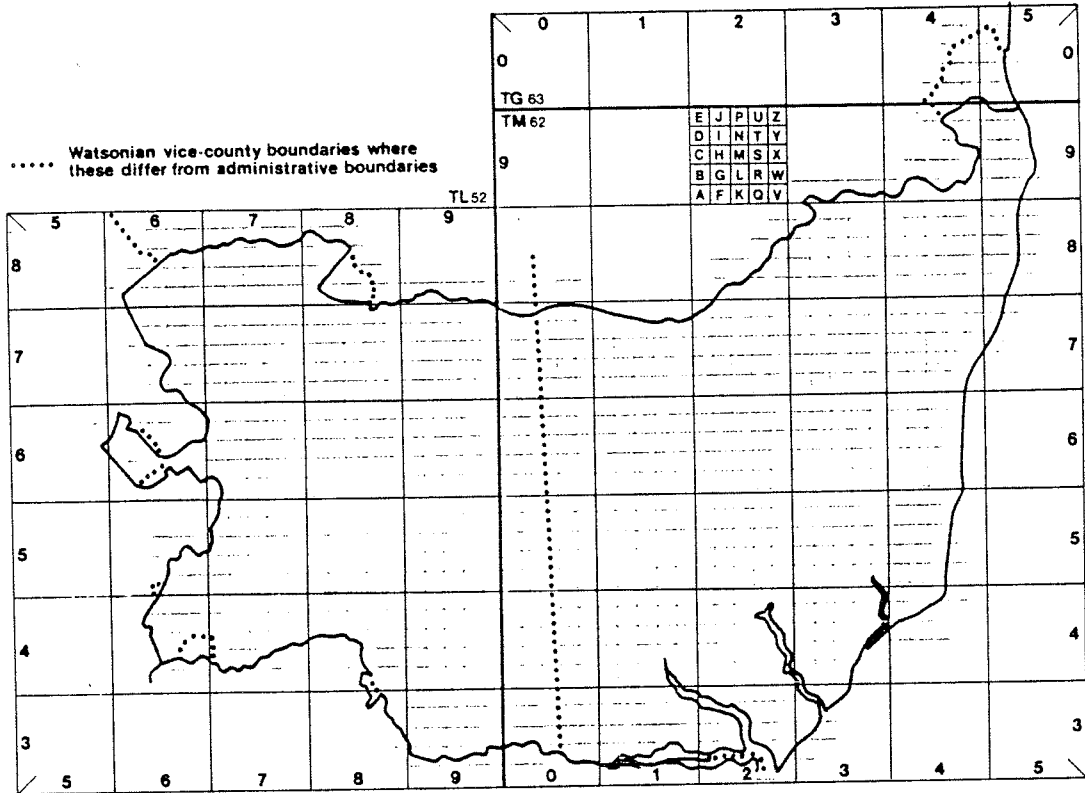


BOROUGH OF IPSWICH

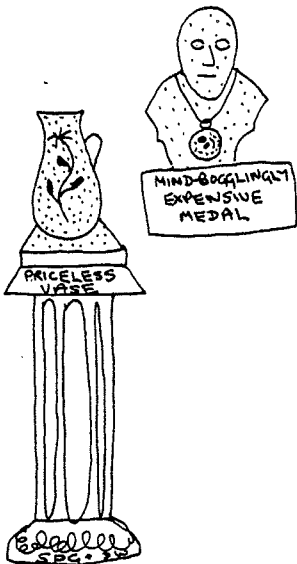
Howard Mendel (Ipswich Museum) and the S.B.R.C. use B.R.C. GEN 7's in conjunction with the home-produced distribution map card.

SUFFOLK

WATSONIAN VICE-COUNTIES 25 East Suffolk
26 West Suffolk



MUSEUM STORE



BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS IN LEICESTERSHIRE

LEICESTERSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

The last published account of Leicestershire butterflies and moths (lepidoptera) was the Victoria History of the County of Leicester (1907) (V.C.H.). Leicestershire has changed a lot since then, particularly in the way the land is used and managed. As a result some of the species recorded in 1907 can no longer be found in the county; others not in the V.C.H. have been recorded recently.

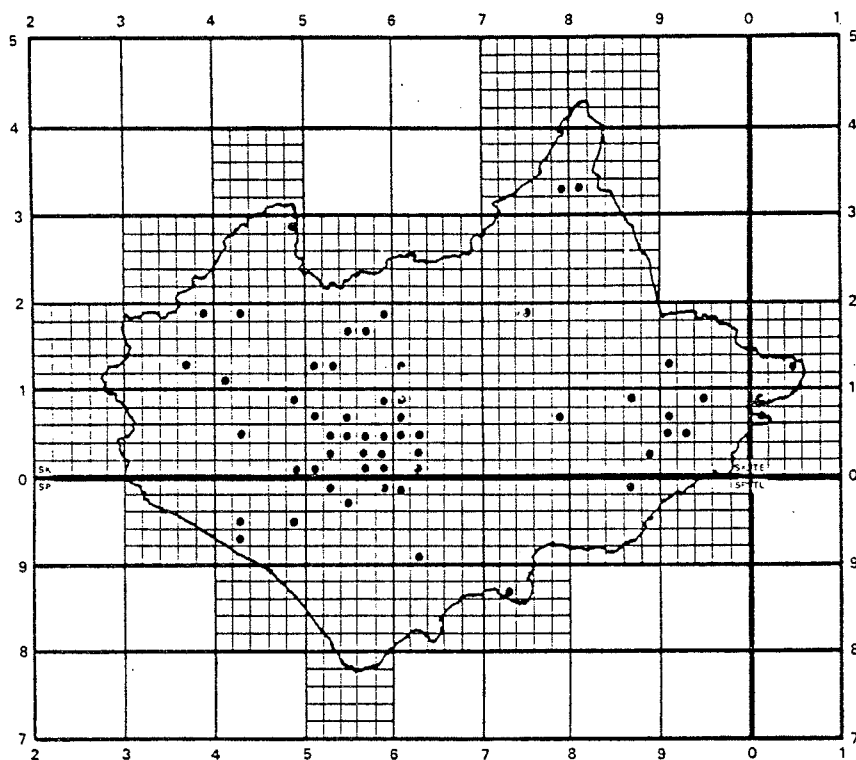
In 1954, H.A. Buckler brought together many of the records from the 1930s and 1940s and compared them with the V.C.H. listings. Changes had already taken place. About 90 of the species on the 1907 list had not been recorded subsequently, but nearly 40 new species had been added. However, it must be remembered that when both lists were compiled only a small number of people were observing and recording lepidoptera so only certain areas of the county were covered.

At the national level, recording since 1964 has been coordinated by the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood Experimental Station in Cambridgeshire. The system which they use is based on the 10 kilometre squares (squares with sides of 10 kilometres) of the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Data for the butterflies and some of the moths have already been published in the form of distribution maps. These maps reveal a lack of information for parts of Leicestershire, even for the most common species.

10km square distribution maps are not sufficiently precise to provide the more detailed information required by people interested in studying and conserving lepidoptera in Leicestershire. To supply this more precise information the Leicestershire Lepidoptera Recording Scheme was established at the Museum in 1977. This scheme is based on 'tetrad' distribution maps. A tetrad is the area enclosed by a 2km x 2 km square (i.e. FOUR square kilometres), thus every 10 km square is divided into 25 tetrads. There are 41 10 km squares which contain 713 tetrads wholly or partly within our county.

The tetrad distribution map for the elephant hawk-moth Deilephila elpenor is shown overpage. The larvae (caterpillars) of this moth feed on willow herb and other common plants. Food is therefore abundant throughout the county and one would expect a corresponding county-wide distribution of moths. However the distribution shown on the map indicates the main concentration in the city and its suburbs. Is this really what happens or are city dwellers more observant and curious than people who live out in the county?

Tetrad distribution map for the elephant hawk-moth in Leicestershire.
 A dot is put in each tetrad for which at least one record has been received.



So far we have received records of 46 species which were not recorded in either the V.C.H. or the Buckler list; even so records from some parts of the county are few or non-existent.

To be successful the Leicestershire Lepidoptera Recording Scheme requires field workers, recorders and a coordinator.

The field workers range from casual observers who bring specimens to the Museum for identification or only note butterflies which they see in their gardens to dedicated amateurs who are happy to sit all night with a generator-powered light, catching moths, at some remote spot in the county.

The recorders collate the information received from the field workers and then mark up the maps. Previous knowledge of Lepidoptera is not essential.

The scheme is being coordinated by an Assistant Keeper in the Biology Section at the New Walk Museum, Lt. Col. Donald Hall-Smith.

We need your help with this scheme.

If you are a Lepidopterist may we have access to your records?

If you are interested and you live in a poorly recorded part of the county then let us know about any Lepidoptera which you see and can positively identify - such as butterflies in your garden.

If you would like to help us with the work of transferring and mapping records then come to the Museum for an hour or two and give us a hand.

Anyone who would like to help in any way should contact Donald Hall-Smith at the New Walk Museum or by phone:- Leicester 554100 Ext.288.

LEICESTERSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Notes for Observers

The information needed from observers for any sighting is as follows.

Name of locality, including the parish if known

The name of the parish is required for the main record cards. If it is known to the observer and entered on the sighting card this will help the recorder who transfers the information from the sighting card to the main record cards.

Map reference

A six figure map reference should be given if possible. A four figure reference is the minimum requirement to enable the appropriate tetrad to be identified. Advice on how to work out map references is given on a separate sheet. If the sighting is in your garden and you do not have a map from which to obtain the map reference please enter the full postal address in the Locality box.

Date(s) of sighting(s)

A periodic list for one locality covering any length of time during a calendar year is just as useful as separate lists for each date of sighting during that year. When a periodic list is prepared in subsequent years it is helpful if species not seen in previous years are marked, may be with *. The distribution maps are initiated at 10 yearly intervals therefore when lists which cover more than one year are prepared it will be helpful if sightings during different decades are kept separate e.g. 1 Jan 1970 to 31 Dec 1979, 1 Jan 1980 to 31 Dec 1989.

Name and address of the observer. Telephone number if on the phone.

List of species seen.

The scientific names used for the scheme are those given in "A Check List of British Insects, Part 2: Lepidoptera", 1972, by Kloet and Hincks. The English names used are those given in "Butterflies of the British Isles" by R. South and the two volumes of "Moths of the British Isles" by R. South. Both scientific and English names are shown in "A Recorders Log Book or Label List of British Butterflies and Moths" by J.D. Bradley and D.S. Fletcher, 1979, published by Curwen Books. It costs about £2.00.

The main record cards and dot maps are filed in alphabetical order by genus and also alphabetically by species within genera. Whenever possible lists of species should be in alphabetical order, preferably by scientific names but lists of English names can be used.

A specimen of the Sighting Cards which are available to observers is attached. Would observers who are working in the Biological Records Centre scheme please let us have their B.R.C. cards to copy before they send them to the B.R.C.

LEICESTERSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Notes for Recorders

(Revised June 1981)

Main record cards are divided into butterflies (rhopalocera), the larger moths (macro heterocera) and the smaller moths (micro heterocera).

Main record cards and tetrad maps are filed in the above three groups in alphabetical order by genus and also alphabetically by species within genera.

The publications etc. which it may be necessary to use

The BRC RAS Master Card and supplementary card

NOTE The smaller moths are not on these cards

A BRC RAS record card which has been annotated and amended. When a main record card and tetrad map have been prepared for a species the appropriate mark is put against the species number on this card. Where necessary the names have been altered to agree with current usage.

A species not on the BRC RAS Master Card is entered on the supplementary card when a main record card and a tetrad map for it have been prepared. They are in BRC numerical order.

The smaller moths Master Card

This shows the smaller moths, with B & F number, for which main record cards and tetrad maps have been prepared.

BRC Indices of English Names and Scientific Names

This consists of the following alphabetically arranged lists:-
English names with scientific names and BRC code numbers for

Butterflies
The larger moths

Scientific names with BRC code numbers for
The larger moths

Bradley & Fletcher (B & F) = "A Recorder's Log Book or Label List, 1979"

This is a systematic list of the current scientific names of all the British Lepidoptera and the commonly used English names. There have been some amendments to the Kloet & Hincks names.

Kloet & Hincks = "A Check List of British Insects, Part 2: Lepidoptera", 1972 by Kloet & Hincks.

This is a list of the scientific names of the British Lepidoptera arranged in systematic order and includes synonyms.

Gazetteer of Leicestershire

This contains alphabetical list of place names, parishes and districts and their map references.

Maps, Ordnance Survey 1:50,000, Sheets 128, 129, 139, 140 and 141.
Street map of Leicester, 4 inches to 1 mile (1:15,840)

RECORDING PROCEDURE

To enable the name used on the sighting card to be connected with the correct main record card it is necessary to allocate the appropriate BRC or B & F number to it. This number is then found on the applicable Master card (if not already done, the appropriate mark is put on the Master Card) and the name shown is then selected from the main record card and tetrad map file.

The appropriate entries are made on the main record card.

The tetrad map card is to be marked by putting a number in the appropriate tetrad and this number is entered below the map reference in the Map Ref. box on the main record card and ringed thus ⑤. The numbers are to run sequentially from 1. If subsequent records are received for an already numbered tetrad the original number is to be used for them also.

When the necessary entries have been made on the main record card and the tetrad map card, a red mark is put against the name on the sighting card. When all of the species reported on the sighting card have been dealt with there will be a red mark against each name, the sighting card sequential number is then ringed with red.

Finally the map showing all tetrads from which records have been received is to be marked.

A "Recorder's Flowchart" is available.

D.H. Hall-Smith
June 1981

LEICESTERSHIRE LEPIDOPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

Initial preparation of cards for each species

A. MAIN RECORD CARD

- In the boxes at the top enter the following
- Order - Lep.
 - Genus - Generic name
 - Species - Specific name
 - Authority - The approved abbreviation of the name of the author of the specific name
 - Common Name - The English name commonly used
 - Card Number - Sequential number from 1 and the decade below the number

Checklist Number - BRC number and below it B & F number. For the smaller moths there will only be the B & F number

With the top of the card moved to the left and the right margin now horizontal at the top; at the top left enter the Genus, Species, B & F number and BRC number (B & F number only for the smaller moths).

B. TETRAD MAP CARDS

Along the top edge enter Genus, Species, B & F number and BRC number (B & F number only for the smaller moths).

Below Leicestershire enter the decade, e.g. 1980s.

Genus, Species, Checklist number(s)

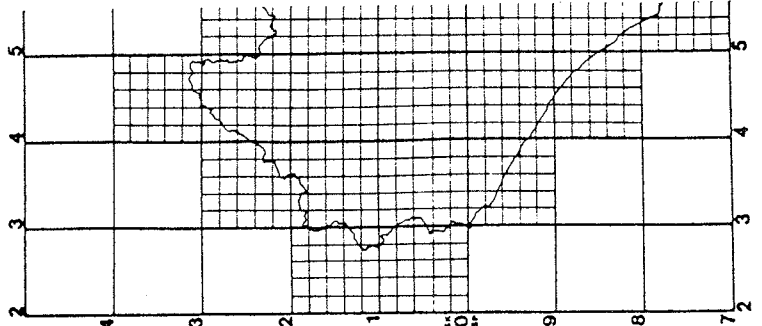
Aglais urticae B&F 1593 BRC 2

Order	Genus	Aglais	Card No.	1	Checklist number	BRC 2
Lep.	Species	urticae	1980s	B&F 1593	Source	
	Authority	Linn.			Reported by	
	Common name	Small Tortoiseshell			Date	
Map Ref.	Locality					

Aglais urticae B&F 1593 BRC 2

Leicestershire

1980s

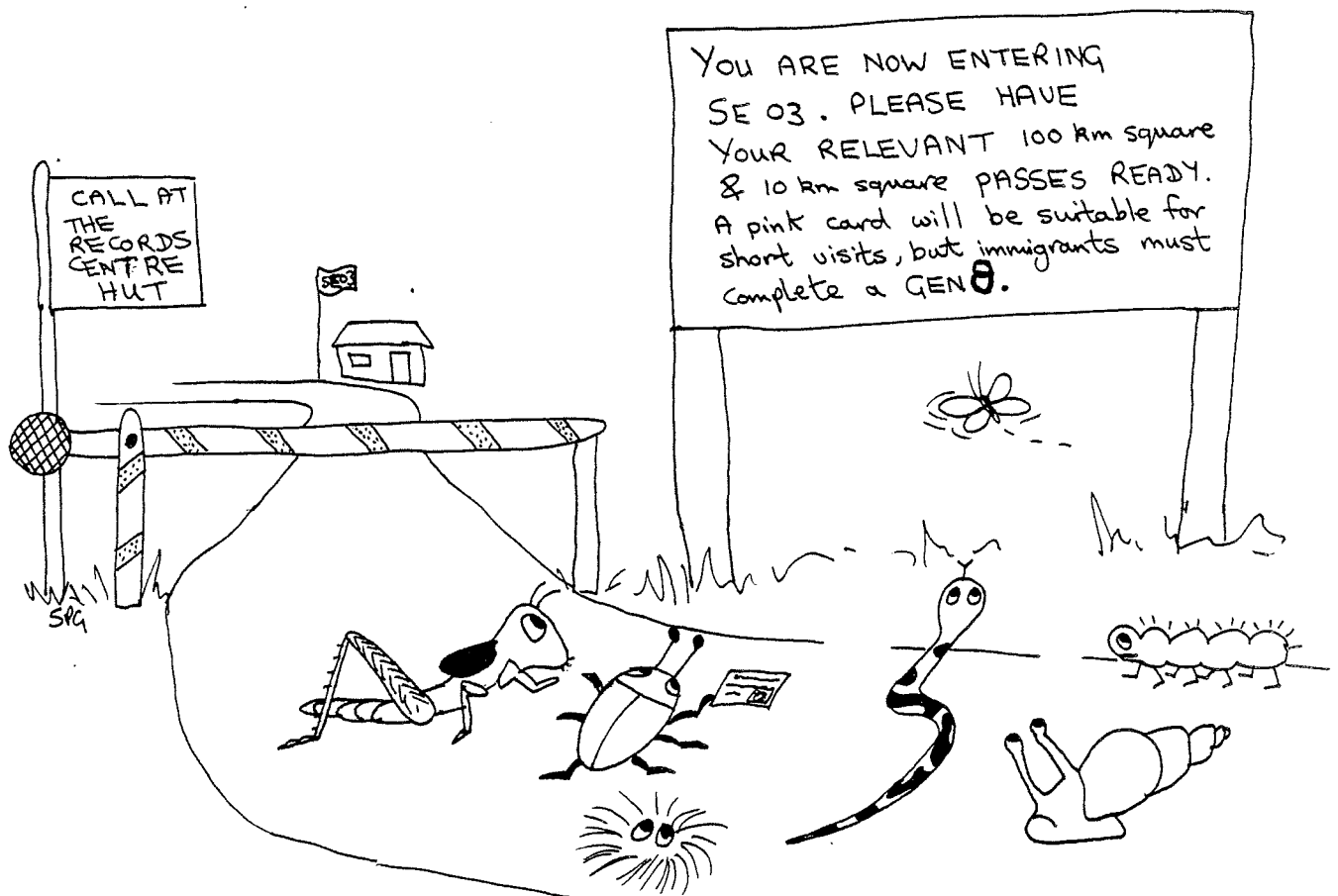


Hereford City Museums

Jonathan Cooter from Hereford City Museums sent a sample card for the Herefordshire lepidoptera scheme, using different coloured inks for records of the different forms of the Peppered Moth. (I have annotated the black and white photocopy for those who are interested B = Blue Bk = Black R = Red G = Green - ed.). Jonathan writes "This is typical of the lepidoptera, but of course the different colours used with this species are unique. As yet we have not searched the literature but see a few problems in this - it was (from 1874 to about the 1940's) the done thing to record by Parish (in which case we record the ref. for the church) or by "Woolhope Divisions" - a device used by the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club, mainly for plants. Any 10km sq. records are noted and the square shaded in lightly with lead pencil. For very common species - small tortoiseshell, "whites" etc., we assume they occur throughout the 10km sq. and leave it at that, but note the locality, of course.

At present the lepidoptera records we have amassed reflect the areas in which Dr. Harper and Dr. Miles live, plus a few extras, mostly made up of "night ops" that Dr. Harper and I have made. At present Dr. Harper is getting ten years intensive recording of micros into an order that others, apart from himself, can understand. These will then be added to our BRC cards.

We concentrate on insects - birds have been recorded for years by the Ornithological Club, plants by the Bot. Soc. and I see no point, other than centralising records, for duplicating these groups. We have access to each other's records.

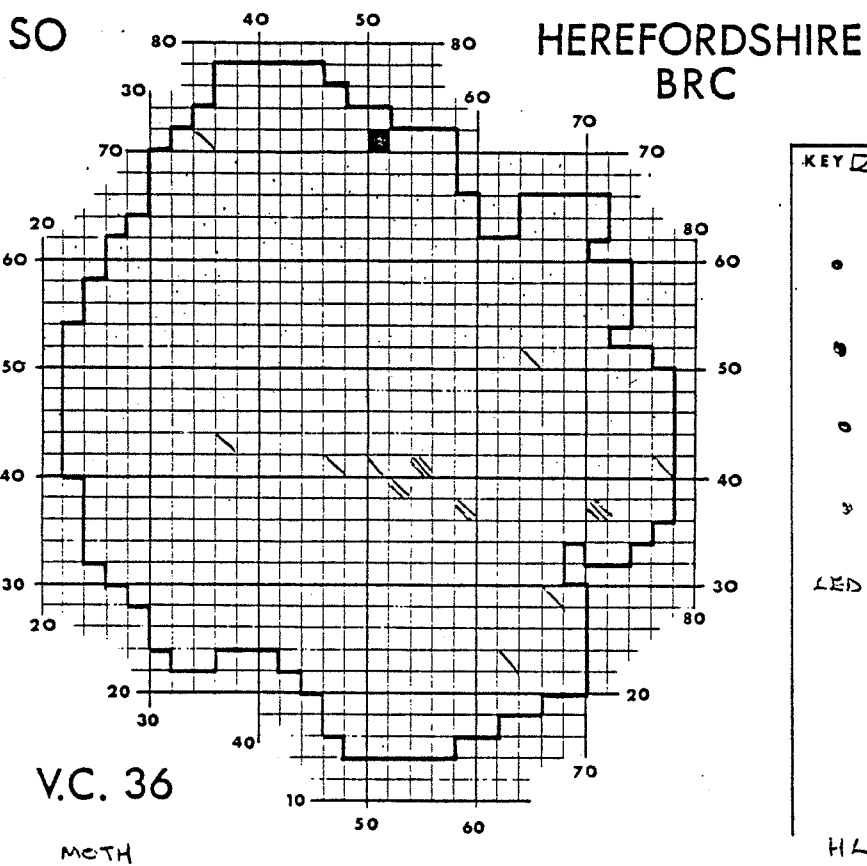


SPECIES *Biston betularia* (L.)

COMMON NAME PEPPERED MOTH		STATUS RESIDENT	
GRID REF.	HABITAT/LOCALITY	RECORDER	DATE
1	35.71 B. Brampton-Burton Pk. Walk, MV	J. Coster	12.11.1971
	34.72 B. Morcos Park	D. Kennell	17.18.11.1971
	70.36 B. Kadbury (Connubur)	M. Harper	1968.75
5	70.36 R. Kadbury	M. Harper	1968.75
	70.36 Bk. Kadbury	M. Harper	1968.75
	76.40 B. British Camp 30 HL	M. Harper	21.11.1972
	74.36 B. Ragged Stone Hill 20 HL	M. Harper	23.11.1972
	64.50 B. Instone Cl. Bishops Farm	M. Young	1964-1972
	66.28 B. Queen's Wood - Kempton	M. Harper	18.11.1972
	62.22 B. Wastons-Under - Penyard	M. Harper	1969
10	58.36 R. House Wood 10 HL	M. Harper	15.11.1971
	58.37 B. Rizer's Wood 10 HL	M. Harper	18.11.1970
	52.39 B. Hereford, Basil Miles MV	M. Harper	1973-1978
	52.39 Bk. Hereford, Basil Miles MV	M. Harper	1977(1) 1978
15	54.40 Bk. Log woodline 2 area	M. Young	1967-74
	54.40 R. Log woodline 3 area	M. Young	1967-70
	54.40 B. Log woodline 31 area	M. Young	1967-70
	46.40 B. Swainshill - Stultun Sigeon	M. Harper	1964
20	77.45 G. The ...	Paul ...	1968 (1)
	74.40 G. The ...	Paul ...	1968 (1)
	518.41 Bk. Penn Grove Rd, Hereford	R. Hall	31.11.1982
25			
30			
35			

HEREFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
COPY

Print Plus Hereford 2026



SPECIES *Biston betularia* (L.)

COMMON NAME PEPPERED MOTH

KEY = pre 1960 = post 1960

- NON-MELANIC (typical) [Blue ink]
- MELANIC (carbonaria) [Black]
- INTERMEDIATE (intermedia) [Red]
- NOT INDICATED [Green]

LED BURY Dr. Harper's records, all these annually
Typical > intermedia > carbonaria

HL = Heath light
MV = Robinson pattern mercury vapour

Each record received by the Museum is entered on two (Old style) Biological Records Centre computer cards, one to be filed in a species index and the other in a geographical index. The record is then added to the appropriate distribution maps, of which there are five for each species. One map shows the total recorded distribution of the species in Merseyside, Lancashire, Cheshire and Greater Manchester on a 2km² grid. Three further maps break this information down by date class for the periods pre 1970, 1970-1979 and 1980 onwards. A fifth map records the data on a 10km² basis. New 10km² records are forwarded to the Biological Records Centre at regular intervals, for incorporation into the national data bank.

During the past two years, helped by a Manpower Services Commission Scheme, it has been possible to extend this project to include a review of the literature for older records, and fieldwork within Merseyside to investigate previously under recorded areas. As a result the distribution maps now give a truer picture of species' occurrence, where previously they perhaps revealed more about the distribution of recorders (and of their favourite hostelries).

Freshwater fish -

Biological recording in the N.W. of England was extended in April 1981 with the introduction of a scheme to document the distribution of freshwater fish in Merseyside. A great deal of information has since been obtained by circulating a questionnaire to the secretaries of local angling clubs and this data is currently being supplemented by walking river and canal banks to discover what anglers are catching. Knowledge of the smaller species which are of little interest to most anglers is proving more difficult to acquire and a need for additional fieldwork by Museum staff is clearly evident.

Each record obtained is entered on a (new style) BRC computer card, which is filed in a species index, and plotted on 1km² and 10km² distribution maps.

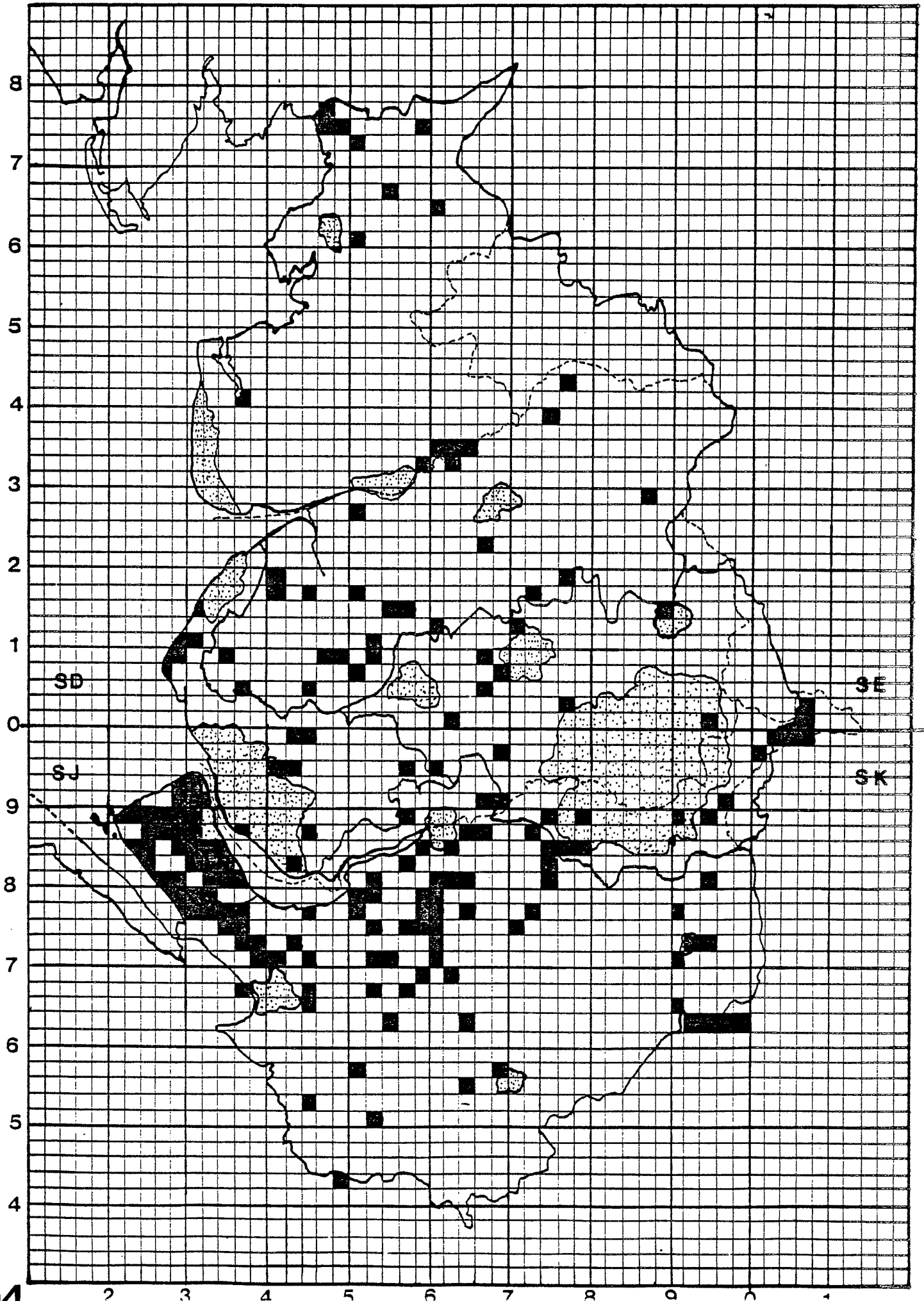
The task of processing incoming mammal and fish records is largely a matter of routine and presents few difficulties apart from the time which it consumes. Here again, the Museum benefits from the participation of Manpower Services Commission personnel. The chief problem is in contacting people who are willing and competent to contribute to the schemes and in maintaining their interest once this has been stimulated. Recorders are most easily recruited by personal contact so that a considerable amount of public relations work is involved. This approach has now been supplemented by preparing a travelling exhibition on biological recording which can be lent to Country Parks, schools and other centres of interest in the northwest. We have plans also to advertise our activities through the publications of local natural history societies and the regional news media.

SPECIES NO.		ORDER NO. 1-4	SPECIES NO. 5-9	GENUS & SPECIES 17-26 <i>Sorex araneus</i>				SUB-SPECIES etc. 10			NEW					
GRID REFERENCE 25-32 5 5 3 8 9 6			VICE COUNTY 33-35 5 9		LOCALITY 36-55 Fazakerley Hospital			ALTITUDE 56-57 ft. m								
HABITAT 58-59 open field				DATE 60-64 26 08 19 82			RECORDER'S NAME Natural History Survey Team		REC. NO. 65-68							
RARITY	RARE	EXT.	CONF.	STATUS	NAT.	INT.	ESC.	MIG.	CAS.	SOURCE	FLY	MUS.	LIT.	COMMENTS & COMPLIER CSB Longworth Trap ♀ 11.5g second year animal		
69	1	2	9	70	1	2	3	4	5	71	2	3				
STAGE	♂	♀	♀	OVA	LARV.	PUPA	SKIN	SKEE.	ADDITIONAL DATA							
72									80							
DETAILS OF SOURCE 73-76							EXPERT 77-79									

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY MUSEUMS

SPECIES : *Vulpes vulpes*

DATE CLASS : Total 2 km.



ORDER	GENUS & SPECIES <i>Rutilus rutilus</i>									
-------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VICE-COUNTY	LOCALITY Greenbank Park lake										ALTITUDE m.
											ALTITUDE ft.

V.-C. No.	S 9	GRID REFERENCE	S	J	3	8	5	8	8	5	STATUS	NAT	INT	ESC	MIG	CAS	UNK
-----------	-----	----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

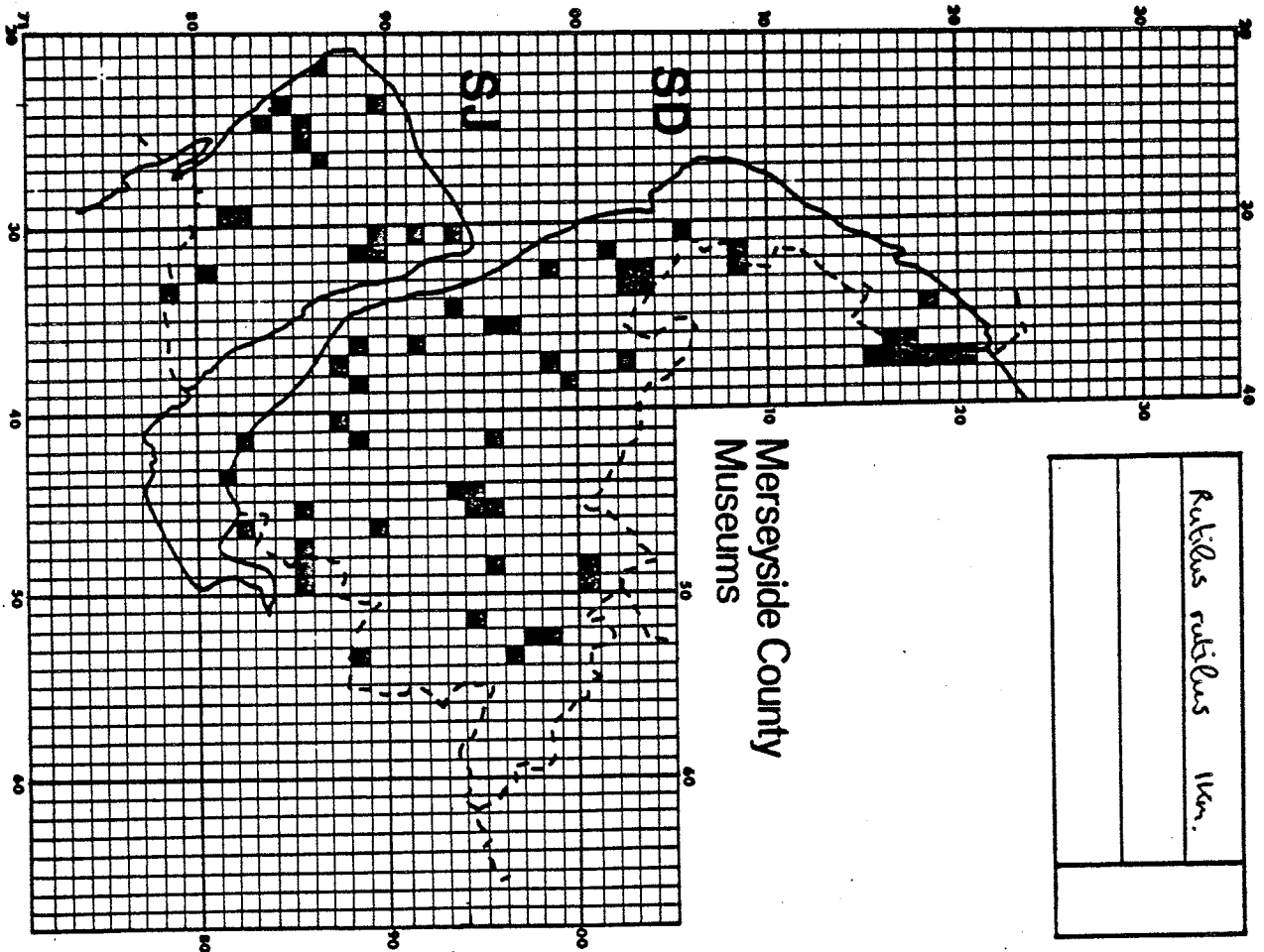
RECORDER/COLLECTOR	Dave Haughton					DATE OF RECORD	1 9 8 1					COMPILER	P.A.T.				
--------------------	---------------	--	--	--	--	----------------	---------	--	--	--	--	----------	--------	--	--	--	--

DETERMINER						DATE OF DETERMINATION						DATE OF COMPILATION	0 1 0 2 1 9 8 2				
------------	--	--	--	--	--	-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	---------------------	-----------------	--	--	--	--

STAGE								HOST/FOODPLANT				HABITAT				ASPECT			
Ova	Nymph	Skin	♂	♀	Seedling	FL.						lake							
Larva	Pupa	Skel	♀	Adult	Juv	Veg	Frt												
																SLOPE			

SOURCE										COMMENTS present									
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Biological Records Centre October 1980 GEN 8



North Wales

Joan Morgan (University College of North Wales) writes "I enclose two examples of one species recording cards. Virtually every specimen from North Wales in our collection is recorded on card, so that these have accumulated to an impressive number over the years and are of increasing value (ref. Biology Curators Group Newsletter Vol.2 No.8 p.372).

New.

SPECIES <i>CHRYSOPA CILIATA</i>		DATE: 5.10.69
		TYPE REF:
LOCALITY: <i>Llyn-y-parc, Gwydyr Forest, Caerns.</i>	ALTITUDE: 650'	
GRID REF. <i>SH 79 58</i>		
NATURE OF HABITAT: <i>beaten from willow</i>		
REPRODUCTIVE DATA: <i>Several larvae coated with debris. 1 pupated 9.10.69. Adult emerged 25.10.70</i>		
NOTES ON SIZE, ABUNDANCE, Etc. <i>Several seen</i>		
OBSERVER: <i>M.J. Morgan</i>		

Lep.

SPECIES <i>ORTHOZIA (TAENIOCAMPA) MUNDA</i>		DATE: 7.4.1860
<i>Twinspot Quaker</i>		TYPE REF:
LOCALITY: <i>near Mostyn, Flints.</i>	ALTITUDE	
GRID REF.		
NATURE OF HABITAT:		
REPRODUCTIVE DATA:		
NOTES ON SIZE, ABUNDANCE, Etc. <i>Ent. Weekly Intelligence vol. VIII, 1860, p.36</i>		
OBSERVER: <i>Edwin Birchall</i>		

Oxfordshire County Council



John Campbell (Oxfordshire) writes "Records normally come in on the B.R.C. species cards. We do have a casual slip (below) for odd records. We have kept it as simple as possible, no altitude etc."

Species

Grid Ref.						
Date						

Comments and place.

Name & Address of Observer

OCC Dept. Museum Ser., Biological Recording Scheme, Woodstock, Oxford

Lichens Where possible we show the substrate, also for bryophytes etc.

<u>DERMATOCARPON MINIATUM (L) Mann</u>				<u>Lichens</u>
Tetrad	VC	Date	Location and Substrate	Recorder
28.18	23	9.12.76	Ascott-n-Wychwood. Asbestos	Jm Campbell
36.08	"	27.7.76	Cogges. Cotswold Slate	"
30.18	"	30.10.76	Ascott-n-Wychwood "	"
22.00	22	11.74	Little Faringdon "	HJM Bowen
26.10	23	12.9.78	Widford M.71 "	Jm Campbell.
4/1	"	1968	Church Hamborough	HJM Bowen

Mammals The Nature of the record is given e.g. footprint, skull or whatever.

Odonata This card shows the variety of sources, including the Victoria County History, Wytham Ecological Survey of Charles Elton, the Hope collections at the University Museum etc. On the reverse of the map there is the 10km. grid. Usually we stamp it on, but the clarity is not always that great. Where there is an atlas, the data is transferred so that new and updated records at the 10km. square level are easily apparent. Our tetrads are shown as four figures. I do not find any advantage in using a letter, and I am sure it would muddle many of our recorders.



Museums Department

Sheffield City Museum has a flexible species index which can take cards of different sizes from various sources and integrate them into the same system. The main types used are:-

1. B.R.C. 80-column "pink" cards. Used for many years for individual records of vertebrates and invertebrates. They are very versatile, and can be filed in date order, species order, grid-reference order or any other required order and re-shuffled to suit immediate needs. The major disadvantage is the time required to enter several thousand records onto pink cards. We now use pink cards only for rarities, and special records where details of habitat and precise locations are required. Hence they are very useful for recording Badger setts (see example) and similar observations.
2. Several years ago, we changed to 8" x 5" multi-record filing cards which were found to be easier and quicker to enter, without too much loss of information. They can be photocopied for circulation to neighbouring recorders. At the same time, the twelve or so "Recorders" in the Zoology Section of the Sorby Nat. Hist. Society got their heads together and jointly designed an 8" x 5" card which is used for all zoological groups. It can be easily integrated into the museum's file (see example) either as a card or a photocopy.
3. More recently we have switched to A5 size cards produced by B.R.C. (GEN 7). They have the additional advantage of compatibility with national recording schemes, and can be photocopied directly onto A4 card for sending to recorders. Duplicate M.D.A. NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMEN cards can be inserted into this file where relevant, thus integrating museum specimens with records.
4. Standard B.R.C. species check-lists are used for summarising records within a 10km. square, and entering data into the site files.
5. Most species are mapped at the 1km² level, and maps are published quite as frequently.

For further information on zoological recording practices see

Whiteley D. (1978) "Vertebrate Recording Schemes at Sheffield Museum"
B.C.G. Newsletter Vol. 1. no.9 p.17-23

and

Garland S. P. and Whiteley D. (1980) "Local Invertebrate Recording Schemes at Sheffield Museum" B.C.G. Newsletter Vol.2. No.7 p.300-311

SPECIES NO.	ORDER NO.	SPECIES NO.	GENUS & SPECIES		SUB-SPECIES etc.		V.C. NO.							
	4	5-9	Badger		10 sett									
GRID REFERENCE		VICE COUNTY		LOCALITY		ALTITUDE								
25-32		Derbys.		Fox House, Longshaw (No.3)		56-57 ft.								
HABITAT		DATE		RECORDER'S NAME		REC. NO.								
58-59 open moorland <u>Calluna / Festuca</u>		60-64 10/12/1982		D. Whiteley.		65-68								
RARE	EXT.	CONF.	STATUS	NAT.	INT.	ESC.	MIG.	CAS.	SOURCE	FLY	MUS.	LIT.	COMMENTS & COMPILER	
05	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		Single entrance large sandstone heap. active. prints/hairs.
STAGE	1	2	3	OVA	LARV.	PUPA	SKIN	SKEL.	ADDITIONAL DATA					
72	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	80					
DETAILS OF SOURCE				EXPERT										
73-76				77-79										

City of Stoke-on-Trent



Geoff Halfpenny of Staffordshire Biological Records Centre uses 8" x 5" standard BRC cards (check-lists) for all groups where available, together with standard recording slips for each individual record, combined with 1km. and 10km. distribution maps.

NAME OF SPECIES:

10 km sq, reference (map reference preferred):

Habitat (brief comment):

Date (please state Pre 1940; 1940-60; 1961 onwards):

Your name, address and any comment regarding the records:

*Standard species record slip - completed in duplicate or triplicate
1 copy - species file, 1 copy 10km sq. file, 1 copy - site file*

One recording format apparently unique to Staffordshire is the "Monthly input" sheet illustrated overleaf.

In addition, Geoff writes "We are hoping shortly to computerise our records as I have a thirteen strong Environmental Survey team starting on 31st August 1982 to record the geology and biology of the city during the next twelve months and this will add impetus to our work."

Monthly input.

CITY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, BETHESDA STREET, HANLEY, STOKE-ON-TRENT
STAFFORDSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

Species Records

Month/Year

		IN	OUT
B1	Fungi		
B2	Algae		
B3	Lichens		
B4	Mosses		
B5	Liverworts		
B6	Flowering Plants and Ferns		
Z1	Protozoa		
Z2	Sponges (Freshwater porifera)		
Z3	Cnidaria		
Z4	Platyhelminthes		
Z5	Aschelminthes		
Z6	Mollusca		
Z7	Annelida		
Z8	Arachnida		
Z9	Crustacea		
Z10	Myriapoda		
Z11	Thysanura /Diplura		
Z12	Ephemeroptera		
Z13	Odonata		
Z14	Plecoptera		
Z15	Dictyoptera		
Z16	Orthoptera		
Z17	Dermaptera		
Z18	Psocoptera		
Z19	Mallophaga		
Z20	Anoplura		
Z21	Thysanoptera		
Z22	Hemiptera		
Z23	Neuroptera		
Z24	Coleoptera		
Z25	Mecoptera		
Z26	Trichoptera		
Z27	Lepidoptera		
Z28	Diptera		
Z29	Siphonaptera		
Z30	Hymenoptera		
Z31	Fish		
Z32	Amphibians		
Z33	Reptiles		
Z34	Birds		
Z35	Mammals		

Z36 Minor phyla. (Tardigrada, Bryozoa
Acanthocephala, Mesozoa)

TOTAL:

Files relating to each of these categories are located
in each 10km sq. file.



TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY COUNCIL

John Bainbridge of Tyne and Wear writes "I enclose a short article about some of the species recording cards we use in Sunderland Museum. Perhaps people will be interested in our home produced equivalent of B.R.C.'s GEN 7 card, - the main theme of the article."

Species Records and Recording Cards in use at Sunderland Museum

The North East Environmental Records Centre set up at Sunderland Museum to serve the counties of Tyne and Wear, Durham and Cleveland* utilises many of the recording cards available from the Biological Records Centre and others that have been constructed along similar lines to BRC cards either to serve some particular purpose or with a species context more likely to be encountered in the North East. An example of the former type is the use of the pink terrestrial and yellow marine Individual record card plus the use of Field Cards for groups such as Butterflies, Bumble bees, Moths etc., whilst an example of a home produced ware is the Flowering Plant Field Card Fig. 1.

At a recent meeting of recorders it was decided to produce a card (Fig.2) which would take a batch of records pertaining to one particular species, thereby lessening the cost, and the bulk in storage, of using the pink or yellow Individual Records Cards for all records. Although it can be used in the field, it is really suited to collating the records sent in by different recorders, records from literature searches or those taken from Museum records. It is printed on both sides but with 'Species' and 'check list Name and Number' deleted from the reverse. Each card can hold twenty entries.

In order to complete this recording card fully the recorder or compiler would need to refer to the card which shows the boundaries of the area served by the North East Environmental Records Centre and the tetrads contained within them. Fig.3.

Many of the records which we receive tend to be taken randomly and not organised on a tetrad basis but where this is the case, such as in the Durham Flora project, the tetrads are coded according to the system accredited to Dr. Dony. For example tetrad 12M would lie within the 10 Kilometre square bounded by the lines 10 Easting and 20 Northing with the tetrads assigned A to Z omitting O, A being the first tetrad in the South-west corner of the square and the rest following in an ascending order within each column.

At the time I was unaware that B.R.C. produced such a card (GEN 7.) and recommended readers in their Booklet 'Instructions for Recorders' to use the pink or yellow cards "only when it is desirable to give more information about a specimen than is allowed for on Field Cards".

Readers may like to compare our card Fig.2 to that of BRC's card coded Gen 7.

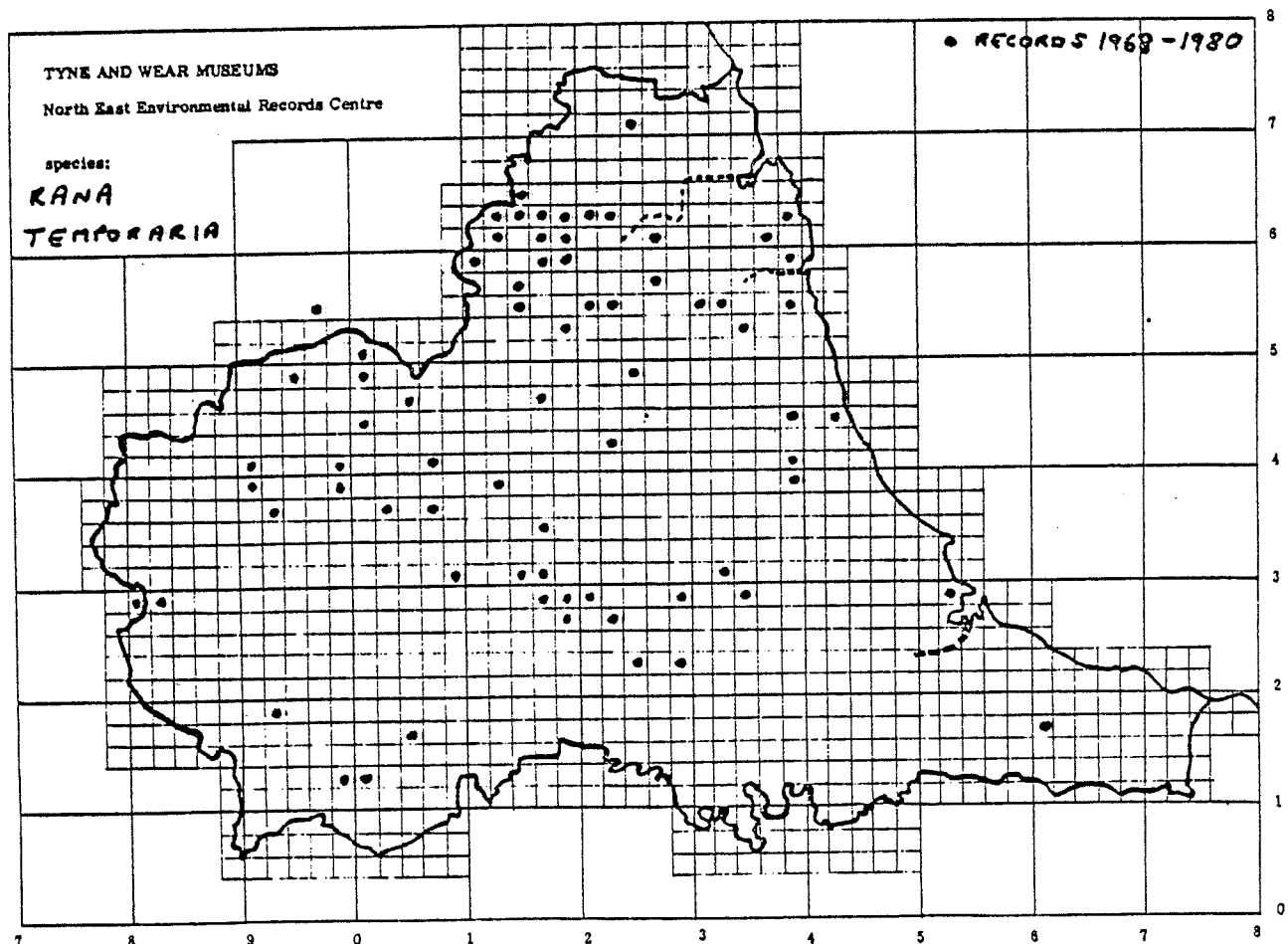
*Cleveland now has its own Environmental Records Centre.

Fig. 2. Species Record Card. Equivalent to that produced by BRC known as GEN 7.

Species <i>Vipera berus</i> (Adder)							Check List Name and Number	
Site	District	County	Grid Ref	Tetrad	V.C.	Date	Det. by & Date	Reference
Rawley		Durham	N2 087479		66	1960	Gent, C.J	Vase. XLVI p 6.
The Smeap		Durham	N2 05 49		66	21.5.1960		Vase XLV p 12.
Bollilhope Burn		Durham	N2 03 36		66	29.7.1961		Vase XLVI p 19.
Knitsley Fell		Durham	N 093348		66	3.8.1977	P. Howard	
Epbeside	Gateshead	Tyne & Wear	N2 176589		66	3.8.1979	J. Rushin	
18 The Haythams East Boldon	Sunderland	Tyne & Wear	N2 366614		66	10.6.1980	P.S. Davis	TWCM 5: C14871

Fig. 3. Species Distribution/Tetrad Map.

This card shows the boundary of the area originally served by the North East Environmental Records Centre. It is used to plot the distribution of species down to tetrad level.



Summary

It is obvious, even from this minority cross-section of museum record centres, that a wide variety of cards and sheets with different layouts are currently in use, although the actual information recorded by each centre is fairly consistent. Home-produced multi-record 8" x 5" and A5 sized cards seem to be the current trend, with less emphasis on standard B.R.C. cards nowadays, than a few years ago. County tetrad maps appear to have developed as the "norm" although some museums with small mapping areas, for example 'non-county' district museums at Sheffield and Rotherham use finer 1km. squares as the basic unit.

Further Information

Centres which are not represented in this survey may feel that they can contribute additional ideas, examples and experiences. If there is sufficient demand and additional new material it may be possible to compile a supplement to this report. Museums which 'dipped out' and now wish to contribute should contact the author.

Also, the editors would be pleased to receive letters and comments concerning the contents of this report, particularly from museums which benefit from or have found a disadvantage in any of the ideas expressed here!

SPECIES NO.	ORDER NO.	SPECIES NO.	GENUS & SPECIES		SUB-SPECIES etc.		V.C. NO.							
	1-4	5-9	Whiteley derek 11-24		10 Summer pelage 'blonde'									
GRID REFERENCE		VICE COUNTY		LOCALITY		ALTITUDE								
25-32		S.W. Yorks		The Porter Cottage & Hunters Bar & Sheffield		56-57 ft.								
4 3 3 3 5 8 5 7		33-35		0 6 3		36-55								
HABITAT		DATE		RECORDER'S NAME		REC. NO.								
56-59		60-64		SHEFFIELD CITY MUSEUM		65-68								
mainly urban, occasionally extends range into woodland and moorland for courtship		22 09 19 83												
RARITY	RARE	EXT.	CONF.	STATUS	NAT.	INT.	ESC.	MIG.	CAS.	SOURCE	FLB.	MUS.	LIT.	COMMENTS & COMMENTS
59	1	2	9	70	1	2	3	4	5	71	1	2	3	
STAGE	♂	♀	♀	OVA	LARV	PUPA	SKIN	SKEL	ADDITIONAL DATA					RED DATA BOOK SPECIES
72	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	80					
DETAILS OF SOURCE					EXPERT									
73-76					77-79									