

Interested in Wildlife and the Environment?



The Biodiversity Information System for Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral

Cheshire has been chosen as the English pilot location for a national project that aims to create a database of wildlife information. As there is currently no consistent picture of our wildlife, similar projects are being carried out in Scotland and Wales as part of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) which aims to develop a distributed national store of biological data.

As there is no biological record centre for the Cheshire region, important information is held in a variety of places. It would make more sense for all biological records to be held at one location as this would allow earlier identification and protection of endangered species, and for planning decisions to be based on more accurate, up-to-date information about the local environment.

Although there are over 100 independently developed Biological Record Centres in the UK, these range from small projects run by volunteers, to 8 major projects that maintain large databases and employ several staff. The aim of pilot Biological Record Centres is to set the standards for establishing effective centres, managed and run by co-operation between local organisations, throughout the UK.

Biological Record Centres will ensure the information they provide is reliable, accurate and validated, with procedures put in place to control the release of data on sensitive species. Each centre will collect and hold information for its own area and make it available to the people that need it. Biological Record Centres will also provide an opportunity for developing access to UK wide data via the NBN. Although many biological records will come from wildlife organisations, the majority of information will be provided by individual members of the public, ensuring a community-based project that everyone can be involved in.

How you can help the Cheshire project

If you, or your society, collect biological records you can help to protect our natural heritage by passing your information on. **RECORD** is now open and would be pleased to receive any information about plants or animals you might have seen/recorded. Observations might come from trips to the countryside or simply from your own backyard. No matter how trivial you think the record is, it is useful to us. We collate all terrestrial, freshwater and marine records, and the basic facts we need to know are:

- Your Name, Address and Telephone number
- Species Name
- Site where the observation was made
- OS Grid Reference for the Site (if you don't know how to do this we can help, give us a ring)
- Date of Observation (e.g. 13/12/1998)

Records can be sent to the centre for inputting to the database via paper records, computerised records via email, record forms via our web-site, etc. If you would like to help **RECORD** further, e.g. by learning to become a recorder, assisting us in our future Chester Zoo office, or in any other way, please contact us at our temporary address:

**c/o 4 Priory Close
Halton Village
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 2BN**

Tel: 01928 589904

Email: info@record-lrc.co.uk

Or visit our web-site at www.record-lrc.co.uk

For further information about other Biological Record Centres in the UK please visit the NBN web-site on www.nbn.org.uk