



Data requests - Guide for Students

Don't leave the data request until the last minute!

When devising your project, think about what data you may need. Once you have determined your data requirements, please use [Aderyn](#) (see further details below,) or send your data request to SEWBRc *as soon as possible*. As student requests are normally provided for free, we are unable to prioritise them over other data enquiries. Whilst we will try and deal with them within 15 working days, it may take longer during busy periods (April to October).

Publicly accessible data

There are some public access points to our data which may meet your requirements. [Aderyn](#), the LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database, allows public users to access LERC Wales data in the form of a species list for their area ([What's in my Area?](#)), and as national distribution maps for any (non-sensitive) species ([Distribution Maps](#)).

We also share our data to the [National Biodiversity Network](#) at a reduced resolution (10km grid level), which may be suitable for projects covering large areas.

If the publicly accessible data on Aderyn and the NBN Atlas do not meet your requirements, please download and complete a [Non-Commercial Data Enquiry & Release Form](#) with your requirements and send to info@sewbrec.org.uk. The search results should be free of charge for reasonable requests.

Completing a Data Enquiry and Release Form

When choosing what data to ask for, please consider the amount of records that you really need, and will have time to analyse. We hold over 5 million records in our database, and some search criteria may result in an overwhelming amount of data. We recommend either keeping your search area small (if you want all species) or just asking for a small number of species (if you are studying a large search area). Large requests such as "all species records in Neath Port Talbot" may incur a fee, so please contact us to discuss if your data requirements are very large.

Specifying a search area

Be as specific as you can, either by stating an area (e.g. a SSSI name) and providing a map with a clear boundary, or by providing a central grid reference and buffer size, e.g. 500m, 1km, 2km.

Selecting species categories

Think about what you are studying. Do you really need all species data (including the very common species) if you are only studying one particular taxonomic group? If specifying a group of species, please be aware that we may not be able to use your term directly. For example, 'aquatic macro-invertebrates' is not a term that we can use to search our database. This is because within our database the species data is ordered taxonomically, and some orders and families contain both aquatic and terrestrial species. We could however search for 'all invertebrates' or a list of insect families or orders.

Habitats & Ancient Woodland

We can provide extracts from the Phase I habitat data layer and the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Phase I data and Ancient Woodlands within your search area will be provided as a list in your report, and displayed on a plot which can be viewed within Aderyn or exported to a PDF.

Designated Sites

We can provide details about *International Sites* (Ramsar, SPA, SAC), *National Sites* (NNR, SSSI, AONB), and *Local Sites* (LNR, Wildlife Trust Reserves, RIGS, and SINC). *Please note, SINC boundaries are not available for Rhondda Cynon Taf.*

Additional names

Please list your supervisor and any other university staff, fellow students etc. who will view the raw data provided by SEWBRc.

Output Options

Data will normally be provided via a link to our online database Aderyn. A guide to using Aderyn can be found on [our website](#). You will be able to export the data in a variety of formats:

Species Data:

- Viewable directly on Aderyn in table and map format
- PDF report
- Excel (.csv) report (full records)*
- Excel (.csv) report (species list)**
- ESRI Shapefiles

**data includes species name, grid reference, distance, taxon group, date, count, recorder, location, comments, source, and verification.*

***data includes species name, status, last date recorded, and number of records.*

Phase I Habitat Data

- Viewable directly on Aderyn in table and map format
- PDF report (list of habitats & map)

Phase I Habitat GIS files are unavailable from SEWBRc. You can download an all Wales Phase I Habitats layer [from Lle](#).

Designated Sites Data:

- Viewable directly on Aderyn in table and map format
- PDF report (list of sites & map)
- ESRI Shapefiles.
- Citations or site summary information is available for some sites via hyperlink.

eMapper

You can click through to this more interactive tool from Aderyn. eMapper allows you to view data and switch species and various layers (e.g. Ancient Woodland, NRW Priority Habitat, Designated sites) on and off. You can also export your data to a PDF, ESRI Shape files or Excel via eMapper.

Please note, eMapper is only available for searches below 5,000 species records, and will not include Phase I Habitat information.

Charging

Student data requests are usually free unless it takes an unreasonable amount of time to undertake. If we need to charge to cover our time, we will provide you with a quote before undertaking the work.

Referencing SEWBRc in the project

You should ensure that you comply fully with the Terms and Conditions outlined on page 2 of the Non-commercial Data Enquiry & Release Form, and be aware that full details of confidential data **must not** be published in your dissertation/thesis/report.

Please ensure that SEWBRc is acknowledged in any publications or reports, which are produced, using data we supplied (including species records, habitat data, maps, and GIS files).

Examples of how you might list SEWBRc in the reference section of your dissertation/thesis/report:

- Source: South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) (www.sewbrec.org.uk), 2020.
- Species and Habitat Data/Map Source: South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) (www.sewbrec.org.uk), 2020.
- All data, maps and GIS files were provided by the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) (www.sewbrec.org.uk), 2020.

Check with your supervisor in case there is a particular style or university/college guidelines that you should follow.

Sharing your data

If you are confident about the identification of species during any field work, please consider sharing your data with us so that we can continue to improve our data holdings and the understanding of biodiversity in South East Wales. We can accept data in any format, but it is most useful as Excel. Please take a look at [our website](#) for further details.

If you have any further questions about submitting a data request at SEWBRc, please do not hesitate to get in contact: SEWBRc, 15 Talbot Road, Talbot Road, Pontyclun, CF72 8AD.

Tel: 01443 808 896 Email: info@sewbrec.org.uk Web: www.sewbrec.org.uk