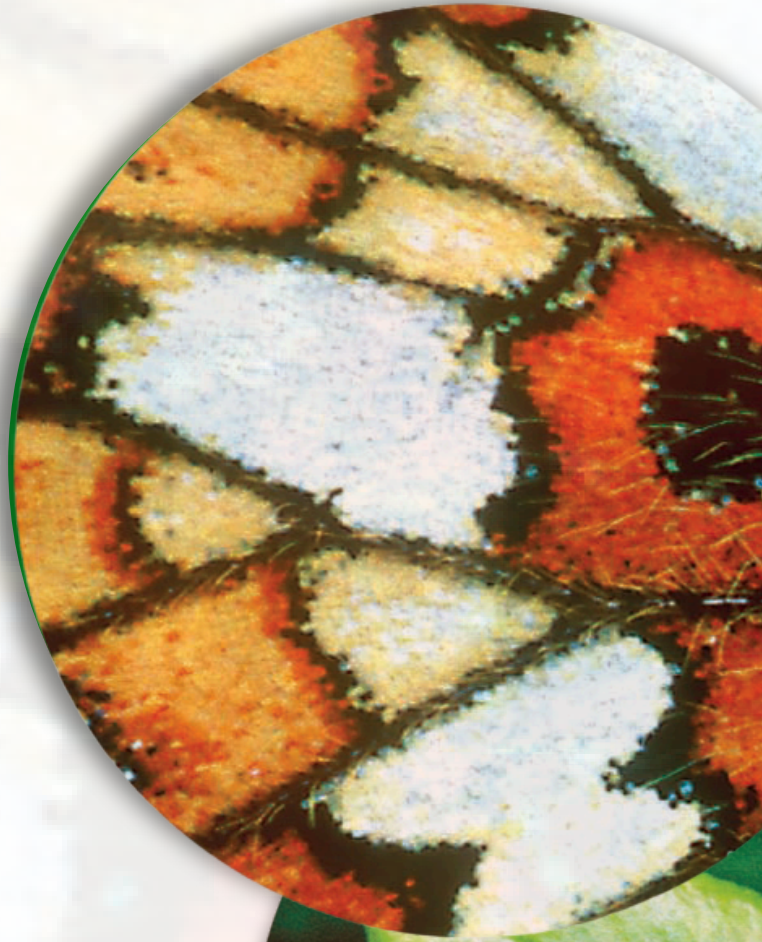


South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC)

Annual Report 2024-25



SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
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About Us

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) is the centre for the collation, management and dissemination of biodiversity data for south east Wales. SEWBReC's aim is to make appropriate local biodiversity information available to all those who need it, to help ensure that decisions which affect local biodiversity are made using best available data.

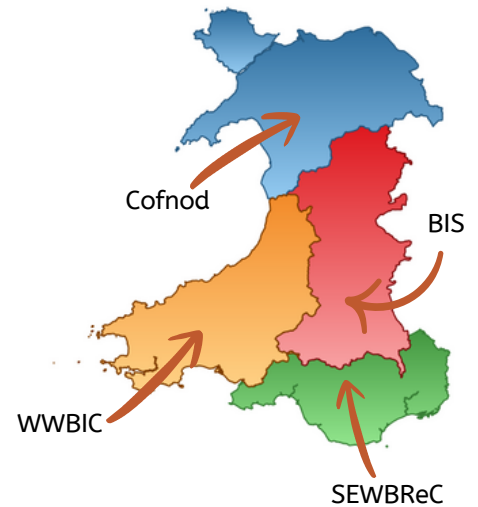
In 2017 & 2022, SEWBReC was accredited by the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC). The accreditation assessment process ensures that SEWBReC meets a set of standards relating to its operations and functions, from our data protection policies to how we interact with local recorders. In the words of ALERC, 'it outlines core levels of products and services that a LERC should provide to assist key users, and ensures the LERC is actively working with data holders to improve the availability and quality of data'. SEWBReC is also part of the Local Environmental Records Centres Wales (LERC Wales) consortium, and a member of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).



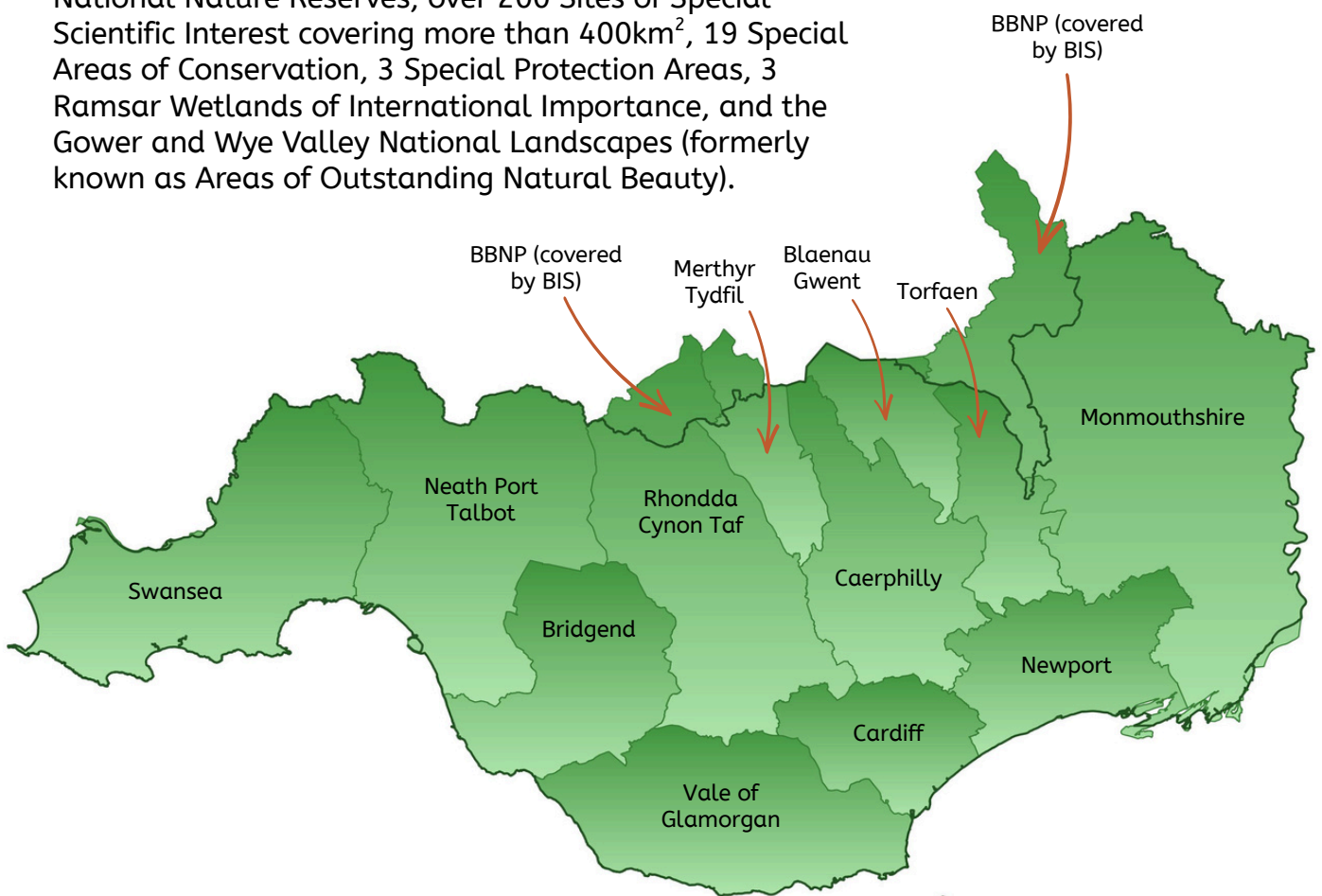
Our Region

SEWBRc’s operational area covers the vice-counties (VC) of Gwent (VC35, also known as Monmouthshire) and Glamorgan (VC41). Our twelve local authorities are Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea, Torfaen and Vale of Glamorgan.

We follow the border of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP), those parts of the local authority areas within the national park are covered by a separate Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC), namely **BIS**, the **Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and Brecon Beacons National Park**. The other two local environmental records centres in Wales are **West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC)**, and **Cofnod** covering north Wales. The four Welsh Record Centres make up the LERC Wales Consortium.



Our area covers just over **3,500 km²**, and includes 11 National Nature Reserves, over 200 Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering more than 400km², 19 Special Areas of Conservation, 3 Special Protection Areas, 3 Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, and the Gower and Wye Valley National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).



The SEWBRc region comprises all or part of twelve local authorities. Our boundary is shown in dark green. The northern parts of some local authorities lie within the boundary of the BBNP and are therefore covered by BIS, the Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and BBNP.



Happy 20th Birthday SEWBreC

In 2024, SEWBreC marked its milestone birthday of 20 years. To start off the year, a celebratory birthday forum was organised with plenty of birthday cake in the shape of Colin and Connie caterpillars.



Twenty years of SEWBReC (in numbers)

1 Heritage Lottery Funded project and over 20 smaller projects

4921 social media followers

2 Species Atlases

30 Recorders' Fora

£12,323 awarded in Recording Grants

2 residential Recorder Days

29 Gwent-Glamorg Record newsletters

24 equipment loans

4 celebrity encounters

2 RBQs

12 field events

Twenty years of SEWBReC (in numbers)

3 office locations

24 staff

110 volunteers

25 Directors

5 student placements/ interns

1500 recorders

6.5 million species records

20 000 species recorded

23,784 Aderyn searches (non commercial)

10,483 commercial data searches & **266** free searches undertaken

634 commercial customers

98 000 Planning applications searched

999 (probably) office stick insects

Twenty reasons to record wildlife (and share data)

1. To establish the distribution of a species population
2. To determine the size of a species population
3. To understand the ecology of a species
4. To learn about species behaviour
5. To create an evidence base to protect wildlife
6. To make decisions about site & habitat management.
7. To detect changes over time
8. To monitor health of the environment
9. To connect with local nature
10. To inform legislation
11. To learn a new skill - great for the CV
12. To be social....
13.or to be alone
14. To keep active & physically healthy
15. To improve mental health & wellbeing
16. It's free!
17. It's fun!
18. You are fed up of scrolling through social media
19. To avoid chores
20. There is nothing good on TV



Highlights from 20 years of SEWBReC

2005

SEWBReC becomes **fully operational** and moves to its **new location** in Cardiff City Centre

2004

SEWBReC's **Development Plan** is launched at Amgueddfa Cymru

2007

Welsh LERC network launched, there are now 4 Welsh LERCS providing full coverage of Wales

2014

SEWBReC celebrates its **10th birthday**

2017

SEWBReC achieves **accreditation** by ALERC

2019

Aderyn is launched, and SEWBReC moves to its **new office** location in Talbot Green

ALERC is the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres

2022

SEWBReC is **re-accredited by ALERC**, and reaches **5 million records** within its database

2024

SEWBReC celebrates its **20th birthday** and reaches **7 million records** within its database



Engagement and Communications

We have engaged with our enthusiastic biological recording communities in south east Wales and further afield, encouraging recording, participation, sharing successes and strengthening networks. A brand new Bluesky account was started half way through the annual report period.

Species of the month



Record every day January

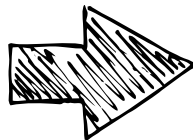


Square of the month



247 Facebook page and Instagram posts

54 Bluesky posts



27,446 Facebook engagements



5076 Instagram engagements



764 Bluesky followers*



669 subscribers to our mailing list and newsletter*

15 mailings

2 newsletters

* at end of March 2025



Social Media Posts



South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
Published by Elaine Wright · 20 December 2024 · 49

Our #RecordOfTheWeek today is a major milestone - our 7 millionth record was uploaded to Adecyn this week!

A large upload from eBird took us over the line, so we've picked a festive Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) as a representative record.

Many thanks and Merry Christmas to all our recorders!

Edit **Boost post**

👍👍👍 23

Like Comment Share

No comments yet
Be the first to comment.

Comment as South East Wales Biodive...



Facebook

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
Published by Elaine Wright · 19 December 2024 · 4

It was great to spend this morning upgrading the SEWBReC office yard with raised beds of native plants, kindly provided by **Keep Wales Tidy - Cadwch Gymru'n Daclus** throu... See more

Gwent-Glamorgan Recorders' Newsletter
Issue 33
Autumn 2025

GHENT-GLAMORGAN RECORDERS' FORUM 2026
Saturday 31st January 2026
10am-4pm
Coleg y Cymoedd Nantgarw
Book a free space here:
<https://ggr26.eventbrite.co.uk>

SEWBReC RECORDING GRANT SCHEME
Expand your recording skills or study a whole new species group with our grant scheme.
Grants up to £500 are available for costs including:
• Field equipment
• Books
• Training
• Software
• Atlas publication
• Travel expenses
Find out more in our webinar



Instagram

George Tordoff
@gmtord.bsky.social

A pleasure to lead a bryophyte training event at Cefn Onn (Cardiff) for @sewbrec.bsky.social yesterday. The rain held off and we saw a good range of woodland species, inc. some lovely patches of Hookeria lucens on a streambank and an awful lot of Metzgeria violacea.
#bryophytes #mosses #liverworts

Nov 17, 2024, 8:35 PM · Everybody can reply



Bluesky

South East Wales Biodiversity Records ... @sewbrec.org... · 11/29/2024

#RecordOfTheWeek today is a field sign - a record of Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) based on distinctive feeding signs on a Hazelnut. Learn how to spot Dormouse signs here: ptes.org/campaigns/do...
Many thanks to Peter Sturgess for the record & photo sent via www.sewbrec.org.uk

4

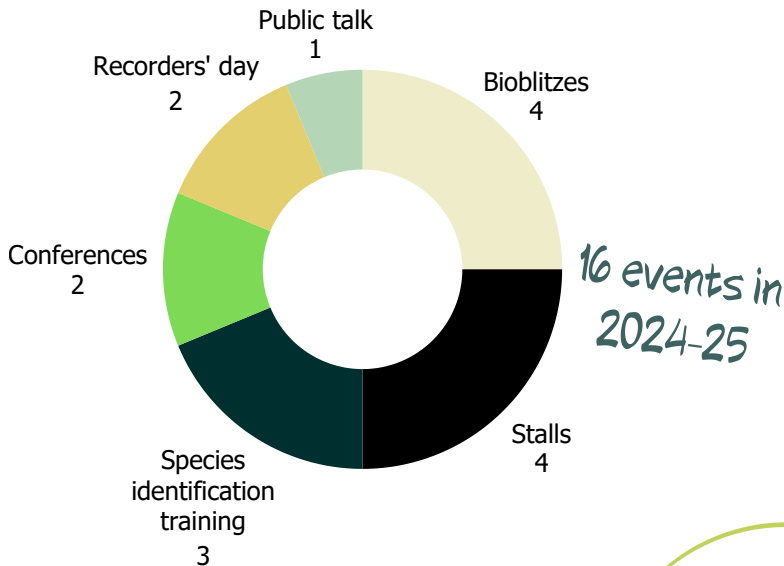


Gwent-Glamorgan Recorders' Newsletters

31 editions



Events



April | Earth Day at Coleg y Cymoedd

May | Old Castle Down Bioblitz, Natur am Byth
High Brown Fritillary Project

May | Joint LERC Wales and NFBRC conference

June | Alfred Russel Wallace Day, River Usk
Festival

June | St Fagans Celebration of Nature,
Amgueddfa Cymru

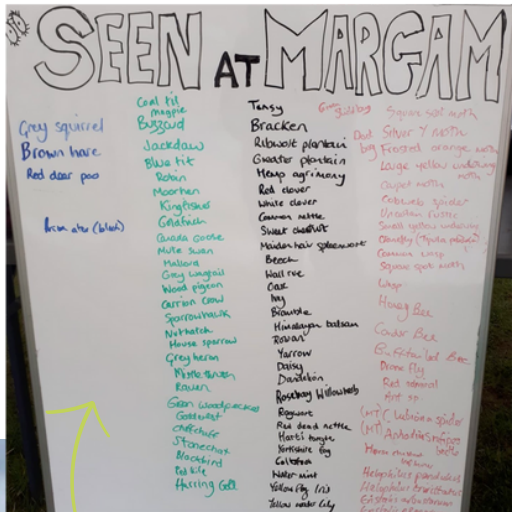
June | Go Wild! Pontypool Park



July | Gwent Recorders' Day at The Grange Project

July | Ichneumon *Apsilops aquaticus* search at Goldcliff

August | Rhoose Point Bioblitz



September | Nature Unearthed, Margam Park

September | Pant Marsh BioBlitz

October | Talk for Cardiff Naturalists

February | 2025 Recorders' Forum



Species Identification Training

June | **Grassland plants** with trainers Steph Tyler and Elsa Wood in Monmouthshire



October | **Leaf miners** with SEWBRcC trainer Dave Slade in Brynna Wood

3 species ID courses in 2024-25



November | **Bryophytes** with trainer George Tordoff at Cefn Onn

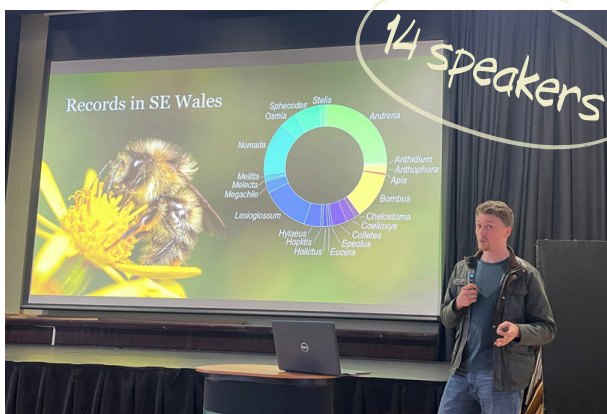


2025 Gwent Glamorgan Recorders' Forum

On Saturday 13 February 2025 at Llanhilleth Miners Institute in Blaenau Gwent, 113 people attended the 2025 Gwent Glamorgan Recorder's Forum.

As well as a SEWBReC update from CEO, Adam Rowe, and the SEWBReC AGM, 4 speakers covered topics on taxonomic groups or species:

- Verity Picken (Gwent Ornithological Society), Curlews
- Steve Preddy, Dragonfly Atlas Project
- Vaughn Matthews (Initiative for Nature Conservation), upland Water Voles
- Ciaran Clark (Bees for Development), Monmouthshire Bees Project



A further 10 speakers covered

- John Clark & team on Natur am Byth
- Liz Hancocks (NRW), 30 by 30
- Sophie Hocking (Amgueddfa Cymru), Invasive plants in Wales
- Andrew Lucas, A 1000 in 1: a Clydach Wildlife Odyssey
- Karen Wilkinson & Oliver Lamford, Nature by the Taff
- Liam Olds, Buglife's Coal Spoil Connections



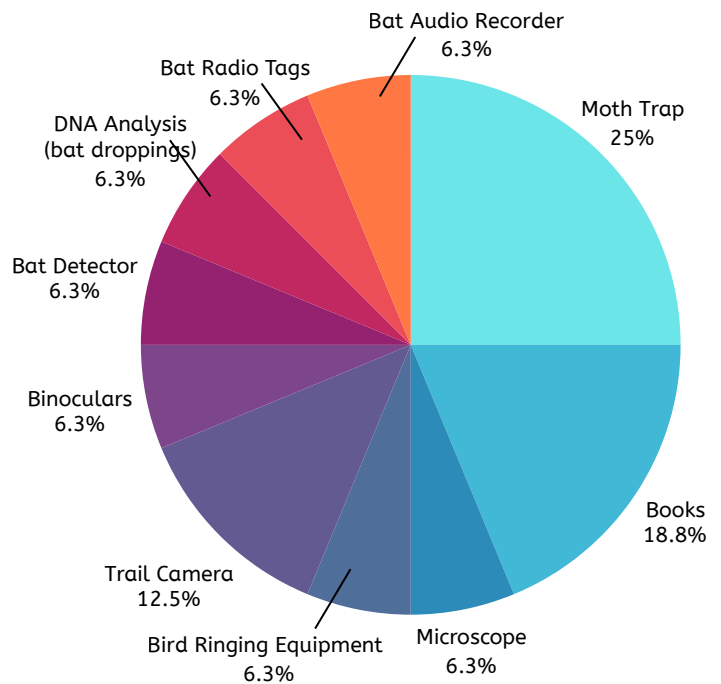
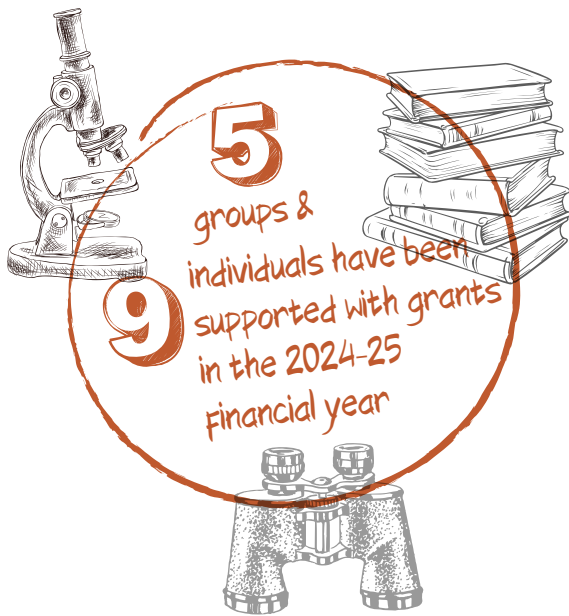
Supporting Recorders

Over £3,700 in grant money was awarded to 14 applicants in the 2024-25 financial year

Recorders' Grant Scheme

The aim of the SEWBRcC Recording Grant is to support recording activities in south east Wales and improve the flow of data to SEWBRcC. Grants are aimed at individuals and non-profit groups or organisations wishing to or already supplying data to SEWBRcC, enabling them to collect, manage or supply their data more effectively. Launched in 2020, the grant has provided over £14,000 (up until March 2025) enabling 45 different applicants to expand their recording efforts.

Small grants (up to a maximum of £500) are available for items such as field/labatory equipment, identification guides, attending courses, travel expenses, running courses and workshops etc. Further information can be found at sewbrec.org.uk/grant



Recording equipment bought with the SEWBRcC Recording Grant in 2024-25. Moth traps are a firm favourite!

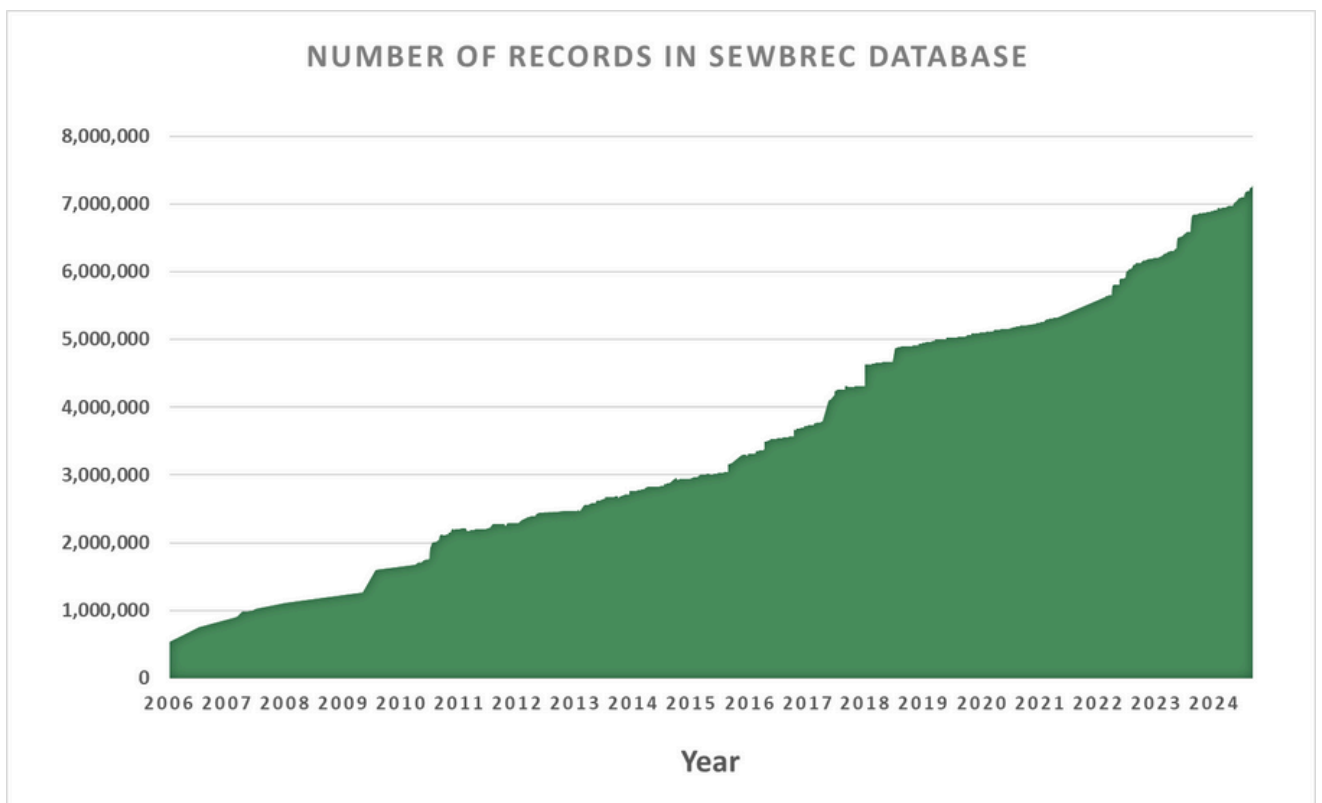
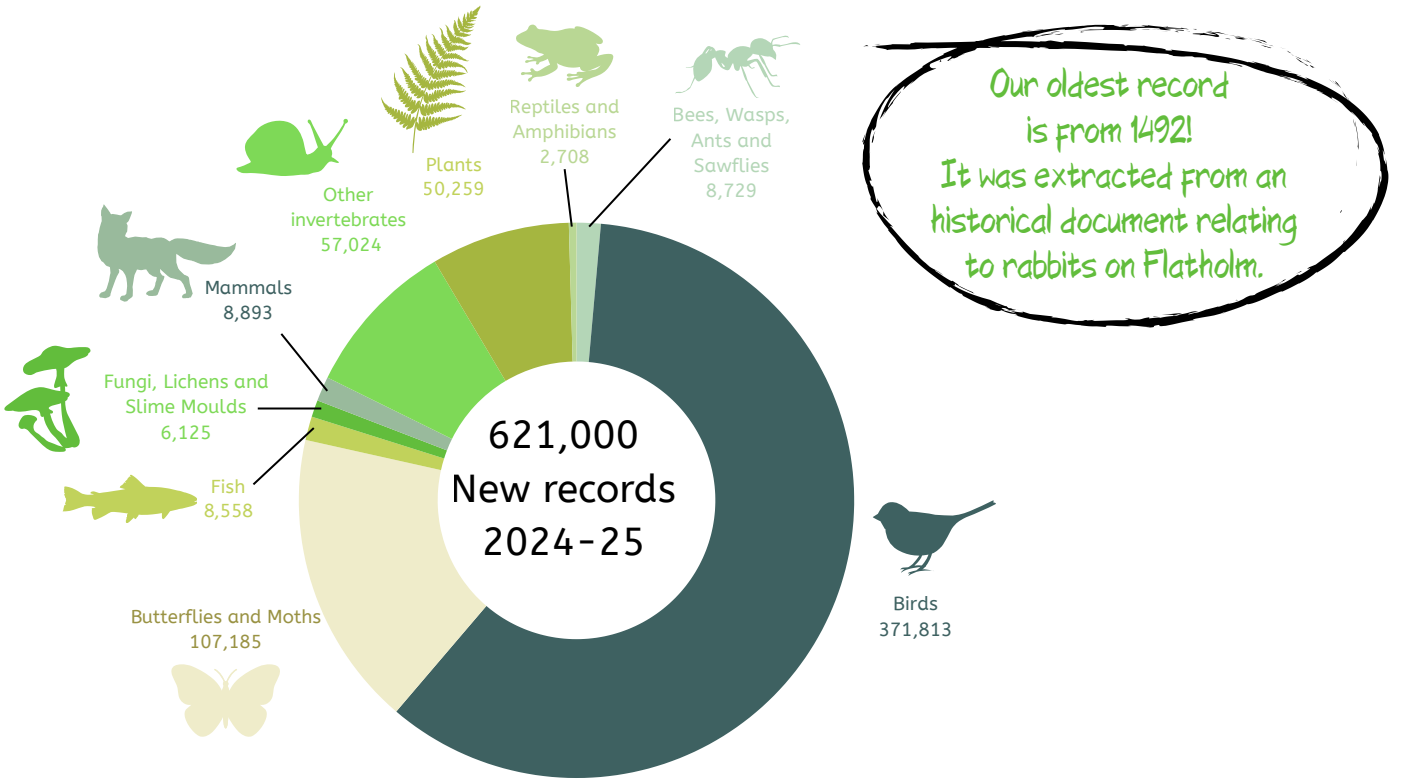
Equipment Loan Scheme

SEWBRcC has books and equipment which are available for Recorders to use at our office in Talbot Green or to borrow for a time period. Items available include guidebooks and keys on a variety of British species groups, mains powered Heath moth traps, battery powered moth traps, Clearwing moth lures, dissection microscopes, bat detector, beating trays, nets and collection pots, lab equipment for dissection and preservation of specimens. Further information can be found at sewbrec.org.uk/loan-scheme



Data held by SEWBRcC

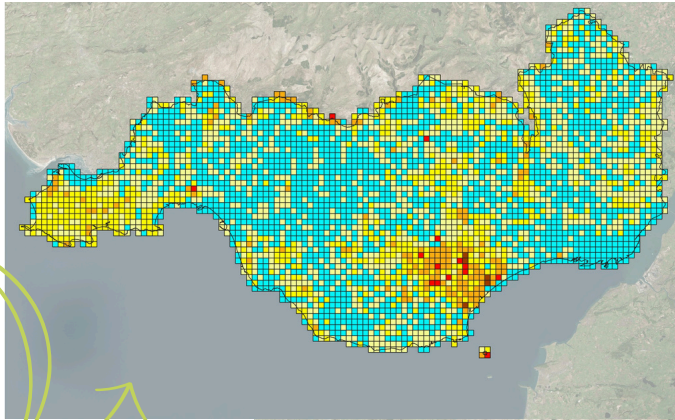
There were **7,239,201** species records in our database on 31 March 2025. Over **621,000 new records** were added in 2024-25, increasing our data holdings by **5.9%**. With this excellent coverage, we are proud to hold the most comprehensive source of biodiversity data in our region.



Records per 1km Square

These maps compare SEWBReC's record holdings in 2005 and 2025, showing the expansion achieved since the launch of SEWBReC and over 20 years of sustained recording activity, supported by initiatives such as the 'Square of the Month' scheme.

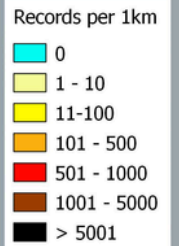
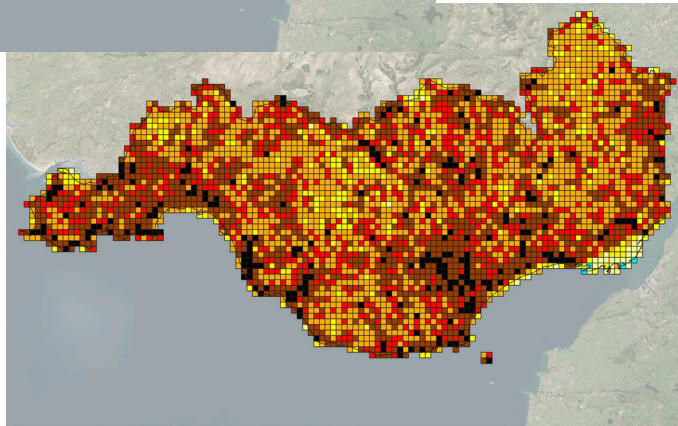
2005



The number of records in the database increased from 79,360 in 2005 to 7,239,201 in 2025!

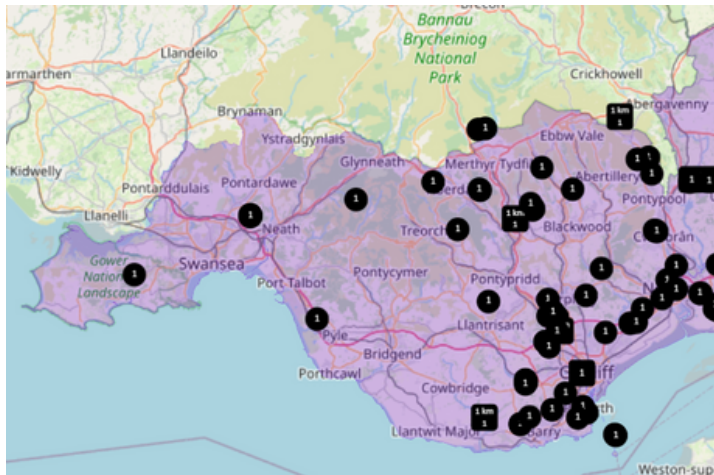
Most early data came from MapMate which was heavily used by recorders at the time

2025



Records of Roesel's Bush-cricket (*Roeseliana roeselii*) were given a boost by being selected by SEWBReC's Species of the Month in August 2024

93 records before August 2024...



South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
6 August 2024 · 🌐

#SpeciesOfTheMonth Revisited for Aug is the lovely Roesel's Bush-cricket (*Roeseliana roeselii*). It's only been two years since we first featured this species, but records have almost doubled from 98 to 180!

It's been 10 years since Roesel's Bush-cricket was first spotted in Wales; can you find this rapidly increasing species? <https://www.sewbrec.org.uk/species-otm/spotm-0824>

It would be particularly good to fill in the gaps in the 10km distribution map, so please keep your eyes peeled if you live in Swansea, upper NPT & Monmouthshire and around Bridgend/Vale coastline!

An interactive version of the 10km distribution map can be found here: <https://aderyn.lercwales.org.uk/.../d02515eee04bafba86464...>

© Gavin Vella




Stephen Passey and 10 others · 3 comments · 2 shares

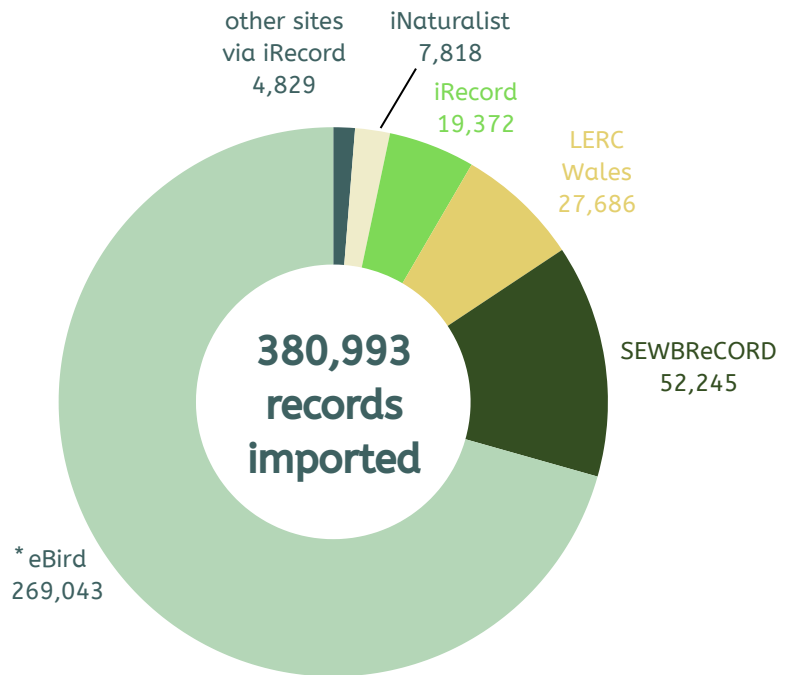
Like · Comment · Share

...131 records by the end of 2024/25

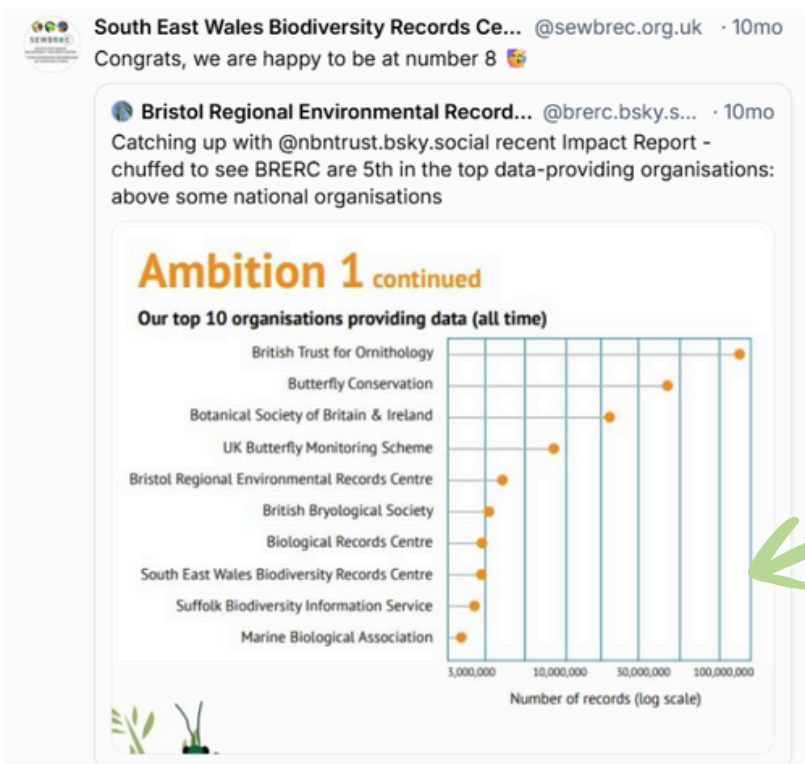
Enabling Data Flows in 2024-25

15 new data flows established from these sources

- Ecological Consultancy Records
- Steve Moon data
- Wyndrush Wild Records
- First Ecology Records
- Simon Phipps Non-Lepidoptera
- East Ecology
- Conchological Society
- eBird
- INNS Mapper
- NBN Atlas: NRW freshwater fish
- NBN Atlas: NRW Marine fish
- NBN Atlas: Flat Holm
- Indicia data for Flat Holm
- Somerset Wildlife Trust Consultancy
- Bryнна Wood Oil Beetle Records



Number of new records downloaded from apps and websites then imported into the SEWBRReC database.
*eBird data via Cofnod



2,897,577 records on the NBN Atlas

SEWBRReC is the 8th top data providing organisation to the NBN!

Source: NBN Trust Annual Impact Report 2024/25

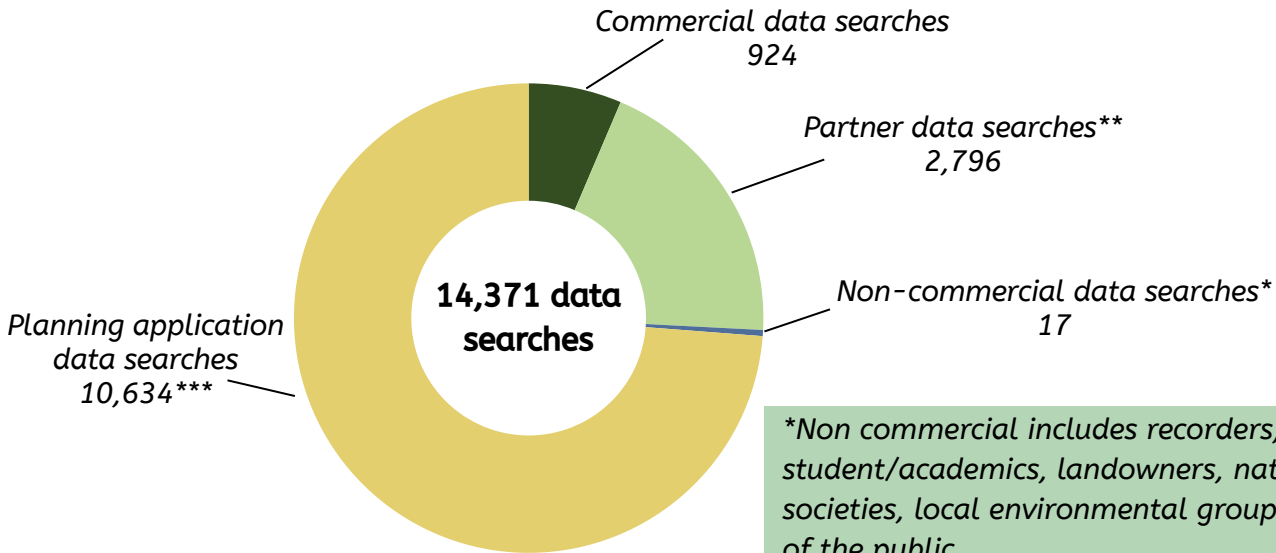


Data in Use

Aderyn is the LERC Wales' Biodiversity Information & Reporting Database.

Through Aderyn, our online reporting database, we provide high quality data to a wide range of customers. It offers a fast and efficient way to view wildlife data directly from the combined Welsh LERC database, giving users an interactive experience and access to records collected by all four Welsh Local Environmental Record Centres.

Number and type of data searches undertaken in 2024-25

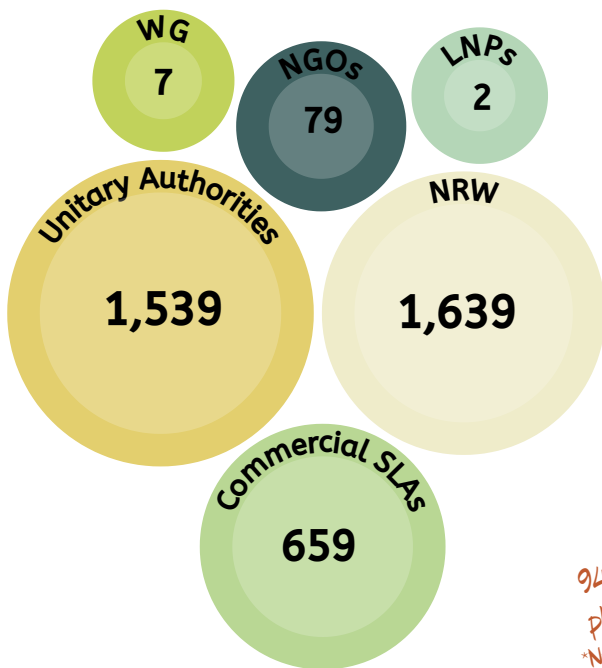


*Non commercial includes recorders, student/academics, landowners, national schemes & societies, local environmental groups, and members of the public

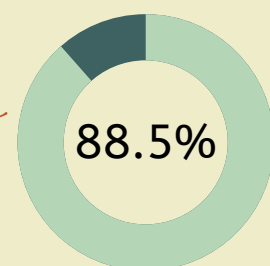
** Partner Data Searches include searches undertaken by Unitary Authorities (UA), Welsh Government (WG), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Commercial Partners with Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

*** Figure only includes applications from those UAs (with SLAs) located within the SEWBRc area. An additional 1,991 planning applications from neighbouring UAs whose search areas intersect the SEWBRc area were also searched.

Number of partner data searches undertaken in 2024-25



Percentage of planning applications checked against SEWBRc data in 2024-25 (average % across four quarters of the year)



941,283 records were used in planning searches in 2024-25.
Number includes duplicates where the same record appeared in more than one search

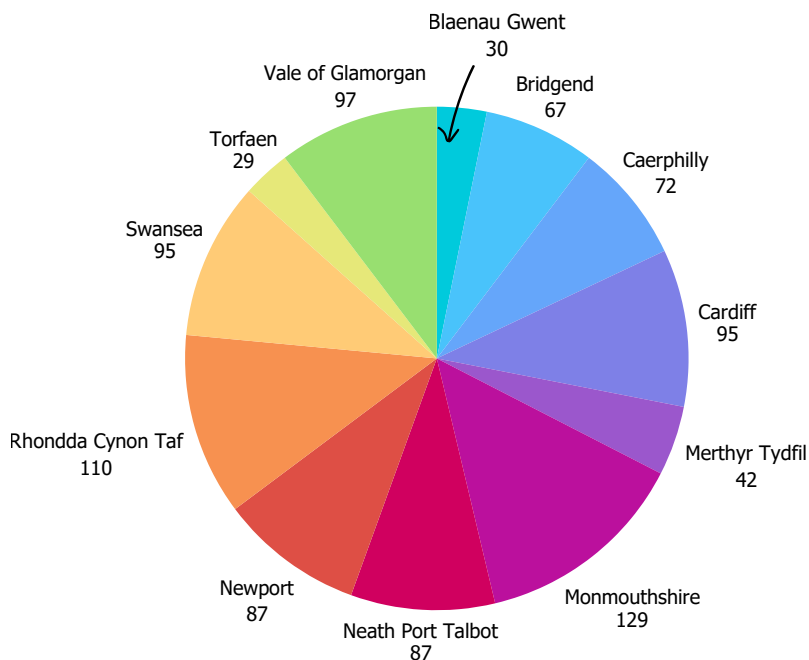


Commercial Enquiries

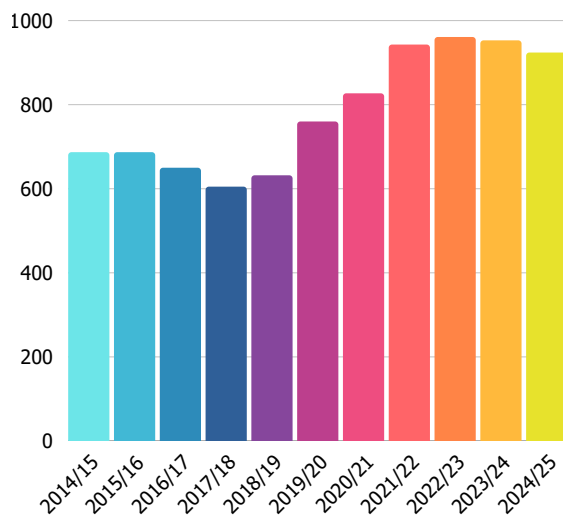
Over 1.7 million records* were used in commercial searches in 2024-25.

*Number includes duplicates where the same record appeared in more than one search

Number of commercial data searches per local authority



Number of commercial data searches per year



Happy Customers

Thank you providing us with the data and for doing it so quickly. It is much appreciated. (AECOM)

That's very cool that I can go straight to the data and download - I've not used this service before! Very impressed. (GeoSmartDecisions)

Wow that was a quick turn around! (Jen Pilkington Ecoservices)

Many thanks for the data and your very swift response with this, much appreciated! (Whitcher Wildlife)

Thank you sending that through so quickly. (Mott MacDonald)

Thank you for taking care of this for us, it's much appreciated. (National Trust)



Non-Commercial Enquiries

Public Data Access

With the free *What's in My Area* tool, you can quickly find out what species have been recorded in the area you are interested in without requesting a data search. Using the map, you can obtain a summary of species recorded within a 1km square.

13,932 What's in My Area searches undertaken within the SEWBReC region in 2024-25

With the *Public Distribution Maps* tool you can explore Wales wide distributions of species or entire taxon groups.

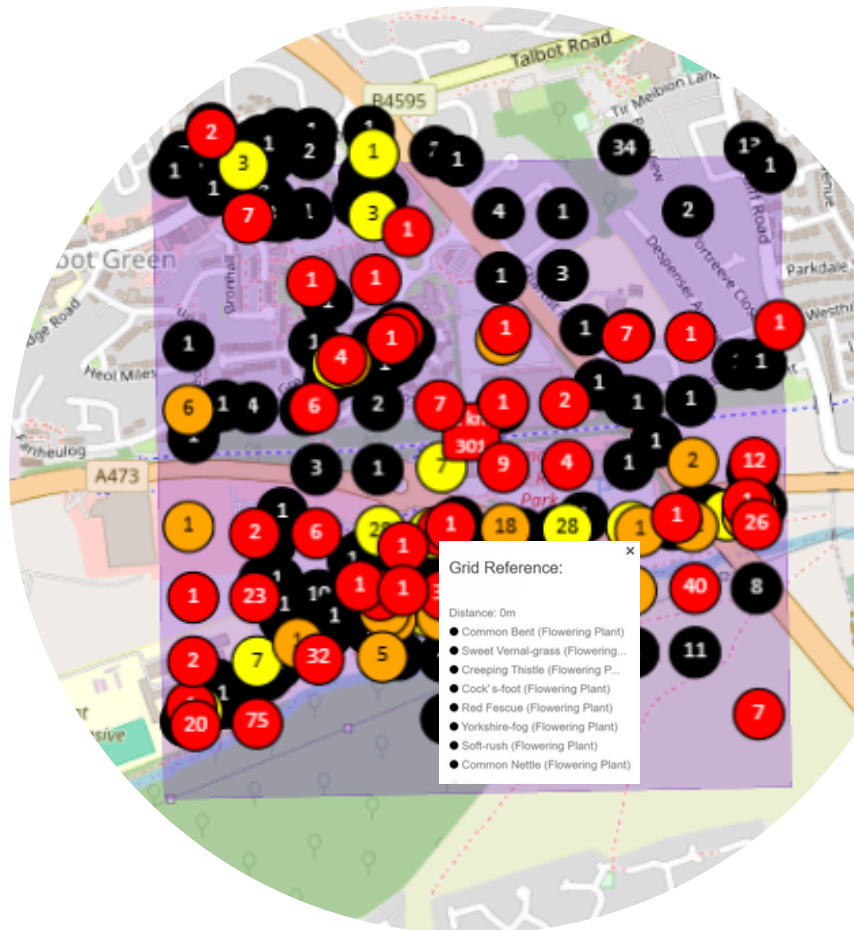
13,819 Public Distribution Maps undertaken across Wales

Thank you very much for the list of species found within the boundary of Clyne Valley Country Park and for your hard work in compiling it.
(Clyne Valley Country Park)

A 1000 in 1

We can also provide more tailored searches for particular projects. Recorder, Andrew Lucas, aiming to build the most complete picture of wildlife in his area, requested a full species list for a particular 1km square. Having just logged his 1,000th species, he was keen to identify what else had been recorded and what he might still be able to find.

Andrew presented his findings at the Gwent Glamorgan Recorders' Forum in February 2025, delivering an insightful and light-hearted account of his experiences documenting the square's biodiversity.

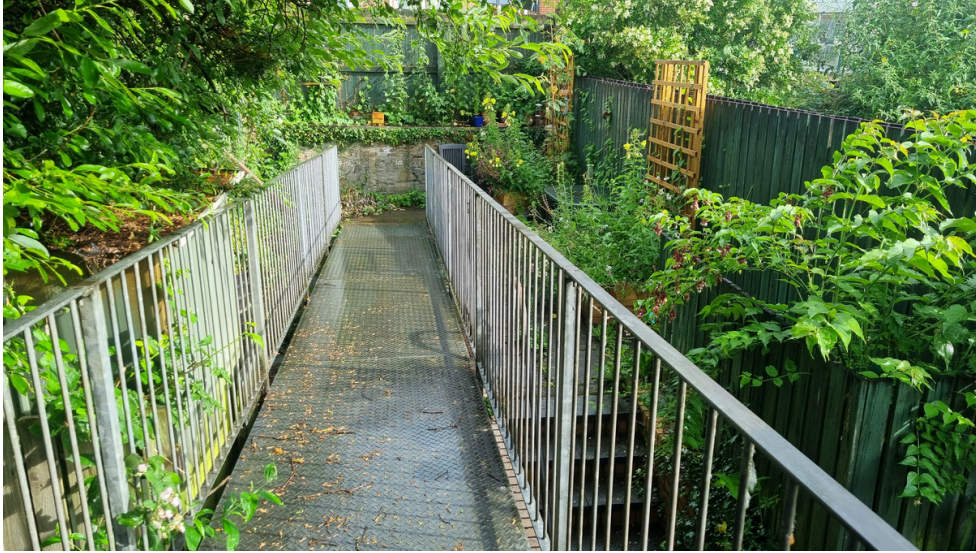


Above is an example of the results we can provide for any 1 km square—shown here using the SEWBReC office square. We can also provide species and records lists.



Garden Grant for SEWBReC office

Becky Wright-Davies and Katherine Slade applied for and won a **Keep Wales Tidy** grant to improve the outside space at the SEWBReC office for wildlife. We had fun installing the new planters and plants in December 2024.



As the space is largely concrete, we wanted to increase the species that SEWBReC staff, volunteers and visitors could enjoy - and record! Inviting spaces for nature are strongly linked to improved well-being for people too.



We're hoping we have helped to create a stepping stone for wildlife in Talbot Green to the wider countryside which includes important sites for nature such as Llantrisant Common SSSI. These important ecological connections offer pollinators and other wildlife a space to take seed, forage, shelter, hibernate and move across the landscape. The office is also located within a Buglife 'B-Line' area, an initiative to improve areas and create a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns.



Financial Summary 2024-25

	2025	2024
Total Turnover	£365,258	£357,032
Service Level Agreements	£156,073	£151,873
Sales	£178,355	£189,686
Other revenue	£30,830	£15,473
Expenditure		
Employment costs (salaries, pensions, health insurance, recruitment, training)	(£338,388)	(£306,155)
Establishment costs (office rent, rates & water, light, heat, power, insurance, repairs/renewals)	(£27,053)	(£22,045)
General administrative expenses (telephone, postage, hardware, software, website, IT support, books, stationery, licences, subscriptions, sundries, travel, legal and professional fees)	(£26,036)	(£23,585)
Finance Charges	(£6)	(£1)
Depreciation costs (fixtures, fittings, office equipment)	(£3,157)	(£3,680)
Other expenses		
Profit/(loss) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	£677	
Other operating income		
Employment Allowance	£5,000	£5,000
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(£25,059)	£6,566
Other interest receivable and similar income		
Bank interest receivable	£3,072	£1,280
Interest payable & similar charges		
Interest paid to HM Revenue & Customs	£16	£1,152
Net finance income	£3,056	£1,280
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	(£22,003)	£7,846
Tax on (loss)/profit	-	(£1,998)
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(£22,003)	£5,848
Total comprehensive income for the year	(£22,003)	£5,848

Acknowledgements

SEWBReC Board

Steve Bolchover (Chair)
Alison Jones (Vice-Chair)
Stuart Bain (Treasurer)
Kate Stinchcombe (*Monmouthshire County Council*)
Andy Karran (*Gwent Wildlife Trust*)
Alex Wilson
Kirsty Lloyd (*Amgueddfa Cymru*)
David Lee (*University of South Wales*)
David Clements* (*David Clements Ecology*)
Karen Wilkinson (*Natural Resources Wales observer*)

**Resigned from the SEWBReC Board in January 2025*

Volunteers

Marisa Jones

Community Networks

Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales
Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC)
Biological Recorders
BIS
Coal Spoil Connections
Cofnod
Community Groups
Friends of Groups
LERC Wales Limited
Living Levels Partnership
Local Nature Partnerships
Members of the public
National Biodiversity Network
National Forum for Biological Recording (NFBR)
Professional bodies
Researchers
WWBIC

Species Data Sharing

Partners

LERC Wales App
SEWBReCORD
eBird
iRecord
MapMate
iNaturalist
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
Bat Conservation Trust
Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Butterfly Conservation
Bees Wasps & Ants Recording Society
Curlew Wales
Glamorgan Bird Club
Gwent Ornithological society
Gwent Wildlife Trust
Herefordshire Biological Records Centre
Initiative for Nature Conservation Cymru (INCC)
National Plant Monitoring Scheme
Mammal Mapper
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire Moth & Butterfly Group
Non-Native Species Secretariat
National Plant Monitoring Scheme
Record Pool (ARG & ARC)
Severn Wildlife Rescue
South East Wales River Trust
South Wales Otter Trust
Spider Recording Scheme
UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
Wild Otter Trust
2 Universities
30+ Consultancies
Vice county recorder for Monmouthshire Macro Lepidoptera
Vice county recorder for Monmouthshire Micro Lepidoptera
22+ individual regular recorders

Partners

Gwent Wildlife Trust
Network Rail
Natural Resources Wales
South Wales Trunk Roads Agency
Wales Biodiversity Partnership
Welsh Government
Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales

Unitary Authority

Partners

Blaenau Gwent
Bridgend*
Caerphilly
Cardiff
Monmouthshire
Neath Port Talbot*
Newport
Merthyr Tydfil
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Swansea
Torfaen
Vale of Glamorgan

**no SLA with SEWBReC*



Working with us

Our **Portfolio** summarises the diverse products and services we provide: sewbrec.org.uk/other-services

Partners: Our service Level Agreements can give you continuous priority access to the data you need. [Contact us](#) to discuss your needs.

Customers: We provide professional data reports on species, sites and habitats in our area. Set packages can be tailored to your requirements: sewbrec.org.uk/enquiries

Recorders and Recording Groups: We provide support via data validation, mobilisation of data records (both paper and digital formats), and support for use of recording databases.

The Public: We aim to inspire new recorders at events through the year and provide free [What's in My Area](#) searches and [Species Distributions](#). Find events in our area: sewbrec.org.uk/diaryevents



All Local Environmental Record Centres in Wales are accredited, including us. This means we have been through a stringent process, checking our organisation structure, principles of continuous improvement, data custodianship and data services. You can have confidence in us to hold biodiversity information in trust for society and manage our public resources well.

SEWBRc Linktree | linktr.ee/sewbrec

Website | sewbrec.org.uk

Newsletter | sewbrec.org.uk/newsletters

Data Sharing

Aderyn | sewbrec.org.uk/aderyn

LERC Wales app | sewbrec.org.uk/recording/app

SEWBRc Record | sewbrec.org.uk/SEWBRcCORD



SOUTH EAST WALES BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE
CANOLFAN GOFNODION BIOAMRYWIAETH DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
15 Talbot Road
Talbot Green
Rhondda Cynon Taf
CF72 8AD



LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES WALES
CANOLFANNAU COFNODION AMGYLCHEDDOL LLEOL CYMRU

