

Where's the Path?

The majority of SERC's records are submitted by members of the general public merely walking a local footpath and spotting something of interest. However, marked footpaths on an OS map are sometimes difficult to find on the ground and access points can be ill defined. The website *Where's the Path?* is a handy little tool for defining the correct route to take when preparing for species recording along a public footpath or simply organising a country walk.

The website displays both an OS map and Google Satellite map side-by-side. However, you can change which maps you would like to see on screen e.g. OS and Google Terrain maps, OS and Google Hybrid maps and even current OS with 1930's and 40's OS maps.

Drag the mouse pointer over the footpath marked on the OS map and a "follow me" pointer appears on the Google map which shows the precise location of the path. The software also allows you to create a specific route and gives the total length of the route in either miles or kilometres, how long it will take to walk, the ascent and descent of the walk and also the perimeter and area the total walk covers.

To download a copy of *Where's the Path?* and to find out more visit: <http://bit.ly/wherespath>



Brown Long-Eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Contact Us:

Somerset Environmental Records Centre
Tonedale Mill
Wellington
Somerset
TA21 0AW

Tel: 01823 664450 Fax: 01823 652411

For Recording/ Submitting Records
Email: records@somerc.com

www.somerc.com

Written and designed by Lauren Clarke

Information correct at time of going to press February 2011
Photos © SERC 2003, 2007, 2009, Lauren Clarke 2010,
Jenny Ross 2011



Somerset Environmental
Records Centre
Recording Our Environment

A Helping Hand for Biological Recorders



Introduction

If you are new to biological recording or even if you have been recording for several years, this guide may provide new and exciting ways to gain usually difficult and sometimes time consuming information essential for data management.

Data Format

If you are planning on getting out into the countryside to record this season, there are a few things you'll need to note down to submit and validate your records. The simple thing to remember is the 4 W's.

- **Who:** The person recording the species
- **What:** The species are you recording
- **Where:** The location in which the species were recorded, ideally an OS grid reference.
- **When:** The date of the recording.

Additional information you may like to include is the methodology. If the survey is repeated seasonally or even weekly it is appropriate to keep to the same methodology in order to keep results consistent. If you are recording botanical species it may also be appropriate to record the abundance by using, for example a DAFOR scale or percentage cover.



Birding watching at the mouth of the River Parrett

The Data Validation Toolkit

Worried that the data you submit might be interpreted the wrong way or there might be mistakes? There's no need to worry. *The Data Validation Toolkit* is a piece of software designed to assist Recording Groups, Local Record Centres and individual recorders with the validation and verification of species data recorded in many formats (for example, Excel spreadsheets and databases such as Recorder and Mapmate). The software checks records in a consistent and straightforward way to spot any common problems that may occur.

To download a copy of *The Data Validation Toolkit* and to find out more visit: <http://bit.ly/nbntoolkit>

Species Recorder

Species Recorder is a biological recorder which is intended to make inputting data easier, faster, and uncomplicated for even the newest of biological recorders. The software produces a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet from the input of data into an autofill data entry screen. From this the data can be easily transferred into Recorder 2002/6 or Mapmate. Even if you are recording species throughout the season, additional data entries can be added at a later stage.

To download a copy of *Species Recorder* and to find out more visit: <http://bit.ly/somercspeciesrecorder>



Elephant Hawk Moth Larva (*Deilephila elpenor*)



Bogbean
(*Menyanthes trifoliata*)



Wood Forget-me-not
(*Myosotis sylvatica*)

Grab a Grid Reference

Ever found it frustrating when you've been given just a grid reference to a location and find it hard to locate the exact place? Or you need to know the grid reference of the area you've recorded your species in, in order to submit your records?

Well, there's no need to panic anymore, *Grab a Grid Reference* is a website that does all of the hard work for you. Simply enter the grid reference into the search tool and click go. The software identifies the exact point and conveniently displays an OS map and Google map side-by-side.

To find the grid reference of your site simply grab the red marker on the Google map and place it on the precise spot you would like a grid reference for. You can even state to what accuracy you would like the locator to pin point your site e.g. to 10m², 100m², 1km² etc by simply selecting the options. The grid reference then appears next to the accuracy option(s) you have selected e.g. 100m² ST205125, 1km² ST2012.

To download a copy of *Grab a Grid Reference* and to find out more visit: <http://bit.ly/gradagridreference>