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## **Data Search Guidance Notes – Community and Parish Planning**

### **1 Community and Parish Planning Searches**

Information can be provided for the area within the official Parish boundary (this data is held by SERC) and will consist of species information and details about any land with any official site designations over them.

SERC can also provide data to local communities interested in Neighbourhood/Community Planning – in this case a map clearly showing the boundary of the land of interest must be provided.

### **2 Sites Search Information**

SERC holds information for sites evaluated for their biological and geological interest, including all those with statutory or non-statutory designations. For Community and Parish Planning searches the search will include all statutory and non-statutory designated sites.

Statutory Sites that are searched for are:-

- Ramsar Sites
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

Non Statutory Sites that are searched for are:

- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- Candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWS)
- Local Geological Sites (LGS)

#### Information provided

- Locations and boundaries of designated sites – Sites map (pdf)
- Summary details of designated sites (including reasons for designation where available for Non Statutory Sites ) – Site details report (pdf)

### **3 Species Search Information**

For Community and Parish Planning searches the search will include all species. Those that have a designation (See Appendix 1) will be identified in the information provided.

Certain species records are regarded as sensitive and there is restricted access to precise location information for these records. See Appendix 2.



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### Information provided

- Species records including details of abundance, stage, and statuses – results are provided in spreadsheet format - records can then be filtered as required, for example based on a single status.

Records are provided as:-

High resolution records – those with grid reference recorded at 100 m precision or better.

Most have 6-figure grid references; a few have 8-figure or 10-figure.

Low resolution records – those with grid reference recorded at 1 km or lesser precision.

When recording on large sites it's common practice to allocate species lists to 1 km grid squares or tetrads (2 km x 2 km).

Some recording schemes, e.g. those for plants and birds, only require recording at this level of precision, atlas projects are one of the main sources for low resolution records.

Site or location details may more precisely pin-point where the record was made.

This dataset includes some records original recorded at high resolution that have been reduced to low resolution precision in accordance with our confidential species policy.

- Mapped locations of the species records in relation to the search area – Species Map (pdf)

## **4 Search Results**

- The results are returned via email.

Additional information (available on request)

- Copies on paper can be supplied, but this will incur an additional charge.

## **5 Data sources**

Data is compiled by SERC on an ongoing basis from all available professional and voluntary sources. These sources include the various specialist recording groups that operate in the county, linked to SERC and the Somerset Wildlife Trust, for which SERC acts as a clearing house for the supply of data. There is therefore no need for users to contact these groups separately.

The data search is undertaken only on data held and compiled by SERC at the time the enquiry is made.

## **6 Data Quality and Interpretation**

All users of biological data should be aware of the interpretation limitations of the data supplied. Habitat and species recording coverage is far from complete in time and space and further field survey may be required to determine the presence of important features. It is only possible to supply records that have been collected and validated. The ecological condition of a site may have changed since the available records were collected – clearly this is especially the case for older

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records. The available records may often therefore be viewed as a guide to the present condition of a site or area rather than a definitive statement of its value.

Data supplied by SERC has been verified (in terms of identification accuracy) and validated (in terms of geographical accuracy and other accuracy attributes in the data capture process) as far as possible. Errors cannot be totally eliminated, however, and users are asked to check with SERC if possible errors are noted in the data search results.

SERC does not advise enquirers on actions that might or might not be taken as a consequence of the data identified in the search.

## 7 Charges and Payment Terms

This standard information is provided to Community Groups or Parish Councils at the fixed fee of £52.00 plus VAT. If further information is needed please refer to the commercial request data search options, request form and charging structure.

## 8 Requests

Enquirers must fill out a Data Request Form, which can be returned to: [data.supply@somerc.com](mailto:data.supply@somerc.com)

Alternatively the form can be sent to the following address:

Somerset Environmental Records Centre  
34 Wellington Road  
Taunton TA1 5AW

## 9 Turnaround and Results

Data searches will normally be supplied to enquirers within 10 working days from receipt of your request form. However at busy times priority will be given to Commercial searches.

Results are emailed in the format of pdf and excel spreadsheets. If you require hard copies of any of the results output then this will incur a charge to cover printing, postage and packing.



## Appendix 1 - Species Designations and information provided.

### Information provided

- Records are provided as:-  
High resolution records – those with grid reference recorded at 100 m precision or better.  
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### Species Designations

| Key  | Status  | Assumptions Made  |
|--|---|---|
| European Protected   | Protected under European legislation  | Includes:-<br>Berne Convention Appendix 1 & 2<br>Bonn Convention Appendix 1 & 2<br>Habitats and Species Directive – Annex 4   |
| European Priority  |   | Includes:-<br>Birds Directive Annex<br>Habitats and Species Directive Annex 2<br>Priority Species   |
| Red Listed   | Species identified by the IUCN as being threatened or having a high risk of extinction. | Lower risk - least concern IUCN species are not considered Red Listed.<br>Includes:-<br>Critically Endangered<br>Endangered<br>Vulnerable<br>Data Deficient<br>Near Threatened  |
| Wildlife and Countryside Act (WACA) 1981                             | Legally Protected under the WACA 1981.  | Includes:-<br>Schedule 1 Part 1, Part2<br>WCA: Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (killing/injuring)<br>Schedule 5 Section 9.1 (taking)<br>Schedule 5 Section 9.2<br>Schedule 5 Section 9.4a<br>Schedule 5 Section 9.4b<br>Schedule 8 |
| Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 Section 41 | Legally Protected under the NERC Act 2006   | List of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The list includes 56 habitats and 943 species draws upon the UK BAP.  |

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| Key               | Status  | Assumptions Made   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Nationally Scarce | Nationally Scarce Species.  | Limited to Nationally Scarce only.   |
| Amber Birds       | Medium Conservation Concern.  | Amber List species.  |
| Red Birds         | High Conservation Concern.  | Red List species   |
| BAP2007           | Present on the Priority Species List for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.         | Includes national Biodiversity Action Plan or Priority species.  |
| Local BAP2009     | Species of biodiversity importance designated by local ecologists.                | Includes species considered of importance by a local panel of ecologists including those from local authorities and with reference to local experts. This is an update of the previous 2007 list |
| County Notable    | County Notable from the SERC Somerset Notable Species Dictionary (Fifth Edition). | Species present on the Somerset County Notable list.   |



## Appendix 2 - Species records which SERC regards as confidential

| Birds                         |                           | Agreed resolution  | Reason            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Acanthis cabaret              | Lesser Redpoll            | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 2km. Note: this is applied to all records. | Sensitive Species |
| Accipiter gentilis            | Goshawk                   |  |                   |
| Alcedo atthis                 | Kingfisher                |  |                   |
| Anas querquedula              | Garganey                  |  |                   |
| Ardea alba                    | Great White Egret         |  |                   |
| Ardea purpurea                | Purple Heron              |  |                   |
| Asio flammeus                 | Short-eared Owl           |  |                   |
| Asio otus                     | Long-eared Owl            |  |                   |
| Athene noctua                 | Little Owl                |  |                   |
| Bubulcus ibis                 | Cattle Egret              |  |                   |
| Calidris alpina               | Dunlin                    |  |                   |
| Charadrius hiaticula          | Ringed Plover             |  |                   |
| Ciconia ciconia               | White Stork               |  |                   |
| Circus aeruginosus            | Marsh Harrier             |  |                   |
| Circus pygargus               | Montagu's Harrier         |  |                   |
| Coccothraustes coccothraustes | Hawfinch                  |  |                   |
| Coturnix coturnix             | Quail                     |  |                   |
| Crex crex                     | Corncrake                 |  |                   |
| Dendrocopos minor             | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker |  |                   |
| Egretta garzetta              | Little Egret              |  |                   |
| Emberiza calandra             | Corn Bunting              |  |                   |
| Emberiza cirius               | Cirl Bunting              |  |                   |
| Falco columbarius             | Merlin                    |  |                   |
| Falco peregrinus              | Peregrine                 |  |                   |
| Falco subbuteo                | Hobby                     |  |                   |
| Grus grus                     | Crane                     |  |                   |
| Jynx torquilla                | Wryneck                   |  |                   |
| Lagopus lagopus               | Willow Ptarmigan          |  |                   |
| Lanius collurio               | Red-backed Shrike         |  |                   |
| Locustella luscinioides       | Savi's Warbler            |  |                   |
| Lullula arborea               | Woodlark                  |  |                   |
| Mergus merganser              | Goosander                 |  |                   |
| Milvus milvus                 | Red Kite                  |  |                   |
| Nycticorax nycticorax         | Night-heron               |  |                   |
| Oriolus oriolus               | Golden Oriole             |  |                   |
| Panurus biarmicus             | Bearded Tit               |  |                   |

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|                         |                    |  |  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Pernis apivorus         | Honey-buzzard      |  |  |
| Phoenicurus ochruros    | Black Redstart     |  |  |
| Podiceps nigricollis    | Black-necked Grebe |  |  |
| Poecile montana         | Willow Tit         |  |  |
| Porzana porzana         | Spotted Crake      |  |  |
| Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax | Chough             |  |  |
| Recurvirostra avosetta  | Avocet             |  |  |
| Regulus ignicapilla     | Firecrest          |  |  |
| Riparia riparia         | Sand Martin        |  |  |
| Saxicola rubetra        | Whinchat           |  |  |
| Scolopax rusticola      | Woodcock           |  |  |
| Sterna hirundo          | Common Tern        |  |  |
| Sterna sandvicensis     | Sandwich Tern      |  |  |
| Sylvia undata           | Dartford Warbler   |  |  |
| Tadorna tadorna         | Shelduck           |  |  |
| Tetrao tetrix           | Black Grouse       |  |  |
| Tringa glareola         | Wood Sandpiper     |  |  |
| Tringa totanus          | Redshank           |  |  |
| Tyto alba               | Barn Owl           |  |  |
| Upupa epops             | Hoopoe             |  |  |

| Mammals         |        | Agreed resolution  | Reason                         |
|-----------------|--------|--|--------------------------------|
| Lutra lutra     | Otter  | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 1km. | (breeding/lying up sites only) |
| Meles meles     | Badger | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 1km. | (sett records only)            |
| All bat species |        | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 100m |                                |

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| <b>Butterflies</b>                   |            | <b>Agreed resolution</b>                                 | <b>Reason</b>     |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--|-------------------|
| Phengaris arion<br>(Maculinea arion) | Large blue | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 2km. | Sensitive Species |

| <b>Molluscs</b>    |                  | <b>Agreed resolution</b>                                 | <b>Reason</b>                           |
|--------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Segmentina nitida  | A ramshorn snail | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 2km. | Very restricted distribution in the UK. |
| Valvata macrostoma | A valve snail    | Maximum geographical precision of supplied records: 2km. | 1997 BAP, internationally threatened.   |