

NBRC

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre



Six-spot Burnet (*Zygaena filipendulae*) ©Nathalie Hueber

Annual Report 2018-19

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Introduction

The Northamptonshire Biological Record Centre (NBRC) is a not-for profit, impartial, independent provider of biodiversity and geodiversity information. The centre launched in 2006 for the custodianship and provision of biological data in Northamptonshire. The centre is one of nearly fifty county-based Local Environmental Records Centres operating across the UK whose collective aim is to support biological recording, data curation and provision of environmental information for decision-making. The centre acts in collaboration with other regional local record centres including regular representation at East of England LERC regional meetings.



The NBRC are current members of the national Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC), the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), the National Forum for Biological Recording (NFBR), GeoConservationUK, and the county's Biodiversity Partnership and Local Nature Partnership.

The record centre Steering Group, is Chaired by Dr. Duncan McCollin, Senior Lecturer, University of Northampton and comprised of a **range of interested parties representing service level partners including statutory bodies and local councils,**

environmental charities, biological recorders and researchers. The group meets three times a year to oversee and support NBRC strategic direction.

The NBRC is hosted by the Wildlife Trust for **Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire** (Wildlife Trust BCN) in their Northampton Office.

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

Lings House,
Billing Lings,
Northampton.
NN3 8BE

Tel: 01604 400448

Fax: 01604 784835

E-mail: nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk

The NBRC website <http://www.northantsbrc.org.uk/> includes current organisational policies and is where newly approved policies will be shared during 2019-20.

1.1 NBRC Aims & Objectives

Our Vision

A modern, effective & trusted centre for local wildlife recording and biodiversity information access

Our Mission Statement

The Centre exists

To champion and support all aspects of biological recording in Northamptonshire,

by;

- offering a local facility for the collection, validation, verification, collation, storage, analysis, sharing and use of environmental data;
- providing access to an effective evidence base to guide strategies, plans and decisions that have potential to impact on biodiversity; and
- sharing biodiversity information more widely in order to increase understanding of the natural environment, and ensure that development and natural resource management achieve better, more sustainable outcomes within and beyond the county.

Our Values

Independent, straightforward, helpful and evidence-led, we are honest, professional, and impartial in the services and support we provide to all. We are committed to:

- Working collaboratively with others;
- Promoting and valuing the efforts of the county's biological recorders and organisations that utilise biodiversity information;
- Being a learning and enabling organisation;
- Developing our services, technical skills and information infrastructure to continually meet a range of user needs;
- Conducting our business with integrity in an open, honest, transparent and accountable way;

- Making the most of available information whilst recognising its limitations and seeking future improvements;
- Recognising and investing in our staff and volunteers as our greatest resource.

Our Objectives

Ensure access to quality biodiversity information through developing our skills and services to meet the needs of environmental decision makers, maintaining data quality and security and continually achieving operational financial security.

Continually enhance the breadth and depth of biological and environmental information held in our database through engaging, supporting and developing volunteers skill in recording activity, building effective sharing relationships and enhancing our database with both recent and historic coverage.

Improve and maintain effective operational standards, policies, procedures, and reporting in accordance with National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) guidance.

1.2 Partnerships & Collaboration

The NBRC Steering Group comprises of representatives from the following partner organisations & groups. Steering group meetings are held three times annually to support and guide NBRC operations and strategic direction.

Anglian Water

Canal & River Trust

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission

Kelmarsh Hall

Moulton College

North Northamptonshire Joint
Development & Planning Unit

Northamptonshire Natural History
Society

Northamptonshire County Recorders

Natural England

University of Northampton

Thames Water

South Northamptonshire Council

Wildlife Trust of Bedfordshire,
Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire

1.3 NBRC Staff

Throughout 2018-19, the centre was managed by Rosalind Johnston and staffed by data officers Nathalie Hueber, James Skinner and Rachel Tate. Josh Hellon, Monitoring and Research Manager continues to oversee and provide line management for all three record centres as hosted by the Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire. With the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the WILDside project was successfully extended to December 2019, as led by Project Coordinator Ryan Clark.

Centre Manager

Rosalind Johnston

Data Officers

Nathalie Hueber

James Skinner

Rachel Tate

WILDside Project Coordinator

Ryan Clark



Professional drone pilot practice © Rosalind Johnston

Professional Development

The team have all developed their survey, identification and technical skills. They keep up to date with National and Regional LERC business through regional meetings and conferences. All staff hold up-to-date First Aid training.

Conference & Meetings

UK Moth Recorders Conference, UK Butterfly Recorders' Meeting, East of England LERC Meetings, ALERC Conference, NBN Conference, Local Wildlife Sites Panel Meeting, Neglected Insects Conference, BWARS Conference.

Workshops

Train the Trainer, Warblers Identification, Wildflowers 1, Spider Identification, Small Mammals Trapping & Identification

Development & Training

UAV Test & CAA Certification, MapInfo Introduction, Introduction to QGIS, Lynda.com courses, UKHAB.

County Recorders & Volunteers

Through 2018-19, three long-term volunteers and one short-term volunteer supported us in our digitisation work, as overseen by Rachel Tate. Over 500 hours of volunteer time supported the NBRC in helping to validate records and working on two historical data digitisation projects.

i. Digitisation of historical beetle records

This important project required the scanning of several notebooks and the digitisation of a lifetime of records collected by a locally known and well-respected entomologist, Harry Henson. The original paper records and specimens are now being cared for by the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology. The records have now been digitised and once they have been checked, the records will be entered into our database. Any records that do not fall within the Northamptonshire county boundary will be sent to the relevant local records centre.

ii. Digitisation of Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust recording survey cards

This long-term project involves the digitisation of paper surveys undertaken during the 1970's and 1980's covering nearly 1,000 sites. We currently have three volunteers creating scanned copies of the paper records and then

digitising the information and the records into spreadsheet templates. The project has been running for about two years now and in this time our dedicated volunteers have managed to scan and digitised thousands of records for approximately 400 sites.

The WILDside project and Northamptonshire's County Recorders have fuelled a widening volunteer recording network. We share and exchange records on a regular basis with volunteer county recorders including; bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), both macro and micro moths, butterflies, water bugs, diptera (true flies), birds, hymenoptera and amphibians and reptiles. Northamptonshire also has county recorders for; vascular plants, mammals, dragonflies, beetles, plant galls, arachnids and lichens. The centre hosts a meeting with County Recorders twice a year and organise an annual recorders BioBlitz in the summer. Country Recorders, in their appointed specialist voluntary role for Northamptonshire, generously gave their valuable time in the delivery of talks, workshops, and BioBlitz recording as part of the WILDside project. From spring 2019, a WILDside volunteer assisted in events.

Key Achievements 2018-19

2.1 Data Holdings Summary

Sites

NBRC non-statutory sites datasets are updated and managed by our partners the Wildlife Trust BCN with assistance and support of NBRC staff. Staff completed assessment and reporting for three Local Wildlife Site (LWS) surveys over summer 2018 and attended the 2018 LWS selection panel meeting in February 2019. 32 new and/or updated LWS citations have been created from the 2018 survey. LWS database checks and corrections have been completed on 697 site citations including 613 LWS citations out of 715 held (86%). In addition, Districts, Parishes, Country Parks and Rights of Ways are held, as well as newly updated GIS layers from Northamptonshire County Council: 10000 base map (Vector Map Local), 25000 base map, 50000 base map, 250000 base map, Addressbase, Postcode & Mastermap.

Table 1 Sites information held in NBRC database (updated April 2019)

	Number of Sites
<i>Non Statutory Sites</i>	
Local Wildlife Site	715
Potential Wildlife Site	1101
Local Geological Sites	54
Potential Local Geological Site	10
Protected Wildflower Verge	30
Pocket Park	81
Wildlife Trust Reserves	43
<i>Statutory Sites</i>	
Site of Special Scientific Interest	57
National Nature Reserve	2
Local Nature Reserve	18

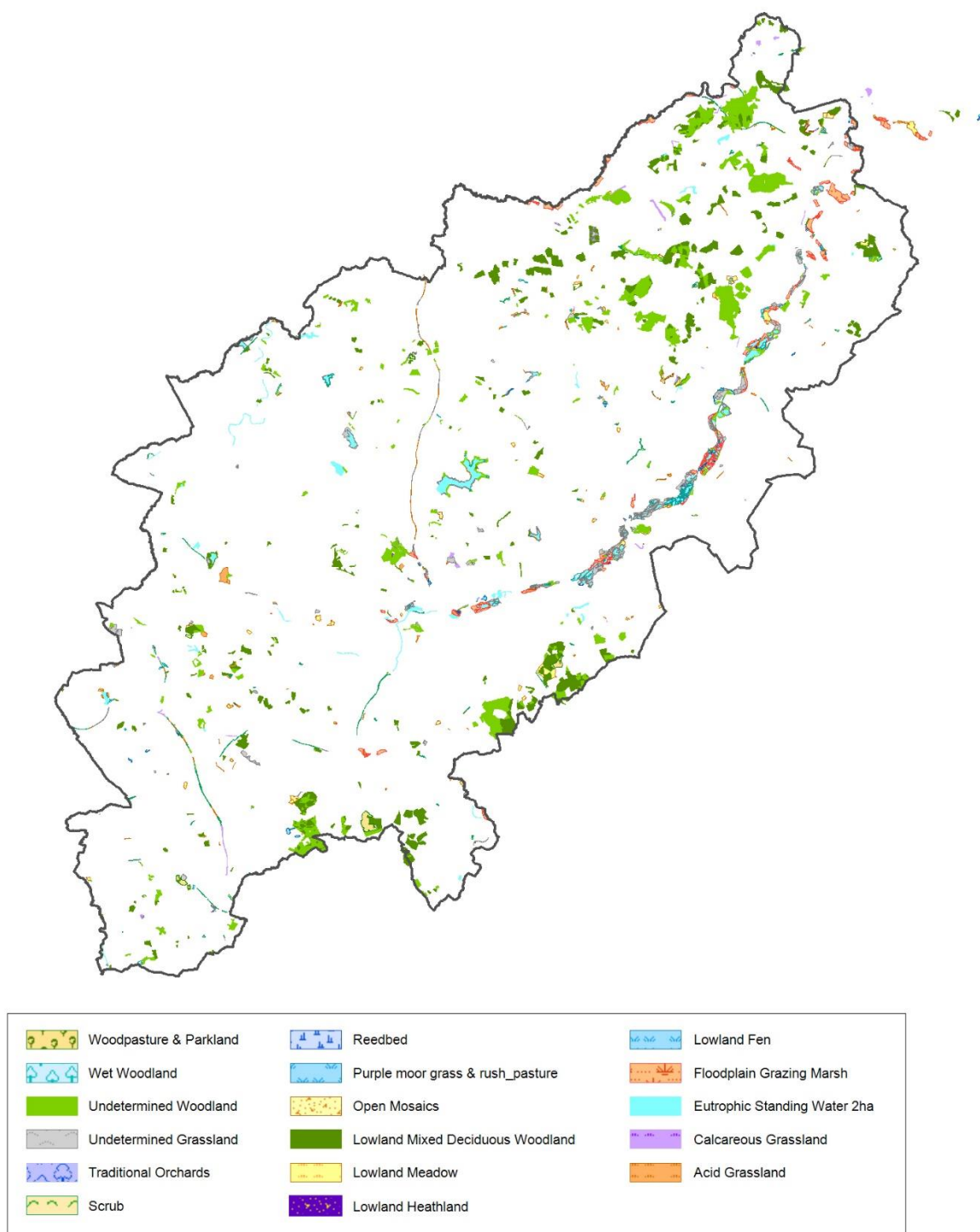
Habitats

NBRC habitat data is provided, updated, and managed by our partners the Wildlife Trust BCN. GIS layers of 14 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and 4 layers of additional habitat data is held covering all LWS and SSSI sites in Northamptonshire. There were no changes to the layers this year. It is expected that this information will be updated during 2019-20. Additionally the centre has been approached to host habitat opportunity model layers, as produced by Natural Capital Solutions, with a view to making them available as part of data request services.

Table 2 Habitats information held in NBRC database (last updated April 2018)

BAP habitats	Area (ha)		
Acid Grassland	165	Traditional Orchards	6
Calcareous Grassland	263	Wet woodland	172
Eutrophic Standing Water (+2ha)	19890	Woodpasture & Parkland	202
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	1157		
Lowland Fen	140	Other Habitats	
Lowland Heathland	2.5	Other Open Water	157
Lowland Meadow	691	Scrub	295
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	4620	Undetermined Grassland	1032
Open Mosaics	185	Undetermined Woodland	4805
Purple moor grass & rush pasture	0.8		
Reedbed	33	Total BAP habitat	27527.3
		Total Other habitats	6289
		All habitats	33816.3

Figure 1 Mapped habitats information held in NBRC database



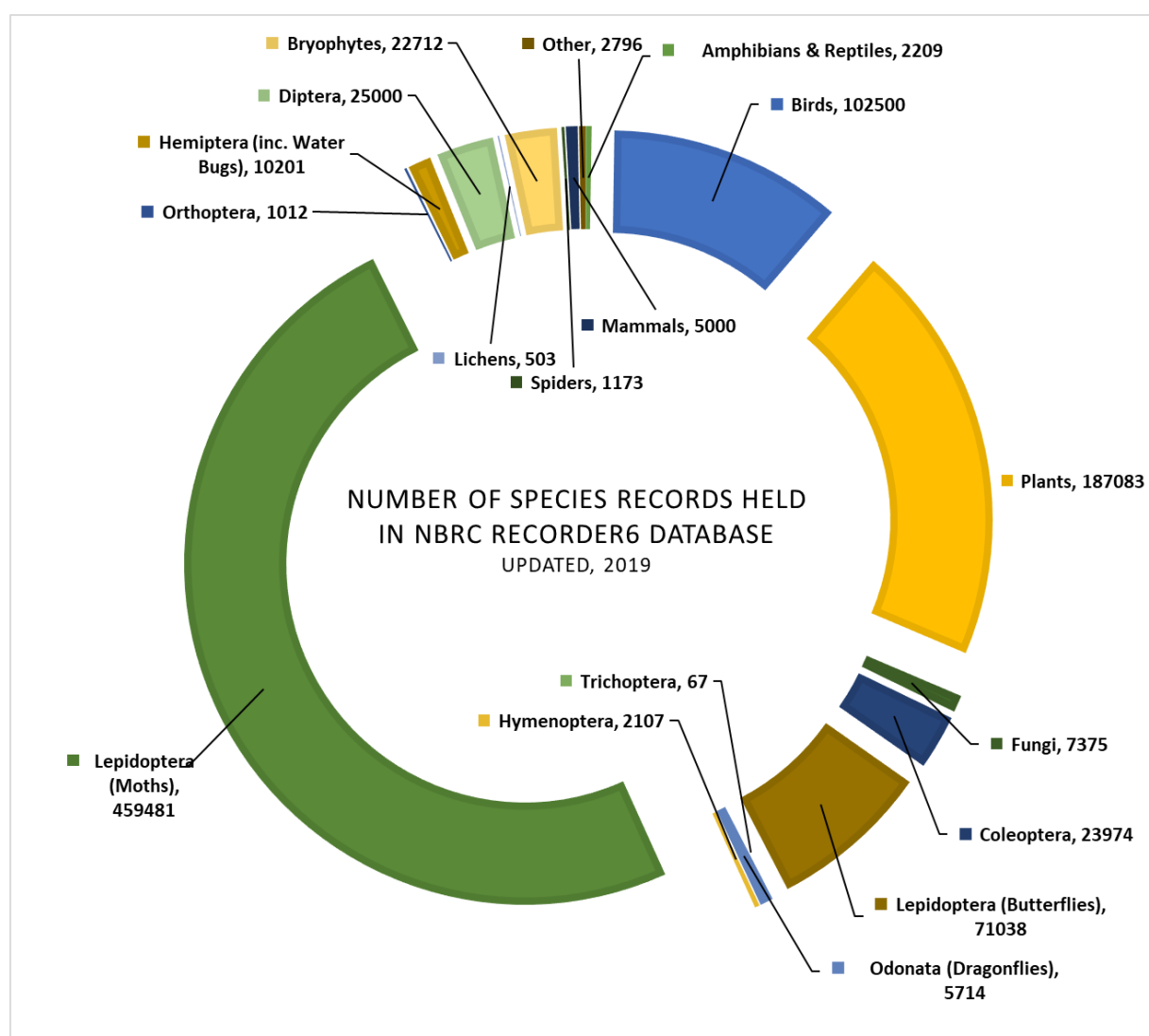
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Species

The NBRC Database currently holds 920,000 records, with approximately 690,000+ verified. This represents an addition of 60,000+ records during the year.

Datasets are received regularly from a variety of sources; in particular from county and voluntary recorders. Once validated by the team they are sent out for verification by local expert county recorders (unless received from the county recorder). Records that pass this quality check are added to the NBRC Recorder6 database. During the year, the species designations used for the production of the notable & protected layer were reviewed by the team. The up to date designations list is included in NBRC data reports.

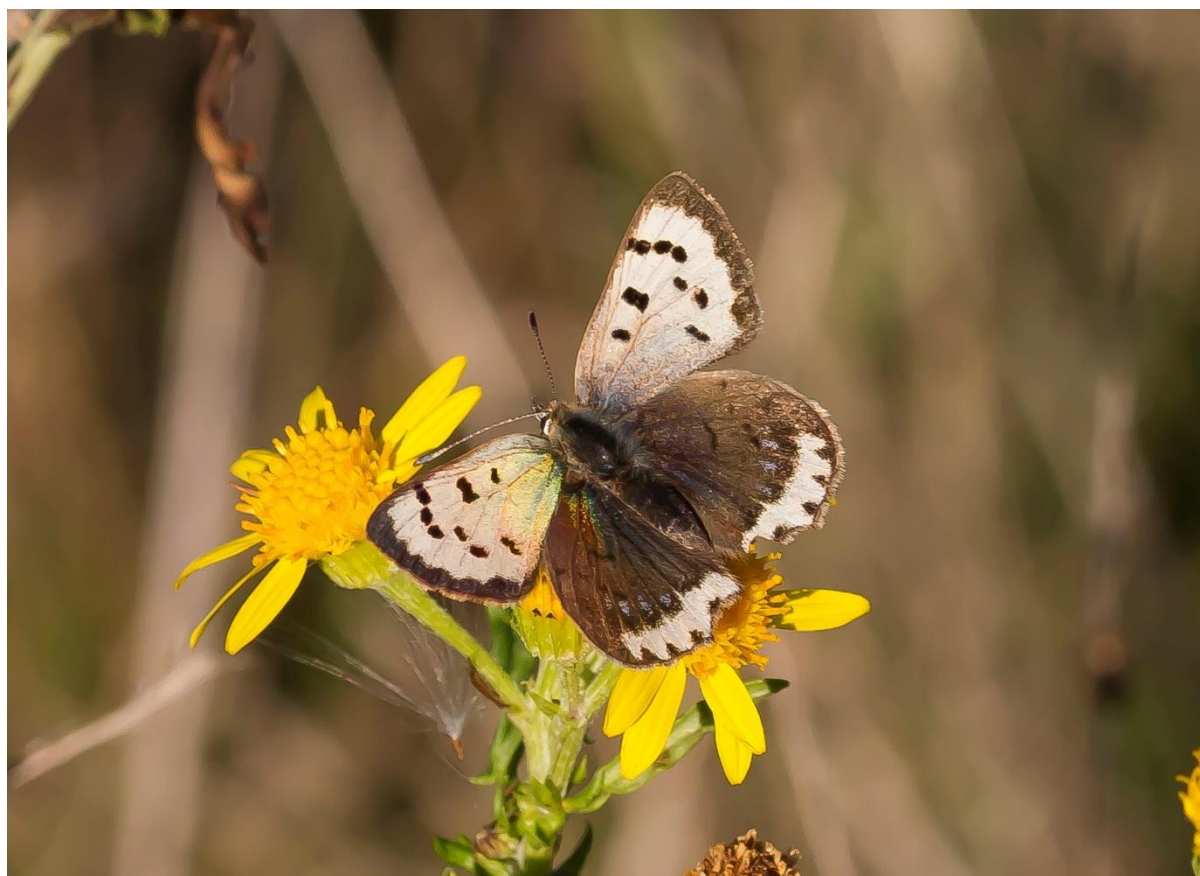
Figure 2 Current number of species records held by taxon group in NBRC recorder6 database



In 2018-19 a total of 71 datasets were received, 44 of which were processed and incorporated into our database. A further 10 datasets from prior years were also

incorporated into the database during this period. Over 2000 records were added from the 2018 Local Wildlife Sites surveys. Northamptonshire's county recorders support the NBRC through provision of full county datasets and annual updates for taxon groups.

The team plan to add a new county dataset per year, as well as maintaining annual updates of all full county datasets held. During 2018-19, the full county Diptera dataset was updated with over 26,000 records. Additionally full county Bryophytes records were added for both 2017 & 2018. Full county Butterflies records have been received for 2016 & 2017, of which about 50% were added to the database. This year the focus of the team has also been to process and incorporate several years' worth of bird data, held by the NBRC, into the database. In total 36,158 bird, records have been newly added covering the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, & 2017.



Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas ab.schmidtii+caeruleopunctata*) ©David James

Along with existing data sharing relationships, in 2019 the team expect to update the full county dataset for Hymenoptera thanks to a new county recorder for this group, the 10,000+ caddisfly records received in 2018 from the National Scheme and to work on processing plant records. The centre holds the full county plant dataset totalling over 450,000 records. Incorporation of this data set into our database is part of our long-term development plan.

Table 3 Species information updates in NBRC database (updated April 2019)

County Dataset	Current date of records in R6	Last time updated in Recorder 6	Planned Update
Bryophytes	December 2018	Spring 2019	Spring 2020
Butterflies	November 2017	Spring 2019	Summer/Autumn 2019
Diptera	November 2017	Winter 18	Autumn 2019
Moths	August 2017	Spring 2018	Autumn 2019
Water Bugs	December 2016	Spring 2017	Spring 2019
Plants	October 2006	October 2006	In progress.
Dragonflies	November 2003	March 2004	Dependant on contact with county recorder
Birds	December 2017	Spring 2019	Ongoing
Hymenoptera	New County Recorder as of 2019		Expect records verified as of 2019
Amphibians & Reptiles	Period spanning 1905 - 2016	2017	Dependant on availability of county recorder
Fungi	National scheme contacted for database access		During 2019
Lichens	National scheme contacted for database access		During 2019
Mammals	There is a county recorder for this group, but there is currently no exchange of records		Uncertain
Coleoptera	There is a county recorder for this group, but there is currently no exchange of records		Uncertain
Trichoptera	No county recorder for this group.		National dataset received. Processing in 2019
Spiders	There is a county recorder for this group, but there is currently no exchange of records		Uncertain
Hemiptera	No county recorder for this group		Uncertain
Orthoptera	No county recorder for this group		Uncertain

2.3 Biological Recording & Engagement

Website, Newsletter & Social Media

The NBRC website includes information on data services and data holdings, support for wildlife recording including the online recording facility and news, updates via a regular newsletter and record centre organisational documentation including annual reports and policies. During the year, several pages were updated as part of the WILDside project, including support for online recording. The online recording facility is available for signed up members to submit their records with an embedded record submission form powered by indicia. Between Apr 2018 – Mar 2019, this facility generated 1,774 records, including the successful 'Look out for...' surveys for which we gained 51 new rabbit records and 51 new beefly records.

Top Tweet earned 4,241 impressions

Bee Files are Back! As the dark-edged bee fly is just starting to fly again this year, we are again asking for your help to map out this species in the county. You did such a great job last year! Please see our website for more information and to submit records [#beeflywatch pic.twitter.com/G8e3xLqQJe](https://twitter.com/G8e3xLqQJe)



The NBRC newsletter is produced 6 monthly, in Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter with updates from the team, from County Recorders, reports from NBRC run BioBlitz', interesting records received, and details of workshops surveys and events. This is shared with the mailing list, on the NBRC website, on NBRC social media channels, on the ALERC forum and internal Wildlife Trust communications. NBRC Social Media includes a twitter account (@_Northants_BRC) which is updated several times a week and has 537 followers, and an active WILDside project Facebook group with around 200 members.

The NBRC website is hosted by Namesco.com on a shared web server provider with Wildlife Trust BCN. The species records (and recorder details) input to the website are stored securely on a virtual warehouse that is owned and managed by the Biological Records Centre (BRC). The NBRC Privacy Policy details how we use and securely store personal data in supplied biological records. The website is managed by NBRC staff with ad-hoc consultant support when needed; there were no issues during the year. An upgrade to Drupal 8 is planned, and potentially an update of the web host in the next few years. Staff will be supported in the skills development to maintain the updated website through specialised training.

WILDside Project

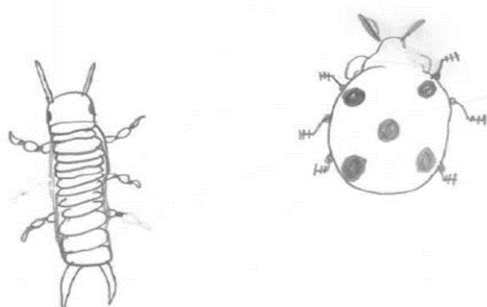
The National Lottery Heritage Fund supported WILDside project is now in its second year. The project aims to build and support Northamptonshire's recording network and build both taxonomic and geographic coverage.



Recorder shadowing event at Fineshade Wood © Ryan Clark

A number of training workshops have been organised by the WILDside project, these focussed on a variety of topics including; biological recording skills, solitary wasps, aquatic plants (as delivered by NBRC staff), longhorn beetles, dung beetles and true flies. Alongside this, six talks were held at the Northamptonshire Natural History Society, the aim of these was to get more people interested in these species groups. A recording event in Fineshade was planned to match expert recorders, including several of Northamptonshire's county recorders, with newly engaged recorders in Northamptonshire in order to share experience to build skill and confidence in their recording activities. The training workshops and talks were well attended and feedback gained so far was positive. People are really enjoying learning about new species groups and meeting those involved with recording these groups.

Children's drawings of wildlife they found and identified in a mini-BioBlitz with Hunsbury Park Primary School children as part of their Forest School activities



Key events BioBlitz events in the year included a public BioBlitz at Tove Pocket Park, the annual recorders BioBlitz at two local wildlife sites surrounding the Priors Hall development near Corby and a BioBlitz at Hunsbury Hill Fort, which generated new records for the sites and engaged the public with biological recording. Public engagement, formed a large part of the Hunsbury Hill Fort BioBlitz with a series of events including a school's mini-BioBlitz, a moth and bat public night walk as well as the daytime manned stand highlighting the event, and species found to the public.

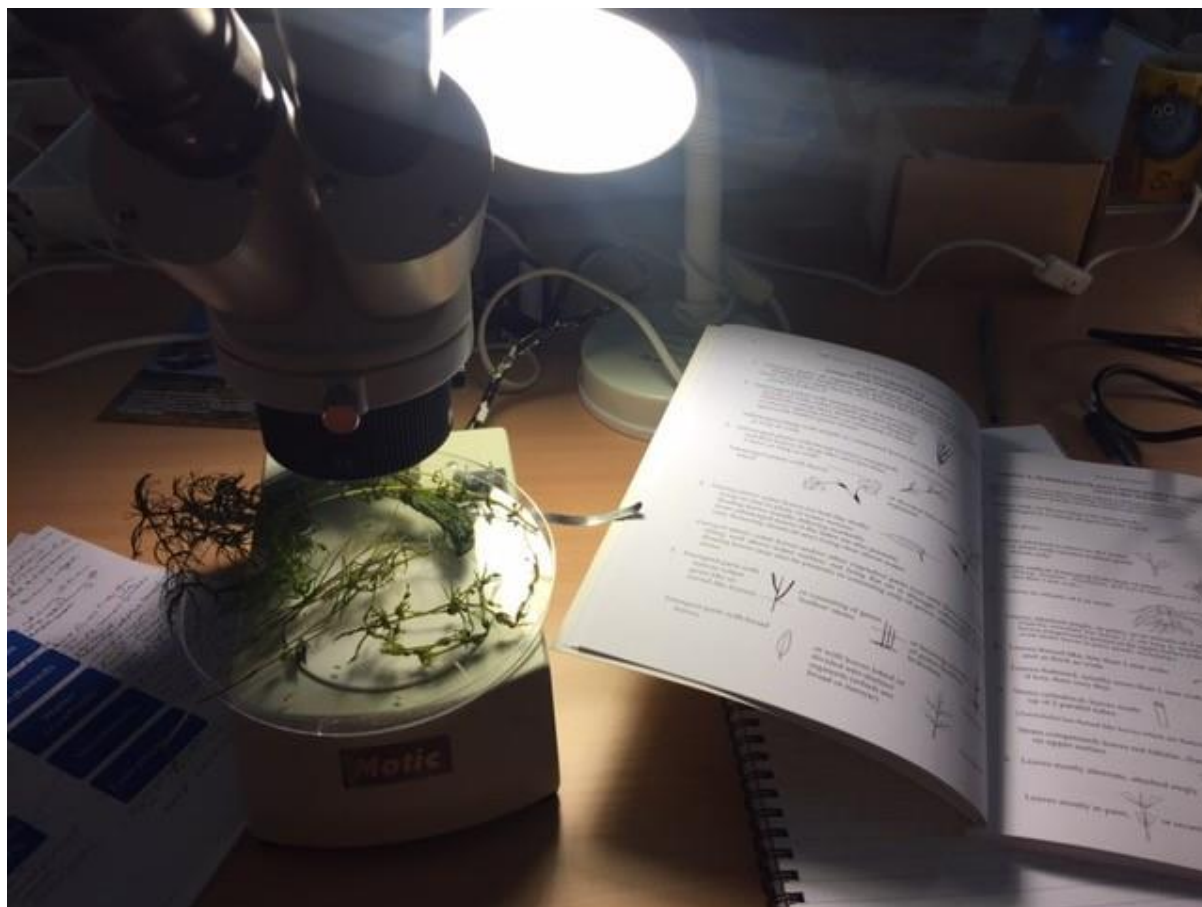
For both Hunsbury and Priors Hall the Project Coordinator delivered a follow up talk to local residents about the survey findings as follows:

- Priors Hall BioBlitz – 447 species were recorded during the event, 297 of these were new for the site. 628 species have now been recorded here.
- Hunsbury BioBlitz & Workshops –129 plant species recorded, 125 other species that were new for the site, bringing the total list for the site to 319 species.

Full reports of both Priors Hall and Hunsbury Bioblitz will be shared in the NBRC Spring/Summer newsletter. In total, over 30 events this year have been delivered through the project; to engage new audiences in recording; to train in recording and species identification skills; to give opportunities to survey and use new skills gained; and to give feedback to communities and landowners by reporting the species found through recording effort.

As part of the project the NBRC have built up and equipped a library of resource to support Northamptonshire recording. Equipment purchased through the project includes a modified leaf blower for suction sampling, sweep nets, stereo and compound microscope with projection capabilities and reference guides to support identification, including some teaching sets. This library will be a lasting legacy of the project, and we aim in the final year of the project to ensure we meet the equipment

and resource needs of the recorders engaged through the project to strengthen recording in the country long term.



Microscope & reference guide in use as part of WILDside aquatic plants training course © Rosalind Johnston

Support to online recording has also proved successful, with two NBRC website hosted seasonal species 'look out for...' surveys promoted through the project to generate records in underreported groups. A bee fly survey was ran in the spring/summer survey and a second survey on rabbits (and hares) started in winter and is still generating records for the centre. Along with these species-specific surveys, a guide was produced on wildlife recording and making online submission to the NBRC website. This is supported by a growing recording network on Facebook, a WILDside recording community of around 200 members who regularly support each other in species identification, share advice and recording opportunities, and land access permissions for recording.

The project has been successful in increasing the environmental information held by the NBRC and as part of the lasting legacy, the WILDside Project aims to promote the work of the records centre and share successful methods used to energise local recording activity. In May 2018, the Project Coordinator was invited to speak at the

NFBR. In late 2018, the project and the NBRC was displayed in a stand at the National Biodiversity Network annual conference. A display and a talk were delivered also as part of the Wildlife Trust BCN's Monitoring and Research conference in February 2019. The project comes to an end in December 2019, and in the final 6 months of the project, the focus for the record centre is to ensure a legacy of better supported and motivated biological recorders.



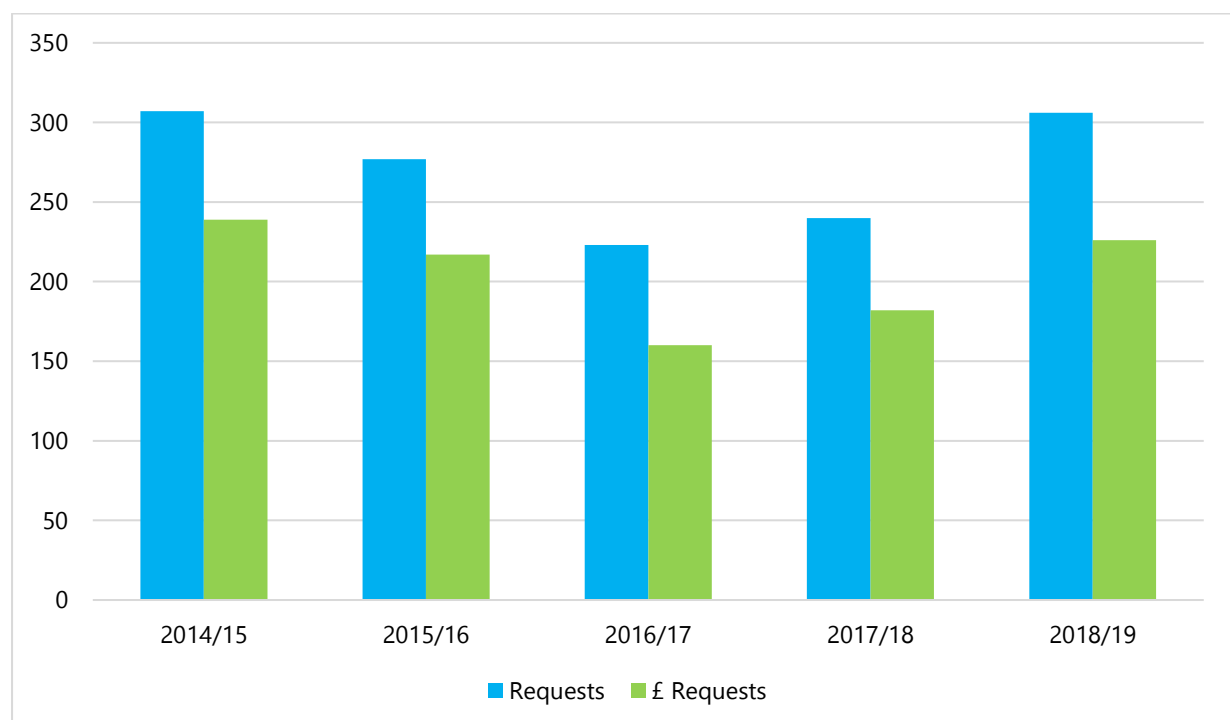
Project Coordinator Ryan Clark displaying the WILDside project and the NBRC at the NBN Conference 2018 © Rosalind Johnston

2.4 Data Services

Information Requests

Use of the NBRC data service continues to show an increasing year-on-year trend, both in terms of commercial and non-commercial use of the service. The team continue to meet reporting requirements for paid requests averaging 7 days from response to completed report, and all requests prior to individually agreed deadlines. Requests for the data service are back up 2014/15 levels, including the commercial service at the charging rates introduced in 2006. During this time, running costs have increased. This includes an equipment update of our computers and a new server, as well as ensuring staffing remuneration is in line with industry standards and inflation. Thus, during 2019-20 it is expected that we will reassess the charges for our core data service benchmarked against other LERCs.

Figure 3 Number of commercial and non-commercial data requests received by the NBRC 2014-2019 (by financial year)



In addition to our core data service, as of April 2019 we will launch a new commercial drone survey service to enable aerial survey projects in Northamptonshire.

Data Agreements

During 2018-19 the NBRC delivered the licenced data GIS layers and reports (habitat, species, sites as requested) to meet the terms of all existing SLA partners including renewed partnership with Anglian Water, Environment Agency and North Northamptonshire Joint Development and Planning Unit. We are in development of a new agreement for data development and supply with South Northamptonshire District & Cherwell District Council.

Table 4 Service Level Agreements in place with NBRC (from 2018 to 2021)

	2018 -2018	2019-2020	2020-2021
Environment Agency	Agreed <i>until 2023</i>		
Thames Water	Received for service up until 2021		
Anglian Water	Agreed until March 2020		
North Northamptonshire Joint Planning & Delivery Unit	Agreed until April 2021		
South Northamptonshire District & Cherwell District Council	In discussion	Agreed until April 2020	<i>Review next year</i>

2.5 Organisational Partnerships & Development

The NBRC works collaboratively with regional Record Centres within the East of England; Northamptonshire hosted the regional meeting in October and attended the regional meeting in March. Two members of staff attended the ALERC 2018 conference as well as the NBN 2018 conference; at the latter, the NBRC shared the WILDside project through a display. WILDside Project Coordinator was shortlisted by the NBN for Gilbert White Award for his personal Terrestrial Recording. Additionally, the NBRC hosted a skills-sharing day with CPERC and BMRC, the other local environmental record centres hosted by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire.

The NBRC works to NBN guidelines and is in the process of documenting and reviewing our organisational policies and practices. In discussion with ALERC board members during the year, this is the last remaining requirement, which we aim to meet in the next year. We have ensured all existing NBRC operational practices have been reviewed in line with NBN and ALERC guidance for best practice. Our aim is to ensure the NBRC operates effectively and meets the criteria for submission to gain ALERC accreditation in 2019-20.

IT infrastructure

MapInfo and Recorder 6 are used to generate biological reports. The team have also completed training in QGIS in preparation for centre host, Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire, to transfer to wide use of this freeware, and enabling the team to work across platforms. The centre will continue to hold licenced access to MapInfo for data searches. As part of the legacy of the WILDside project, we now have our own server, giving us increased data holdings capacity as well as improved speed of systems. The new server gives 8GB RAM at 1.6 GHz (an increase of 6GB), improved data security and is backed up regularly. Updated computers will be required for 2019-20.

Bigger Vision & River Monitoring Project

NBRC's Environment Agency funded Bigger Vision & River Monitoring Project aims to deliver professional aerial photography, video and habitat analysis to support river restoration and management.

Through this funding the NBRC are now equipped with a DJI Phantom 4 professional UAV drone with 20-megapixel camera capable of high definition 4k/60fps video flown up to an altitude of 400ft. The professional drone has full visual range, obstacle sensors and a flight time of up to 30 minutes. Additional kit purchased includes; a landing mat, protective carry case, spare batteries, security tape & hazard signage, gimbal lock and polarising lens (to reduce reflection).

Two members of NBRC staff have completed training to meet CAA standards in ATTI and GPS mode and gained full certification as licenced operators in July 2018. They have full commercial insurance (up to £5 million). They has completed several skills development sessions) including support from experienced pilot and Wildlife Trust BCN Monitoring & Research Manager (for programmed project flights).

Image taken from 300ft at Abington Meadows © Nathalie Hueber & Rachel Tate



Image taken from 200ft at Abington Meadows © Nathalie Hueber & Rachel Tate

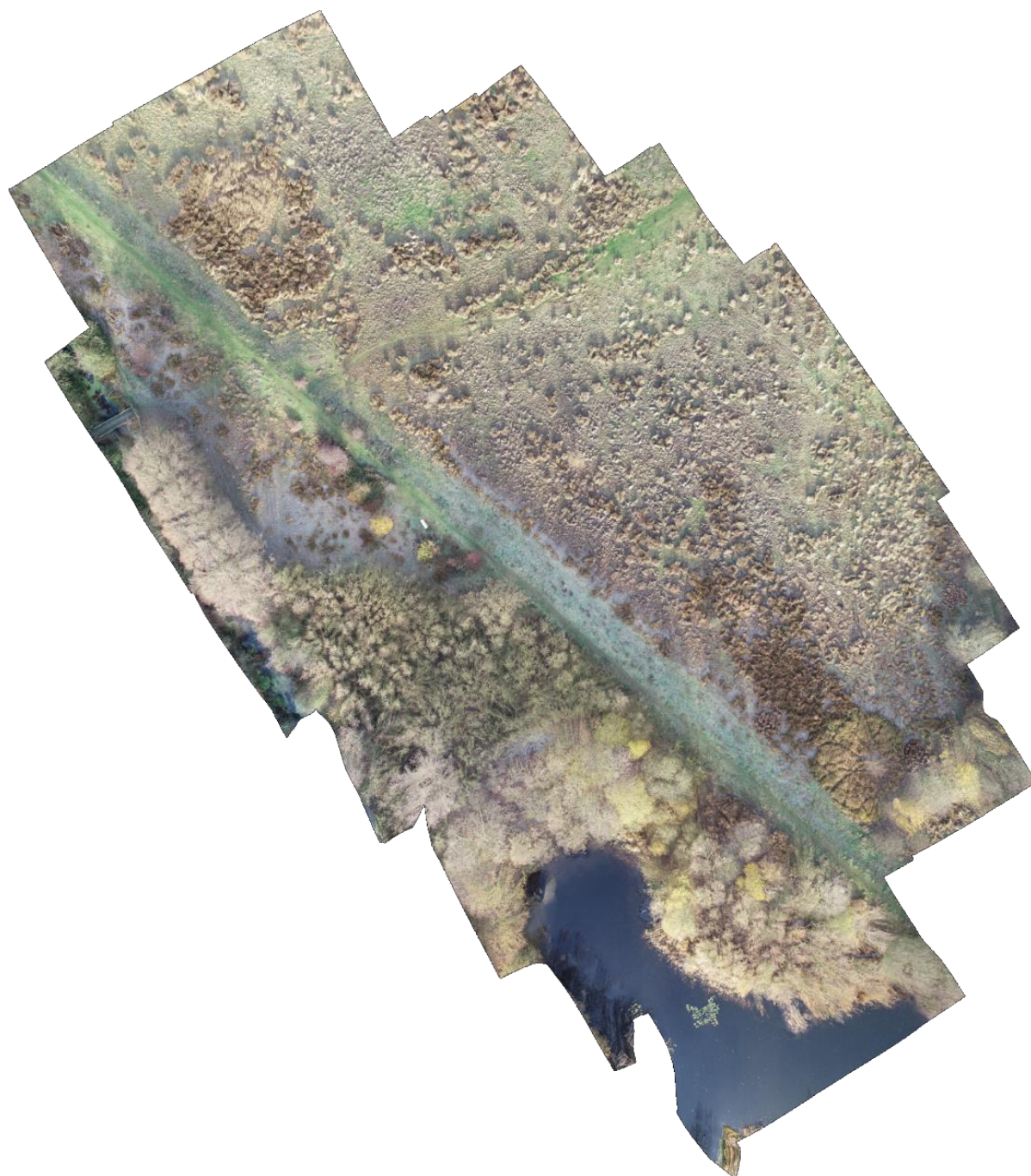


Since spring 2019, staff have completed several site surveys, including at Bradlaugh Fields Nature Reserve and both of our planned Bioblitz sites for 2019. The team have further developed their skills as qualified pilots in order to complete commercial project work, including pre-flight planning, set up, dealing with 'on-the-ground' circumstances such as sites with obstacles, such as pylons, weather and public pathways. This experience of real world scenarios and how to safely and confidently manage them as part of project work is invaluable. Projects have been completed for both 2D and 3D image capture, at a range of altitudes, for panoramas, and for whole site and for close up aerial capture as well as aerial video footage capture.

In addition to 'in the field' drone project development, the pre-flight information and documentation requirements for bookings have been established. Two members of staff have been active in developing their skills in images processing. Software has been tested and trailed for 'image stitching' in the production of georeferenced panorama, 3D and orthomosaic final images.

The whole team have contributed to the completion of one of eight planned site surveys and reports for the Environment Agency. The tools, lessons and processes will be logged for ongoing learning and the new commercial drone service will launch for project bookings from April 2019.

Figure 4 Example orthomosaic taken from 200ft at Abington Meadows © Nathalie Hueber & Rachel Tate, processed by James Skinner



3.1 Finances 2018-19

Financial Summary 2018-2019	
Reserves end March 2018	£ 60,018
Surplus/(deficit) end of March 2018	-£ 6,563
Projected carry forward into 2019-2020	£ 53,455
<i>Contingency budget for 6 months</i>	<i>£ 33,434</i>
<i>Carry forward less contingency</i>	<i>£ 20,021</i>
Value of hosting arrangement with WT	£ 5,384

Income from data enquiries generated the expected funds for the year, with over 300 commercial requests met during the year. This is the highest service level since 2014-15. All existing SLAs will continue in 2018-19, or have been renewed on new rates from 2018. This year, Wildlife Trust project work to support LWS surveys did not gain funding as in prior years, therefore the anticipated project income to the NBRC for Data Officer additional time was unable to be supported. We expect new council partnerships, having quoted for service provision in 2019-20.

Income £			
	<i>2017/2018 Actual</i>	<i>2018/2019 Actual</i>	<i>2019/2020 Budget</i>
Information Requests	£ 29,460	£ 32,540	£ 33,000
SLAs	£ 21,231	£ 21,356	£ 28,393
Project work	£ 10,114	£ 11,503	£ 15,720
TOTAL	£ 60,805	£ 65,399	£ 77,113

In 2017, the NBRC received grant funding from the Environment Agency over the next three years to develop drone survey capabilities for river monitoring, in 2017, we purchased the Phantom IV Pro professional drone, insurance and paid for pilot training for two Data Officers. During 2018-19, our Data Officers passed their test and became licenced and insured operators. Grant funding covered equipment (spare batteries, polarising lens, and specialist rucksack), their time in training, the test fees, their time in developing their skills and in the successful delivery of the first of our planned Environment Agency funded River Monitoring project work. The remaining funding will be used to develop in-house image analysis, licencing and insurance and cover

NBRC staff time until 2020 on agreed projects for the Environment Agency. Alongside our data information service, in April 19 the NBRC will launch a new commercial drone aerial survey service for project work. Long term, income from this new service is expected to support operating costs and any associated additional staffing time to meet demand.

Expenditure £			
	<i>2017/2018 Actual</i>	<i>2018/2019 Actual</i>	<i>2019/2020 Budget</i>
Staff	£ 59,346	£ 61,327	£ 62,277
Equipment (assets)	£ 3,138	£ 510	£ 1,400
NBRC training	£ 3,773	£ 1,208	£ 1000
NBRC travel	£ 473	£ 1,001	£ 1000
NBRC volunteers	£ -	£ 16	£ 100
ALERC, NBN, NFBR & GeoConservationUK membership	£ 450	£ 510	£ 710
IT Software, drone insurance, licences and website support	£ 399	£ 491	£ 500
Telephone, consumables & printing	£ 39	£ 142	£ 200
*NBRC total annual running expenditure (not including delivery of additional projects)	£ 58,285	£ 60,665	£ 63,187
**WILDside committed match fund	£ 9,333	£ 6,757	£ 8,520
TOTAL	£ 67,618	£ 71,962	£ 75,700

Expenditure on salaries was higher this year, to meet a Wildlife Trust wide salary increase of 2.5%; this ensures salaries are fair and in line with inflation (UK rate 2.48% for 2018). It would be prudent to research information service charging at this time to ensure the centre is in line with other regional record centres, and that it meets the infrastructure and salary requirement needs for ongoing operation of the record centre.

The NBRC have committed £25,000 of match funding from the organisational reserves up to December 2019 as part of the National Lottery Heritage funded WILDside project. Expenditure included planned investment in survey equipment and

equipment for the library, PPE for trainers, a new server to for secure storage and room for growth of our database, and an updated computer for volunteers to support record centre digitisation work. These assets will be available to support Northamptonshire recorders with record generation, and to support the security of our database and technical infrastructure. The NBRC supports the hosting and training of WILDside Project Coordinator and sponsors fees to attend conferences (NFBR, NBN). WILDside funded projects and events through this year generated income, and thus reduced the planned match funding from the organisational reserves.

3.2 Future Plans

The first Northamptonshire recorders conference is planned for September as part of the final year of WILDside. This will be used as an opportunity to strengthen ties and support to the local recording community. The conference will celebrate the successes and allow the record centre to gather feedback, along with independent evaluation of the WILDside project, to inform future plans. The project legacy includes equipment and resource, the knowledge gained of running a variety of recorder events, and strengthened recorder networks, which the NBRC intend to ensure are maintained and developed.

A blog function on the website will be developed to share stories more regularly and to increase the opportunity for stories to be read more widely, with a new email based newsletter to increase the ease of signing up to updates. A YouTube account from next year will allow videos to be uploaded to our website and shared on social media. Planned media includes WILDside video interviews and HD footage gained through the new drone project.

Development of data sharing partnerships will continue, aiming to increase our taxonomic coverage through maintaining relationships with recording groups, natural history society, country recorders and exploring relationships with more national schemes. The record centre is being considered currently as a host and distributor of Habitat Opportunity Maps as produced by Natural Capital Solutions. These new modelling maps could be added to our data request service and funds gained to contribute support to continued development of our habitat base maps.

We intend to increase financial stability through reassessment of our current data service rates, diversifying our services including aerial mapping (launching in April 19) and supporting biodiversity in development of Neighbourhood Planning mapping services. The record centre is in the final stage of organisational development for ALERC accreditation, the finalised documentation of the centre's policies and procedures is planned for completion during the year. The NBRC steering group committee will continue to meet regularly in order to guide the sustainability and growth of the Centre.



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR
BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

Northamptonshire
Local • Nature • Partnership
CONNECTING PEOPLE, PLACES AND PROSPERITY – NATURALLY



Up until the end of 2019 the

WILD  **side**

Project will be promoting and supporting wildlife recording across Northamptonshire

Enthusing the next generation of wildlife recorders