

Doncaster Local Records Centre

Guidance for accessing biodiversity information

Biological Records Centres are organisations that collect, collate, manage and disseminate information relating to the biodiversity of a region on a not-for-profit basis. This information plays an essential role in decision-making at all levels, helping to protect and improve biodiversity.

Local Authorities, other organisations and individuals need information about the distribution of legally protected, rare or threatened species, important habitats and designated sites. Without up-to-date reliable information, they can find themselves exposed to adverse risk, legally, environmentally and economically.

The Doncaster Local Records Centre (DLRC) provides cost-effective information services which are essential for underpinning policies and decision making and for protecting and enhancing the natural environment for the benefit of the local community.

DLRC is much more than the database of records it manages. DLRC is partnership-led and employs experienced staff who provide tailored data services, taking account of local policies and priorities. By working with local and national experts, DLRC validates and verifies data to known standards, enabling the data to be used with confidence.

The data services provided by Doncaster Local Record Centre are used in enquiries related to:

- Forward planning and development control
- Land management
- Local sites monitoring and reporting
- Control of invasive species
- Hedgerow enquiries
- Highway maintenance
- Public access to environmental data
- Managing flood risk
- Reporting on Government indicators

Information can be made available in other formats such as Braille or Audio Tape on request. If you know someone who may need this service, please contact a member of staff for more information or if you need any other help or advice.

The services of Local Record Centres should be sought to ensure compliance with:

- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- UK Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and Freedom of Information Act
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation as incorporated into the new draft National Planning Policy Framework (England)
- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) 14 Natural Heritage 1999

Services provided by Doncaster Local Record Centre include:

- Details of all recorded BAP priority and legally protected species and BAP priority habitats in an area defined by the DMBC administrative boundary
- Distribution maps of any recorded species in the DMBC recording area
- Local Wildlife and Geodiversity sites boundaries and descriptions
- Species richness maps to highlight biodiversity 'hotspots'
- Public wildlife enquiry service
- Guidance to promote high quality species and habitat recording
- Management of Local Wildlife/Geological Sites dataset
- Specialised species and habitat surveys
- Local Wildlife/Geological Sites surveys and monitoring
- Monitoring and reporting on biodiversity indicators and LBAP outcomes

The data services provided by DLRC are essential for enabling the Local Authority to incorporate consideration for biodiversity into their daily operations as required by the NERC Act, and information obtained from DLRC is vital to inform the focus of new ecological surveys which may be required to support planning applications.

How to find us:

Telephone: 01302 734891

Email: brc@doncaster.gov.uk

Weblink:

<http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/planningandbuildings/environmentalplanning/localrecordcentre/index.aspx>

We are also listed at www.alerc.org.uk

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