

Association of Local Environmental Records Centres cic

Community Interest Company: Incorporation number 06951023 2nd July 2009
Registered Office: South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRcC)
13 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff, CF10 3DB
www.ALERC.org.uk (forum: <http://forum.lrcs.org.uk>)

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday 1st October 2009

LAUNCH OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRES (ALERC)

Today (Thursday 1st October 2009) sees the formal launch of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC). After several years of planning, the Association, which is constituted as a Community Interest Company, is now open to members from the Local Records Centre (LRC) community.

ALERC has been established to represent, support and provide advice to LRCs in the UK. It exists to:

1. Promote and encourage the completion of a UK wide network of LRCs.
2. Promote and develop good standards of practice in the collation, validation, management, dissemination and analysis of biodiversity, geodiversity and related data.
3. Promote and represent LRCs at all appropriate geographical, administrative and organisational levels.
4. Develop accreditation and professional training for local records centres and their staff.
5. Encourage and facilitate cooperation within the LRC community.

Membership of ALERC will be open to all LRCs in the UK including those at a developmental stage. Individual membership is also available to those who have previously worked within an LRC and continue to have a positive interest in their development, and to volunteers who are actively working within a LRC. Membership will not be open to other partner organisations although the ALERC website (www.alerc.org.uk) will be open to all, with a private members' section providing services to members only.

ALERC's Chairman, Adam Rowe, welcomed the formal opening of ALERC to members, saying "for me the most important function of the Association will be to provide a voice to represent the LRC sector, as we develop alongside other important players in the environmental information field. Another important role for

ALERC will be the development and implementation of a simple and workable system of LRC accreditation, which aims to strengthen the profile and reputation of the whole LRC network. I am pleased to report that one of ALERC's first activities will be a lead player in a partnership project which is being established with the Country Agencies to develop such an accreditation scheme".

It is hoped that ALERC will achieve widespread support from the LRC community. With this support and resourcing in place, ALERC will be in a position to tackle a range of issues affecting LRCs, whilst allowing key LRC staff to concentrate on their local roles, safe in the knowledge that the interests of their LRC are being professionally represented at all appropriate levels.

For further information on ALERC and its planned activities, or to obtain an application pack, please contact Adam Rowe on 029 2064 1110 or via adam.rowe@sewbrec.org.uk.