



NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

NEWSLETTER No. 17

February 1995



National Federation of Biological Recording Newsletter 17

Incorporating Recorder User Group News

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Articles for the newsletter should be submitted to the editor, preferably on computer disc, either 5.25 or 3.5 in disc in ASCII format, or Windows Word format on DOS compatible discs, or in ASCII on Unix/Xenix format discs. The deadline for the next newsletter is 1st May 1995.

NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

1994 AGM

Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting held at ICOLE, Loughborough University at 11.00am on 19th July 1994

The Eighth AGM was not quorate therefore the following proceedings require to be ratified and accepted at a quorate general meeting subsequently.

1. Apologies for absence were received from C French, A Tait and J Marshall.
2. The minutes of the 7th AGM were accepted without alteration as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by J Stafford, seconded by C Copp and accepted unanimously.
3. Update on CCBR
Since a year ago the survey has had 355 written responses. Of the report the first five chapters have been written. The last (sixth) chapter will contain recommendations re the standards and operating of local record centres. NFBR Council members have not received copies of the report due to its size. A copy for circulation is available from P Harding.

There followed a discussion on copyright of environmental data. It seems that for data that has been volunteered permission of the originator must be sought before data is passed on unless a waiver has been signed by the originator. Data belongs to its contributors not to the record centre, the local authority or a trust. W Ely acknowledged that the CCBR report was a superb piece of work. It is likely to be edited by CCBR and the re-edited by D.o.E. It will finally be published by D.o.E.

4. The Chairman's report for 1993-4 was given. Herein follows a summary:

The Chairman apologised for the cancellation of the conference. ICOLE had provided NFBR with a professional service and had charged accordingly. By the time the agenda and booking form were sent out with the newsletter the last booking date had passed so cancellation was unavoidable.

The Chairman thanked M Moreau for her hard work as Secretary and Recorder User Group Secretary and thanked her for instigating the running of the Recorder User Group. He thanked C Copp who has contributed a great deal of work keeping track of members and finances. He thanked P Collins who has unfailingly produced the newsletter. He thanked A Tait who has duplicated and mailed the newsletter. Until the last newsletter this service was provided *gratis*. A small charge is now made for duplication. M Sanford was thanked for arranging a Recorder User Group meeting in April and another after the AGM. P Harding has produced the 1991 Conference proceedings. S Ball has kept NFBR up to date with Recorder news and has effected liaison between JNCC and NFBR. These were thanked with all those who have served on Council over the last year.

P Harding suggested holding a meeting on the recommendations of the CCBR report at Monks Wood later in the year with three speakers in the morning and a workshop session in the afternoon. An introduction to this meeting will be distributed to NFBR members once CCBR have agreed that NFBR can host the meeting. P Harding hopes CCBR will be willing to release the recommendations of the CCBR report in advance of the meeting. W Ely offered to arrange the speakers. If enough NFBR members are present the AGM proceedings can be ratified at the close of the meeting. The meeting is proposed for 21st November or thereabouts. C Copp will send out the notice with the subscription invoices and the conference proceedings.

5. Treasurer's report

C Copp handed out the accounts and balance sheets and explained these. There are 187 NFBR members of which 91 are Recorder User Group members. 149 members are fully paid up; 38 have not yet paid. There followed a discussion about bank charges and interest and it was decided that various members of Council would look into the possibility of a new deposit account. The accounts are ready to be audited. C Copp will contact A Tait and Miss Rushden with regard to this.

6. M Moreau was nominated by W Ely to stand for Chairman. Seconded by J Stafford. N Court was nominated by M Moreau to stand for Secretary. Seconded by M Sanford. W Ely was nominated to Council by M Moreau. Seconded by P Harding. G Whalley was nominated to Council by W Ely. Seconded by M Moreau. S Ball was nominated to Council by W Ely. Seconded by N Court. T James was nominated to Council by P Harding. Seconded by W Ely. P Harding, C Copp, P Collins, A Spalding and J Stafford were all willing to stand for re-election to Council. M Sanford and C French had served on Council since 1989 and therefore must stand down. They can be co-opted to Council so that their contributions are not lost. J Marshal is to be co-opted as the RSNC representative.

The above nominations were accepted unopposed and all were elected unanimously.

7. The election of an auditor was deferred to the next meeting.
8. W Ely proposed that NFBR cease to be members of Wildlife Link unless we receive full minutes for the last twelve months. C Copp seconded this proposal which was passed unanimously. M Moreau, the new Chairman, proposed a big vote of thanks to W Ely, the retiring Chairman. W Ely and G Whalley will sort out the 1992 Conference proceedings. C French will produce the 1993 proceedings. These could be published in the NFBR newsletter. English Nature has misplaced the 500 membership leaflets sent out as part of NFBR's membership drive. They will reprint them and send them out with "Nature's Place".

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

NFBR Accounts 1st Jan-31st July 94

National Federation for Biological Recording

Income/Expenditure Account

Income	1 Jan - 31 Dec 1993	1 Jan - 31 July 1994
Subscriptions	£1,037.00	£144.00
Publications	£38.50	£0.00
Conferences	£907.50	£0.00
Bank Interest	£9.03	£0.00
Total Income	£1,992.03	£144.00
Expenditure	1992	1993
Stat/Post/P.copies	£193.90	£100.00
Newsletter	£0.00	£0.00
Conferences	£64.57	£243.00
Subscriptions (W/life Link)	£200.00	£0.00
Travel & subsistence	£43.00	£188.40
Various	£5.00	£6.00
Printing (memb leaflets & conf proc)	£0.00	£665.00
Bank charges	£40.22	£19.48
Total Expenditure	£546.69	£1,221.88
Surplus for year	£1,445.34	(£1,077.88)

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	1993	1994
Bank Current Account	£2,243.17	£1,171.29
Bank Deposit Account	£2,003.67	£2,003.67
In-hand (cheques to bank)	£0.00	£6.00
Total	£4,246.84	£3,180.96
Creditors		
uncleared cheques	£436.10	£40.10
liabilities		£811.50
Total creditors	£436.10	£851.60
Total Assets	£3,810.74	£2,329.36
Surplus b/f	£2,801.50	£4,246.84
Surplus c/f	£4,246.84	£2,329.36

NFBR Accounts 1st Jan-31st July 93

National Federation for Biological Recording

Income/Expenditure Account

Income	1 Jan - 31 Dec 1992	1 Jan - 31 July 1993
Subscriptions	£1,056.00	£1,037.00
Publications	£18.00	£38.50
Conferences	£485.50	£907.50
Bank Interest	£17.18	£9.03
Total Income	£1,576.68	£1,992.03
Expenditure	1992	1993
Stat/Post/P.copies	£165.00	£193.90
Newsletter	£47.89	£0.00
Conferences	£947.09	£64.57
Subscriptions (W/life Link)	£86.00	£200.00
Travel & subsistence	£0.00	£43.00
Various	£0.00	£5.00
Printing (memb leaflets & conf proc)	£0.00	£0.00
Bank charges	£41.49	£40.22
Total Expenditure	£1,287.47	£546.69
Surplus for year	£289.21	£1,445.34

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	1992	1993
Bank Current Account	£806.86	£2,243.17
Bank Deposit Account	£1,994.64	£2,003.67
In-hand (cheques to bank)	£0.00	£0.00
Total	£2,801.50	£4,246.84
Creditors		
uncleared cheques	£0.00	£436.10
Total creditors	£0.00	£436.10
Total Assets	£2,801.50	£3,810.74
Surplus b/f	£2,512.29	£2,801.50
c/f	£2,801.50	£4,246.84

Update on CCBR

A draft summary document and recommendations relating to the report Biological Recording in the United Kingdom: Present Practice and Future Developments was realised before Christmas and distributed to NFBR Council for comment and was discussed at the NFBR meeting of November 14th.

The authors identify four key issues involved in the future of biological recording and conclude with a number of recommendations. Key issues:

1: The need for data, as a result of existing policies and legislation, has been consistently underestimated by government departments, government organisations and local government.

2: The under resourcing of the supply and management of data, partly as a result of 1, has resulted in most cases in an inability to deliver data in a consistent and sustainable way throughout the U.K.

3: The fact that recent and continuing developments in information technology offer new opportunities to increase the mobility of data to users.

4: The need for greater co-ordination and regulation of the current situation if efficiency and broad commonality of priorities, standards and methods are to be improved to ensure mobility of data and effective access to data where they are required.

The recommendations centre around seven themes:

- 1: Reviewing statutory requirements of Biological Records.
- 2: Establishing Biological Recording in a legislative framework.
- 3: Establish a Biological Record Data Standard.
- 4: Establish methods to control the quality of data.
- 5: Establish protocols for the compilation and content of databases.
- 6: Establish a dispersed national system for Biological Recording.
- 7: Establish a management mechanism for a national system for Biological Recording.

Legislation and Planning News

Planning Policy Guidance on Nature Conservation

Planning Policy Guidance Note on Nature Conservation (PPG 9) has been issued by the D.o.E. This provides guidance on how the government's policies for nature conservation are to be implemented. The note advises on the treatment of nature conservation in development plans, in minerals development, on the development control implications of species protection and details development control criteria for designated sites, including SSSIs.

The section relating to Local plans is of particularly significant. This includes a number of statements relating to environmental information:

'Nature conservation issues should be included in surveys of local authority areas required by sections 11 and 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to ensure that the plans are based on fully adequate information about local species, habitats, geology and landform. Plans should be concerned not only with designated areas but also with other land of conservation value and the possible provision of new habitats'.

The PPG also makes clear the requirement for evaluation of relative importance:

'Local plans should include planning policies to be applied to nature conservation sites, indicating the criteria against which a development affecting the site will be judged. They should have regard to the advice in the PPG on the relative significance of different designations...'

Further the PPG states 'The plan proposals map should identify the areas to which these policies apply, including any sites identified as of local nature conservation importance'.

Environment Agency

The draft Environmental Agencies bill has been published as a consultation document. The bill establishes environment agencies for England and Wales and separately for Scotland. The new agency will bring together the functions of HIMP, the National Rivers Authority and local waste regulation authorities.

The bill does not make clear how the agencies are to be regionally organised. Originally it appeared that the basis would be river catchment areas, however recent indications are that local authority areas might be used. This would have severe implications for the management of rivers and their environment and would affect the basis on which NRA collects and uses environmental information.

The publication of the bill coincided with the issue of a draft management statement identifying the organisations aims, objectives, functions, accountability and performance requirements. The statement has already been criticised by environmental organisations, particularly with regard to the requirement for the organisation to avoid unnecessary burdens on industry and the public in the achievement of environmental goals.

EU Habitat Regulations

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 No.2716) came into force on 30th October 1994 implementing EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna. The regulations do not replace the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 nor regulations made under that act.

The regulations make provision for the selection, registration and notification of sites to be protected, for management agreements to

be made, for the control of damaging operations and special nature conservation orders. Sites may also be protected by bylaws and compulsory purchase orders.

There is now a requirement for designated sites to be considered prior to the granting of planning permission. Permission may also be restricted where the integrity of the site would be adversely affected. Existing planning permissions that would adversely affect a site must also be reviewed and may be revoked in certain circumstances.

Tree Preservation Orders

TPOs have frequently been the only legislation available to protect woodlands of local importance from felling. The D.o.E. intends to alter the existing legislation relating to tree preservation orders. The TPO document will incorporate codes of practice rather than detailed control. In the past there has been difficulty proving wilful destruction. The replacement offence will substitute recklessness and will extend to any person who causes or permits the offence. The present exception for felling dead or dying trees in also to be removed. The onus will now fall on the defendant to prove that the measures taken were necessary.

Other News

Biodiversity Action Plan Task Force

The first meeting of the Data Sub Group took place last autumn. The Group was set up to improve accessibility and co-ordination of existing biological data sets, to provide common standards for future recording and to examine the feasibility of establishing a single UK Biota Database. It is chaired by Roy Walker (JNCC) and reports to the BAP Steering Group.

Much of the meeting was taken up by discussions on the remit of the group but there was general consensus that we need broader baseline data rather than being driven by certain species and targets. It was agreed that some 'early victories' were needed to ensure funding and political attention were maintained. Such work as standard species directories and the completion of the RECORDER project could supply these, as could the common standards to be adopted by the statutory nature conservation agencies.

BRISC News

Development Officer

BRSIC has secured part funding for a development officer from the Scottish Office. The grant will provide £7,000 for 1994-5, £5000.00 for 1995-6 and £4000.00 for 1996-7.

The BRISC committee is concentrating on a three year development plan and on standards of good practice in biological recording. They will also be considering a standard mapping format using a tetrad system. A case for a standard mapping format was published in October's BRISC Recorder News.

Chironomid Study Group

The first Chironomid Study Group News is now available. The Group can be contacted through Patrick Roper, South View, Sedlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0PE

NRA Reorganised

During 1994 NRA's regions were reorganised. Wessex region and South West Region were combined to form South Western Region based in Exeter, and Northumbria and Yorkshire Regions were combined to form Northumbria and Yorkshire Region based in Leeds. Some cuts in conservation staff resulted.

Society for Ecological Restoration

The society produces two journals, Restoration Ecology and Restoration and Management Notes and a quarterly newsletter. Details: SER, c/o Phillipa Burrell, Ashton Court Visitor Centre, Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol BS8 9NJ.

UK Systematics Forum

The UK Systematics Forum is a new initiative funded by the Office of Science and Technology (OST). It is currently setting up a directory of UK systematic expertise and current research and invites any person active in systematic research to be included in this database. For more information contact: E. Wilson, The UK Systematics Forum, Freepost (LON 91), c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5YZ. Tel 071 938 9522. Fax 071 938 9531. E-mail: ew@nhm.ac.uk.

Local Centre News

The Cornish Biological Records Unit

The CBRU is part of the Institute of Cornish Studies and as such part of the University of Exeter. It receives support and funding from Cornwall County Council. As an independent body not linked to any conservation organisation, the data we provide and advice we give can be seen to be entirely neutral. Our core function is the storage of biological data for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, stored on our ERICA database and held on a mini-computer at the University of Exeter. We have over 900,000 biological records covering over 20,000 species. This information can be accessed by site name as well as species name. We are currently developing a GIS programme based on ARC-INFO which when run together with ERICA will enhance the value and spatial accuracy of our species data. Like many Local

Records Centres, the bulk of our data comes from amateur naturalists and local volunteers, although we also organise regular surveys and monitoring programmes. To encourage local recording and to provide the essential feedback to naturalists, we have established BRICS (Biological Recording in Cornwall and Scilly) which acts as a focus for biological recording activity in Cornwall and links the various conservation bodies and individuals together. Under the BRICS initiative, we run training workshops and publish newsletters and journals.

Although ERICA is our core activity, we need to respond to the changing requirements in the worlds of education, research and conservation.

As an academic body we encourage research, both by our own staff and those linked to us, in addition to providing data to researchers from other universities. We also work with schools, providing computer access and information about wildlife. We have a large publications department; as well as our regular publications (Cornish Biological Records and Zoological Cornwall) we have produced a book on the natural history of the Lizard and a check-list of the flowering plants of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. We are also producing a Red Data Book for Cornwall, due out in spring 1995. We have close links with all the main conservation and statutory bodies in Cornwall as well as with national organisations. We generate funds where we can by providing a service to these bodies by survey work,

identifications and report writing. Our involvement with the conservation world led us to organise (in association with English Nature) a one-day conference highlighting the ecological and mineralogical importance of derelict land in Cornwall. Attended by county, district and parish councillors, planning officers, businessmen, landowners and conservationists, the conference emphasised the role of the Unit within the local community as a direct response to their anxiety about land reclamation in the area.

Adrian Spalding
Academic Director
Cornish Biological Records Unit

Surveys

Leicester Water Vole Survey

The survey is open ended but is to be relaunched in May with the first data analysed by the autumn. Contact Barry Ingram, Braunstone Park Visitor Centre, Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 1HX

Sheffield and Surrounding Region Deer Survey

The survey was started in early 1993 and is now being expanded. The survey area has been divided into grid squares and a series of voluntary regional co-ordinators are being established. Contact Alison Baker/Andy McCarthy, Sheffield Centre for Ecology and Environmental Management, Town Hall Chambers, Bakers Poll, Sheffield S1 1EN.

RECORDER USER GROUP

RECORDER USER GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 22nd March 1995 10.00am - 4.00pm, Peterborough Library.

Provisionally the speakers will include James Marshall (RSNC) and Keith Porter (EN). Subjects to be covered will include Botanical Recording. Details from Martin Sanford, Suffolk Biological Records Centre, Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 3QH. Tel 01473 213761.

Recorder News

Stuart Ball gave a progress report on Recorder 3.2 at the User Group Meeting on 19th July 1994. The following is a brief summary of the main points to arise:

- Version 3 of Advanced Revelation should be available at the end of March 1995. All Recorder users will be asked to update to AREV 3 and support will no longer be available for other AREV versions.
- A further upgrade to Recorder 4 is proposed for 1995. This will operate on AREV runtime and will include import/export facilities, new output features and more list entry screens.
- The specification for Recorder 3.2 has been increased to include:
 - more output features
 - the facility to use runtime AREV 3.1
 - improved security
 - an improved print driver
 - more than 50 predefined reports
 - new entry lists
 - CORINE habitat codes
 - a major update of the species dictionary
- The results of the Technical Group's test runs of Recorder 3.2 were due on 24th July 1994. English Nature has requested completion of Recorder 3.2 by 16th August 1994 for their own tests. There will be a meeting on 28th September 1994 to discuss the new package.
- The Wildlife Trusts Partnership will now write documentation for 3.2. It is hoped this will be ready by the end of the year. It will be distributed together with a minor security update.
- It has been suggested that the development of the import/export facilities be put out to tender. If funding is available, the work could be split into a small preliminary contract for scoping and producing a specification and a separate contract for the actual development work.
- It was anticipated that by the end of August 1994, 8 disks and a 140 page document should be available which will allow:
 1. The installation of Recorder 3.2 together with AREV 3.1 runtime.
 2. A new copy of Recorder 3.2 to run on an existing copy of AREV 3.1.

3. The upgrade of Recorder 3/3.1 to Recorder 3.2.
4. The upgrade of the Recorder 3.2 tester to Recorder 3.2.
5. A Recorder 3.1 user manual for all new users.
6. A 'changes' manual to accompany all copies of Recorder 3.2.

- The price of the new upgrade will be less than £20.

For new users, the package (including AREV 3.1 runtime) will cost £75 to individuals and £100 to organisations. There is already a queue of orders.

Data Transfer

At the RUG meeting Mike Thurner from Surrey Wildlife Trust explained his work on Recorder and data transfer. Mike outlined the files it may be desirable to share between users. These include species records, site numbers and the people file. It is not usual to share events, keywords or literature files but it is easy to standardise key words and parish codes.

Many problems associated with sharing data can only be resolved by thinking the problem through and making decisions on the sort of information required. For instance you may need to decide which site description to use - is one better than another or should both be used? Data transfer can be very time-consuming, if species lists are imported it will take along time for Recorder to process the lists into records.

Mike presented a series of examples of data he had entered onto Recorder from other databases. Sources included BBONT, a spider group, Ancient woodland inventories, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust, Odonata Atlas, BSBR.

The sort of problems he encountered when merging data included

- The same site names being used to refer to areas with different boundaries.

The best way around this seemed to be to rely on grid references and a general locality rather than site names. For future reference, the boundaries for each site name were mapped, ideally a Geographical Information System could be used.

- Many codes can be transferred into text to make them more user friendly. Keywords can be used to described substrates if the habitat codes are not appropriate.

- * If all users start their record numbering at zero then records will have to be renumbered before they can be merged.

Mike explained that the Surrey Wildlife Trust has also been promoting the use of another system, called 'RECORDIT', to the Trust members. Recordit software is less expensive and requires less expensive hardware than Recorder. Recordit is essentially designed for data capture but it has some basic report and map facilities to motivate recorders to use the system. Recordit has a built-in export facility for species records, people and site files. A transfer programme recodes the data and alters the format so it may be imported onto Recorder so the Trust acts as a Local Records Centre. A system has been devised to filter out records already on the package.

Many other studies have been carried out transferring data from Tetrads, Wordstar and even Domesday. Mike is interested in developing other transfer procedures and invited people to contact him with any queries at:

Surrey Wildlife Trust,
School Lane,
Pirbright,
Woking,
Surrey GU24 0JN

RECORDER goes European?

The RECORDER Data Technical Group have given a presentation of RECORDER to Ecosystems in Europe to demonstrate a more generalised version which could be used outside Britain. It is hoped that money can be obtained through the British Council to promote this development.

Countryside Management System

Once the RECORDER documentation contract is complete the RECORDER Project will end, having completed all the objectives agreed by JNCC. More time will then be spent developing the Countryside Management System (CMS). Links and overlap between RECORDER and CMS have been examined but there is very little duplication between the two systems and only a few areas where the two could be linked, such as in calling up species from RECORDER and transferring site information between the two systems, though common site codes would be needed.

RECORDER STEERING GROUP

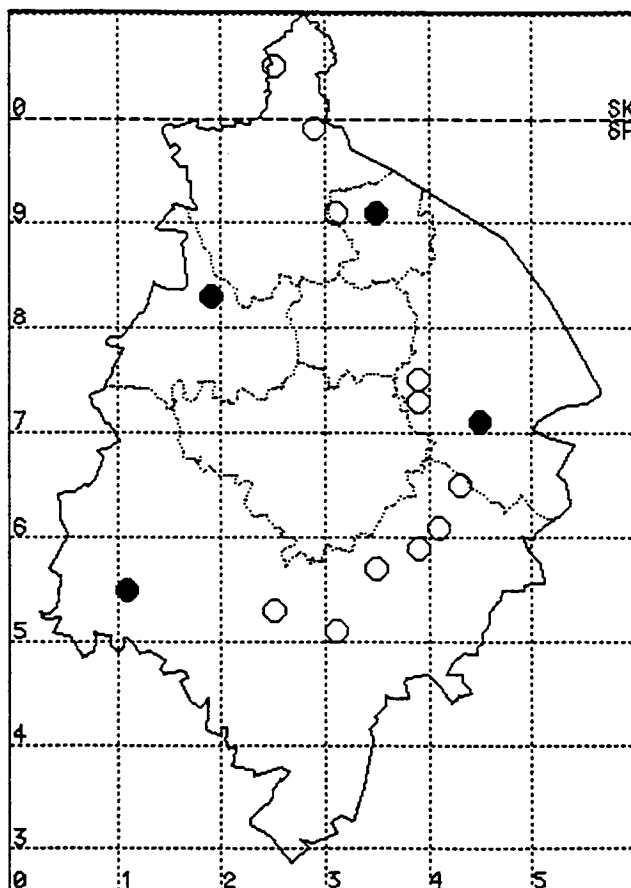
In October it was agreed that the Steering Group would cease to exist and that the RECORDER newsletter would be the medium for users to contact each other and would advertise meetings. JNCC will continue to provide technical support at these meetings and the NFBR Newsletter will continue to carry items from the RUG Newsletter.

USING INSET TO IMPORT PLOT5 MAPS INTO WORDSTAR

Inset is an often neglected companion programme to Wordstar, one of the more widely used non-Windows word processors. It is a useful way to get PLOT5 maps into text documents for non-Windows users. Using Wordstar 6 I put the following distribution map (for *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* on Warwickshire nature reserves) into this document.

To do this I activated INSET from the DOS prompt. I then started RECORDER direct from DOS. INSET is a TSR programme, and can run under Windows, but must be started before Windows and unpredictable problems can occur if you try to run it alongside to many other programmes. Once the appropriate map was displayed, the INSET hot-keys (Alt-Left Shift-I, in this case) activated INSET.

I clipped the edges of the image and ensured a suitable resolution, then saved the image to disk - it occupies a full 42K, so take care with crowded disks! I then exited RECORDER and went into Wordstar and placed a 'graphics tag' where I wanted the map. Text simply types around it, but you have to set appropriate margins and columns. Make use of the Advanced Page Preview feature to keep tabs on how it all lines up on the page.



Provided that the .PIX file with the image data is kept on the same disk as the text file, then portability and printing are nice and easy - provided you have set up your printer drivers as per the manual. If you have plenty of hard disk space, a whole atlas could be put together under Wordstar.

For those who want to get adventurous, the image can be edited in various ways and with mouse support. This can even be done while in Wordstar, so you can enlarge your image, then see how it looks against the text, for example. I should say that I find it rather less friendly than equivalent Windows type packages. INSET works by directly grabbing images from screen memory, so you can use images created under any other programme, not just PLOT5.

Anyone seeking basic advice on these procedures, can contact Neil Wyatt, Conservation Manager, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Brandon Lane, Coventry, CV3 3GW.

RECORDER Support

All support calls until further notice should be directed to the Surrey Wildlife Trust:

Telephone:	0483 48055
Fax:	0483 486505
Letters	Surrey Wildlife Trust School Lane Pirbright Woking Surrey GU24 0JN

Please ask for RECORDER support and remember that you will need to quote your RECORDER centre number.

Recorder Training

Details of the Recorder Training Programme organised by the Wildlife Trusts will be available shortly from James Marshall, The Wildlife Trusts, The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN2 5JR Tel 0522 544400.

Publications

NFBR Publications

Newsletters

Back numbers of NFBR Newsletters are available from the editor.

Conference Proceedings

Proceedings of the 1991 NFBR Conference, **Invertebrates in the landscape : invertebrate recording in site evaluation and countryside monitoring** have now been published by the British Entomological and Natural History Society as a supplement to the British Journal of Entomology and Natural History as Vol. 7, Supp 1, Harding, P. (ed), Feb 1994, ISSN 0952 7583. Copies are available from R.D. Hawkins, Sales Secretary, 30d Meadowcroft Close, Horley, Surrey RH6 9EL.

The 1992 and 1993 Proceedings are now on disc awaiting publication. Articles from the 1992 Proceedings will be published in future newsletters. It is intended that the 1993 Proceedings will be published separately with funding from NFBR.

All other published conference proceedings, 1985-87 & 1989, are available from Paul Harding, ITE Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 2LS.

Membership leaflets

New membership leaflets are now available. In addition a membership form is printed on the last page of this edition of the newsletter.

Reviews

NATURAL ASSETS: Non-statutory Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

A successful conference on Site Designations held in Bristol in 1991 by the Local Government Nature Conservation Initiative indicated the considerable interest that exists in site designation systems. The Initiative therefore decided to publish a guide entitled 'Natural Assets' covering the various aspects to be considered when designing a system.

The book examines all the different facets of non-statutory site designations from criteria for evaluation to the policy framework. The relevance of site designation to sustainable development is also highlighted.

The aim is not to encourage the adoption of identical systems throughout Britain; it is recognised that systems are required for different purposes in differing geographic areas. Rather the book fulfils an important role in recommending a methodical approach to addressing the various aspects of site designation. It is based on extensive knowledge of the systems already in existence and uses best practice to formulate its guidelines. English Nature have demonstrated their support by making a major financial contribution.

The book was written by David Tyldesley and Associates in association with an editorial board from the Initiative comprising ecologists from Hampshire, Derbyshire and Avon County Councils, and English Nature.

Those involved in biological recording and site evaluation will find this book a useful guide to the various aspects of site designation, from data collection, storage and analysis through to the selection of sites for nature conservation.

The price of the book is £7.00 plus £1.20 p&p and is available from the Planning Department, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE. *Cheques with order, payable to: Hampshire County Council.*

Recent Publications

Ecological Assessment

Evaluation and Assessment for Conservation, Spellerberg, I., 1994, Chapman Hall, ISBN 0 412 44280 9, £16.99

Good Practice guide on the evaluation of environmental information for planning projects, HMSO, £10.50

Nature Conservation in Environmental Assessment, English Nature 1994, ISBN 1 85716 1351, £6.50

A Practical Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment, Erickson, P., 1994, Academic Press, £50.00.

Roads and Nature Conservation: guidance on impacts, mitigation and enhancement, 1994, English Nature, ISBN 1 85716 1343, £10.00

Flora

Biological Flora of the British Isles. All previously out of stock reprints from the Journal of Ecology are now available as photocopies at £1.50 for ordinary issues and £2.00 for special issues. Details from Robert Roslyn, Lackwell Scientific Publications Ltd, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL.

Fauna

Ecology and Conservation of Butterflies, Pullin, A.S. (ed), 1994, Chapman Hall, ISBN 0 412 56970 1, £35.00.

ICUN Red List of Threatened Animals. Groonbridge, B. (ed), World Conservation Monitoring Centre, ICUN, ISBN 2 8317 0194 5, £15.00.

Important areas for Marine Wildlife Around England, 1994, English Nature, £12.50.

Habitat Management

Grassland Management and Nature Conservation, British Grassland Society Occasional Symposium No. 28, British Grassland Society, £30.00

Lowland Grassland Management Handbook, Crofts, A. & Jefferson, R.G. (eds), 1994, RSNC, £25.00.

The Rehabilitation of Storm Damaged Woods, 1994, Bristol University, £12.95.

Information Management

Environmental Information Management and Analysis, Michener, W.K., Brunt, J.W. & Stafford, S.G., 1994, Taylor & Francis, £68.95.

Geographic Information 1994. The sourcebook for GIS, Green, D.R., Rix, D. & Cadoux-Hudson, J. (eds), 1993, Taylor and Francis, £36.90.

Landscape Ecology and GIS, Haines-Young, R., Green, D.R., Cousins, S.H., 1993, Taylor and Francis, ISBN 0 7484 0002 8, £39.00.

Mapping the Diversity of Nature, Miller, R. (ed), 1994, Chapman Hall, ISBN 0 412 45510 2, £35.00.

Planning

Land Use Change in England No. 9, D.o.E., Publications Sales Unit, Ruislip, Middsx, £4.00

Local Environmental Policies and Strategies, Agyeman, J. & Evans, B (eds), Longman, 1994, ISBN 0 582 22938 3, £15.95

Software

CABIKEY - Computer Aided Biological Identification Key

CABKEY is a new interactive software program, designed to enable accurate taxonomic identifications of invertebrates and other arthropods. The package prompts the user to answer a series of questions using illustrations. Through a process of elimination the software interprets the user's answers to reach an identification of the specimen. A colour picture of the specimen is displayed.

The identification is based upon the work of taxonomists at CABI's International Institute of Entomology.

At present the only software available is for the identification of adult beetles. However further applications are planned to become available during 1995 including: dipteran fruit flies from Oriental and Australasian regions, European Thrips, mosquito genera and termite genera.

CABIKEY is available in individual and multi-user forms for IBM compatible PCs.

The single user price for Adult Beetles is £115.00 + VAT and the multi-user price is

£345.00 + VAT. Second and subsequent applications are discounted by 20%.

CAB International, Wallingford, Oxon
OX10 8DE

UK Digital Marine Atlas

The second edition of the UK Marine Digital Atlas is now available from the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory. It requires 640k RAM at least an EGA Monitor and 10Mb of hard disk space. From British Oceanographic Data Centre, Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Bidston Observatory, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 7RA

BES Journals on CD ROM

BES Journals will be available on CD ROM from early 1995. All four journals will be produced and will be available for the same price as the paper version plus a 'CD premium'.

Events

March 2nd 1995

Fife Nature, **Conference on the Sea**, Fife House Glenrothes, Fife (see programme and booking form)

20-22 March 1995

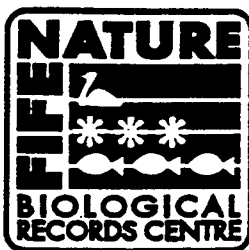
BES, Recent advances in urban and post industrial wildlife conservation and habitat creation, Leicester. Details: Dr Susan Page, Depts of Adult Education and Zoology, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH. Tel 01533 523337

6-7 April

Conserving Europe's Bees, Linnean Society. Details: Lin Soc Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ Tel 071 434 4479.

20-23 April

British Isopod Study Group/British Myriapod Group, Rowrah Hall Cumbria
Details: Dave Bilton, 55 Beechgrove, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 9BG



FIFE NATURE

Conference on The Sea

Please fill in and return detached form to Anne-Marie Smout, Recorder for Fife Nature by 24th February 1995.

I want to reserve a place at Fife Nature's conference on the Sea on 2nd March 1995.

Name of delegate

Organisation if any

Address for Contact

.....

Tel.

Tick as Appropriate

I enclose a conference fee of £20 (including lunch) ☐

I would be interested in a boat trip on the Firth of Forth, 2nd week of May 1995. ☐

Please invoice me for the conference. ☐

Please invoice my organisation for the conference ☐

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09.30 Registration & Coffee

10.00 Opening remarks by Chairman of FRC's Planning & Environment Committee.

The morning to deal with sea life.

Session to be chaired by Anne-Marie Smout, Recorder for Fife Nature.

10.10 The Importance of Seabirds in the Firth of Forth.
Dave Fairlamb RSPB, Seabird Group organiser.

10.40 The Food Chain and Complexity of the Sea.
Dr Val Smith, Gatty Marine Laboratory, St Andrews University.

11.10 Coffee

11.30 Seals and Cetaceans.
Dr Paul Thompson, SNH.

12.00 Recording Data and Monitoring the Sea.
Nigel Mortimer, Marine Biologist, NE Fife Ranger Service.

12.30 Discussion

12.45 Lunch.

The afternoon being devoted to man's relation with the sea.

Session to be chaired by Rob Terwey, Depute Director of FRC Department of Economic Development & Planning.

13.45 The Sea: Man's Use and Abuse
Sir Frederick Holliday

14.15 Pollution.
Prof. Alasdair McIntyre, Aberdeen University.

14.45 KIMO
Rick Nickerson, Secretariat for KIMO.

15.15 The Forth Forum Initiative.
Mark Jennison.

15.45 Plenary Session and closing remarks.

16.15 Tea.

Application for Membership. To Charles Copp, The Membership Secretary, 8 The Paddock, Clevedon, Bristol, Avon, BS21 6JU.

I wish to join the FEDERATION as a Personal/Organisational member and enclose a cheque for £6.00 or enclose a completed standing order.
(delete as appropriate)

I wish to join the RECORDER User Group at no extra cost. Please tick if applicable. ☐

Name..... Organisation

Address.....

Post Code..... Tel..... Post Held.....

Standing Order
To..... Bank..... Branch.....

Please pay on (date) the sum of £6.00 to Barclays Bank, 40 Corn St., Bristol, Avon. Code 20-13-42 A/C No. 20662046 and make similar payments annually on April 1st or until this order is cancelled in writing, charging such payments to my/our account number

Signature..... Date.....

Note: The annual subscription is due on April 1st each year. However, new subscriptions paid between January 1st and March 31st will carry through to March 31st in the following year.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The following conference proceedings are also available:

Biological Recording Forum, 1985. Proceedings of the Biological Recording Forum, London, April 1985. 41pp. £5.00. ☐

Biological Recording in a Changing Landscape: Inaugural conference of the NFBR, Cambridge. April 1986. 51pp. £8.00. ☐

Biological Recording: The Products. Proceedings of the annual conference of the NFBR, Bristol. April 1987. 60pp. £6.00. ☐

National Perspectives in Biological Recording in the UK. Proceedings of the annual conference of the NFBR, London, May 1989. 48pp. £3.50. ☐

Biological Recording: Invertebrates in the landscape. NFBR conference proceedings, Sussex. July 1991. (To be published as a supplement to the British Journal of Entomology and Natural History in late 1993).

Biological Recording: Who pays the Piper? Proceedings of the annual conference of the NFBR, Nottingham. September 1992. To be published shortly.

Biological Survey: Need and Network. Report of a Working Party set up by the Linnean Society of London. 1988. 48pp. £3.50. ☐

Please tick those you wish to order and send with a cheque, payable to the NFBR, to Paul Harding at The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE17 2LS.