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Annual Report 2021/2022

Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

Enabling data-driven decisions to better enhance and protect our natural environment.

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

One of the main challenges that has faced TVERC over the last year is recruitment and this is a challenge increasingly affecting all those who work in the environmental sector. With a myriad of new legislative requirements on the horizon and increasing concern about the planets ecological and climate systems this 'green skills gap' is only going to get worse.

Despite these challenges TVERC has managed to recruit several highly qualified new staff and has continued to deliver an excellent level of service to its many customers. Once again, this year TVERC has passed a new milestone with over 4 million records held in its databases and has maintained a strong financial position over the course of a difficult year.

TVERC is all about the data, much of that data comes from volunteer recording groups, this year has seen a small but significant growth of data coming in from individual members of the public. This growth reflects the effort the TVERC staff have put into promoting recording on social media. There is clearly a great deal of room for the public to get more involved in recording and I hope that this is a source of new data that will continue to grow.

As I write we are (still) awaiting new regulations and guidance which will tell us how to implement the various threads of the Environment Act. The requirements of the Act for biodiversity will drive an increasing demand for biological data which should in turn provide a significant boost to TVERC's income over the coming years.

Dominic Lamb MCIEEM
Climate and Biodiversity Team Leader
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021-22 has been a challenging year. At TVERC we have balanced staff changes, a very busy survey season and some stretching data projects whilst safely navigating our way out of the Covid -19 restrictions.

The dedication, resilience, and resourcefulness of the team, along with the help and support of our volunteers and wider community have helped ensure we have had plenty of successes. I am pleased that one of them is that we have been able to re-invigorate our commitment to the recording community and work with volunteers by recruiting Henrietta Pringle to take on the role of Biological Recording Co-ordinator. Others include; reaching 4 million high quality species records in our database; managing and responding to many more data search requests than in previous years still in an accurate and timely fashion; and growing our field surveying projects beyond the wildlife sites projects to include working with landowners to help them understand the biodiversity value of their holdings. The groundwork we have made in this last year is a great start in positioning TVERC to help ensure that the biodiversity and geodiversity information takes an important part in the future Nature Recovery Strategies for our two counties.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at TVERC, both staff and volunteers, and all the individuals, groups and organisations in Oxfordshire and Berkshire who despite the difficulties, have helped us achieve so much over this last year.

Here is a brief update on the progress we made towards achieving our goals. There is more detail later in this report.

- 1. Be independent** – The current hosting arrangements with Oxfordshire County Council allow TVERC to continue to work with a high degree of autonomy and independence but with some limitations regarding Finance, HR and IT policies. Work to separate and form a new Community Interest Company is now not being pursued as a priority.
- 2. Maintain and expand a database of high quality comprehensive environmental information** – At the end of the financial year we held over 4 million records of flora and fauna in Berkshire and Oxfordshire, 792,970 of which are protected and notable. In 2021-22 we received 535 data sets which maintains the increase we saw last year. In previous years 300-400 is more typical, helping us to add 593,119 species records to the database.
- 3. Maintain and engage with a broad customer base** - In 2021/22 we grew the proportion of our revenue we derive from customers other than local authorities, ecological consultants, and the Environment Agency to 17%. We hope to keep building on this in future years.
- 4. Develop and offer creative solutions to interpret natural environment data** – We created a reporting service for Grow Green Carbon to use as part of their Oxfordshire Treescapes Project. It produces Treescape reports for Landowners or Parish Councils and community groups to aid in evaluating where planting trees may be appropriate.

5. **Collaborate or lead on research and innovation to drive our development** – We hosted 3 university micro-internships from Oxford University.
6. **Be a respected partner in providing evidence base for policies** – We carried out 58 Local Wildlife Surveys across the two counties. We also worked with National Trails and North Wessex Downs AONB to complete a baseline biodiversity assessment for the Ridgeway through Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. We also completed several biodiversity net gain baseline assessments for landowners in our area.

For several local authorities we provided analysis on the number of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management and reported on several environmental indicators to help them monitor biodiversity within their area. Additionally, we supported West Oxfordshire District Council's planning and provision of Biodiversity Net Gain using our expertise with DEFRA's updated metric.

It has been another really busy year for data searches. We received 974 requests in 2021-2022 which was a further increase on the previous year of 844. The total income for data searches and licences was £200k in 2021-2022.

7. **Remain at the centre of a network of recorders.** TVERC provides the secretariat for the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership and the Oxfordshire Environment Board. TVERC also sits on the Oxfordshire Environment Board, the Oxfordshire Biodiversity Advisory Group, the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership and the Berkshire Local Authority Ecologists group.
8. **Provide valued support to, and engagement with, current and future recorders and partners.** We provided funding, via Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment to four projects, totalling more than £4,000. We ran two very successful and well attended Recorders Conferences, both once again were virtual. We also hope we inspired undergraduate students by sharing our insights about working in ecology by giving a lecture at Reading University.
9. **Employ valued and respected staff who retain and develop their skills, expertise and knowledge.** During 2021-22 there have been two members of the team who have moved on to work elsewhere. I understand that they are already putting to good use the skills and experiences they gained whilst working for TVERC in their new roles. Recruiting to fill some of our vacancies has been challenging and sometimes frustrating but we have been lucky to bring onboard some new talented team members both permanently and on a temporary basis.

Steve Wilkes
TVERC Director

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WHO ARE TVERC?

MISSION STATEMENT

TVERC is the only organization in Berkshire and Oxfordshire providing a comprehensive ecological information hub through which critical knowledge can be shared to support scientific research and responsible decision-making.

TVERC is at the centre of a network of recorders and data-users in Berkshire and Oxfordshire and is the regional delivery node of the National Biodiversity Network.

TVERC is a not-for-profit organisation run by a partnership. All those contributing to TVERC help manage our environmental resources sustainably for current and future use.

Data ↓	We collect wildlife information from a wide variety of sources in a coordinated way; enabling information-sharing between recorders and decision-makers.
Information ↓	We are a specialist team with the skills, knowledge and dedication to make complex data understandable and available to all who need it.
Knowledge	This constantly improving, high quality resource is accessible by everyone, so they have the knowledge they need to carry out scientific research and make responsible decisions.

WHAT IS A LERC?



Local Environmental Record Centres are “Not-for-profit organisations that collect, collate and manage information on the natural environment for a defined geographic area. LERCs support and collaborate with a network of experts to ensure information is robust, and make information products and services accessible to a range of audiences including decision-makers, the public, and researchers”

Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC)

VISION

TVERC is an independent source of high quality comprehensive environmental information. Our broad customer base means we are financially sustainable and can provide strong evidence for environmental issues into the next generation.

TVERC is a leader in its field known for its creative solutions in interpreting the natural environment for a broad range of organisations and individuals who understand and value the work we do. Research and innovation as a result of collaboration drive our development so that we are a respected partner in providing an evidence base for policy.

TVERC is at the centre of a network of recorders and users providing valued support as part of a partnership and engages with a future generation of recorders.

Our team maintains strong connections with volunteers, recorders and partners. Together, we have the skills, expertise and knowledge to promote the recognition and value of local data in decision-making at all levels.

Our environment is better as a result of decisions made using our data and information.

GOALS

Working towards and ultimately achieving the following goals will ensure we achieve our future vision for TVERC.

1. Be independent
2. Maintain and continue to expand a database of high quality comprehensive environmental information
3. Maintain and engage with a broad customer base
4. Develop and offer creative solutions to interpret natural environment data.
5. Collaborate or lead on research and innovation to drive our development
6. Be a respected partner in providing evidence base for policies.
7. Remain at the centre of a network of recorders
8. Provide valued support to, and engagement with, current and future recorders and partners.
9. Employ valued and respected staff who retain and develop their skills, expertise, and knowledge.
10. We live in a better environment in Berks and Oxon as a result of decisions made using our data and information.

1. BE INDEPENDENT

TVERC is currently hosted by OxonCC. Previous work to separate from OxonCC and form a new Community Interest Company was stalled in 2019/20 with the arrival of CV-19 in the UK. This was due to lack of resources within OxonCC and more latterly within TVERC.

The current hosted arrangements allow TVERC to continue to work with a high degree of autonomy and independence but with some limitations regarding Finance, HR and IT policies. It has been agreed with the TVERC Steering Group that this separation will not be pursued as a priority for now and in the next business plan period.

2. HOLD A DATABASE OF HIGH QUALITY COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

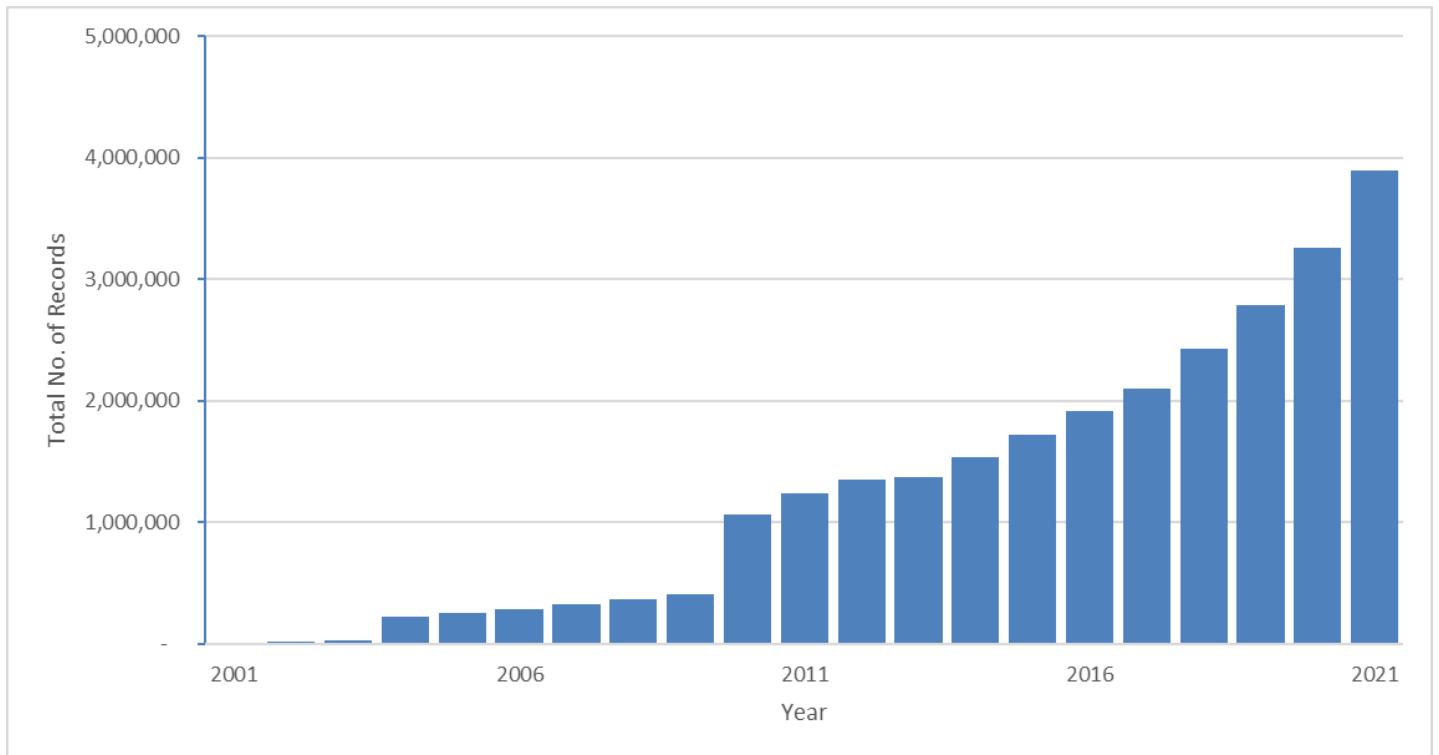
We now hold over 4 million records of flora and fauna in Berkshire and Oxfordshire plus information about Local Wildlife and Geological Sites, NERC Act S41 Habitats of Principal Importance (previously called UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats) and Ecological Networks (Conservation Target Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas).

We collect data from the general public, skilled volunteer/amateur recorders, professionals working for wildlife charities (BBOWT and RSPB), professionals working for government agencies (Natural England, the Environment Agency & local authorities) and ecological consultants. The cost to TVERC to collect, check and process data is about 25p per record, which means we prioritise datasets which are recent and include protected & notable species for data management.

In 2021-22 we added 593,119 species records to the database in the financial year. This gave an end of financial year total records as 4,000,050. 51,767 of the newly added records were for protected and notable species, giving a total of 792,970 P&N records, which is about 20% of our total records.

SPECIES RECORDS

NUMBER OF RECORDS



YEAR	RECORDS ADDED	TOTAL NO. OF RECORDS	YEAR	RECORDS ADDED	TOTAL NO. OF RECORDS
2021	629,347	3,891,131	2011	180,789	1,241,148
2020	476,256	3,261,784	2010	652,052	1,060,359
2019	352,465	2,785,528	2009	36,601	408,307
2018	333,322	2,433,063	2008	46,893	371,706
2017	183,695	2,099,741	2007	37,065	324,813
2016	192,047	1,916,046	2006	35,222	287,748
2015	184,941	1,723,999	2005	24,913	252,526
2014	162,195	1,539,058	2004	193,545	227,613
2013	24,904	1,376,863	2003	11,116	34,068
2012	110,811	1,351,959	2002	18,945	22,952

DATASETS

TVERC received 535 data sets in the financial year 2021-2022. This a very similar figure to the 547 data sets received in the previous financial year. There are a couple of interesting points to note. Firstly, the number of datasets coming from members of the public has nearly doubled in this financial year and probably reflects TVERC’s increasing engagement with the public via social media. Secondly, this financial year we have received data from a couple of landowners which is a very welcome development and one that we would like to build on in the future.

DONOR CATEGORY	NUMBER OF DATASETS	NO. RECORDS ADDED TO DATABASE**
CGO	6	705
Consultants	307	11,394
Individual known Wildlife Recorder	89	39,773
Local Government Surveys (carried out by)	3	560
Local Wildlife Groups	17	21,621
Members of the Public	41	71
National Wildlife Groups/Recording Schemes	17	83,768
Utility Companies	1	0
Wildlife Charities	5	457
Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)	1	474
TVERC (not LWS Surveys)	9	62,119
Other	8	623
Online Websites	1	15,513
Landowner	2	651

** Some recently received records may not yet have been added to the database

In addition to the above, the local and district wildlife surveys in Berkshire and Oxfordshire that are carried out by TVERC staff and volunteers contributed a further **8859** records.

DATA AGREEMENTS

Each year, TVERC negotiate with the wide range of recorders and recording groups in Berkshire and Oxfordshire to ensure we can access new data.

<p>New data agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfordshire Fens Project 	
<p>Groups which supplied TVERC with data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for the River Kennet • Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust • Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire • Banbury Ornithological Society • BBOWT • Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group • Berks Ornithological Club • Binfield Badger Group • Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland • British Dragonfly Society • Butterfly Conservation • Canal and Rivers Trust • Cherwell Swifts • Earth Trust • Freshwater Habitats Trust • Friends of Aston’s Eyot • Friends of Ruscombe Wood • Friends of Wargrave Chalk Pits • Froglife • Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire • Hamstead Marshall Wildlife Group • Holt Copse Conservation Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Otter Survival Fund • Lavell’s Wetland Trust • Lower Windrush Valley Project • Moor Green Lakes Group • National Water Vole Database • Newbury District Ornithological Club • Oxford Urban Wildlife Group • Oxford Swift City Project • Oxfordshire Badger Group • Oxfordshire Flora Group • Peoples Trust for Endangered Species • RecordPool • River Thames Conservation Trust • UK Caddis Recording Scheme • Watlington Environment Group • Weevil & Bark Beetle Recording Scheme • Wild Cookham • Wildlife in Ascot • Wild Maidenhead • Wild Trout Trust • Worton Bird Group • Wychwood Flora Group

3. ENGAGE WITH A BROAD CUSTOMER BASE

Our data are used by a diverse customer base, but within this, TVERC is currently reliant on a small number of customers for the majority of our income. We are seeking to diversify our income stream by increasing income from other sectors such as community groups, conservation NGOs, university researchers, land management advisors and Parish & Town Councils. In 2021/22 we secured over £72k from customers other than local authorities, ecological consultants and the Environment Agency. This is a great achievement which we hope to continue to build on in subsequent years.

TVERC Customers	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Local authority (incl. contractors)	£157,955	£186,418	£186,415
Ecological consultant	£182,127	£159,610	£107,649
Environment Agency	£15,104	£15,104	£15,104
Natural England	£25,869	£0	£0
Conservation charity	£23,433	£9,035	£9,725
Other	£12,379	£24,083	£7,283
Utilities company	£1,514	£0	£5,250
Individual recorder / recording group	£0	£350	£1,572
Community / Parish Group	£675	£395	£0
Landowner	£8,213	£2,155	£22,925
AONB	£0	£0	£0
Scientific Researcher	£0	£10,210	£1,800
Student / Teacher	£67	£78	£0
Member of the public	£328	£75	£635
TOTAL	£427,664	£407,512	£358,358
Total for "3 primary" customers	£355,186	£361,132	£309,168
Total for all others	£72,478	£46,380	£49,190

4. USE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO INTERPRET NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DATA

OXFORDSHIRE TREES: REPORTING SERVICE

We are currently in a climate crisis, and although tree planting is not the only solution, it is still a viable option for offsetting carbon emissions. However, care must be taken to not plant trees on unsuitable land, as tree planting on grassland will lead to a loss in biodiversity, not a gain.

Following up from the technical work TVERC undertook with Grow Green Carbon in selecting parcels of land that have the potential for tree planting without compromising land-use or biodiversity, TVERC has turned this data into something useful that all parties with an interest in land management and nature recovery can actively support and participate in, and that sets an example nationwide.

Currently there are two versions of the treescape reports available. A Parish report, aimed at parish councils and community groups, and a Landowner report, for individuals or farming clusters. These reports are now available through [Oxfordshire Treescapes Project](#). The hope is that these will inform and support landowners, land managers, and parish councils to plant more trees but in a way that enhances and is sympathetic to the current landscape and area.

5. COLLABORATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DRIVES OUR DEVELOPMENT

TVERC believes that working closely with the fantastic science and environmental organisations in Berkshire and Oxfordshire is essential in order to maximise the impact we can collectively make on improving our environment.

STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

We have links with Imperial College London (Silwood Park), Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University and Reading University. These links work well for attracting student volunteers to carry out data management and project work, particularly for the 'Consultancy' modules in the MSc courses run by both Reading and Oxford Brookes Universities.

TVERC offer a variety of benefits to students in addition to the experience of volunteering, such as free data, as well as discounted entry to our conferences and training courses.

In 2021-22 TVERC hosted the following placements:

- June 2021 Oxford University micro internship on butterfly distributions
- June 2021 Oxford University micro internship on butterfly distributions
- March 2022 Oxford University micro internship on dragonfly distributions

HERO PROJECT

TVERC are involved with Oxford University's Healthy Ecosystem Restoration in Oxfordshire (HERO) project. This three-year program brings together local partners and stakeholders to develop ecosystem restoration strategies to make Oxfordshire a model county for nature recovery. By sharing data and expertise with the project, through meetings and workshops, we can contribute to evidence-based nature recovery.

6. WE ARE A RESPECTED PARTNER IN PROVIDING AN EVIDENCE BASE FOR POLICIES

Making policy relies on a robust evidence base. TVERC already provide trusted and scientifically robust evidence on which others base policy. We will continue to do so, as well as developing new products and services, based on sound science, that are trusted and respected by our partners and customers.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MANAGEMENT ADVICE

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

Local Wildlife Site surveys are one of the core services that TVERC continues to provide across the two counties for the majority of the Local Authorities. We carried out a total of 58 LWS surveys in 2021-22. Thanks to the help of our volunteers, specialist species group surveys were completed on several sites for birds, invertebrates and rare plants. Survey reports were produced and taken to the site selection panel. The full detail of these is in appendix I.

OXFORDSHIRE SURVEYS

This year TVERC carried out surveys of 38 existing and proposed Local Wildlife Sites in Oxfordshire. These included a wide range of habitats such as ancient woodland, parkland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadow and wetland habitats including lowland fen, tufa springs & floodplain grazing marsh. Thanks to the help of our volunteers, specialist species group and habitat surveys were completed on several sites for invertebrates, veteran trees and rare plants.

Wytham Park is a 77ha parkland in a valley adjacent to Wytham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It includes many veteran oak trees with features such as deadwood, hollowing of the trunk, rot holes, sap runs, loose bark, insect boring, dieback and loss of the crown. There are also several standing dead trees and some large fallen deadwood providing habitat for deadwood invertebrates and fungi.

Buckland Marsh is a series of wet meadows adjacent to the River Thames. It has a network of ditches and includes areas of lowland meadow and lowland fen. The site is important for birds especially Curlew.

The meadows have a variety of grasses including Yorkshire fog, quaking grass, rough meadow-grass, red fescue, tall fescue, sweet vernal-grass, crested dog's tail, meadow brome, tufted hair-grass and meadow foxtail. Sedges dominate some parts including lesser and greater pond sedge with other species including hairy sedge, glaucous sedge and brown sedge. Richer areas of grassland include abundant meadowsweet and

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meadow vetchling with ragged robin, oxeye daisy, black knapweed, lady's bedstraw, common bird's-foot trefoil, devil's-bit scabious and pepper saxifrage.

Wetter parts include reed sweet-grass, marsh foxtail, hard rush, common spike-rush, tubular water-dropwort, marsh marigold and common marsh bedstraw. The uncommon round-fruited rush was also recorded.

Chalk grassland near Wolvercote lies on a south-facing slope of the southern Chilterns and is a particularly good example of chalk grassland, supporting many characteristic species. These include dwarf thistle, salad burnet, carline thistle, wild marjoram, mouse-ear hawkweed, wild thyme, eyebright, pyramidal orchid, squinancywort, common rockrose, pale toadflax, fairy flax, upright brome, quaking grass, downy oat-grass, common milkwort, field scabious, cowslip, common century and hairy violet.

Of particular note were dodder and dyer's greenweed. Dodder is a parasitic annual plant which usually feeds off gorse and heather, but here is using dyer's greenweed.

BERKSHIRE SURVEYS

In 2021, a grand total of 20 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) across Berkshire were successfully surveyed throughout the season. Berkshire Biodiversity Officer, Caitlin Coombs undertook a Phase One Habitat survey on each site, whilst a skilled team of 22 volunteer surveyors carried out systematic surveys for a range of specialist species groups including dragonflies, butterflies, birds, mammals, fungi, bryophytes and invertebrates.

Craven Hill LWS in West Berkshire, which supports lowland fen and lowland dry acid grassland – these habitats are not so common in this area of the country. The site had an array of wildflowers in rich areas including lesser spearwort, cuckooflower, creeping forget-me-not, greater bird's-foot-trefoil, marsh pennywort, ragged robin, square-stalked St John's-wort and heath-spotted orchid.

Holies Down was probably the most beautiful in terms of chalk grassland habitats. This National Trust-owned site near Streatley supports 11.8ha of chalk grassland in a dry valley, with thousands of common spotted orchids spotted. Other species include pyramidal orchid, common spotted-orchid, salad burnet, wild basil, field madder, horseshoe vetch, fairy flax, dwarf thistle, common eyebright, carline thistle and clustered bellflower.

Lousehill Copse, a site in the suburban Tilehurst, Reading supports ancient woodland including areas of coppice, small streams and a pond. There were beautiful swathes of opposite-leaved golden saxifrage and other wet woodland flora throughout the site.

THE RIDGEWAY: BASELINE BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

TVERC worked with National Trails and North Wessex Downs AONB to undertake a baseline biodiversity assessment of the Ridgeway: from Avebury to Streatley including 29.7 ha of lowland calcareous grassland. 18.4 ha are already designated LWS and an additional area of 0.5ha was identified as likely to be of County interest. This area was proposed and accepted as an Oxfordshire LWS.

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6344 species records were made for over 330 different species including 307 plants and incidental sightings for a small number of other species including invertebrates, reptiles and mammals. 134 records for protected and notable species were added including four 'England red list – vulnerable' species - sainfoin, basil thyme, white helleborine and chicory; and ten 'England red list - near threatened' species - quaking grass, carline thistle, harebell, field scabious, devil's-bit scabious, spiny restharrow, crosswort, eyebright, hoary plantain and common rockrose.

Overall a good range of typical and indicator species for lowland calcareous grassland were recorded (with 32 indicator species and 21 typical species).

This project has identified 28 locations covering 10.5ha where there is priority grassland habitat that would be valuable to maintain and 115 locations totalling 33.4 ha for potential restoration through additional management. These include 53 considered to be of high priority and 62 of medium priority.

With a bit of extra attention, some sections of The Ridgeway National Trail have potential to be enhanced for their biodiversity interest. Targeted conservation management could really increase the number of wildflowers and insects along the Trail.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN BASELINE SURVEYS

The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) provide a brokering service to deliver biodiversity net gain in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts. The scheme accepts payments from developers where development proposals cannot deliver biodiversity net gain on site. TOE uses these contributions to fund habitat creation and restoration works to offset the losses on development sites.

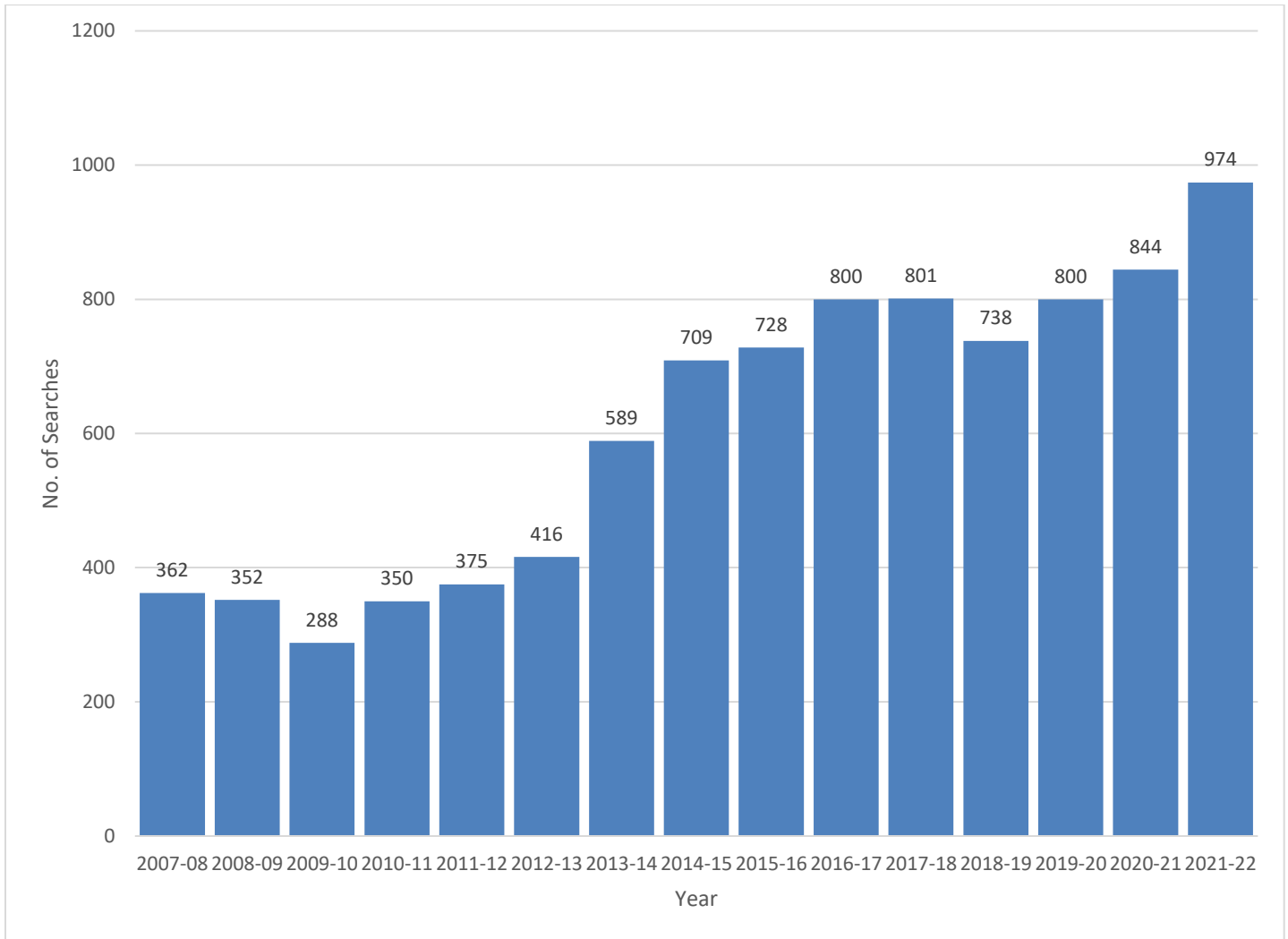
The receptor sites for developer contributions are required to deliver an uplift in biodiversity units based on work to create or restore habitats. These projects are delivered and maintained over a period of 25 years – many of these projects may take 25 or more years to realise the uplift in biodiversity units. As such the work needs to be monitored to ensure that management is appropriate to deliver the project aims and that the units promised are delivered. This is important to help adjust management approaches to achieve and uplift and also in reporting the achievements of the project in delivering a biodiversity net gain.

Before these projects begin it is essential to carry out a baseline habitat survey and habitat condition assessment of these receptor sites. TVERC carried out habitat survey and baseline condition assessments for several sites within Berkshire and Oxfordshire. TVERC have produced a document outlining Net Gain Monitoring Standards on behalf of TOE, and these standards were used for the baseline assessment and monitoring of these sites.

During 2021/22 TVERC completed a number of BNG baseline surveys for landowners.

DATA SEARCHES

This year saw continued growth in the volume of data searches. TVERC carried out 974 data searches in 2021-2022. This was an increase on 2020-2021 when we carried out 844 data searches.



TVERC charges for data searches based on the time to extract and present the data and a contribution towards the annual cost of collating and managing the TVERC database. TVERC waive this charge for data searches for individuals, landowners and conservation organisations where the data will be used solely for conservation purposes. In these cases, a donation is requested, to cover the costs of extracting and presenting the data. We also waive the fee for initial single species & bat searches, so although we carried out 974 data searches, a charge was made for only 917 of these, bringing in a total income of £182,197 for 2021-2022.

A variety of customers request data searches, and the vast majority come from ecological consultants, 974 this year. The proportions can be seen in the table below.

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Contact Type	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Community Group	6	5	7
Conservation Charity	5	8	0
Ecological Consultant	901	744	689
Ecological Consultant working for TVERC funding Partner	7	12	0
Government Agency (non TVERC partner)	2	2	0
Landowner	19	16	14
Local Authority (inc. contractors)	0	1	0
Local Recorder/Recording Group	1	4	0
Member of the Public	10	11	0
NGO/Government Agency (TVERC partners)	0	0	0
Non-Government Agency	2	0	0
Other	8	13	90
Parish Council/Town Council/Neighbourhood Plan Group	3	6	0
Scientific Researcher /Student/Teacher	10	22	0
Utilities Company	1	0	0

Our data is requested for a variety of purposes, and an outline of these can be seen below.

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Comment on a Planning Application	6	5	0
Conservation/Research of a Single Site	5	5	0
Education or Research	12	28	17
Land Management	0	0	30
Land Management (For Conservation)	22	25	0
Land Management (Other)	31	12	5
Neighbourhood Plan	2	5	0
Other	29	26	71
Planning Application/Development	823	698	658
Utility Maintenance	44	40	19

DATA PROVISION TO PARTNERS

TVERC provided updated datasets to our partners. These are essential to ensure that our partners comply with planning policy and wildlife legislation and that sound decisions are made about where to focus conservation effort, how best to manage land and where to direct development to minimise impacts on the natural environment.

The updated datasets TVERC provided to partners were:

- Protected & notable species (July 2021, November 2021 and March 2022)
- Buffered protected species & notable (July 2021, November 2021 and March 2022)
- House sparrows, starlings and swifts (July 2021, November 2021 and March 2022). Rebranded “Birds in Buildings” with the addition of house martin nest records in March 2022
- Swift Hotspot Maps (provided to all partners from March 2022, previously only Oxford City)
- Local Wildlife Sites (May 2022)
- UK Priority Habitat (NERC Act S41 Habitats of Principle Importance) (December 2021)
- Invasive non-native species layer (July 2021, November 2021, January 2022)

There were no changes to the following datasets:

- Conservation Target Areas / Biodiversity Opportunity Areas
- Local Geological Sites

IMPROVEMENTS TO EVIDENCE-BASE

CHERWELL DISTRICT WILDLIFE SITES

There are currently several different designations for sites of importance to wildlife with differing degrees of protection through UK and European wildlife and planning law. These include sites of European importance (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas), national importance (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and county importance (Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)). To help inform the local authority planning process, some district and unitary councils have also identified sites that have significance for their authority at a more local level. TVERC was commissioned by Cherwell District Council to carry out additional surveys of some Cherwell DWS.

BERKSHIRE HABITAT DATA AUDIT

To help prepare for the forthcoming work to create a county Nature Recovery Strategy, the Berkshire Unitary Authorities Local Planning Ecologists with funding from Natural England asked TVERC to review the habitat inventory that TVERC holds for Berkshire. Overall, the review found that the TVERC Habitat Inventory in Berkshire although ageing is generally thorough, consistent, and practical. Several opportunities to improve and expand the habitat inventory were identified. Some of these will be worked on during the coming year.

TOE NET GAIN SUPPORT

Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) have asked TVERC to comment on Net Gain applications as an independent assessor of the assessment's quality and realism.

TVERC have completed this exercise for some applications and have attended meetings to determine whether an application should be approved or not, providing evidence and support to TOE and the Oxfordshire Net Gain Working Group.

MONITORING CHANGE

BERKS SINGLE DATA LIST 160

TVERC provide an analysis of the SDL 160 for each of the Berkshire unitaries. Site management data is collated to calculate the number of local sites that are in positive management for the six Unitary Authorities. Local authorities are required to report to DEFRA on the SDL 160 each year as a measure of their success of protecting the biodiversity in their area.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

TVERC analyses environmental data and produces an annual monitoring report to Local Authorities in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The AMR reports on a number of environmental indicators that help to monitor biodiversity within their district including changes to Local Wildlife Sites, Priority habitat and Priority Species, the status and distribution of water vole or farmland birds, SSSI condition and non agri-schemes habitat creation and management.

7. WE REMAIN AT THE CENTRE OF A NETWORK OF RECORDERS

TVERC has good relationships with local recorders and recording groups who are a key source of our data. We will strengthen these relationships so that TVERC remains the hub for biological recording in Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The TVERC Director sits on the Oxfordshire Environment Board, Oxfordshire Biodiversity Advisory Group, Berkshire Local Nature Partnership and attends the Berkshire Local Authority Ecologists group.

BERKSHIRE LNP SECRETARIAT

TVERC continue to provide the secretariat for the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership.

OXFORDSHIRE ENVIRONMENT BOARD SECRETARIAT

TVERC continue to provide the secretariat for the Oxfordshire Environment Board.

8. PROVIDE VALUED SUPPORT TO, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH, CURRENT AND FUTURE RECORDERS AND PARTNERS

Biological recorders are essential to the future success of TVERC and to evidence-based decision-making. Much of the data in the TVERC database comes from volunteer recorders and so supporting them is an essential part of the work TVERC carry out.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

We provide technical support for recording groups who are collecting and analysing data across Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Recently we have advised groups on using iRecord to submit, view and export their records, as well as setting up their own activity for their group's recording. This is especially important as we transition from the old record submission page hosted on our website.

EQUIPMENT LOAN

We have survey equipment and books available to loan to recorders, and this is advertised on our website. In 2021/22 we loaned 25 small mammal traps to Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew.

RECORDING GRANT

To support projects that improve the quality, quantity and or coverage of voluntary species recording in Berkshire and Oxfordshire TVERC annually provides a Recorders Grant Scheme. The fund is administered by the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE). Applications may be standalone grants to support better recording or they may be linked to a larger biodiversity application to TOE (www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk). In 2021/22 we funded the following projects (see Appendix II):

30/04/2021 River Thames Conservation Trust Bird Atlas 2016- 2020 £1,000

12/07/2021 Come Fly with Me: Improving butterfly records in the historic Wychwood Forest area £1,290

24/01/2022 West Oxfordshire Farmland Bird Project – phase 4 £1,579

29/03/2022 Beetles of Oxfordshire £500

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

TVERC organise a local Recorders Conference to share information amongst volunteer recorders and increase their knowledge so they can provide us with even better data. We also provide training courses and talks to local groups.

TRAINING COURSES

Unfortunately, during 2021/22 we could not provide any training sessions due to Covid-19 restrictions we hope that it will be possible to resume these in the future.

UNIVERSITY OF READING LECTURE

Henrietta Pringle was invited to give a guest lecture as part of the Nature Conservation module within the 2nd year of Environmental Management BSc. This is the third year TVERC have provided a speaker under the topic of 'Living Landscapes', giving an insight into the stakeholders and policies involved in landscape-scale conservation, and raising the profile of TVERC, our data holdings and the opportunities available to students to work with us.

AUTUMN RECORDERS CONFERENCE

TVERC's Autumn Recorders' Conference took place over two mornings on Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October, with over 60 people attending and a variety of talks and updates from local groups, individuals and students. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and in response to previous feedback, the conference took place online, with speakers giving a mix of live and pre-recorded presentations via Google Meets.

A great first day, started with Julie Kerans and Caitlin Coombs, from TVERC, who told us all about the **Local Wildlife Sites project** and highlights from the survey season. Keiron Brown, got us up to speed with the **FSC BioLinks project**, an environmental education charity that delivers training on wildlife identification and survey, inspiring recording across the UK! You can check BioLinks current courses and events [here](#). Anna Forbes talked about "**Citizen Science in the Kennet Catchment**"; Action for the River Kennet started off 14 years ago with just a couple of surveyors. Now – it is a thriving citizen project, with hundreds of volunteers! Louis Lofthouse gave us an insight of the **HOPE for the Future Project** which is involved the re-curation and rehusing of the entire British Collection of 1 million insect specimens at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History! The first morning ended with Daniel Bowen, a TVERC micro-intern student telling us about his exciting project on **mapping distribution of black and brown hairstreak butterflies**.

Day 2 started with Caroline Jackson-Houlston walking us through the recent work of the **Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire during lockdown** and treated us to some snaps of this exciting species groups; dubbing the past

year as the ‘best fungus season for about 30 years!’. Helen Edwards from Oxford Urban Wildlife Group told us more about **Boundary Brook Nature Reserve** and their exciting from surveys this year. Henry Manisty, Nick Marriner and Roger Bettess gave us an overview of the wonderful site that is **Waterstock Local Wildlife Site** - how it all started and the monitoring that goes on including camera traps, bird surveys and river monitoring. Lucy Morley, a TVERC micro-intern student has pinpointed the **distributions of three priority butterfly species** in the Thames valley area – and compared them with protected areas, suitable habitats and larval floodplant distributions. Finally, the conference came to a close with Joe Malyan from Berkshire Mammal Group who studied the **hazel dormouse**, specifically looking at how the proximity of artificial nest boxes, certain plant species, and anthropogenic features could impact occupancy rates.

SPRING RECORDERS CONFERENCE

We held our Spring Recorders conference on the mornings of Friday 18th and Saturday 19th March. Once again it was held online using Google Meets, with nearly 70 attendees across the two days. We heard from a range of speakers, from national initiatives, to local groups, to students.

First up was our Biological Recording Co-ordinator, Henrietta Pringle, who, in celebration of reaching our fantastic milestone of **4 million species records**, gave us an insight into what makes up these records. Next, we heard from Grace Johnson about **Hedgehog Street**, the latest State of Britain’s Hedgehogs Report, and examples of how community actions are helping hogs. Lucy Kennerly gave an overview of the **Lower Windrush Valley Project** including an exciting [programme of events](#) to celebrate their 20-year anniversary! What started as a map in a shop in 2019 grew into **Eynsham Nature Recovery Network**, recently awarded the High Sheriff’s Climate Action Heroes Award. Kevan Martin and Catriona Bass explained their exciting approach to engage the local community in biodiversity monitoring, ensuring skills and knowledge are passed on. We ended Day 1 with a session of speed updates from our most recent intake of micro-interns. These students from Oxford University spend 5 days working on projects with us. Jonathan Rutter, Harri Ravenscroft, and Katie Jones took us through their work **mapping and analysing the distributions of butterfly species across the TVERC region**.

Ruth Ashcroft from **Friend’s of Aston’s Eyot** opened Day 2 of the conference with a talk about the work they do to restore habitat and record wildlife on this former landfill site. Mark Bradfield from the **Letcombe Brook Project** spoke to us about this valuable chalk stream. By reducing shade and tackling invasive species, they’ve seen an increase in Water vole and Otter activity. Next, we had two talks about moths in the region, the first from **Martin Harvey, Berkshire moth recorder** who revealed moth records have just passed the one million mark for the county! One of our previous students, Dakota Reid, demonstrated how these records can be used, **mapping the distributions of Drab Looper, Drinker and Lackey Moths in Berkshire**. Our next speed update came from Tom Hollier from Nottingham Trent University, about **student-led meadow creation**. He and the Conservation Society secured funding for and sowed meadows around the halls of residence – a fantastic example of students working to improve biodiversity in the area. The final talk of the day, and the

conference, came from **The Ridgeway Project**'s Sarah Wright and TVERC's Julie Kerans. They gave an update about the recent habitat surveys we carried out along the National trail, as well as some background about the project.

Given that the conference was online, we introduced some interactive elements, using Slido polls to get some discussion going. This was the first time we've used them in a conference so we were keen to try them out and see how engaging they would be.

9. OUR VALUED AND RESPECTED STAFF RETAIN AND DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE

OFFICE STAFF

We are a team of 12 people, but we have had a few leavers over this year so currently there are nine of us. Many of the team have temporarily stepped in to cover parts of the vacant roles, and to work extra hours to allow us to minimise the impacts of these vacancies.

Steve Wilkes, Director - Development and delivery of the TVERC service.

Ellen Lee, Biodiversity Data Services Officer – Data management, analysing and presenting data for commercial customers and project work.

Julie Kerans, and Rob Curtis, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Biodiversity Data Officers - Surveying local wildlife sites with the help of volunteers, analysing and presenting data for project work.

Yolanda Vazquez, Biodiversity Projects Officer - Surveying local wildlife sites, analysing and presenting data for project work.

Filipa McGuinness, Admin Officer - Finance, admin & promotional tasks to ensure the smooth running of a busy office.

Adela Nistora, and Amy Ross Biodiversity Data Assistants - Data management, presenting data for commercial customers and project work.

Henrietta Pringle, Biological Recording Co-ordinator - Working with TVERC volunteers and recording groups to increase the quality and quantity of wildlife records

STAFF CHANGES

We have had some changes in our team over the last year, Robbie Still, our Biodiversity Data Manager left us in April 2021 to join Kent Wildlife Trust. Caitlin Coombs, our Berkshire Biodiversity Officer left us in October to

join Bristol and Avon Wildlife Trust and so we recently welcomed Rob Curtis as our new Berkshire Biodiversity Officer. Amy Ross joined the team in April 2021 as Biodiversity Data Assistant and left us in April 2022 to join Kent Wildlife Trust.

We also welcomed Henrietta Pringle as our Biological Recording Coordinator in November.

ROBBIE STILL

"I have loved my time at TVERC, it has been an amazing few years working with the team, the biological recording community and environmental stakeholders in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. I've learnt so much and have been lucky enough to be involved with some brilliant projects and some really passionate people, and I know the natural environment of the two counties is in safe hands! I am moving onto work for the Kent Wildlife Trust on some really exciting rewilding projects, but I will make sure to stay in touch with the brilliant TVERC team and keep up to date on all the conservation projects going on!"

CAITLIN COOMBS

'I'm so sad to be saying goodbye!! I've really enjoyed my time here, the responsibilities I've been able to take on, and the projects I've been able to get involved in. It was quite a step-up from my previous role; going from an assistant ecologist to managing the entire Berkshire Local Wildlife Sites project was a little daunting at first but it's been amazing!

I've loved recruiting and working together with a team of 22 enthusiastic volunteers to gather data, learning more about the habitats and landscape in the Berkshire region, collaborating with local groups and getting to know local recorders, and of course being able to visit such beautiful sites around the county.

I'm moving to Bristol to drink good coffee, party and enjoy live music – I mean – to work with the Wildlife Trust on an exciting new project! I will be working with landowners and stakeholders, developing and delivering nature-based solutions from tree-planting, insect pathways, flood management schemes, and even beaver reintroduction projects.

Highlights of my time here at TVERC would be the amazing colleagues and volunteers I've had the privilege to work with, surveying the National Ridgeway this summer, leading two wildflower training workshops with Caring for God's Acre, and the satisfaction of knowing that every day at work I was contributing to safeguarding biodiversity.

TVERC has been responsible for, and will continue to be responsible for, great achievements in the conservation sector and has the capabilities and resources to make a huge difference to our planet. I really hope you can capitalise on this and wish you all the best for the future!

HENRIETTA PRINGLE

For her PhD examining the impacts of bioenergy crops on farmland birds, Henrietta carried out fieldwork to monitor nests, survey invertebrate populations and analyse chick diet. She carried on with research during her role at BTO, analysing large datasets to examine drivers of bird population change. More recently she has

End of Year Report 2021-22

been focusing on supporting communities to record wildlife, through coordinating the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme for People's Trust for Endangered Species. She is also a trainee bird ringer with the West Oxford Farmland Bird Project and is excited to learn more about other monitoring going on across the TVERC region.

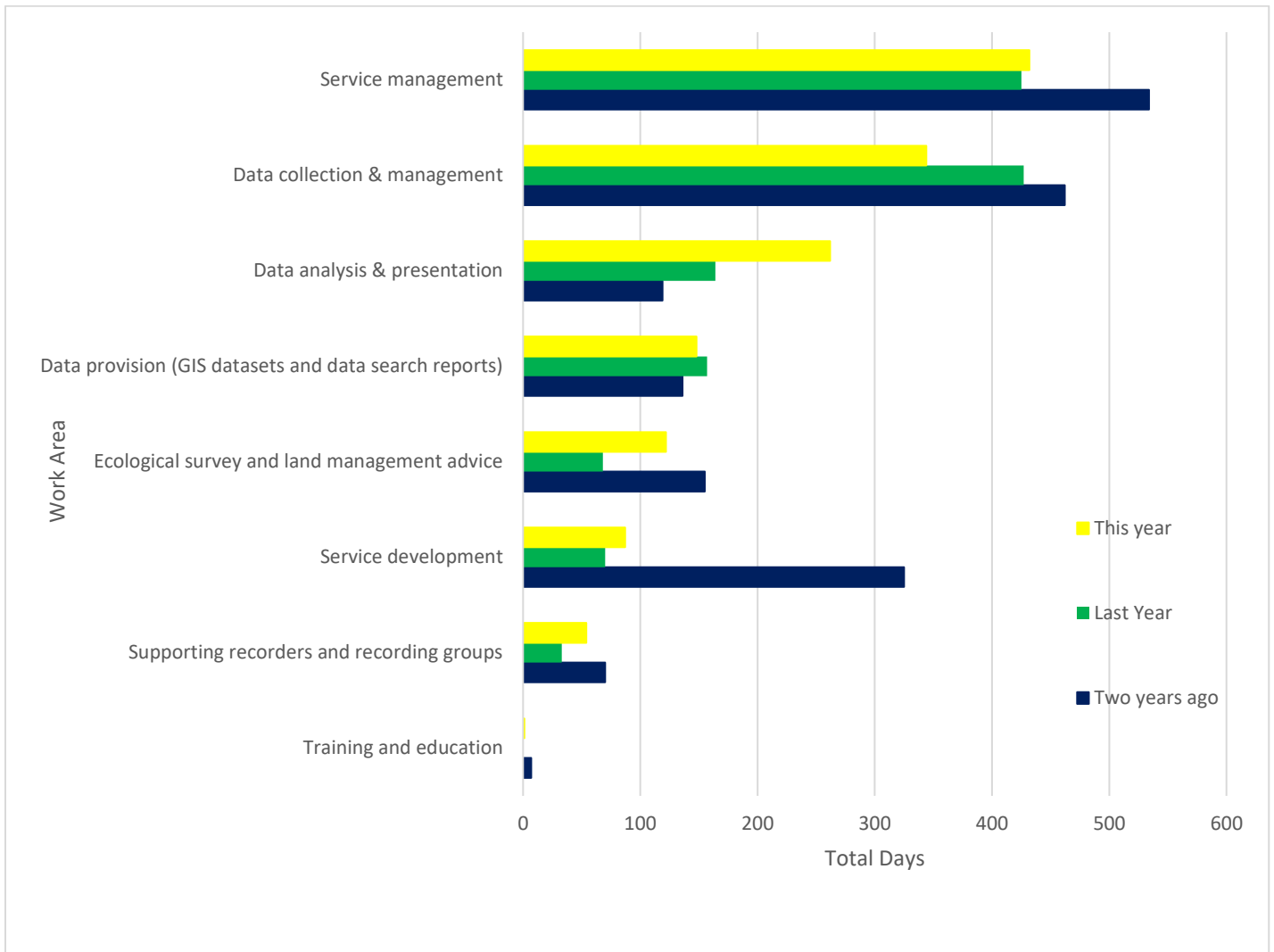
ROB CURTIS

Rob arrives from GCER (Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records), the LERC next door where he spent 8 years (mainly) sweating over hot spreadsheets whilst dealing with the county's environmental data along with surveying and a variety of other tasks. Prior to that he was involved with farmland bird surveying for the RSPB; as well as spending time in environmental education and practical conservation management. He's looking forward to reacquainting himself with Oxfordshire where he previously spent time as a Conservation Trainee at BBOWT. Once he's moved closer to the action he'll be exploring the different habitats, taking on an allotment and potentially returning to bat care.

STAFF TIME

The chart and table below illustrate the time spent by the TVERC team on different elements of the TVERC work programme over the last three financial years. In 2021/22 we have struggled to fill our vacant positions, reducing the number of man days available during the year particularly reducing our capacity for work on service development. Also, the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions have curtailed the work done to support and train the recording community. In 2021/22 The majority of staff time was spent on Service management (344 days) and Data collection & management (432 days), Data analysis & presentation (262 days). 54 days was spent on Supporting recorders.

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Work Area	2021-22		2020-21		2019-20	
	Days	Percent	Days	Percent	Days	Percent
Service management	432	30%	425	32%	534	30%
Data collection & management	344	24%	427	32%	462	26%
Data analysis & presentation	262	18%	164	12%	119	7%
Data provision (GIS datasets and data search reports)	148	10%	157	12%	136	8%
Ecological survey and land management advice	122	8%	68	5%	155	9%
Service development	87	6%	70	5%	325	18%
Supporting recorders and recording groups	54	4%	33	2%	70	4%
Training and education	1	0%	0	0%	7	0.5%

VOLUNTEERS

TVERC are fortunate to get the help of volunteers to carry out some data processing, species recording and site surveys. We also rely on help from volunteers to manage and input data into our database, and this is where the majority of their time was spent, 85% this year. In 2021-2022, 5 office volunteers working from home carried out 86 days of voluntary tasks. In addition, several volunteers provided in total 13 days of time to survey species for the Local Wildlife Sites project. If all this volunteer work had been carried out by paid staff, it would have cost TVERC almost £10,000.

Work Area	Days		
	2021-22	2019-20	2019-20
Data management	86	45	105
Local Wildlife Sites	13	8	6
Project development	0	0	0
Publicity & promotion	0	0	0
Recorders Conferences	0	0	3
Volunteer training & development	0	0	0

FINANCE

TVERC is a 'not-for-profit' organisation so any surplus income over expenditure is re-invested into the service, except for that which is held in the Reserve. TVERC is an internal trading unit within OxonCC meaning that our budget must balance to zero each financial year, but we can hold funds in a separate Reserve account.

The Director is responsible for ensuring that sufficient income is obtained each year to cover the costs of running the TVERC service. Financial forecasts are reviewed monthly, with reports to the Steering Group every three months. Charges may be increased or decreased differently than is forecast here, depending on the future situation. TVERC will work to ensure that any fee increases are kept to a minimum for all our customers by ensuring our processes are as efficient as possible.

The biggest expenditure is on staff salaries. However, staff time is also the biggest asset TVERC has, as it is the staff time spent on projects, data searches and data licenses which bring in the income.

We ended 2021-22 with a net surplus of £73,625, leaving TVERC in a strong position to continue to invest in improving our service, ensuring we are resilient to change.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Starting Reserve balance	£342,656	*£269,031	£230,619
Expenditure	£310,531	£333,887	£372,386
Income	£427,664	£407,512	£358,358
Year-end balance	£117,133	£73,625	-£14,028
Year-end Reserve balance	£538,286	£342,656	£187,729
Redundancy costs	£56,650	£56,650	£55,000
3 months running costs	£96,650	£96,650	£92,000
Allocated (RIA)	£130,336	£51,940	£32,053
Enabling fund	£254,651	£137,416	£8,676

*NB: Reserve Balance confirmed with OxonCC Finance March 2021

INCOME

TVERC is funded from various sources, as shown in the table below. These funding streams contribute to the annual cost of collating and managing the TVERC database, resulting in economies of scale for our customers.

Income	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Local authorities SLA	£128,915	£128,635	£132,790
Environment Agency SLA	£15,104	£15,104	£15,104
Commercial data searches	£182,197	£138,985	£111,827
Commercial data licences	£17,039	£25,985	£14,680
Additional data services	£6,795	-	-
Projects - LA funded	£25,770	£55,553	£51,325
Projects - NE / EA funded	£25,869	£0	£0
Projects - other funded	£25,825	£43,190	£31,060
Donations	£150	£60	£1,572
TOTAL	£427,664	£407,512	£358,358

Projects 2020/2021	Revenue (net income)
Cherwell DWS	£4,060.00
Berks LNP Secretariat	£845.00
OxEB Secretariat	£894.88
SDL160	£4,613.00
AMR	£6,238.00
Oxon Trees	£3,840.00
Berkshire NRN	£1,450.00
TOE Net Gain Support	£630.00
Ridgeway Biodiversity Assessment	£6,995.00
Wokingham Ponds - GCN eDNA surveys	£4,250.00
West Berkshire Validation Alert Map	£3,000.00
BioCap Surveys	£4,350.00
Lyne Green Survey	£435.00
OxTrees Landowner Reports – build	£4,930.00
OxTrees Landowner Reports – deliver	£5,170.00
BNG Calculation Reviews	£900.00
Caring for God’s Acre Field Days	£458.33
BNG Baseline Assessments	£5,265.00
Ancient Woodland Inventory Update	£870.00
Berkshire Habitat Data Evaluation	£24,999.00
Reading Uni Lecture	£67.23
Total	£84,260.44

EXPENDITURE

The majority of TVERC's income is spent on staff (including volunteer expenses). Our staff and volunteers are the biggest asset TVERC has, as it's the staff time spent on projects, data searches and data licenses which bring in the income. Our staff and volunteers also work continuously to improve the TVERC service and data products we can offer our funders.

Expenditure	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Staff (salaries, expenses, training)	£284,170	£293,962	£315,429
Project expenses	£3,322	£482	£19,068
Overheads (equipment, printing, postage etc.)	£7,885	£5,717	£5,894
Premises (paid 'in kind' by OCC)	£16,575	£16,575	£16,500
Recorders Fund and Conference	£2,788	£2,750	£4,486
Investment in service (data tools, website etc)	£466	£14,400	£3,375
Investment in service (Separation and CiC set-up)	£0	£0	£7,634
TOTAL	£310,531	£333,887	£372,386

MANAGING FINANCIAL RISK

Due to Oxon CC accounting rules, the Business account must balance to £0 at the end of each financial year, but 'surplus' monies or deficits can be moved into or out of a Balancing account.

The TVERC Reserve is also kept in the Balancing account. The TVERC Reserve mitigates TVERC from financial risk. The policy that the Reserve covers the costs of staff redundancies plus three months running costs was agreed by the Steering Group in the September 2012 meeting.

The enabling fund consists of the 'surplus' monies which we will use for investment in TVERC services, such as our plans to separate from OxonCC and set up as a Community Interest Company.

At the end of 2021/22, there was £538,286 in the TVERC Balancing Account.

The table below outlines the allocations.

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Project funding RIA (to be carried forward to 22/23)	
DL 20-568	£27,757
DL 21-826	£13,370
Project funding RIA (to be carried forward to 22/23)	
P20-05 Oxon CC project	£51,850
P15-14 Cherwell DWS	£3,422
P22-01 NWD AONB heathland project	£7,180
P22-02 RT Biodiversity Gain Assessments	£11,846
Oxford City Wildlife Sites Review	£4,060
Bracknell Forest – Larges Lane Cemetery Survey	£580
P19-10 Berks LNP secretariat	£6,351
P19-11 OxEB secretariat	£3,920
Reserve	
Redundancy costs	£56,650
3 months running costs	£96,650
Enabling fund	
Habitats, Sites Maintenance BNG Readiness 18 mnth Project	£117,235
Service Improvements	£67,000
Website, Social Engagement Project	£14,550
Move & independence costs	£55,866

APPENDIX I – LWS SURVEY AND SELECTION

Panel decision	Meaning
Retain	Existing LWS resurveyed and designation as LWS confirmed
Accept	Proposed LWS surveyed and designated as LWS
Deselect	Existing LWS resurveyed and de-designated as LWS
Reject	Proposed LWS surveyed and not designated as LWS
Deferred	Insufficient information to make decision
Denotify	

OXFORDSHIRE SURVEYS

The following sites were taken to panel in 2021.

CHERWELL

Site code	Site name	Decision
33N02	Temple Mills Quarries	Retain
41Z02	Enslow marsh	Retain
44B01	Horley	Retain
51K08	Noke Wood and Sling Copse	Retain
52V01	Graven Hill	Retain
61H05	Muswell Hill Fields	Retain

WEST OXFORDSHIRE

Site code	Site name	Decision
21L02	Burford Wet grassland	Retain
21M01	Taynton Down Quarry	Retain
21M02	Field south of Dean Bottom	Add as extension
21M02.1	Dean Bottom	Retain
31M08	Park Cottage Hayfield	Retain
32T01-2	Grassland near Chalford Oaks	Retain
42C02	Whiteways Quarry	Retain
TBC	Fen near Chalford Oaks	Accept
TBC	Windrush Farm Bank	Reject

VALE OF WHITE HORSE

Site code	Site name	Decision
28Y09	Ridgeway verges, White HH SSSI	Accept
30A02	Buckland Marsh	Retain
38G02	Beech Wood, Westcot down	Retain & combine with adjacent LWS
38H02	Wixen Bush	Retain
40T05	Wytham Park	Accept
49F01	The Cuttings and Hutchins Copse	Defer
49J05	Appleton Upper Common	Retain

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

Site code	Site name	Decision
51K07	Cookes copse	Retain
51Q03	Upper Park Farm	Retain
60H04	Proposed extension to Waterstock Mill	Accept
67P08	Bottom Wood	Retain
67Z06	Tanker's Table Field	Retain
68F11	Holly Hill	Retain
68Q05	Parklane Shaw	Retain
68Q06.1	Edge Nippers Grove	Retain
78F01	Crowsley Park	Retain

BERKSHIRE SURVEYS

The following sites were taken to panel in 2021.

BRACKNELL FOREST

Site code	Site name	Decision
SU86M01	Broadmoor Bottom (part) + pLWS ext	Deselect
SU86M01	Butter Hill	Retain
SU87Q06	Long Copse	Retain

READING

Site code	Site name	Decision
SU67W02	Lousehill Copse + pLWS ext	Retain / Accept
SU77G04	Reading Cemetery	Already deselected

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

Site code	Site name	Decision
SU88X06	Greenway Corridor (inc York Stream)	Retain
SU97Y03	Datchet Common and Gravel Pits	Defer

WEST BERKSHIRE

Site code	Site name	Decision
SU36M02	Great Sadler's Copse	Retain
SU37D04	Coppington Down	Retain / Accept
SU37U01	Winterdown Bottom Down pLWS ext	Accept
SU37U06	East Garston & Winterdown Bottom Downs	Accept
SU46H05	Craven Hill	Retain
SU46P06	Woodspeen Meadows	Retain
SU46P08	Bagnor Bridge Field	Retain
SU46P16	Bagnor Bridge Field & Woodspeen Meadows	Accept
SU46X04	West Wood	Retain
SU56P06	Opposite Osgood's Holding	Retain
SU57G01	Long Grove	Retain
SU57J01	Dismantled Railway Line	Retain
SU57Z10	Holies Down	Retain

WOKINGHAM

Site code	Site name	Decision
NA	Proposed extension to Charvil Country Park	Accept
SU77K04	Rushey Way Pond + pLWS ext	Retain / Accept

SU77T06	Charvil Meadows	Accept
SU77X11	Charvil Country Park West & Charvil Meadows	Accept
SU78V08	Worley's Hill	Retain

APPENDIX II – TVERC RECORDING SCHEME PROJECTS

RIVER THAMES CONSERVATION TRUST BIRD ATLAS 2016 -2020

The Atlas project will map the presence, distribution, and relative abundance of birds across the whole of the River Thames catchment (682km²). This will help inform the strategic work of the River Thames Conservation Trust, identify (and support the designation of) possible new Local Wildlife Sites, support the Trust’s engagement with landowners and help identify priority areas for, and the design of, practical habitat creation projects.

The production of the Atlas is the culmination of an ambitious four-year Bird Atlas (in partnership with BTO in July 2020, achieving 99% survey coverage of 238 2km Tetrads in the catchment. The key highlights are:

- 76 volunteers carried out surveys
- 1,974 survey visits
- 32,900 records (data shared with TVERC & BMERC)
- 162 species recorded
- Over 7,525 volunteer hours (equiv. £160,000 in kind support)

The TVERC grant is a contribution and other project funders include the Bucks Bird Club, the Bucks & Milton Keynes Nature Environment Partnership, BMERC and the River Thame Conservation Trust itself.

COME FLY WITH ME: IMPROVING BUTTERFLY RECORDS IN THE HISTORIC WYCHWOOD FOREST

Butterfly records are almost non-existent in the historic Wychwood Forest area, there are no records at all for Wigwell Nature Reserve in Charlbury, for example. To address this, the Wychwood Forest Trust are partnering with Butterfly Conservation’s Upper Thames Branch to train 50 local volunteer ‘butterfly champions’ in butterfly recording and encourage them to complete a season of butterfly recording in the Wychwood area during 2022.

Volunteers will be given free, expert training sessions in five places (Charlbury, Witney, Eynsham, Shipton-under-Wychwood and Leafield). Training will be led by Roger Newman, an experienced butterfly recorder, with each session accommodating 10 volunteers.

The TVERC grant is being used to purchase equipment (3 butterfly nets and magnifying pots), 50 copies of the FSC British Butterflies Identification Guide and £1,000 towards the Wychwood Forest Trust's staff time.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE FARMLAND BIRD PROJECT – PHASE 4

The WOFBP aims to monitor bird populations and slow the declines of key farmland birds in West Oxfordshire. This effort includes using bird ringing surveys, nest recording and observational surveys to monitor the status of farmland bird populations. The number of sites they visit has grown from three farmland in 2016 to 22 sites in 2021. This was their fourth grant application.

The grant will provide funds for mist nests and bird rings for use in the 2022/23 ringing season.

BETTERLES OF OXFORDSHIRE

Dr Jonty Denton & John Campbell, voluntary species recorders, will be publishing an Atlas of the Beetles of Oxfordshire (both VC23 and the modern county) with maps and information on all known species. The Atlas will be in print format, published by Pisces. No complete work on the Beetles of Oxfordshire has been published since the Victoria County History in 1938.

John Campbell has been recording beetles countywide since the early 1980s; Jonty Denton has also been recording but principally collation and identifying material from all sources NBN, iRecord, museum collections, etc. The coverage is now at such level as to warrant publication i.e. the maps show meaningful patterns for most common to local taxa, and will be first point of call of anyone checking on statuses of species in the county.

The TVERC grant is a contribution towards the printing costs which are expected to be in the region of £8,000; the balance will be privately funded by the volunteers.



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