

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

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STATEMENT REGARDING DATA COVERAGE

For a variety of reasons, TVERC does not hold all existing biodiversity records for Berkshire & Oxfordshire. Such absence of records should not be taken as confirmation of the absence of a species in the area. TVERC is constantly striving to improve data coverage; we hold data on all species groups, and annually we add over 400,000 records to our database of over 4 million records. TVERC holds data on all species groups. However, we suggest that you **contact the following local recording groups** who may hold extra records that we do not have in our database, or that we do not have permission to share with full location information.

BIRDS RECORDS FOR BERKSHIRE

TVERC does have a data exchange agreement with the Berkshire Ornithological Club (BOC) but **cannot supply data for sensitive species during the breeding season (see list below) in data searches**. To request this data please use the following contact:

Berkshire Ornithological Club

Richard Burness, Recorder: records@berksoc.org.uk

Website: <http://berksoc.org.uk/>

Sensitive Species

Bittern
Little egret
Black redstart
Gadwall
Red-crested pochard
Marsh harrier
Hen harrier
Montagu's harrier
Goshawk
Hobby
Peregrine falcon
Quail
Corncrake
Oystercatcher
Stone-curlew
Little ringed plover
Eurasian curlew
Black-tailed godwit
Barn owl
Long-eared owl
Short-eared owl
Kingfisher
Nightjar
Wryneck Woodlark
Cetti's warbler
Marsh warbler
Wood warbler
Dartford warbler
Firecrest
Bearded tit

BIRD RECORDS FOR OXFORDSHIRE (OOS and BOS)

The majority of bird records in Oxfordshire, except those in the north of the county, have been provided by the Oxfordshire Ornithological Society (OOS). Please note that:

a. **Not all species are subject to the same degree of recording**; the absence of records of a species in a given geographical area does not necessarily indicate absence of that species.

b. **Not all parts of the county are subject to the same degree of recording**; the absence of records for a given area does not necessarily indicate the absence of bird species.

c. **Records of species regarded as sensitive** (see BOC list above) have been provided with reduced information about location.

Any requests for more precise information about the location of such “confidential” sites should be addressed directly to OOS (www.oos.org.uk) You can use the following email contacts chairman@oos.org.uk (the chairman) and ian@recorder.fsnet.co.uk (the county bird recorder).

For further bird information in **North Oxfordshire** (SP32-52, SP33-53, SP34-54, SP45) contact:

Banbury Ornithological Society

Mike Curnow, Bird Recorder and Data Manager

Email: bosdata@outlook.com

Website: <http://www.banburyornithologicalsociety.org.uk>

BERKSHIRE BAT RECORDS FROM THE BERKS AND SOUTH BUCKS BAT GROUP (BSBBG)

TVERC has data sharing agreements with the Berks and South Bucks Bat Group and holds its data. The group also holds relevant TVERC data. However, although TVERC can provide their records for data searches, they are **not permitted to provide full location information**. Similarly, the BSBBG can provide TVERC records, but without full location information. In addition, data exchange only happens annually, so both organizations will hold records not held by the other. We therefore strongly recommend that you request data from BSBBG in addition to ourselves. For full information on their records, please contact the BSBBG direct.

The Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group

Email: records@berksbats.org.uk

Data searches may be submitted via their website: www.berksbats.org.uk

BAT RECORDS FOR OXFORDSHIRE FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE BAT GROUP (OBG)

TVERC has a data sharing agreement with the Oxfordshire Bat Group, so both parties hold data belonging to the other. However, **neither can provide full location information** for records belonging to the other. Also, because data exchange only happens annually, each organization will hold records not held by the other, so we strongly recommend that you request data from both organizations.

For records held by the **Oxfordshire Bat Group** please contact:

David Endacott:

27 Hedge Hill Road, East Challow, Wantage, OX12 9SD

davidendacott@hotmail.com

BAT RECORDS BELONGING TO THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST (BCT)

Records provided by the Bat Conservation Trust and marked as BCT in the data origin column of the species table may be used at the spatial resolution provided for the purpose described in the data search request. However, this data **cannot be published** (viewed by third parties not party to the agreed data search terms & conditions) at full spatial resolution. Any record marked "hibernaculum" in the Record Type column of the species table must have its grid reference restricted to 10km and all other BCT records to 1km.

BERKSHIRE BADGER RECORDS FROM THE BINFIELD BADGER GROUP (BBG)

TVERC has data sharing agreements with the Binfield Badger Group and holds its data. The group also holds relevant TVERC data. However, although TVERC can provide their records for data searches, they are **not permitted to provide full location information**. Similarly, the BBG can provide TVERC records, but without full location information. In addition, data exchange only happens annually, so both organizations will hold records not held by the other. We therefore strongly recommend that you request data from BBG in addition to ourselves. For full information on their records, please contact the BBG direct.

Binfield Badger Group

PO Box 3805
Binfield
Berks
RG42 1HH

Email: badgers@binfieldbadgers.org.uk

OXFORDSHIRE BADGER RECORDS FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE BADGER GROUP (OBadG)

TVERC holds records from the Oxfordshire Badger Group (OBadG) and can only supply them to a **spatial resolution of 1km and with no further location information**. If further information is required, then the group should be contacted as below.

Oxfordshire Badger Group

For sett records: settrecords.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

For road traffic accident records: rtas.oxonbadgergroup@gmail.com

WILDLIFE TRUST WATER VOLE SURVEY RECORDS

Since 2008 water vole survey data has been collected as positive or negative sections of watercourses. Positive sections crossing into search areas are included within the data. These are shown with the central grid reference for the stretch of watercourse. This may fall outside the search area, but the stretch will be at least partly within the search area. The location information shows the beginning and end points of the stretch of watercourse.

SHOTOVER WILDLIFE RECORDS (SW)

Please note that TVERC does **NOT** hold records for the Shotover area that belong to Shotover Wildlife. Should you require access to these records, please contact the group directly.

Ivan Wright:

Email: irwright@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

USE OF NBN ATLAS DATA

Commercial organisations and members of the public may refer to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas for wildlife records and habitat and designated site information for their own private use.

Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that 'planning policies and decisions should be based on up-to-date information about the natural environment and other characteristics of the area'. **The NBN Atlas does not hold information on Local Wildlife Sites or priority habitats** in this area and there are restrictions on public access to the majority of species records available via the NBN, so ecology reports without a data search from TVERC are at risk of non-compliance with the NPPF.

TVERC have advised planning authorities in Berkshire and Oxfordshire that **ecology reports using only NBN data should not usually be validated** and the NBN has requested that suspected breaches of NBN terms and conditions are reported to the NBN Data Access Officer, who will take appropriate action. Further detail is available on our website: <http://www.tverc.org/cms/content/ecological-survey-reports-planning-applications>.

STATEMENT ON GRID REFERENCES

The following types of grid references are provided:

- **Six figure grid references.** Many of these will be an assigned relatively central grid reference for a site though with small sites the assigned grid reference for a site could be close to the edge. The record may have come from anywhere within the site. Where additional location information is provided the reference may be more accurate or central to a subsite within the larger site. Where the location is not site based, the grid reference should be within 100 metres of the location.
- **Four figure grid references.** Generally, these are 1km square records often with some location information to give an idea of which part of the 1km square the record was found. Sometime this information can be quite accurate. Where a large site is referred to the location should be in that part of the 1km square that is within the site. In some case these may be tetrad records with grid reference referring to a 2km x 2km square. This includes some confidential records from Oxford Ornithological Society. Other tetrad data is rarely included.
- **Eight and ten figure grid references:** These are generally accurately worked out to the location where the species was found. However, for small and narrow sites eight figure grid references may be used as a central grid reference for a site.
- TVERC intends to start tagging data to qualify these grid references but at present only a limited amount of qualification is provided. 1km square records are tagged as 1km record and 2km square records are tagged as 2km record.