

Local Record Centre Business Model Study

Natural England

Brief

Local records centres (LRCs) collect, collate, manage and disseminate information relating to the wildlife, wildlife sites and habitats for a defined geographical area. This is used to support activities such as strategic planning, development control, conservation management, monitoring and reporting.

The business model for LRCs has two components: core overheads that underpin a range of uses and delivering services to specific uses. As a result the LRCs are often focused on uses which will provide a financial return, this may restrict alternative uses of their data (due to the risk of their core business being undermined). This research is to gain insight into the scale of the basic costs and also the uses/services that are currently underpinning this.



Activities

- Identification of uses and users
- Consultation with key stakeholders
- Structured interviews with LRCs
- Modelling of costs and services



Outcome

The study was influenced by the lack of research into costs and activities at LRCs.

The interviews with the 12 LRCs generated a range of detailed information. This included information on the contribution of volunteers, nature of in-kind benefits, extent and value of SLAs, cost of producing data reports.

A key output was an activity schedule outlining where LRCs spent their time.

The client commented, *"a very good piece of work...draws out some surprising facts, ...well done."*

