

# North East Local Biodiversity Recording Regional Review

## Natural England

### Brief

BE Group was commissioned by Natural England to review local record centre (LRCs) services in the North East of England. LRCs collate and manage biological data. This is used to inform sustainable planning and economic development, as well as to improve understanding of climate change. The data is supplied to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) that was set up by Defra to promote biodiversity.

The project had four main objectives:

- Achieve the efficient and sustainable management of LRCs and biological data
- Promote consistent data collection and management
- Increase geographic and taxonomic coverage
- Raise awareness of biological recording, and increase its use in decision making.



### Activities

- Review of ERIC and DBDS record centres
- Stakeholder workshops
- Data audits (taxonomy, coverage, application, etc)
- Consultations with users and potential users
- Consultations with data providers
- Gap analysis
- Project identification and prioritisation
- Action plan.



### Outcome

The study helped catalyse efforts to consolidate DBDS with ERIC to create a unified regional LRC.

The stakeholder workshop helped identify potential users of the data and communicated the potential benefits and capabilities of ERIC.

A number of projects were generated for ERIC/DBDS to take forward:

- ERIC/DBDS consolidation
  - ERIC/DBDS data sharing
  - Partnering with local planning authorities/statutory agencies
  - Working with recorders and recorder groups
  - Working with ecological consultants
- IT/Systems efficiency improvements
  - Streamlining data searches
  - Website improvements
  - Online data portal
- Surveying local wildlife sites and developing the recorder base.

