

South Yorkshire LRC Harmonisation Project

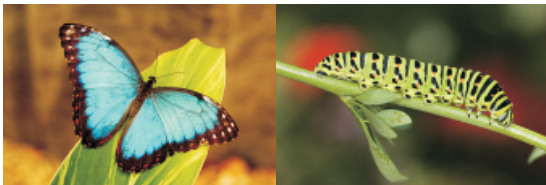
Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Partners

Brief

BE Group was commissioned by Sheffield Wildlife Trust and partners, to identify an appropriate model to harmonise the Local Record Centres (LRCs) in South Yorkshire. LRCs collate and record biological data to inform the protection of biodiversity. The study covered four local authority areas: Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley. The study was supported by Defra and Natural England, who identified the need for nationally consistent biological dataset to support policy and planning decision making in order to protect biodiversity.

The key objectives were :

- Secure the future of the LRCs
- Ensure full LRC coverage across South Yorkshire (Barnsley is currently not covered)
- Promote consistent and accredited data standards
- Integrate the LRCs into the Yorkshire & Humber Environmental Data Network (YHEDN).
- Promote understanding of the need for LRCs among local authority decision makers.



Activities

The methodology was designed to maximise commitment and ownership of the study among local stakeholders. An Interim Report summarised options identified through consultations and a stakeholder workshop undertaken in March 2009. These were tested to identify a preferred option, which was presented to local authority decision makers. An Implementation Group, made up of local authority officers and other stakeholders, was established to steer the options and content of the presentations, in order to secure greatest buy-in.



Outcome

Sheffield, Doncaster and Rotherham have confirmed they will continue to host an LRC function within their authorities. Barnsley has also agreed to establish and fund an LRC function, to be hosted by one of the existing South Yorkshire LRCs. All four authorities will be linked to, or have their data hosted by, the Yorkshire and Humber Environmental Data Network.

All four authorities have signed a Position Statement that pledges their commitment to LRC delivery and identifies the next steps to be taken by each local authority.

