BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SERVICE
FOR POWYS AND BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK
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POWYS A PHARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG

Standard Products and Services available from BIS

Biodiversity Enquiry Service – a search within user defined geographical area. Includes report on species and habitats and designated sites, categorised to follow a range of International, European, national and locally recognised statuses.

Species

Four categories of species have been defined to support this service and are standardised with LRC Wales:-

- Priority - Species with European and UK Legal Protection, Section 42 [NERC] Species & UK BAP Priority Species)
- Species of Conservation Concern - Global Red List, British Red Data Book, Nationally Rare & Scarce, Welsh Red and Amber Birds & Welsh Vascular Plant Red Data List where these are not identified in Priority category
- Local - LBAP Species not identified as Priority or SOCC. Locally Important species as specified by local experts
- Other – all other species records that do not fit above criteria

Also included in reports are:-

- Mobile - high priority species (e.g. mammals, amphibians, certain invertebrates) records which lie outside the specified search area, but which should be taken into account in ecological assessment due to the possibility of their using land within the search area as part of the territory, or for part of their life cycle. [BIS will report on mobile species where the buffer of the species intersects the buffer of the application site if the buffer is less than 2km around application site.]

Habitats

BIS reports on the occurrence of any known semi-natural habitats in the relevant search areas that could contain Section 42 Priority habitats, using CCW Phase 1 and Phase II habitat survey data. In addition users are alerted to the presence of ancient woodland using the CCW Ancient Woodland Inventory.

Sites

BIS reports on statutory and local sites within the relevant search areas. These include, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas for Conservation, Special Protection Areas and National Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites

GIS Plot

As well as a report on above BIS will provide a GIS plot displaying points (e.g. for species occurrence), or polygons (e.g. for habitat types). This plot can be provided as a pdf interactive map, allowing the user to switch GIS layers on and off, plus querying the features attributes.
See BIS website www.b-l-s.org for a sample of interactive pdf map and tutorial.
http://www.b-i-s.org/files/BIS Test Site.pdf
http://www.b-i-s.org/files/PDF Layers and Feature Attributes.pdf

Planning List Checking Service - Planning authorities can submit selected applications or lists of all planning applications for biodiversity searches to an agreed set of criteria, to include species, site and brief habitat audit. This service can be extended for Local Development Plan checking. May be provided in standard or HTML drill-down report.

GIS Alert layers – A sub-section of species and site data held by the LRCs can be supplied as Alert Layers, tailored to the customers needs. These are then held readily available in the customers IT system and can be mapped on to OS base maps using a variety of GIS software, (ESRI, Mapinfo). As part of the service, the LRC will supply regular updates, which will incorporate any additions made to the reporting database used at the LRC. This can be provided as an individual or Wales LRC service through a Data Licence Agreement.

Data management - Collation and management of species and habitat data to include data exchange with VC recorders for verification and management of data exchange with NBN Gateway

Digitisation service –

- Digitisation of Phase1/NVC habitat data or site boundaries into GIS format.
- Input of species records from paper format into electronic format.
- Retrieval of data held in obsolete electronic formats

Support of Local Biodiversity Action Plans - through providing baseline species and habitat data, species and habitat audits, and statistics for BARS.

Enhanced services

GIS Data analysis and modelling –

- Species distribution – maps showing distribution of individual species or taxon group by grid square.
- Habitat fragmentation and connectivity modelling
- Probability of occurrence and metapopulation modelling
- Hydrological analysis (model the movement of water across a surface)
- Erosion analysis (model of the erosion and deposition across a surface)
- Use of open source GIS programs ie GRASS GIS, Quantum GIS and Postgre SQL
- Use of GIS for other (non-biological) data and analysis

Management of habitat or species surveys - BIS can oversee surveying and recording projects on request

Voluntary recorders services

BIS also offers, without charge, additional services to local recorders including:-

- biological recording software and IT advice
- digitisation of paper records
- species distribution maps and help in Atlas production
- biennial recorders newsletter
- Recorders Forum
- recorder field days
- website
- taxonomic identification and recording training days