

Biodiversity recording in Hampshire and the New Forest

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Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre>

www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire



The services we provide influence what data we collect and collate and how it is used

- Established in 2002 and hosted by Hampshire County Council
- **26 Funding Partners** (LPAs, EA, FE, HIWWT, Utilities)
 - Habitat Surveys to NVC level c300 sites per year (primarily outside the Open Forest)
 - Provision of Data – Priority habitat mapping, Notable species, SINC boundaries & supporting data
 - Screening planning applications (c12,000/yr – 29% flagged for Hampshire, 35% flagged for NFNPA/DC)
 - Selection and monitoring of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation – now 4,136 (15% within NFNPA/DC)
- Data searches – c900/yr – developers, landowners, local groups etc.
- Projects: Ecological Network Mapping, Mapping Ancient Woodlands <2ha, SPA monitoring, SSSI Condition Assessments, BNG assessments

Habitat Surveys and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

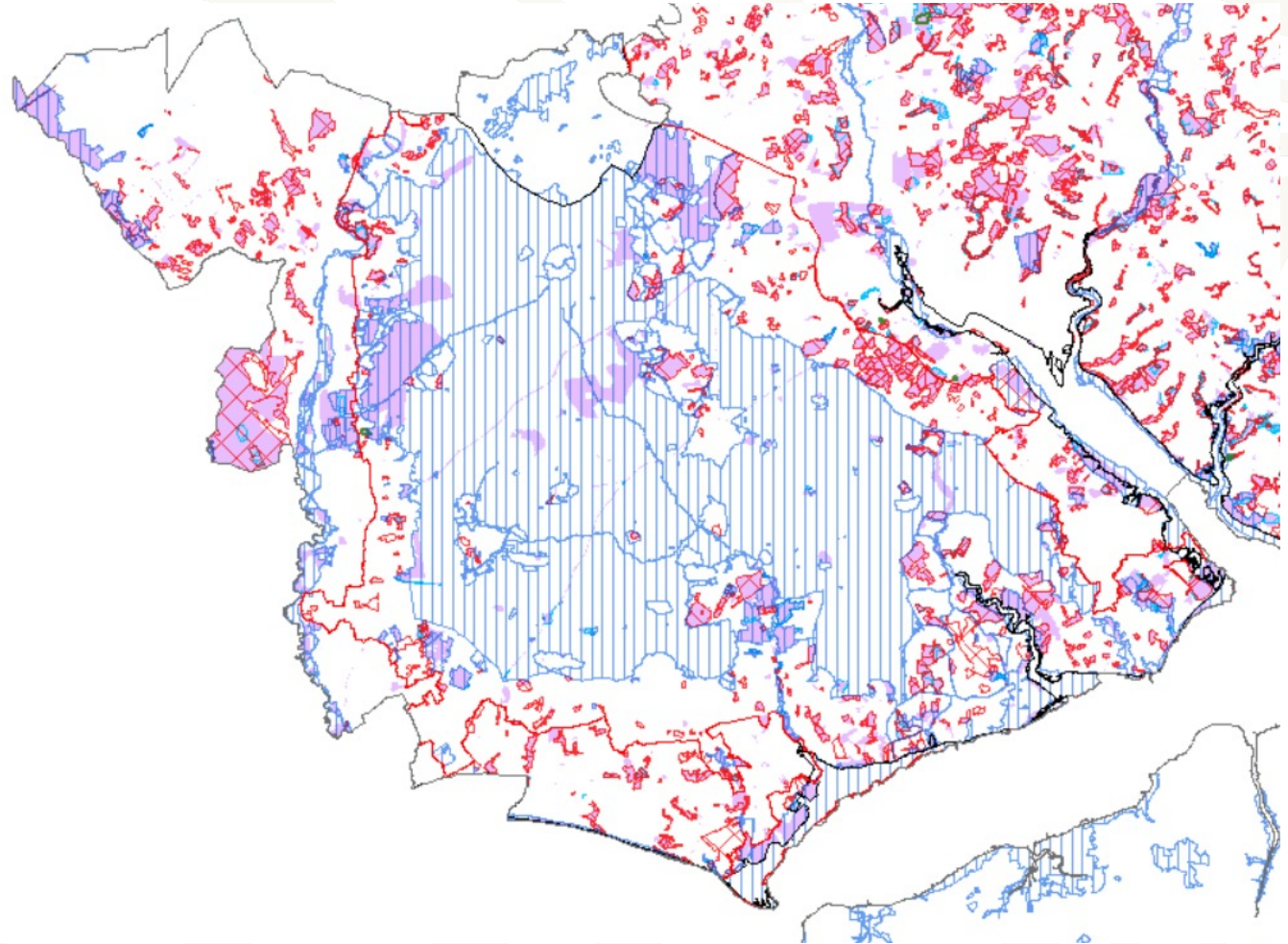


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There is a lower coverage of SINCs (red hatch) and corresponding habitat surveys (purple) in the New Forest area relative to the rest of Hampshire due to the extent of SSSI in the area. 7% of the area compared to 13% across Hampshire.

However, in terms of numbers they still account for 15% of all SINCs. Most are small meadows and ancient copses.

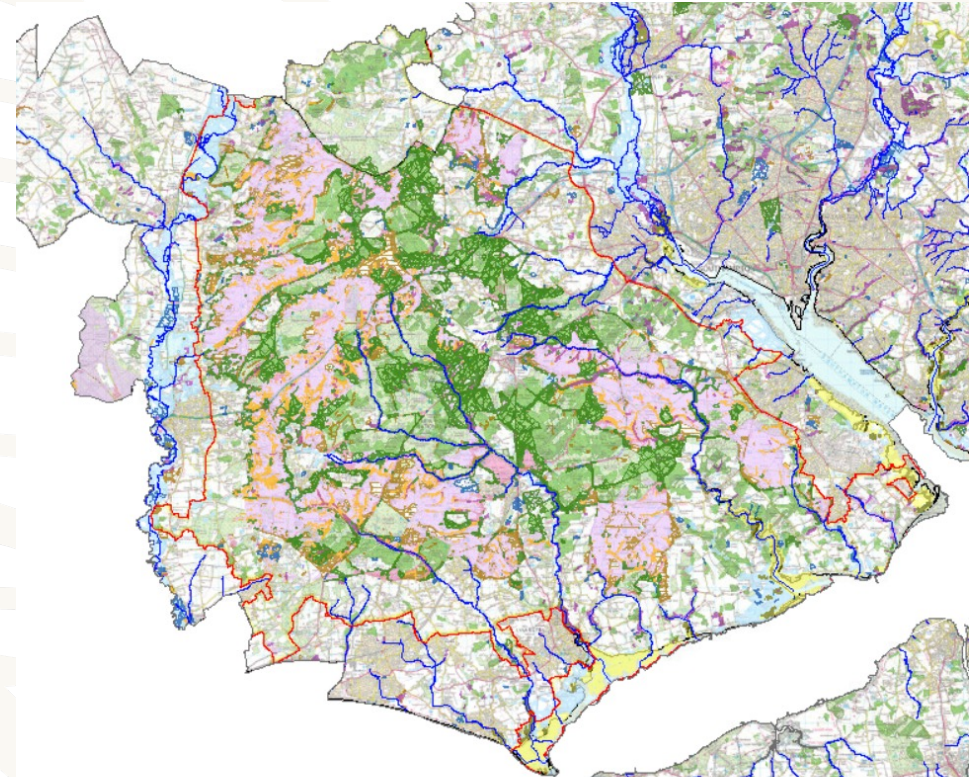
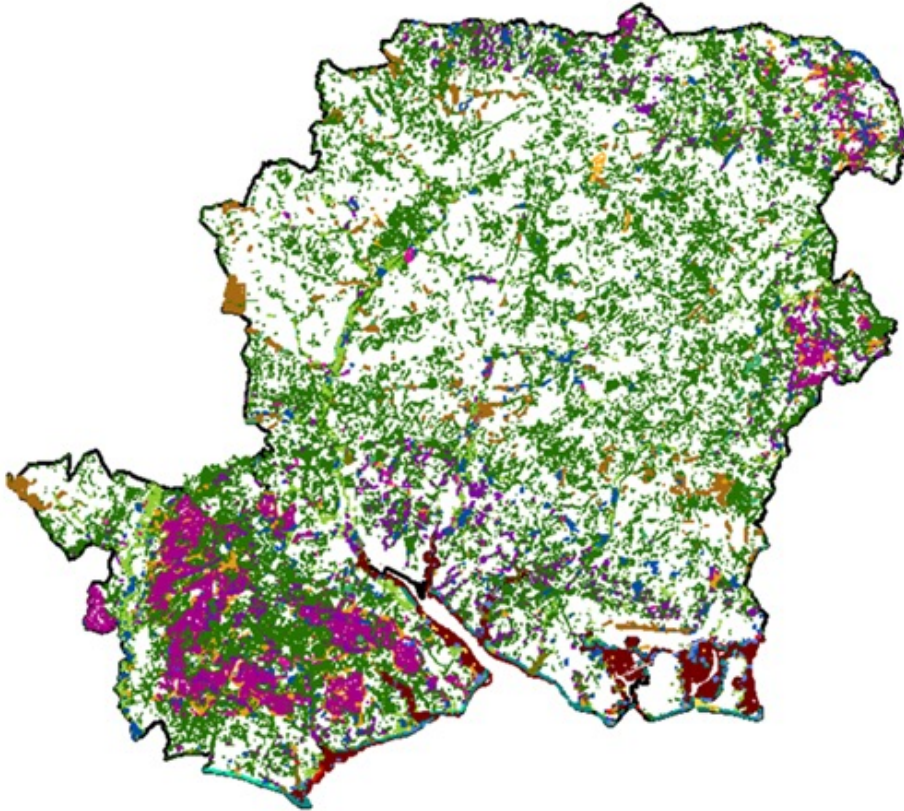
HBIC are currently mapping all ancient woodlands below 2ha across Hampshire



Habitat data



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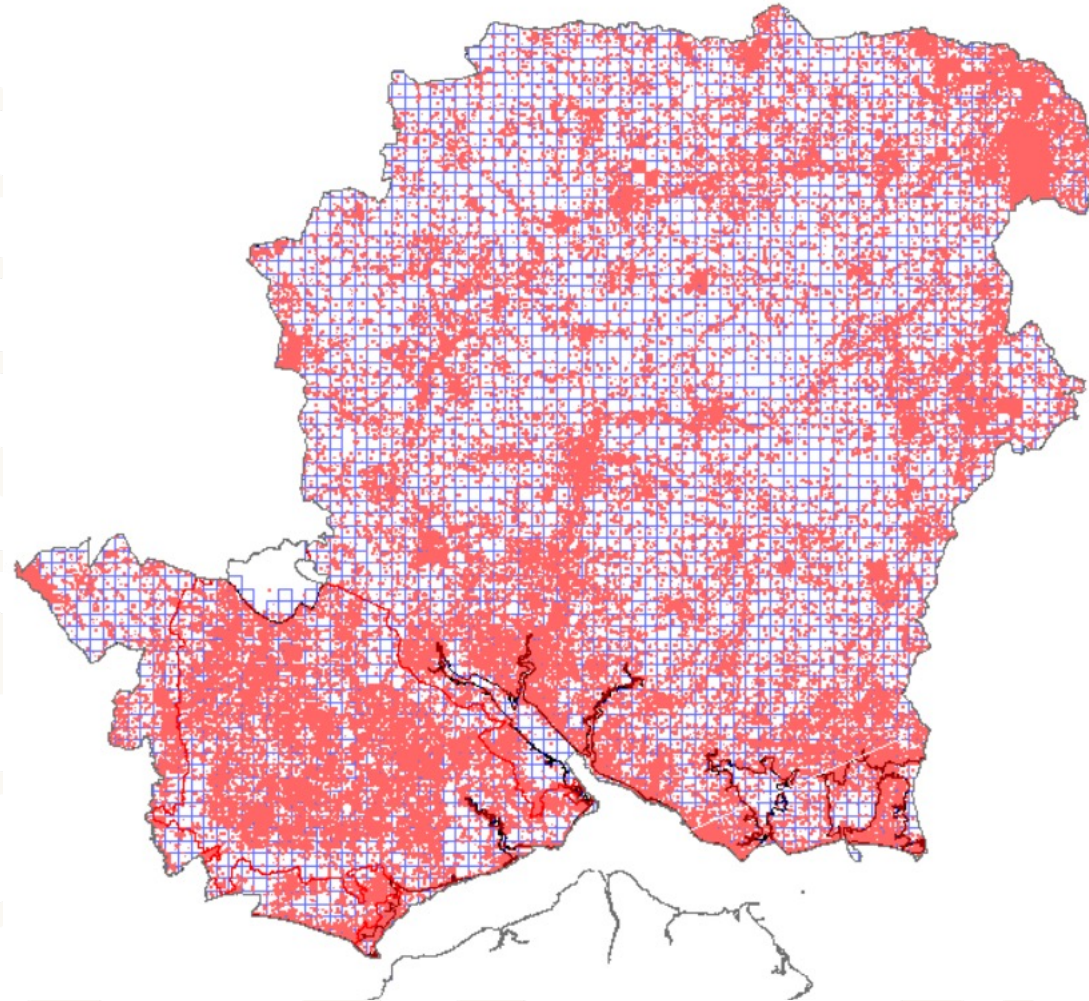
s41 Priority habitats are extracted from a 'Broad habitat' layer and provided to funding partners, developers and landowners. The data will form the basis of the Local Habitat Map within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Habitat Network (Opportunity) Model



Species data

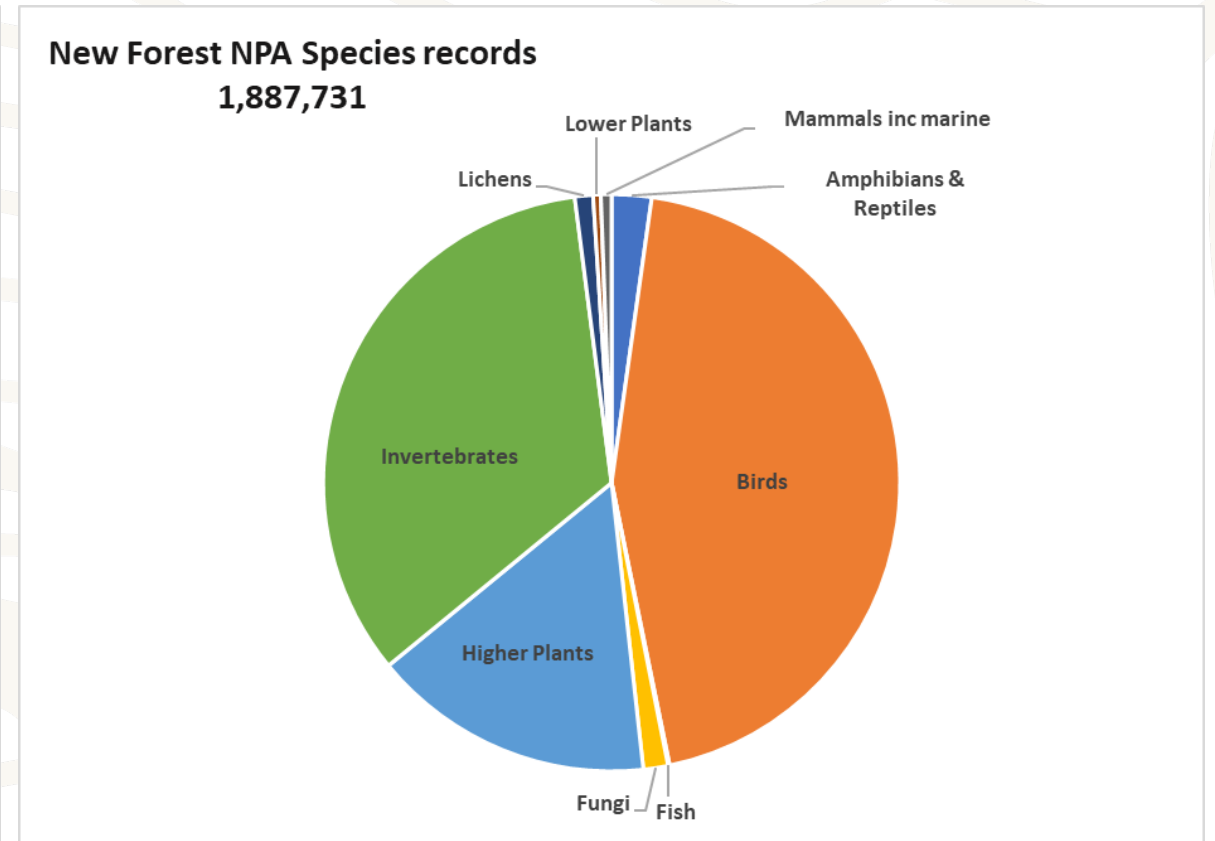
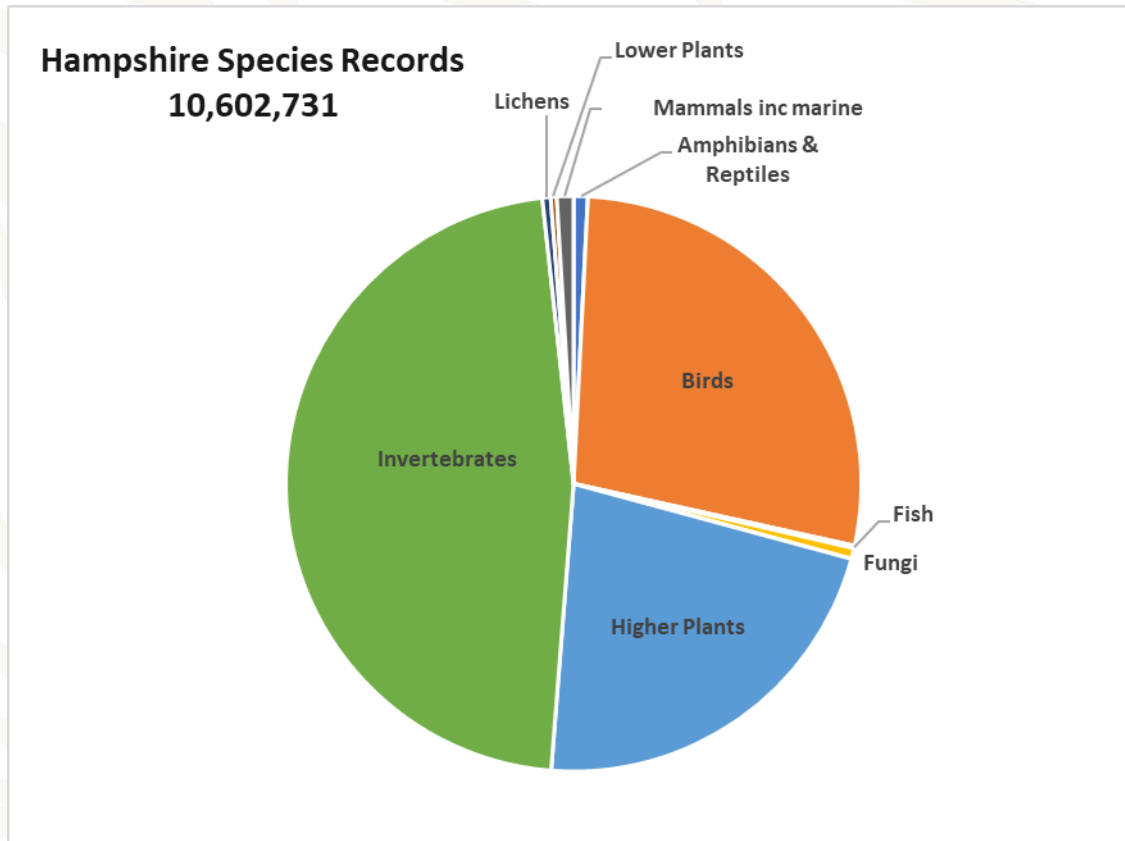
- Data Exchange Agreements with the Hampshire Species Recording Groups and National Schemes & Societies
- Hampshire - 10,602,591 species records covering 23,461 species. 20% of all records are of notable species
- NFNPA - 1,887,731 species records (18%) covering 13,875 species (**59%**). **30% of all records are of notable species**

Key gaps : Mites and ticks, Spiders, Centipedes, Millipedes, Algae and Stoneworts. Diptera & beetles are under recorded, and we are lacking recent hymenoptera records (awaiting national agreement between ALERC and BWARS)



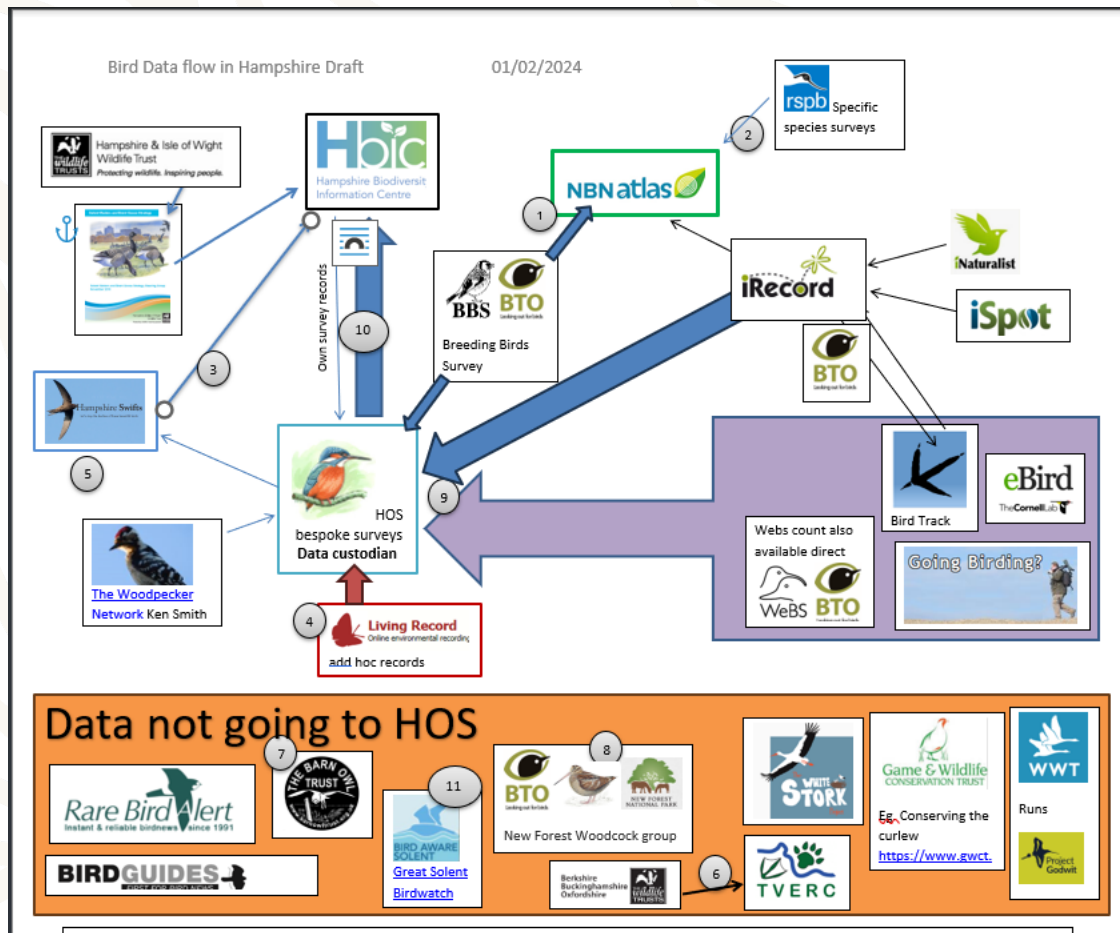


Species Records – recording effort



Within the New Forest National Park – a greater proportion of bird, fungi and herptile records

Complexities of data flow



Take home messages:

The fewer the number of species within a taxon group the more complex the data flow and number of organisations involved!

HBIC is not the custodian of these records. Responsibility for verification remains with the species recording group.

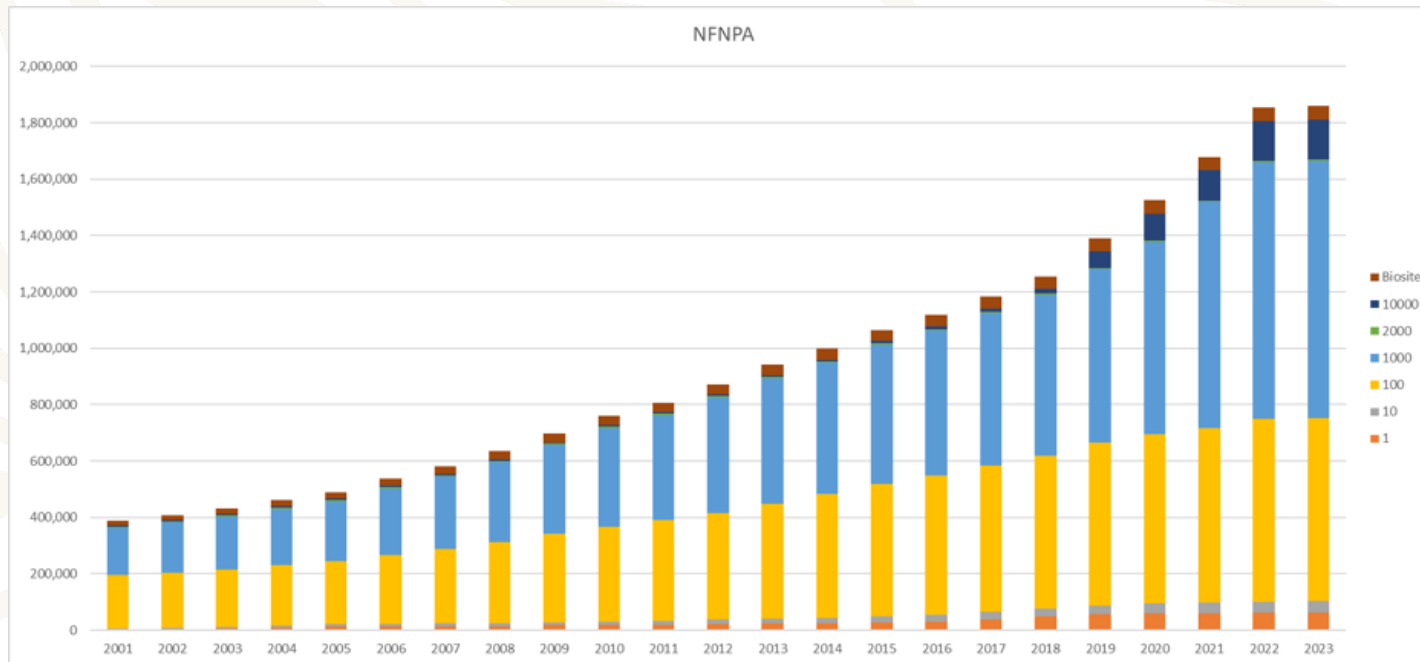
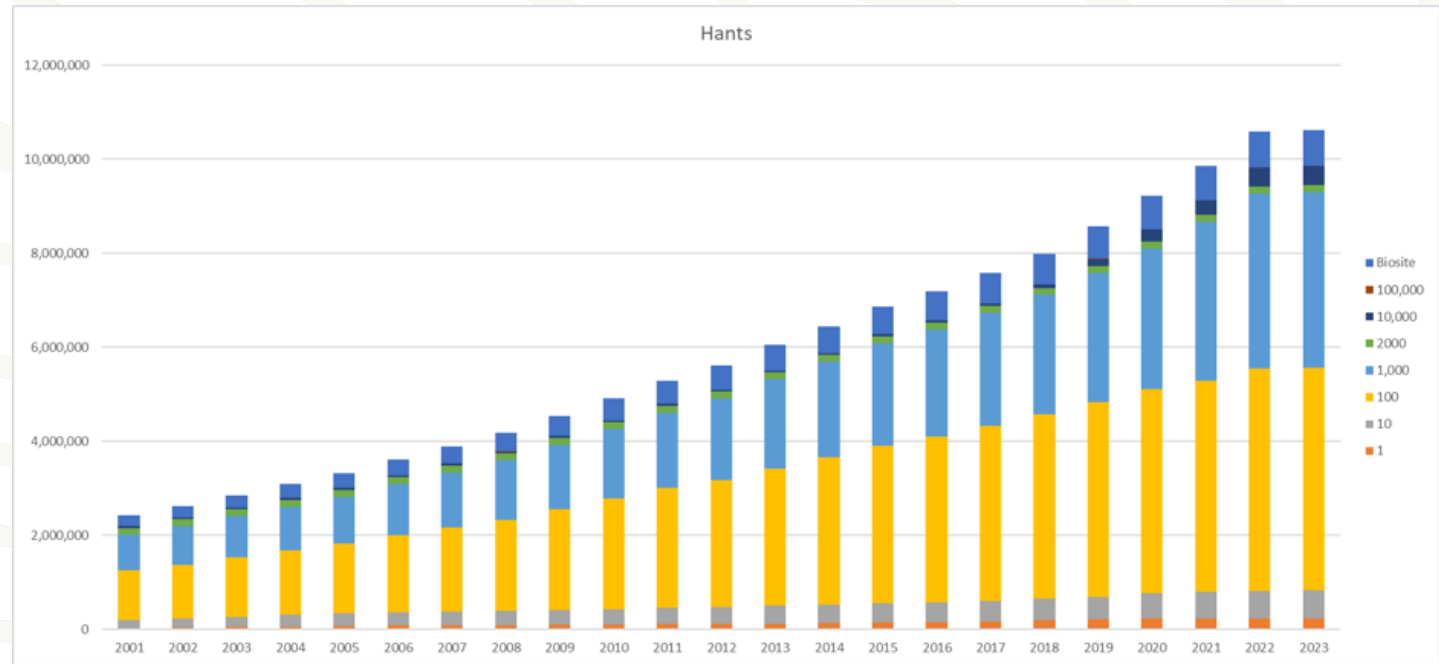
HBIC will spot any inconsistencies and relay them back to the Group so corrected records are imported back to HBIC the next time – usually once or twice a year

Important not to have duplicate records in the system but better to have them than not to have the records at all!

Records from environmental consultancies will only reach HBIC if the consultancies submit them via the various platforms or direct to the species groups. HBIC do not 'harvest' records from consultancy reports that are submitted with planning applications due to copyright restrictions

Resolution of records

HAMPSHIRE	2001	2011	2021
1m & 10m	8%	9%	8%
100m	44%	48%	46%
1000m	32%	30%	34%
2000m+	8%	4%	4%
Biosites	8%	8%	8%



NFNP	2001	2011	2021
1m & 10m	1%	4%	6%
100m	49%	44%	37%
1000m	44%	46%	48%
2000m+	2%	1%	7%
Biosites	4%	5%	3%

The finer the resolution the more useful it is for planning and conservation purposes

Trends

Simple trends showing total number of records by year

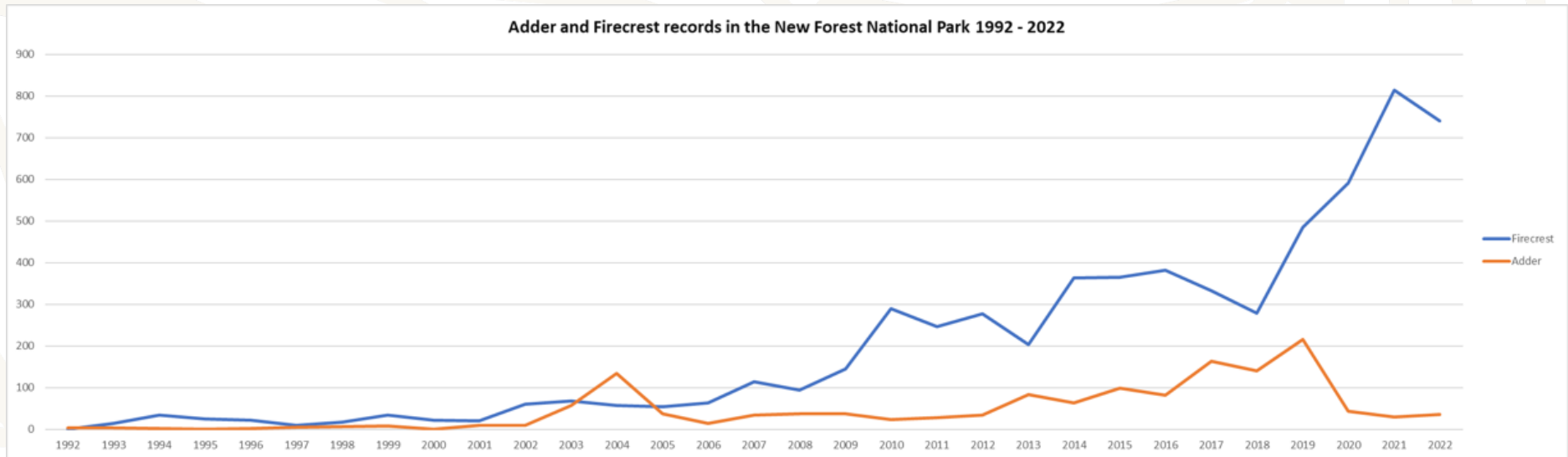
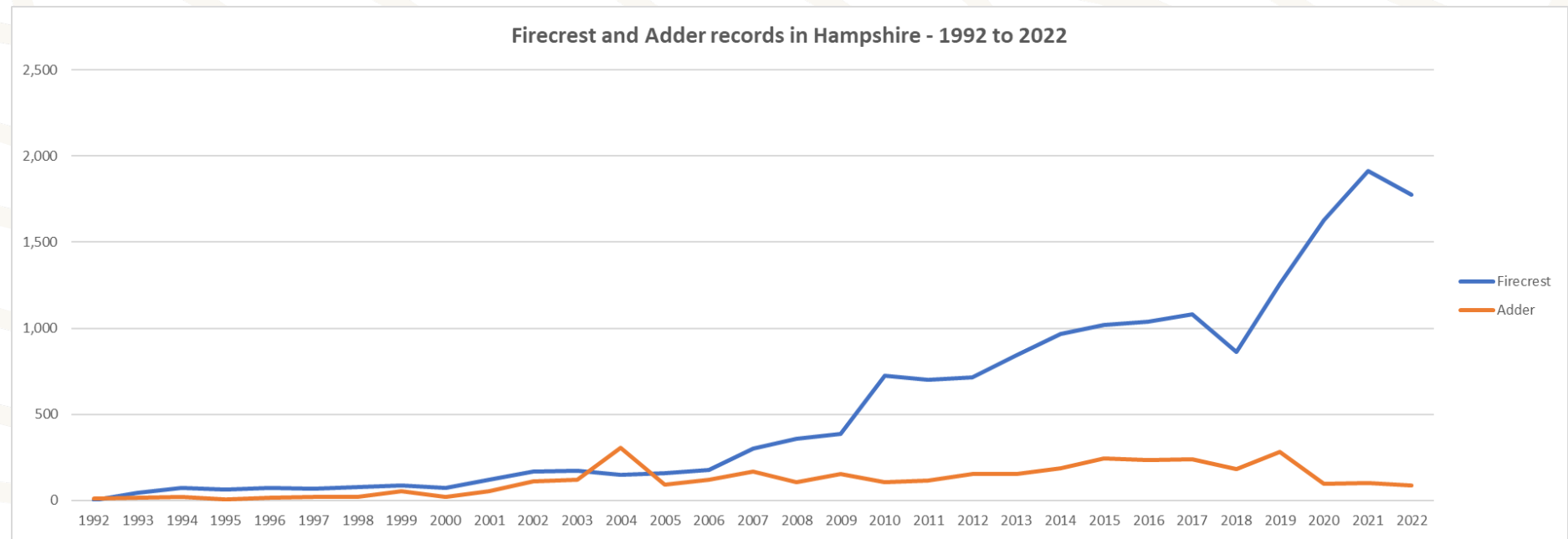
Firecrest – continued expansion in numbers and range across Hampshire and the New Forest.

Slight drop off observed both in Hampshire and the New Forest in 2022?

Climate change cause for expansion?

Adder – relatively stable, slowly increasing until 2019, now showing a marked decline, more so in the New Forest

Cause - loss, fragmentation and degradation of their habitats, and increasing recreational pressure?





The Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Introduced by the Environment Act 2021, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new system of spatial plans for nature recovery covering the whole of England. They will be a key mechanism for planning and delivering the [National Nature Recovery Network](#) and will consist of:

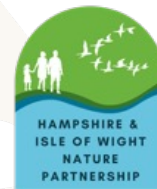
- A Local Habitat (baseline) Map – covering designated sites and priority habitats
- A Statement of Biodiversity Priorities
- A map showing opportunities for nature recovery – using the NE Habitat Network Model
- A map showing current initiatives, project areas etc.

Defra intend these strategies to be reviewed and updated every ‘3-10’ years

As well as having a role in the planning system and directing public funding for nature recovery (including ELMs), each Strategy will inform the delivery of ‘nature-based solutions’ for outcomes such as flood management, carbon sequestration and improvements in water quality.



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LNRS – Species Recovery - prioritisation



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Create an “LNRS Species Long List” and from that an “LNRS Species Priorities List” through a three-part prioritisation methodology.

The Long List must comprise any native species:

- which have been assessed as Red List Threatened against IUCN criteria – i.e. Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), or Critically Endangered (CR). Also consider as Red List Near Threatened
- which have not been formally assessed against IUCN Red List criteria but where strong evidence is provided to show that they would meet the criteria for Threatened status
- considered to be nationally extinct that re-establish themselves or are rediscovered
- which NE suggest as suitable candidates for conservation translocation, or are already subject to translocation efforts

We’ve also included Red/Amber birds, other S41 species and ‘Hampshire Responsible’ species. We can also consider other species of ‘local significance’ such as iconic species which may act as a strong flagship / indicator for wider ecosystem improvement.

Government expects the Species Long List to comprise 150 and 500 species. We’ve arrived at **1700 species**. The key species recording groups are helping to whittle that list down to a Priority List which we will then go out to wider consultation. Then we have to place species or species assemblages into ‘habitat delivery classes’ and propose potential measures for their recovery:

- Landscape scale/bigger/better/more joined up;
- Targeted habitat management (esp. for any species assemblages);
- Bespoke single species action; and
- Those requiring improvements in environment quality such as water quality etc.