

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre Metadata Statement

1. Overview

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre collates and manages species and habitat data for Essex both from within its reserves, and for the wider landscape. We also work with partner organisations to collate and disseminate other datasets for Essex. However other organisations in Essex also supply data and should also be contacted to obtain a complete data search for Essex. More details are below.

If you notice any inaccuracies or omissions in the data provided please contact us.

2. Temporal Coverage

Please see the table below for details of individual taxonomic groups, and the metadata supplied with ArcGIS mapping files for information on the date that individual layers were last modified. The protected species data supplied by Essex Wildlife Trust will usually cover the last 15 years prior to supply, but older data is available on request.

3. Geographical Coverage

The geographic area covered by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre includes:

- The modern administrative County of Essex;
- Unitary authorities within the historic County of Essex (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council);
- Vice-Counties 18 (South Essex) and 19 (North Essex);
- Maritime extensions of Vice-Counties 18 and 19 to the 12 mile limit.

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre may also hold limited data from outside these areas if relevant to Essex, for example data from watercourses draining into rivers within the areas above, or data on highly mobile species near the Essex boundary. However for records outside the areas above the relevant Local Environmental Records Centre for the county should always be contacted. A list of neighbouring records centres and contact details can be found on our website: <http://www.essexwtrecords.org.uk/LRCs>.

Please see the metadata supplied with ArcGIS mapping files for details of the geographic coverage of individual GIS datasets.

4. Quality of Records

Data is validated on receipt and all data stored either on our main database or on our online systems will have gone through validation checks at point of entry. Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre aims to meet the code of conduct guidelines for data supply to consultants by Local Environmental Record Centres in the East of England. Where we do not have access to a dataset or do not have permission to supply it we will state this in our metadata statement.



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Not all of our data is currently verified but all data in our database or online systems will have a verification status and data source attached to it so that the user can make an informed decision on the quality of the data. Please contact us if you require further information about a particular dataset. More details on the verification status of our data are included in the taxonomic summary below.

5. Further Information

Species data:

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre holds and shares data from Essex Wildlife Trust and its subsidiaries, and from our partner organisations. A list of our partner organisations can be found on our website. However we do not hold records from all recording organisations within Essex, and therefore anyone wishing to obtain a comprehensive dataset should also contact the other recording groups within Essex, and national data sources. Contact details of other national and local recording groups can be found on the resources and links section of our website.

Data on protected species is based on the taxon designation information on the JNCC summary of designated species, available online at:

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/>. Please see this website for further details of the designations. For details of individual species designations please see the attributes tables in ArcGIS files. Information on the abbreviations used in the attributes tables is supplied in a separate document along with this data where appropriate.

Habitat data:

Please note that Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre is unable to provide habitat information as ArcGIS mapping files unless the recipient has provided a valid Ordnance Survey (OS) license number, due to OS licensing restrictions.

Designated sites data for all of England (E.g. SSSI's NNRs) and other geographic information can be downloaded directly without charge from the MAGIC website: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>, although we can provide this data tailored to your requirements as part of our standard data provision service. More information can also be found on Natural England's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>.

Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) information can be found on the LoWS pages of our website: <http://www.essexwtrecords.org.uk/LoWSHome>. Use the LoWS finder tool on these pages to find out basic information on all the LoWS in Essex. Full citation information on Local Wildlife Sites (also known as County Wildlife Sites in some counties) in Essex is also available online to our partner organisations, or by contacting us directly. Boundary information for Local Wildlife sites is available as an ArcGIS Shapefile produced to the guidelines set out for capture of Local Sites boundaries for Local Records Centres.

Local Geological Sites (LoGS) in Essex are the geological equivalent of Local Wildlife Sites, and are known as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) in some counties. The criteria for the selection of LoGS have been developed and the first Local Geological Sites for Essex are currently in the process of being designated. The Local Sites Partnership will provide further information as it

becomes available, please contact John More, Essex Wildlife Trust Local Wildlife Sites Officer for details (johnm@essexwt.org.uk).

Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre holds further information on Special Roadside Verges on a separate database. For detailed information on Special Roadside Verges in Essex please contact us directly. A special Roadside Verges mapping layer is available as an ArcGIS Shapefile produced to guidelines set out for capture of Local Sites Boundaries for Local Records Centres.

Essex Wildlife Trust is able to digitise Phase 1 and BAP habitat data according to demand where resources and information allow. If you would like to obtain or improve data for a particular BAP habitat and are able to contribute funding to cover staff time to digitise data please contact us. Limited Phase 1 data and datasets on the following BAP habitats are available:

Ancient Woodlands
Wet Woodlands
Traditional Orchards
BAP Grasslands

Detailed habitat data is also available from river corridor walkover surveys carried out by Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex Biodiversity Project, in partnership with the Environment Agency. This work was undertaken to meet the Water Framework Directive standards for river quality. A summary of the data held is available from the Essex Rivers Hub: <http://www.essexrivershub.org.uk/>. Historic species datasets from river corridor surveys are also available free of charge from the NBN Gateway. More details on this and other datasets are available here: <http://www.essexwtrecords.org.uk/info>.

6. Confidential data

Confidential data held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre is governed by the terms of individual licensing agreements with the data providers. Such datasets may only be available at limited resolution; if you require more detailed information on the data, please contact the data provider directly.

Under the terms of our license with Natural England to release Bat Roost data to partners, we have limited the resolution of this data to four figure grid references unless the recipient is listed as a conservation partner and has agreement from Natural England to view data at full (six figure) resolution. If you wish to obtain data at full resolution please contact Natural England directly, details of who to contact can be obtained from Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre on request.

Other restricted datasets:

- Thames Harbour Porpoise survey dataset – restricted to 10km resolution
- UK Wild Otter Trust dataset – restricted access for sensitive records, see individual records for details

7. Data Security

Records are currently held on a Recorder 6 database on a designated computer with limited staff access. This database is backed up on a regular basis. Original and formatted copies of data received by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre are placed in an archive folder and saved to the Essex Wildlife Trust server in

a limited access folder. Sensitive or restricted datasets are password protected to limit access.

Data submitted via the Essex Wildlife Trust online recording systems are held and managed by the Biological Records Centre <http://www.brc.ac.uk/> on our behalf.

Individual taxonomic groups. Please note: this is not an exhaustive list. For details of particular taxa please contact us.

Taxa	Temporal coverage of records	Total number of records	Resolution summary	Available Records	Significant omissions
Amphibians & reptiles	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Records from Essex Wildlife Trust surveys, Great Crested Newt license returns and Froglife data are available plus data from individual recorders	Data from Essex Amphibian and Reptile group is not held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Birds	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution where appropriate	Essex Wildlife Trust data is available for reserves and Living Landscape areas. Data from individual recorders and targeted surveys is available for some areas but may not be independently verified.	Data from national schemes and from Essex Birdwatching Society is not held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Fish	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Environment Agency data is available for some catchments	Data is currently limited for Essex
Fungi & lichen	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Essex Wildlife Trust data and data from individual recorders are available. Data is generally considered to be of good quality but may not be independently verified.	Full data from county recorders is not held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Marine species	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution where appropriate	Cetacean stranding data is available and marine sightings from Essex Wildlife Trust and Essex Biodiversity Project.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Non-vascular plants	1800s to Present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Hymenoptera	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre

Terrestrial invertebrates: Coleoptera	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Butterflies	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – almost all data held at 100m resolution or above	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available including UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme data for EWT sites and county data from Butterfly Conservation. All data gathered from online sources is verified by the Essex county recorder or expert from Butterfly Conservation	Data from Essex Field Club is not held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Odonata	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Diptera	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Moths	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial invertebrates: Other	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution or more	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available, including invasive crayfish data.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
Terrestrial mammals	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – most data available at 100m resolution. Data on bat roosts may have restricted resolution.	Data from Essex Wildlife Trust is available including comprehensive Otter, Mink and Water Vole records from the Riversearch survey programme. Dormouse records from the National Dormouse Database are available. Data from Essex Bat Group and Natural England volunteer bat roost counts are available. Data can be considered to be of good quality and the majority is independently verified.	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust. Data from Essex badger groups is not held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre

Vascular Plants	To present	See attributes tables for details	1km resolution – more accurate locations may be available on individual records. Data on veteran trees is available to 10m resolution.	Data on veteran trees from the Woodland Trust and Epping Forest District council is available. Data from Essex Wildlife Trust and partner organisations is available, including invasive species data collected during Essex river corridor surveys	Data from county recorders is not currently held by Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre
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