

Each square is divided again into 1km squares. Use 0 – 9 again to give a 4 figure grid reference e.g. TL 95 36.

Each 1km square can be divided yet again and this gives a more accurate reference - a six figure reference TL 954 367 which is most useful to us. If you can't pinpoint exactly where you are a 4 figure reference is still useful to us.

One way to remember which number to note first is :

'You have to learn to walk along the flat before you can climb the stairs.'

If you have a GPS then please use it – we can take 8 figure grid references etc!

When? This is the date you saw the plant or animal – please tell us the day, month and year. (If you can't remember the precise day, the month and year are acceptable)

Once completed, please send in your records to us – you can do this as often as you want or on a yearly basis.

If you have any queries please contact us.

Kate Hayward kateh@essexwt.org.uk

Essex Wildlife Trust
Abbotts Hall Farm
Great Wigborough,
Colchester,
ESSEX CO5 7RZ

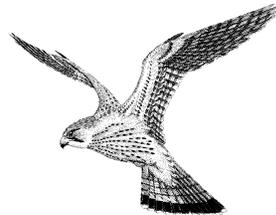
Phone:01621 862960

Website: www.essexwt.org.uk

Kate Hayward 2008

Graphics

© Natural England 2000



*Essex Wildlife Trust
Company Registered
No 638666*

*Registered Charity
No 210065*

*Vat Registered
No 623 092072*

Why Record?

Your Guide to Biological Recording In Essex.

Why do we need to record wild plants & animals?

There are many and varied reasons why we need to record this data.

- Knowing what plants & animals are there helps with the management of nature reserves and other areas in Essex.
- Data that we receive is used for management plans, research, education and planning applications.
- We can use it to identify 'Biodiversity Hotspots'.
- We can look for trends such as increases and decreases in species numbers.
- We can identify gaps in recording and also spot areas where a species should be but isn't.
- We will identify and record keystone species, which are useful indicators of habitat condition, which help with management of whole habitats.

People are becoming more aware with the state of the environment that we live in. Also, national and international legislation is putting pressure on governments to protect endangered and threatened species and habitats. This is important where development issues are concerned.



By using records we can tell the quality of the biodiversity of an area. We will monitor key biodiversity species as drawn up in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP)

Biological recording has become an essential component of nature conservation.

We can see from national recording schemes, which get basic records from the general public such as the UK Phenology project (Spring Watch & Autumn Watch), how successful they are in showing changes in wildlife and getting people involved.

We have varying levels of recording schemes from the very basic to the more detailed enabling people of all abilities to get involved.

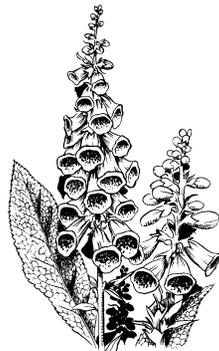
We are able to receive records from the general public to specialist species recorders. If you aren't sure of the identification of something you have seen, we can help. You can send us a photo and a written description of the species and its habitat but not everything can be easily identified from a photo e.g. fungi.

Every record is valuable as it tells us what is there, or if it hasn't been recorded one year we can question why it isn't there and perhaps manage that area so the species returns.

We produce a variety of recording cards from the basic, species specific, habitat specific, project specific and hopefully a children's recording card to encourage young people to record.

You do not have to record everything you see. This would be impractical. You can concentrate on a specific species or group. You can record anything from flowers and badgers to slugs and fungi! You can also concentrate on a specific location such as the reserve you manage or visit, your garden or the local park where you walk the dog.

But remember.....
Biological recording should be fun!



Wildlife Recording Guidelines

There are four basic requirements for a record:

Who? What ? Where ? When?

(Who recorded What, Where and When)

Who? This is you or the recorder. Please tell us your name, address, phone number (and e-mail). This is so we can note who is sending us records and we can provide feedback if required. (Your details will not be passed on to any third party without your consent)

What? What did you see? This is the correct name of the animal or plant you saw. The scientific name is useful although not essential if you don't know it (some insects will only have a scientific name) Other information that is useful is the number you saw such as 1 robin, 3 blue tits and 20 primroses in flower. If you record on a site on a regular basis you can tell us if don't see a species for a while e.g. no blue tits. Habitat e.g. garden, woodland, park can be recorded as well as anything else you note about the plant or animal such as age, sex and activity (e.g. nest building)

Where? Where did you see the animals or plant? This is the location and the grid reference. Location can be an address or a nature reserve site name etc. A post code is always useful too. A grid reference is a set of two letters and varying numbers, which we can locate on a map (OS or Ordnance Survey maps are the most commonly used maps) to tell us where a species is.

How grid references work.

Instructions can also be found on OS Maps.

The whole of the UK is divided up into 100km squares and each square is given two letters to identify it. E.g. TL, TM, TQ and TR cover Essex.

Each 100km square is divided into 10km squares numbered from left to right 0- 9 (Eastings) and from the bottom to the top 0 – 9 (Northings) - this will give you a 2 figure grid reference e.g. TL93