

Living Record

Online Environmental recording for All

By Adrian Bicker

Presentation by Chris Rose

Adrian started as a dragon fly recorder. He has designed and developed Living Records and has presented at HBIC for the last two years

Background

- Most online recording web sites are described as 'data capture' systems.
- Once the submit button is pressed, there is no way to check the details, make corrections review the information or learn from the data
- With Living Record, the emphasis is on providing each user with his own personal set of records, which he can study, review and correct as necessary

As a user the two big advantages are you don't need to worry about grid references or species identification.

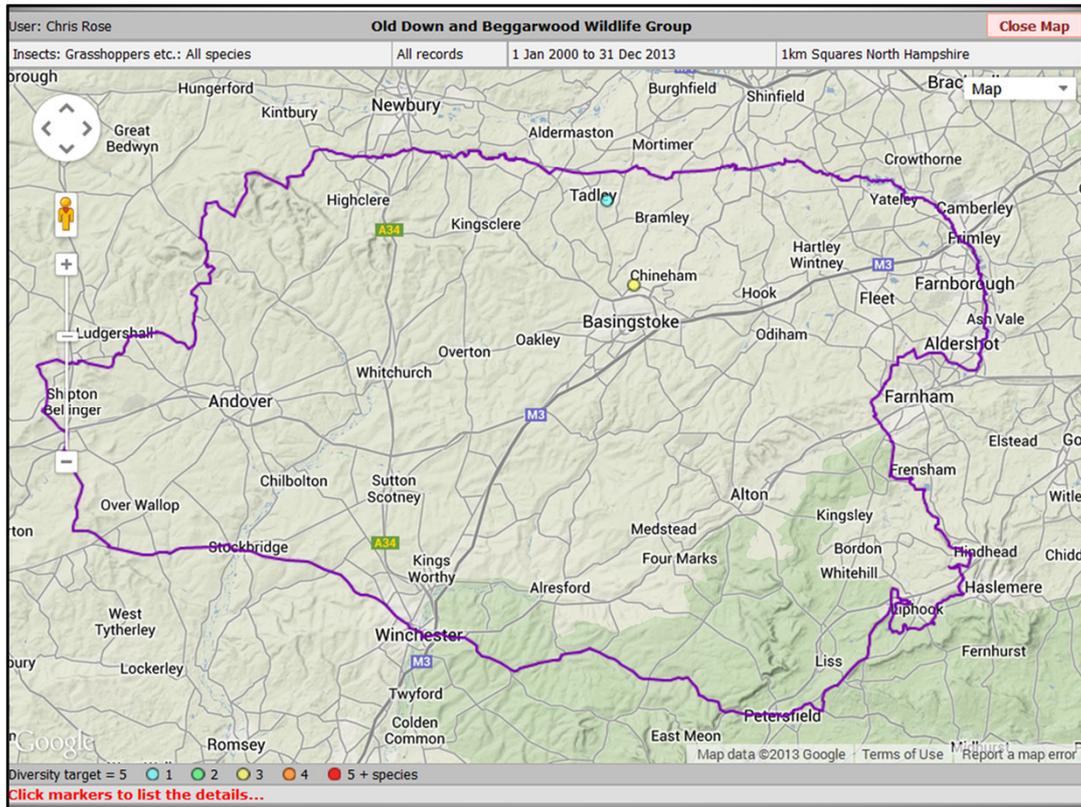
For most recording you can chose from a list of common or Latin names so no worries about spelling.

The software does the grid references for you from your chosen location.

Maps

- Records are located quickly and accurately by placing markers on Google Maps.
- Google Maps are also used to display distribution maps that make it easy to understand the significance of the data that has been collected.
- The distribution maps can display the records for the individual or the combined records from all users.

Using Google maps make sit easy to record sightings and the distribution maps allow you to understand what records have been made by others.

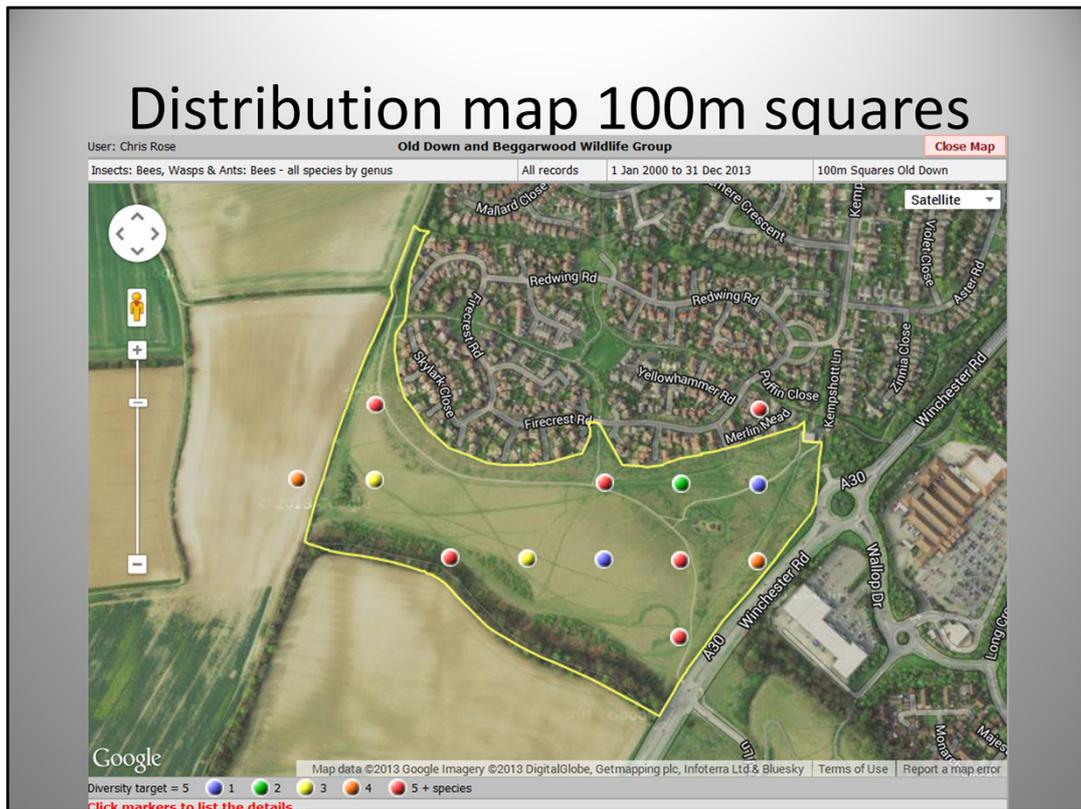


Distribution map for grasshoppers 1k squares. Not many records for grasshopper in Hampshire.

The colours indicate the number of different species recorded.

The key is bottom right .1 species in Tadley and three in Chineham.

Clicking on a marker on the live website will bring up the records for that site



100m squares distribution map for Bees wasps and Ants Old Down,
 The Yellow line shows limits of Old Down area set up by Adrian. The dots centre in the
 100m square. They do not show location markers.
 Colour indicates number of species. Click on marker for detailed list of records.
 Some of the dots seem to be outside the area. That is because the bulk of the 100m sq
 lies outside.
 I chose the location markers to reflect the different types of habitat rather than just
 geographic position. Bees Move!

Hampshire

- HBIC got funding from Natural England to get Living Record set up for Hampshire. So now HBIC and HIWWT are both set up and keen for people to join in.
- HBIC has extra screens (LRC Services) that they can use to monitor recording activity and download batches of verified data.
- Many of the HIWWT reserves are set up. This makes recording on reserves easy and everyone gets to see distribution maps for each reserve (e.g. see dragonfly distribution map for the Lower Test reserve).

HBIC and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust both support the use of living records.

Many of the Hampshire reserves don't have any records entered yet so they would be pleased to get these off the ground

County recorders

The overall purpose of the project is to channel records through to local record centres and to national societies and schemes

- Living Record enables each county recorder to review all the records for his vice county. He verifies the records online, accepting, querying or rejecting them based on his expertise, a detailed knowledge of the area and a growing understanding of his recorders.
- The county recorder downloads validated records as a single Excel file for the local record centre

Tony Mundell the county recorder for Hampshire is encouraging people to add their plant records using Living Record on his website [Hants Plants.org](http://HantsPlants.org)

Once the county recorder accepts a record it becomes locked but before that you can edit it.

It is unlikely to be accepted if your certainty is less than 5 or if they consider it is unlikely eg butterflies in December!.

A specimen or a supporting photo may be asked for.



Hants plants web page.

Note that you need to avoid duplicating records.

Location markers

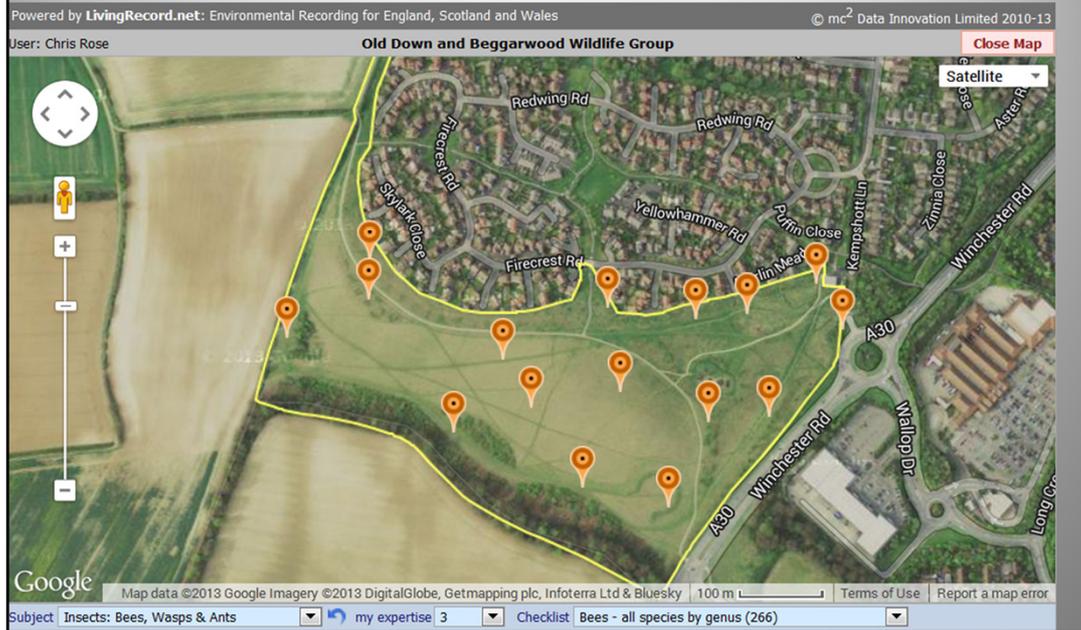
- The term 'location' is used to describe a point on the map that has records. In Living Record, each location is represented by a marker on the map, which has its own description, latitude, longitude and grid reference.
- Any number of records can be added to each location marker. So the first step in entering records is to add a location marker to the map.
- Each location can also have a site name. So this is a way to associate locations that fall within the same site.

Location markers can be 10m, 100m 1k squares or linear stretches.

Its a good idea to think carefully about where to place them before you start.

The living Record website offers step by step help

Location markers for Old Down



These are my location markers for Old Down.

The subject here is bees wasps and ants but I can change that and records can be entered for a variety of species including plants, mammals birds etc using the same location markers

Getting started

- Register on website – username and password

Powered by **LivingRecord.net**: Environmental Recording for England, Scotland and Wales © mc² Data Innovation Limited 2010-13

User: Adrian Bicker **Living Record Visitors** [Log out](#)

[Records](#) [Distribution Maps](#) [Excel Download](#) [Options](#) [Help](#)

Subjects [Step 1 Select](#) [Step 2 Customise](#)

Record status

Location markers

Password

New to Living Record?
Step 1: Select any extra subjects you want to record below.
Step 2: Customise each subject. Choose between common and scientific names.
Then open the **Records** page and follow the guidance on how to add your first record.

Include local surveys for in the list.

Tick the subjects that you wish to record:

Mammals...

Birds...

Reptiles...

Getting started screen is also found on the Help page allows you to choose the subjects you are interested in but you can modify that later.

You probably won't customise your subjects at this stage unless you are an expert.

Note that you can download your records at any time as an excel file.

Click on the records box to start positioning location markers and recording data

Next Step

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User: Adrian Bicker

Living Record Visitors [Log out](#)

[Records](#) [Distribution Maps](#) [Excel Download](#) [Options](#) [Help](#)

Subject: Survey: Swifts my expertise: 1 low

England Dorset VC09 my map: Home

10 options: To display the whole of Dorset VC09...

Records dated in period: 01/01/2013 to 31/12/2013 [Include records for 2012](#)

Height of map: Medium

[Enter Records](#)

Ready to enter your first record?

The **Enter Records** link to the left opens the map. Help icons below the map are provided to give extra information and guidance. In the blue band below the map, choose the subject that you want to record. Some subjects have alternative checklists. Choose an appropriate checklist.

Step 1
Add a location marker to the map to indicate **where** before you enter **what** you saw. The 3 alternative ways to add a location marker are described below the map. Confirm the position of the new marker and enter at least a description for the location.

Step 2
Click the Add New Records link at the foot of the page. You can add a series of records for the same location. As each is added, it joins the list of records shown below. Use the small icons to the right of these records to edit or delete them as necessary.

When there are no more records to add for this location, deselect it by clicking the marker or clicking the map. Repeat the process above to add the next location marker.

Note that you can redisplay your existing records for any location by clicking the marker. This information is also available in **Getting Started** on the **Help** page.

Note that in this case the subject is Swift Survey for Dorset VC09. The person has said their expertise is low. If you are an expert the rating is 5. This helps the county recorder evaluate your records. What you enter depends on the species. Typically the species, the number of individuals, life stage eg egg larva adult etc but for some like hares it could be droppings or sets for rabbits.

Note that the period is set for the entire year 2013. This can be changed as desired

Dragons for training

- I recommend playing with dragon distribution and records before starting on your own areas and records.
- Think carefully about your location markers before you begin and correspond with Adrian about boundaries as we have for Old Down and Beggarwood. He is very helpful.

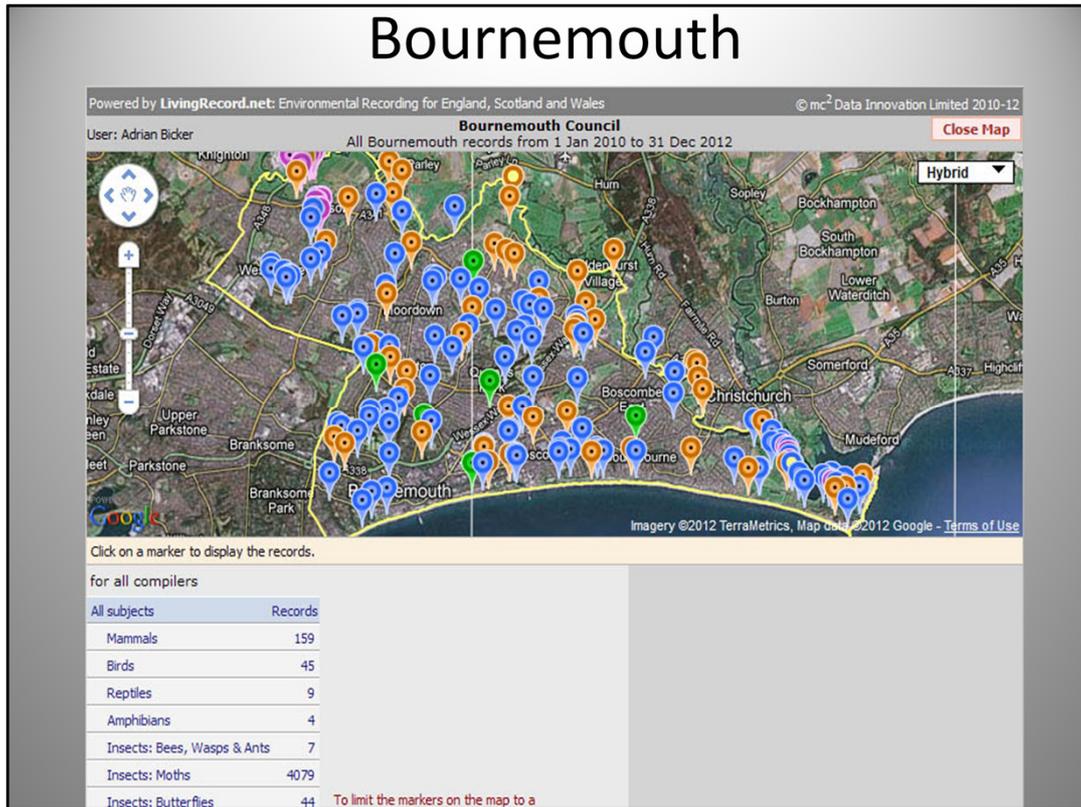
There is a spurious subject DRAGONS that can be used to practise.
Enter locations and dragon records at will just to try it out.
Put some in your garden!
Could stop the talk here

For the council!

- Are the Council ecologists taking an interest?
- For councils and other organisations responsible for specific areas, Adrian can give key staff access to all the records that fall within the borough.
- The following screen shots give a taste of the way that Bournemouth Council can now review local records – drilling down by subject and species to the underlying records. This makes it very easy for local naturalists to add records to support local conservation work. It also motivates the council team to support and encourage more recording

Adrian is keen to work with councils and other organisations. Just get in touch

Bournemouth



This is a special view set up for Bournemouth council. But it works in the same way as normal distribution map.

The moth recorders have been very busy!

Records for Roesel's Bush Cricket in Bournemouth

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Bournemouth Council
 User: Adrian Bicker All Bournemouth records from 1 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2012 [Close Map](#)

Hybrid

© SZ08219211 Meyrick Park - Bournemouth [Click here to finish with this location or](#)

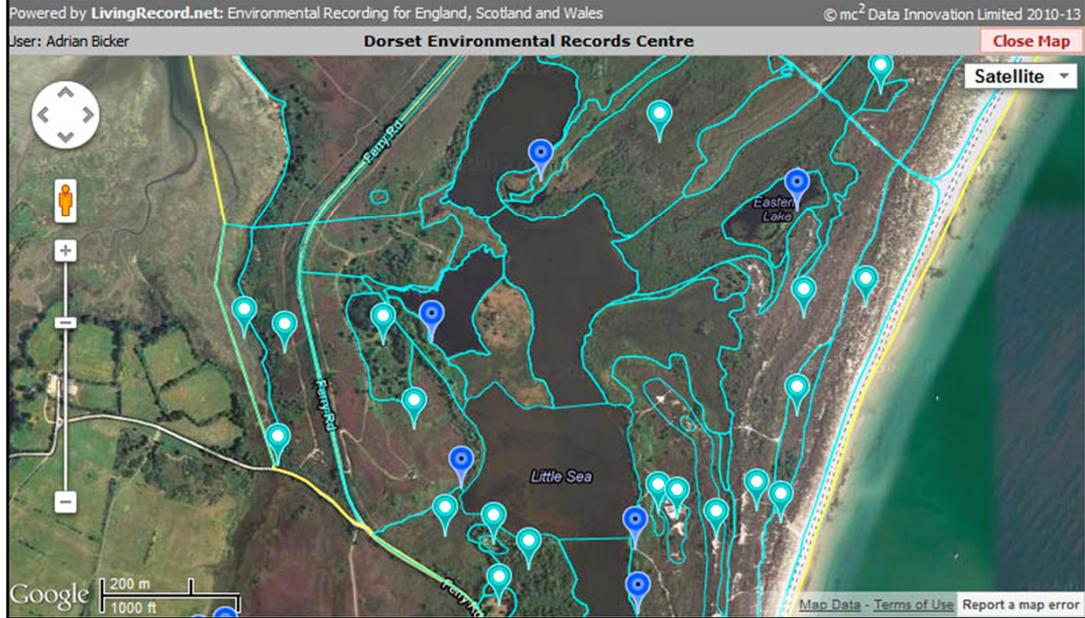
Records 1 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2012

	Certainty Sure=5	Abundance	Adult unsexed	Adult M ♂	Adult F ♀	Nymph	Stridulating male
02/08/2011 Recorder name not displayed Roesel's Bush-cricket (<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>) Macropterous dispersers	5	+					3

This screen shows the record for the location seen in red. Note the grid reference and the location name appears bottom left.

The recorder was certain that there were three males making sounds but there were generally plenty of them abundance = +

Areas and Compartments



This compartments set up for Studland nature reserve area.
Only Adrian can set this kind of thing up

<http://www.livingrecord.net>

In conclusion

- I can email a detailed set of instructions that Adrian put together for new users for the Dorset Swift survey
- Adrian would be happy to come up and meet with council or conservation group members

I am happy to email interested groups with the detailed instructions for the swift survey

Ideally this slide should be followed by live demonstration of dragons for training if there is time