



Stuart Colgate

Recording Officer

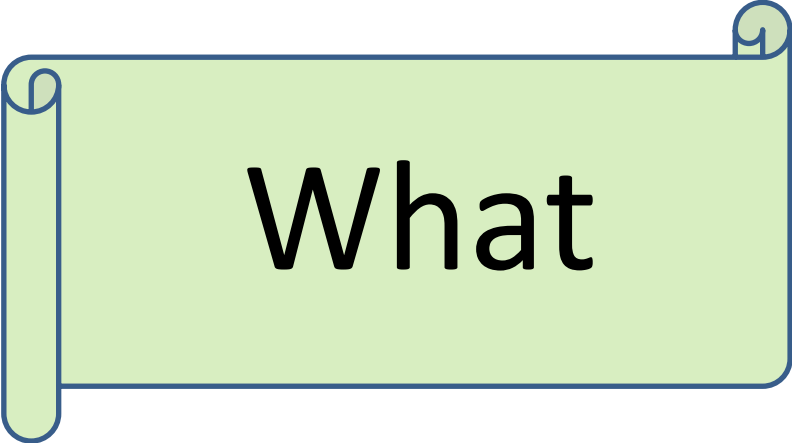
Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC)

Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

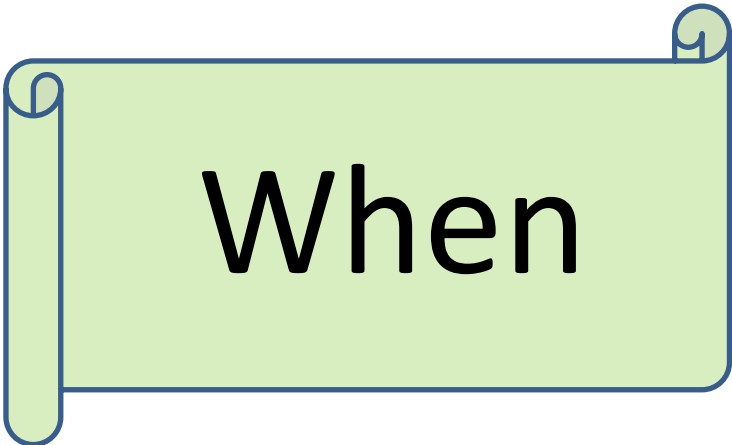
Email: recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk

Sighting of a species
+
extra information
=
Record of a species

The 4 major elements of a species record



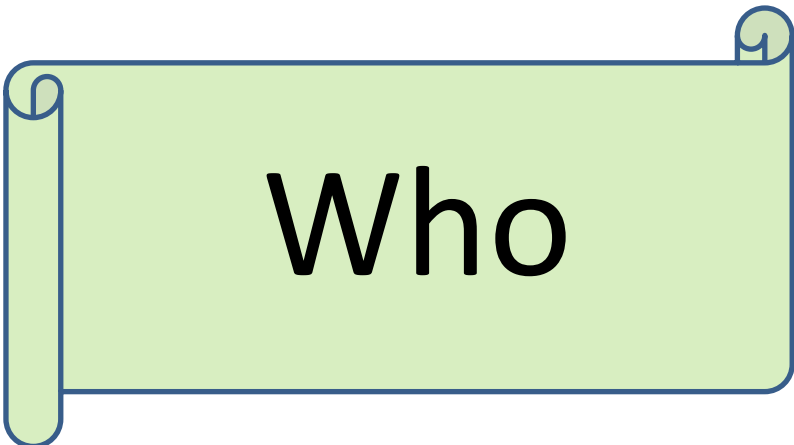
What



When



Where



Who

Although these 4 elements are required for a valuable biological record, the way you lay out the pieces of information about your sighting might vary.

This will depend on the method you use to submit your record.

Recording sheet (Excel) used by many of CBDC's volunteer recorders, ecological consultants, conservation organisations, etc.

[illegible]

Date	Location name	Grid reference (must be SD, NY or NX)	Scientific Name	Common Name	Quantity of individuals
09/02/2023	Burnfoot, Wigton	NY25744858	Cinclus cinclus	Dipper	1

Type of individual	Recorder	Determiner	Comment	Sampling Method	Organisation name if records sent to others
adult	Stuart Colgate	Stuart Colgate	Foraging in culverted section of Wiza Beck.	Field observation	No

What: Species name

If what you saw (or heard, etc) has an accepted common name then this is fine to use e.g. Tree sparrow. If you are able to add the scientific (binomial) name (*Passer montanus*) in the relevant column or space, then this would be extra useful.

If your species does not have a common name, then you must use the scientific name.

NOTE: Please name your species according to the taxonomic level that you have identified it to. If you are unsure about your identification to species level, then naming it to genus level might be more suitable. If there are just 2 species that are difficult to distinguish from each other then an aggregation may be more appropriate e.g. Dark dagger and Grey dagger (adult moths) should generally be an aggregate *Acronicta tridens/psi* unless determined through genitalia examination (or from larvae).

Where: Location name & NGR

A **grid reference** is a requirement for each record. Records in Cumbria will always begin with NY, SD or NX. If you are uncertain about how to use grid references, please contact me for advice.

If a recording app or GPS unit offers a choice that includes British National Grid references please select these. If for any reason you cannot, then go with what you can and CBDC can emend them.

A **location name** is also required. If recording in a town or village, an address or street name or local area name is acceptable.

If recording in a vast featureless area, the nearest settlement (hamlet, farm, named house) or bridge over a river, etc. will be acceptable, so long as it is accompanied by a grid reference.

Who: Recorder & Determiner

The person who saw or heard the species is the **Recorder** (sometimes called the Observer). This is a crucial element for a biological record. The other 'who' element we request is the name of the **Determiner**. This is the person who identifies the species. This is often the same person as the recorder, but not always.

This is not the same as the record Verifier, which is a process where CBDC records are checked by the relevant experts.

This happens after we have received your records. Nothing for you to worry about.... unless your identification is 'unusual'! In which case the verifier may ask us to contact you for further info or evidence about your record.

Date	Location name	Grid reference (must be SD, NY or NX)	Scientific Name	Common Name	Quantity of individuals
09/02/2023	Burnfoot, Wigton	NY25744858	Cinclus cinclus	Dipper	1

Type of individual	Recorder	Determiner	Comment	Sampling Method	Organisation name if records sent to others
adult	Stuart Colgate	Stuart Colgate	Foraging in culverted section of Wiza Beck.	Field observation	No

These elements form the basis of all biological records at CBDC, other record centres, taxon recording groups, as well as online recording apps and databases.

Why do your records matter?

Biological records are valuable pieces of scientific data. When grouped with other records from Cumbria in a database, they can be used and analysed in several ways for a multitude of purposes. CBDC currently holds over 2.5 million records, the oldest record being from 1512 AD.

Will your records be used in 500 years time?
Hopefully!

Uses of records held by CBDC

Distribution Atlases:

- *Cumbrian Dragonfly Atlas* (distribution and phenology), (2020) David Clarke and Moustafa Eweda.
- *Cumbrian Macromoths Atlas* (distribution)
- *Cumbrian Mammals Atlas* (distribution)

Others:

Re-wilding projects – require species data for baseline surveys.

Site management – check for species requiring specific habitat management.

Ecological surveys – check for protected and rare species.

Research – university projects (undergrad and postgrad), government organisations, NGOs.

Research - individual recorders, recording groups – checking for gaps in distribution.

Planning control – councils and developers due diligence, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Environment Bill – Local Nature Recovery Strategies, BNG

See how valuable your individual records will be!

If you wish to send in your records or wish to begin species recording in Cumbria, then please contact us at CBDC.

recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk

or

Telephone (01228) 618717

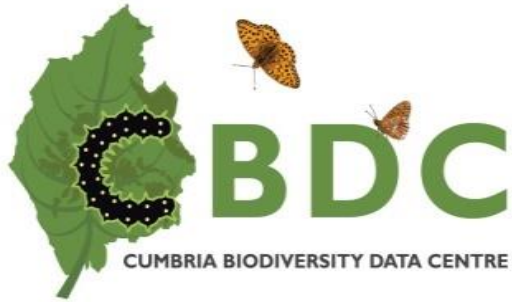
or

www.cbdc.org.uk

The End.

Many thanks for listening.

I look forward to receiving your
records in due course!



A couple of CBDC projects...

I mentioned at last year's Conference that I was taking part in a pilot project to determine whether Open Mosaic Habitat was present in a suite of post-industrial (brownfield) sites in west Cumbria.

In March last year I visited over 30 potential brownfield sites. I undertook a walk-over survey to determine if they were supporting Open Mosaic Habitat. OMHs are formed of usually small patches of different habitats that allow a range of species to thrive in an otherwise hostile environment. The main criterion is they are open; allowing light and warmth to penetrate the substrate or ground layer.

Many of the plants tend to be those which are able to complete their life-cycle rapidly and are tolerant to a range of environmental stresses; which can include drought, low nutrient levels, exposure to sun and wind, very high (or very low) pH and potentially an ability to withstand toxic chemicals.

Here are some of the sites I visited...



Barrow slag banks



Barrow slag banks (foreground)



Marchon site, Whitehaven (once a factory site making sulphuric acid – soon to be a colliery)



Marchon site, Whitehaven – old drains and hollows developing patches of wetland vegetation.



Marchon site, Whitehaven – demolished buildings increase surface area for mosses and lichens and niches for invertebrates



Disused railway track bed, Workington – with adjacent brownfield sites.



Disused quarry lake, Millom – with adjacent disused tip



Disused tip of blast-furnace slag, Millom



Detail of blast-furnace slag, Millom - plants and lichens beginning to colonise the slag and vestigial soil.



Disused BSF tip, Millom – great views and 5-star facilities

In conclusion, I submitted the report to Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and Natural England, who funded this pilot.

These habitats are interesting sites to survey for a variety of taxa. I commend them to you... and look forward to receiving your records in due course!

Site-seeing project – BOTANICAL SURVEYS

CBDC is continuing work this year in partnership with the North Pennines AONB in their HLF funded project called Fellfoot Forward.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER SURVEYORS!

Last year a group of fantastic volunteer botanists helped us survey 5 sites, 3 of which were County Wildlife Sites within the project area.

We shall be continuing this in 2023.

If you have reasonably good botanical skills and/or habitat identification skills and can spare a few days this coming survey season then please let me know. Many thanks.

Please contact Stuart Colgate at CBDC.

Email: recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk

ALSO...

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT PLANTS?

We are offering botanical training sessions aimed at those with little or no botanical experience. Interested? Contact Stuart at CBDC.

We also have a social **meeting** arranged for the **31st March** to provide some insight into the Site-seeing project for those who might be interested.

If you, are keen to get involved with this project at either level, please contact me.

Contact Stuart at CBDC. Email: recordingofficer@cbdc.org.uk