
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WILDLIFE RECORDING

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre



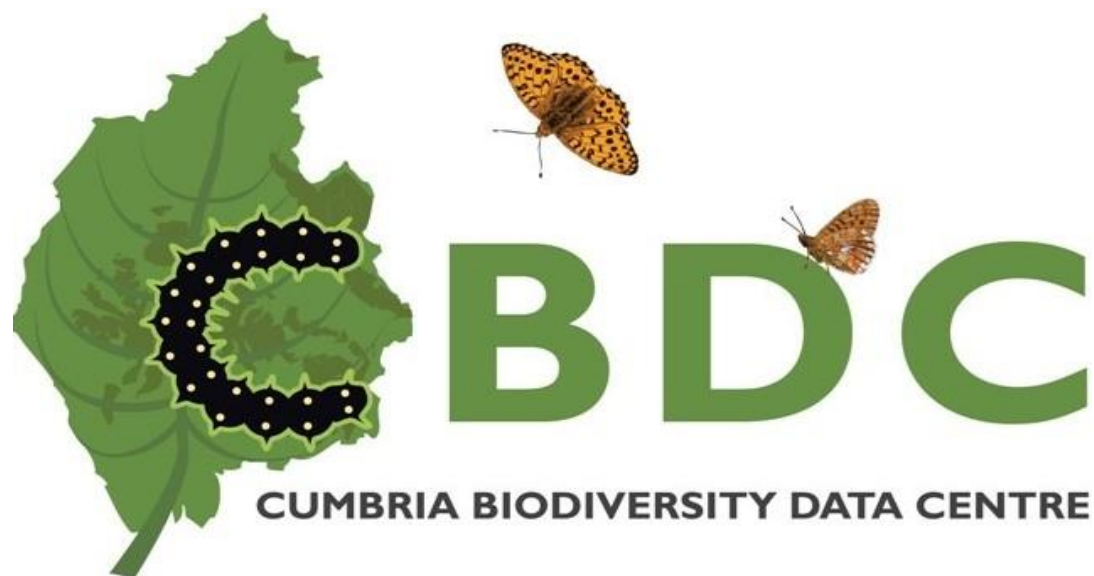


AGENDA

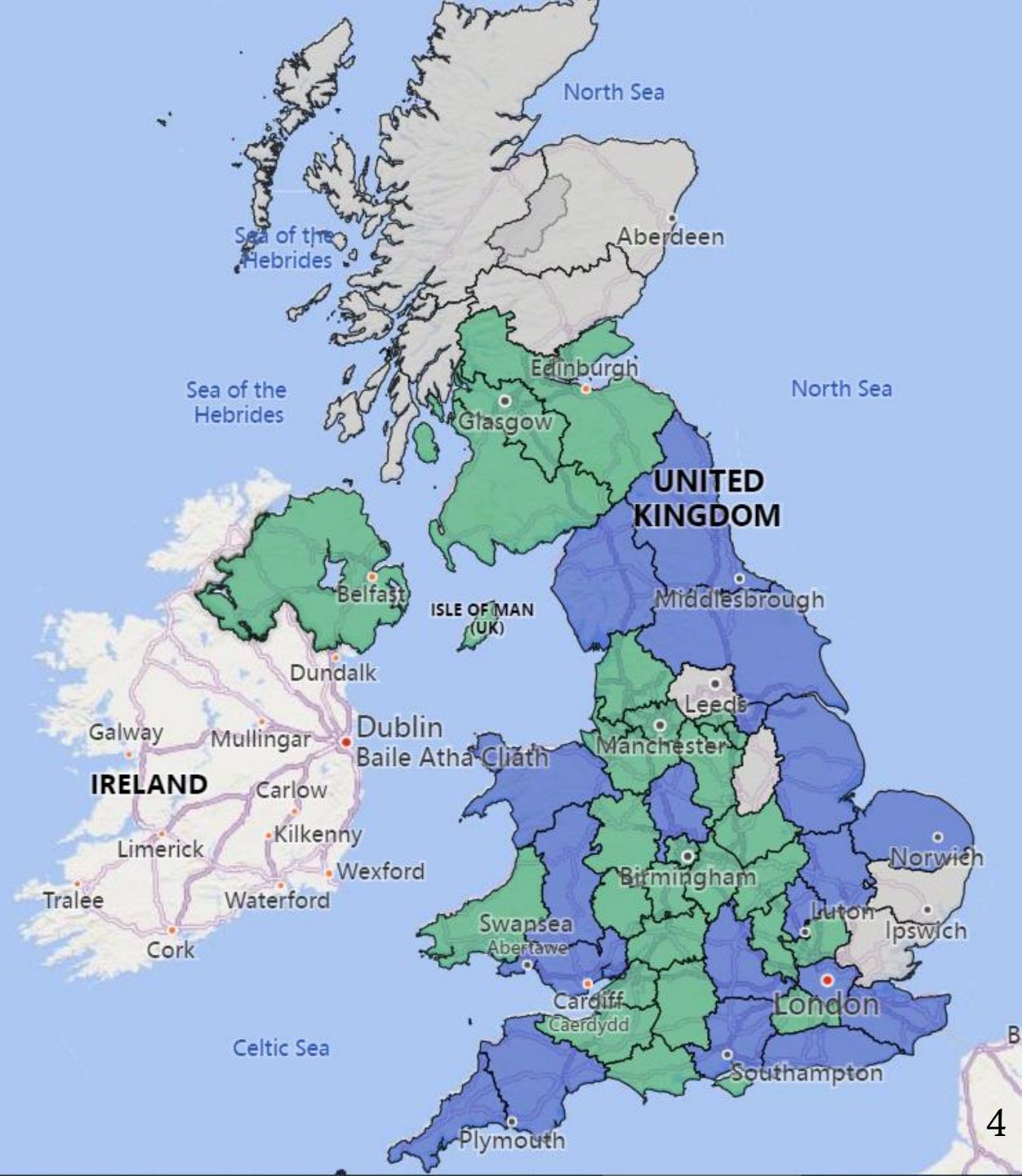
- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre
- What is wildlife recording?
- How to get started
- What makes a good record?
- Tools available
- Questions

CUMBRIA BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

An independent centre, based at Tullie Museum in Carlisle, responsible for compiling biodiversity information for Cumbria and making species, habitat and site data available to a wide variety of data users to help inform decision making across the county.



CBDC IS A LOCAL ENVIRONMENT RECORDS CENTRE



CBDC TEAM



Rebecca Slack
Centre Manager



Dr Moustafa Eweda
GIS & Data Manager



Martin Harris
Recording Officer



Annwen Philipson
Recording Support Officer



Marjorie Hunt
Data Support Officer



Beth Lightburn
CWS Field Officer



Lee Bassett
CWS Field Officer

A close-up photograph of a wood grain, showing concentric growth rings and a prominent knot. The wood has a warm, golden-brown hue with darker, almost black, areas within the knot. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned near the top and bottom of the image.

CBDC aim: to get
Cumbria recording!

HELPING CUMBRIA TO RECORD WILDLIFE

Why bother?



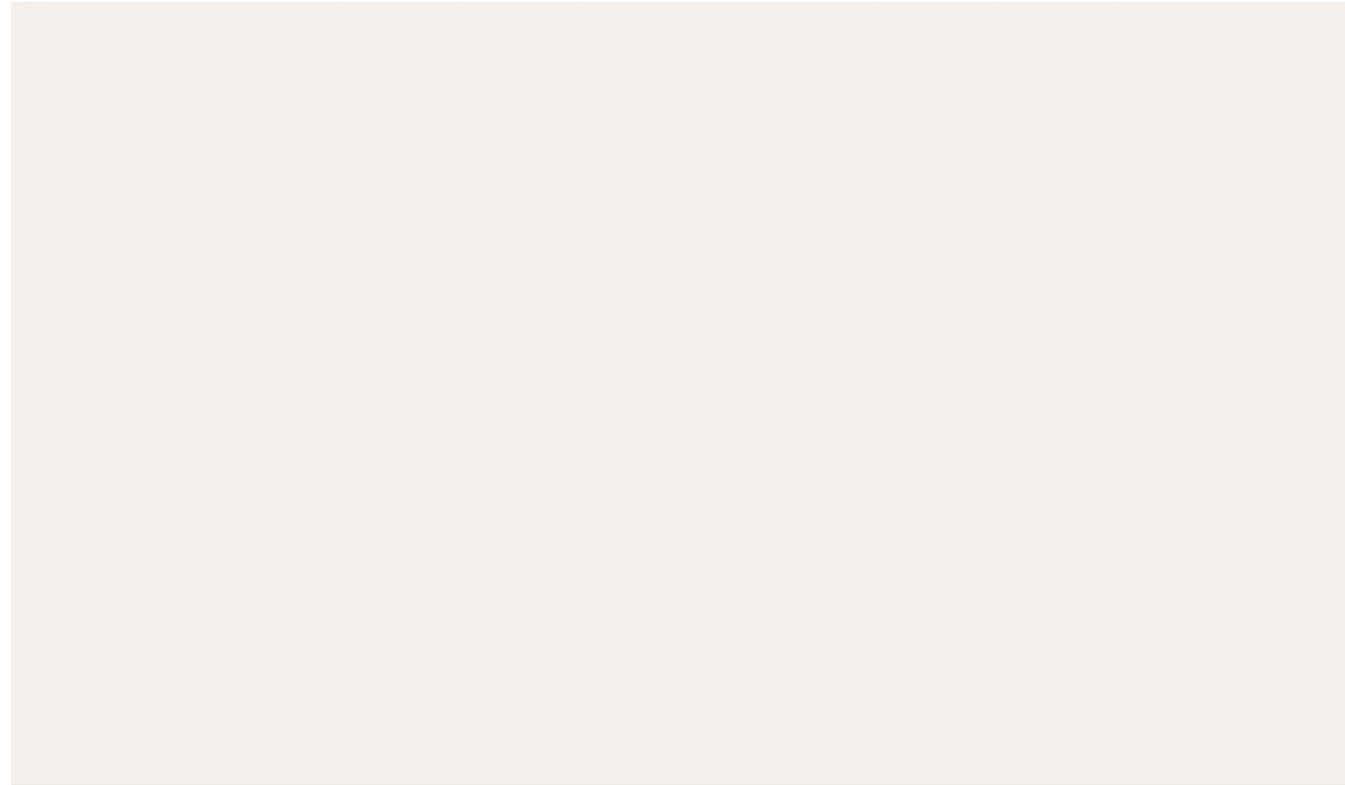
WHY RECORD WILDLIFE?

- Much needed baseline data – how can we protect what we don't know about?
- Impacts of climate change, pests & disease etc. – largely unknown without better data
- Informs planning decisions and improves conservation efforts
- Really easy to do – many of us already observe what is around us
- Health and wellbeing – proven links to engaging with nature

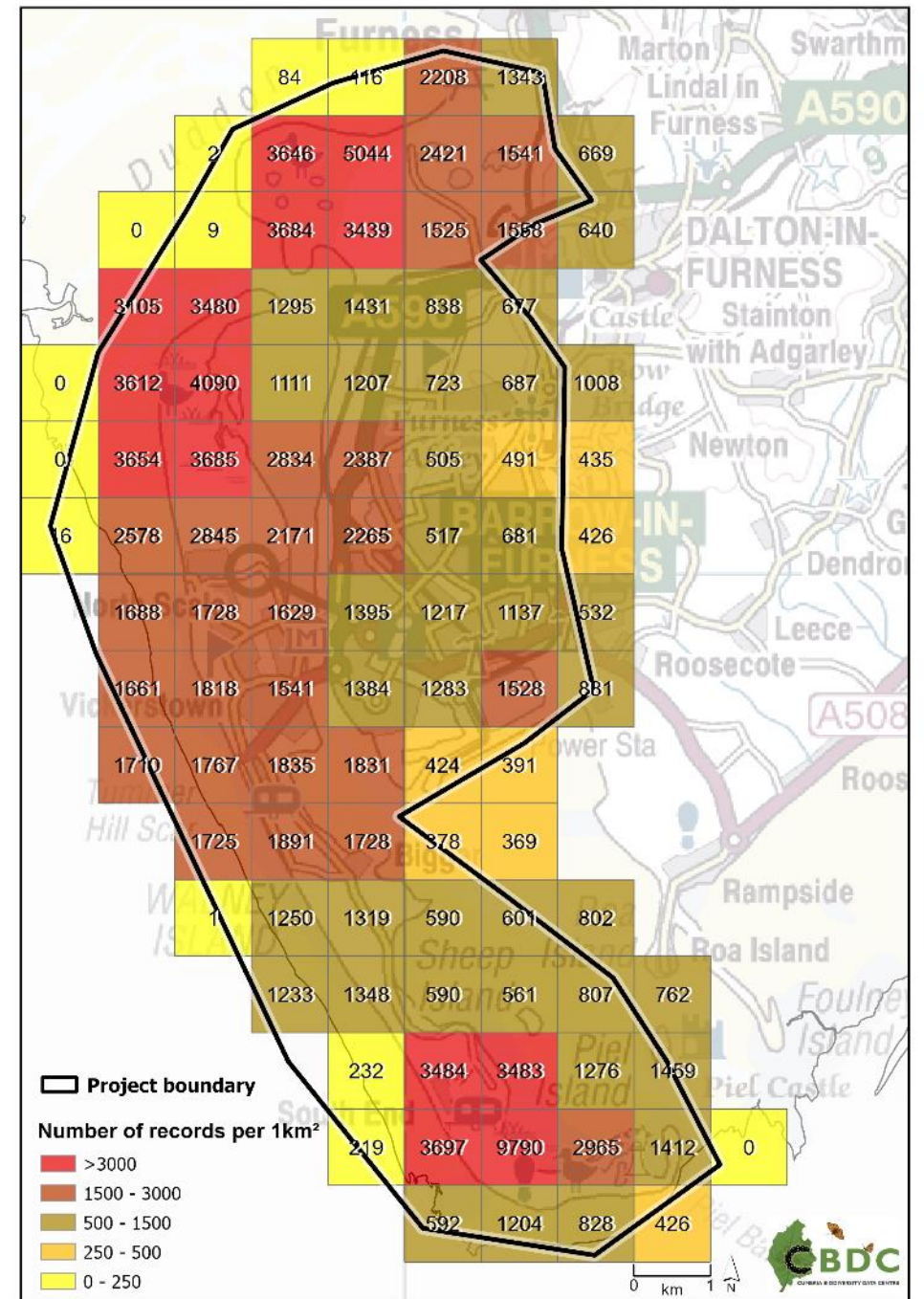


WHAT USE IS ONE RECORD?

- One record doesn't say much...
- But if you collect lots of records from different sources, we will begin to see the bigger picture
- For example, if everyone in Cumbria were to submit one tree record a year, that would be over 500,000 records for trees in Cumbria!



THE MORE DATA
POINTS, THE BETTER
THE INFORMATION
AVAILABLE



WHAT IS WILDLIFE RECORDING?



COMMON SPECIES VS RARE SPECIES



WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A RECORD?

- WHAT was observed?
- WHERE did the observation take place?
- WHEN was it observed?
- WHO made the observation?



What		Where		When	Who
Species	Common name	Grid ref	Location	Date	Recorder
Apis mellifera	Honey bee	NY3125	nr Threlkeld	17/12/2024	J Smith

WHAT? THE IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT ID



WHAT? COMMON OR SCIENTIFIC NAME



WHERE? BEING ABLE TO LOCATE THE RECORD



WHERE? PLACE NAMES OR GRID REFERENCES



UK GRID REFERENCE FINDER

https://gridreferencefinder.com/

UK Grid Reference Finder

Instructions: Simply right click on the map to find a grid reference at that point. Enter a location search below to zoom to the approximate location.

Post Code Go

Location (Road , Town) Go

Grid Reference Go

X (Easting) Y (Northing) Go

Lat Long Go

What3Words Go

Zoom All Points Link for All Points Auto Show Info

Point A

Grid Reference
NY 30499 13799

Grid Reference (6 figure)
NY304137

X (Easting) , Y (Northing)
330499 , 513799

Latitude , Longitude (decimal)
54.514704 , -3.0750733

Latitude , Longitude (degs, mins, secs)
54°30'53"N , 003°04'30"W

What3Words :
village.training.satellite

Address (near) :
Dobgill Bridge, St. John's Castlerigg and Wrthburn, Cumberland, Enaland. CA12

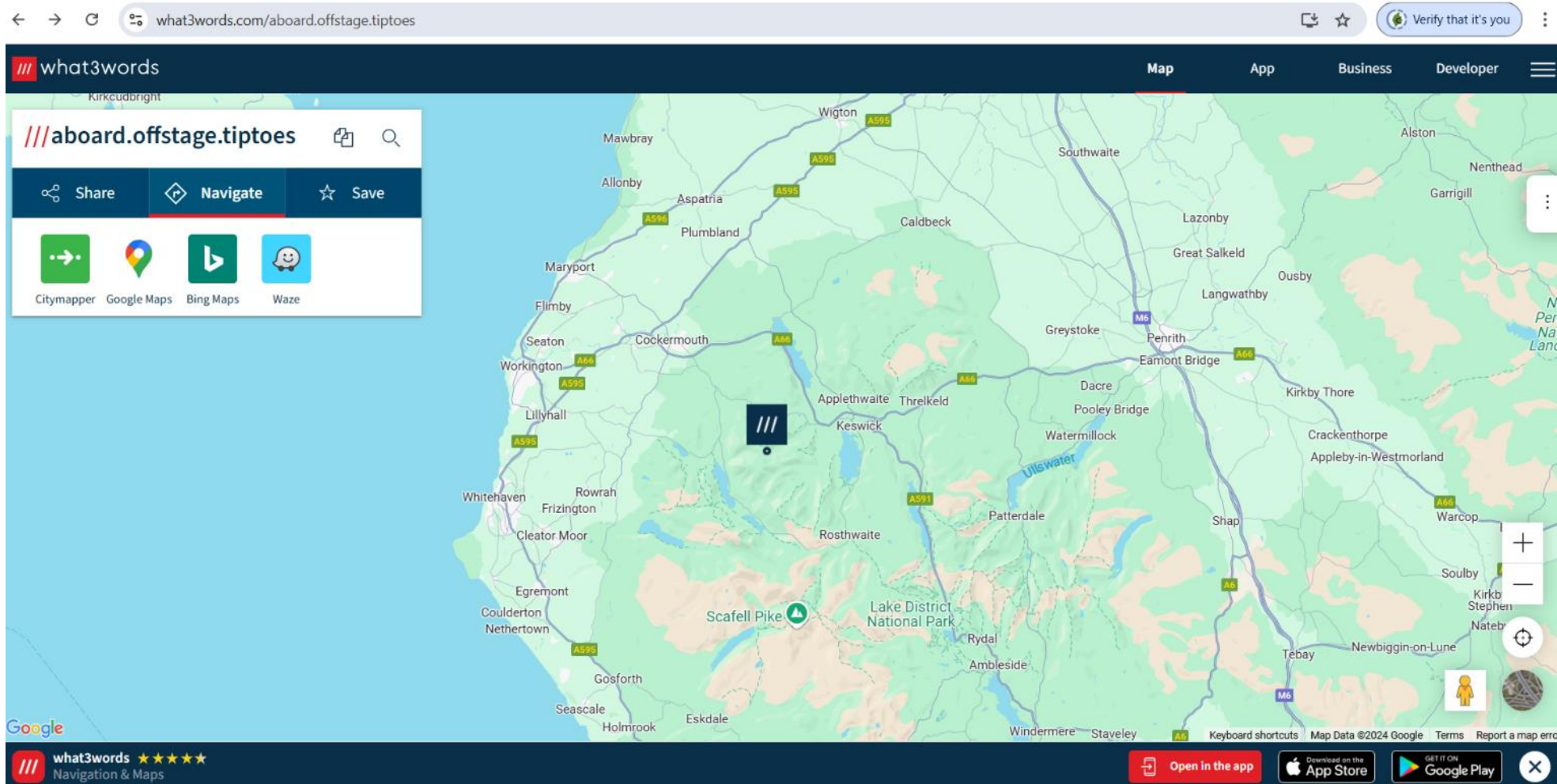
Postcode (nearest) :
CA12 4TP

Maps For Point :
[Ordnance Survey](#) | [Google](#) | [Bing](#) | [Streetview](#)

Tools for Point :
[QR Code](#) | [Info](#) | [Zoom here](#)

Share :
[Link For Point](#)

WHAT3WORDS



WHEN?



WHO?



THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

- What you saw
- Where you saw it
- When you saw it
- Your name

Date	Location name	Grid reference (must be SD, NY or NX)	Scientific Name	Common Name	Quantity of individuals	Abundance Type	Recorder
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Phylloscopus collybita	Chiff chaff			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Troglodytes troglodytes	wren			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Gallinula chloropus	Moorhen			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Galium aparine	Common cleavers			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Hedera helix	Ivy			Rebecca Slack
11/07/2024	Rose Castle - path between car park and garden	NY37054619	Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert			Rebecca Slack
	Rose Castle - path between car						

GETTING STARTED WITH RECORDING

- An observation
- Something to make a physical record of your observation
- Digitise your record
- Send your record to a relevant organisation or survey.....



YOUR OBSERVATION



RECORDING TOOLKIT

- Pen and paper to record 4 W's
- Online submission form
- Spreadsheet – any old format
- LERC formatted spreadsheet
- App:
 - iNaturalist
 - iRecord



ONLINE FORM

- Easy to access via CBDC website
- Other forms available
- Suitable for single records e.g. one record a day

Cumbria Biodiversity Records

* Enter the date you made your observation

yyyy-mm-dd



* Location name

Please be as specific and detailed as possible (e.g. path to North Walney NNR or car park at Powter Howe, Bassenthwaite Lake)

Grid reference (at an appropriate resolution e.g. NY 397560)

Please add a grid reference here. Alternatively, please add an equivalent location-specific metric such as a postcode or, even better, what3words (<https://what3words.com/>)

Species name (scientific)

Please provide the genus and species name e.g. Meles meles for European Badger. Alternatively, you can provide a higher taxonomic classification if you are unsure of the genus or species..









iNATURALIST

iNaturalist Search [x] Explore Your Observations Community Identify More Upload 0

Observations Species Location Go Filters 2

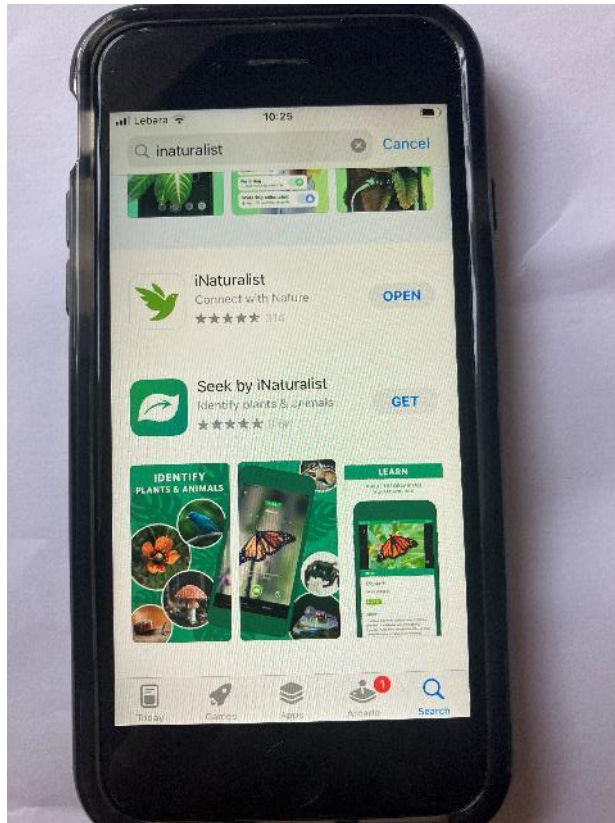
The World 57 OBSERVATIONS 55 SPECIES 26 IDENTIFIERS 1 OBSERVER

Map Grid List

Media	Name	User	Observed	Place	Added
	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> (Wych Elm) 1	 rebeccaslack	Oct 19, 2023 9:00 AM GMT	📍 Caldbeck, Wigton CA7, UK	Oct 19, 2023 10:09 AM GMT
	<i>Verbascum virgatum</i> (Twiggy Mullein) 1	 rebeccaslack	Jul 29, 2023 5:56 PM GMT	📍 Cumbria, UK	Aug 3, 2023 6:36 PM GMT
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> (Hogweed) 1	 rebeccaslack	May 23, 2023 4:54 PM GMT	📍 Carlisle, UK	May 31, 2023 3:49 PM GMT
	<i>Papaver cambricum</i> (Welsh Poppy) 1	 rebeccaslack	May 31, 2023 2:40 PM GMT	📍 Cumbria, UK	May 31, 2023 2:59 PM GMT

Short video: <https://vimeo.com/949628916>
















iNATURALIST



- Free
- Easy to use: set up your account so that ‘who’, ‘when’ & ‘where’ autofill
- AI helps with ‘what’
- App or desktop versions
- Most suited for photos

iRECORD

irecord.org.uk/my-records

ID	Src	Species	Common name	Species group	Location	Map ref.	Vice county	Date	Recorder	Determiner	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29540994	23 42 <i>Halysia sedecimguttata</i>	Orange Ladybird	insect - beetle (Coleoptera)	Near Cald beck and River Caldew confluence on edge of Parson's Park	NY34123978	Cumberland	01/03/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29540976	23 42 <i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>	Hawthorn Shieldbug	insect - true bug (Hemiptera)	Near confluence of Cald Beck and River Caldew in Parson's Park	NY34173981	Cumberland	01/03/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input type="checkbox"/>	29540939	23 42 <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Grey Wagtail	bird	On the Cald Beck	NY32463989	Cumberland	01/03/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29540686	23 42 <i>Galanthus nivalis forma pleniflorus</i>		flowering plant	Garden-woodland edge	NY31004564	Cumberland	01/03/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29535665	23 42 <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	terrestrial mammal	Rural garden	NY30984569	Cumberland	24/02/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29535643	23 42 <i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown Hare	terrestrial mammal	Farm track near Sandy Brow, Rosley	NY31144688	Cumberland	28/02/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29535638	23 42 <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe Deer	terrestrial mammal	Driveway near house, Rosley	NY31094626	Cumberland	28/02/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	29535637	23 42 <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Roe Deer	terrestrial mammal	Pasture near road, Rosley in Cumbria	NY31244677	Cumberland	28/02/2023	Slack, Rebecca		  

Showing all 8 hits [Previous](#) [Next](#) Rows per page: 30 [Download](#)

OTHER RECORDING APPS

BirdTrack

- Birds
- Free app
- BTO and local bird clubs
- CC-BY-NC licence to all data collected – issue for CBDC use?

eBird

- Birds
- Free app
- International – great if travelling

e-Surveyor

- Plants and some insects
- Ideal for agricultural land
- Habitat surveys
- Good grass ID!
- Free app

iRecord Butterflies

- Butterflies (others for moths, grasshoppers etc.)
- Butterfly Conservation
- Big Butterfly Count
- Free app

i-Mammalia

- Mammals
- Free apps
- Europe-wide

SEND YOUR RECORD TO A DATA CENTRE ETC.

- Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre for all records
- Cumbria Bird Club if just bird data
- iNat and iRecord will automatically be picked up by different organisation including CBDC
- Specialist, national schemes such as Butterfly Conservation, Mammal Society, etc.
- One record to one recipient...



DO CONSIDER.....



RECORD SUBMISSION IS NOT....

- Submitting observations to a Facebook page
- Emailing an observation

A record **MUST** be submitted formally via one of the recognised systems – form, spreadsheet, app



RECORDING SUMMARY

Note your observations

- WHAT you saw
- WHEN you saw it
- WHERE you saw it
- WHO you are

Create a record

- Submit single records via online forms
- Create a spreadsheet
- Use a recording app

Make it available to others

- Send to CBDC or other organisation
- Sit back and relax if using an app – the app does the work!

NEXT STEP – RECORDING EVENTS & HABITAT SURVEYS

- Come to a CBDC recording event to find out how others record wildlife
- Join a local group or society
- Take part in a local or national recording scheme or event
- Go from species recording to habitat surveying





WHY NOT TRY?

- Challenge 365
- Cumbria Wild Watch - 26-29 June 2025
- National schemes e.g. Big Garden Birdwatch in January....





Challenge 365

The 2025 biodiversity challenge for Cumbria



SUMMARY

Biological recording is easy to do but yields massive results.

You will be better connected to the natural world and will help inform others to make better informed decisions for biodiversity in Cumbria.

What's stopping you?



THANK YOU & QUESTIONS?

Rebecca Slack | Rebecca.slack@cbdc.org.uk | <https://www.cbdc.org.uk/>