

Shropshire Ecological Data Network

Progress 2008 – 2017

Alex Lockton

What we do...

We receive money from government agencies and local government bodies and distribute it to 'tsars' who bid to supply us records.

In nine years we have spent £178,000:

• Invertebrates	£58,480	33%
• Data management	£34,300	19%
• Plants	£33,000	19%
• Mammals	£27,610	16%
• Birds	£5,000	3%
• Fungi	£6,000	3%
• Habitats	£5,500	3%
• Herptiles	£5,135	3%
• Bryophytes	£3,000	2%

What has this bought us?

- We have a database of 840,356 records (that's 21p a record, on average)
- This covers 11,739 species
- Some 300 new species are recorded in Shropshire every year
- Some 50 short reports on sites and species of interest
- Digitization of Birmingham, Aberystwyth and the two Shrewsbury herbaria – the only fully digitized herbaria anywhere in the world
- A web database where you can download species lists for sites
- A thriving community of naturalists

Publications

supported by SEDN

- Shieldbugs of Shropshire 2014
- Shropshire Craneflies 2016
- Bees and Wasps of Shropshire 2015
- Flora of Shropshire 2015 (2016, 2017... the world's only free, continuously updated online Flora)
- Birds of Shropshire (in prep.)
- Shropshire Dragonfly News 2013-2017 (and counting)
- Shropshire Entomology 2010-2017 (and counting)
- Shropshire Botanical Society Newsletter 1999-2017 (and counting)

What is a Tsar?

- Roughly equivalent to a county recorder, but we don't want anyone to hold a monopoly on recording – anyone can be a tsar
- They adopt a taxonomic group and need to become experts in that group. The group can be huge (e.g. fungi) or tiny (sponges, crayfish)
- They can bid for money from SEDN, in order to supply records
- The records must be of good quality, properly checked, and properly formatted
- They can do what they like with the money – pocket it, share it with friends, hire assistants, buy equipment

The ideal Tsar

- Organises and trains a voluntary recording group
- Works collaboratively with everyone who is interested in that group
- Collects comprehensive data on their species
- Doesn't keep any secrets
- Produces interesting reports on species and sites of importance
- Works towards an Atlas or Flora/Fauna of their group
- Offers advice on conservation and management of their species

A typical bid

- The average bid to SEDN is for £1,500 (range: £185 - £5000) and supplies 8,000 records (range: 14 – 100,000).
- This varies widely – a single record of a pine marten might cost thousands and take years, whereas butterfly or bird records are a dime a dozen
- For the commoner species, SEDN only accepts one record a year for each 1 km square – we delete the rest as duplicates
- Tsars are asked to also produce 1-page reports on sites/species of importance and to identify axiospecies if possible
- SEDN receives bids once a year (deadline for 2017-2018) is March 1st

That's it! SEDN doesn't do anything else.

SEDN is completely transparent. All our data, all our decisions, all our finances are open to anyone to see

Find out more at www.shropshireecology.co.uk

With thanks to Natural England, the Environment Agency, Defra, Shropshire Council, Telford & Wrekin, the Field Studies Council, Manchester Metropolitan University, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the National Biodiversity Network and of course all the naturalists' societies and volunteers who make SEDN work.