

1.2 Verification & Validation Procedure



Environmental Records
Information Centre
North East

The verification and validation of wildlife data received by ERIC North East are essential steps in the data management process. Verification involves checking the accuracy of the identification of the species and validation checks ensure that the record has been correctly entered.

Verification

Data held by ERIC North East are screened by an appropriate local or regional expert. Our primary contact is the County Recorder for the particular taxon group. Where there is no active recorder, we ask a local species expert who is familiar with a particular taxon group or site to help us with this task. Datasets that are shared with ERIC North East by the County Recorder are verified before being passed over to us.

ERIC North East uses Recorder 6 to manage its species data, a software package developed by the JNCC and used by record centres across the UK. Each record held in Recorder 6 is marked with one of the following determination statuses:

- Correct
- Considered Correct
- Unconfirmed
- Requires Confirmation
- Considered Incorrect
- Incorrect

The information on determination status is provided to data users with every record.

Validation

Data held by ERIC North East are validated using the following procedure to ensure completeness and that the records have been accurately entered.

Records entered directly into Recorder 6 are automatically validated during the import process as follows:

- Checking the species name – either common or scientific – against the inbuilt species dictionary. Misspelt or invalid names are highlighted and must be corrected before the record will be accepted.
- Checking the observation date of each record against the pre-assigned date of the survey of which the record is a part. For example, a sighting with a date of 10/05/2006 would not be accepted for a survey which took place on 10/05/2007, and must be corrected before the record will be accepted.
- Checking the grid reference of each record against the pre-assigned geographical area covered by the survey. An invalid grid reference must be corrected before the record will be accepted.

If a dataset has been entered onto Excel prior to import into Recorder, ERIC North East staff compare it against the original dataset for errors and lack of completeness. The observer name is checked, along with the location name, abundance data, and any comments. The dataset can then be moved into Recorder, which carries out the additional validation checks.