

WORCESTERSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill, Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SZ

A company limited by guarantee and registered in England No. 04416182

This company is a Registered Charity under registration No. 1096279

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE BOARD

1st May 2024 to 30th April 2025

Objective of the Company

To provide a service which collects, manages and disseminates quality environmental information for the public benefit.

Public Benefit Statement

In addition to the public benefits arising from the availability of quality environmental information, such as assisting decision making which protects the environment, WBRC provides identification services to members of the public, and provides education on environmental issues through its support of the Worcestershire Recorders, their field events, the production of the joint journal, Worcestershire Record, and its website www.wbrc.org.uk. We aim to include records held by WBRC on the National Biodiversity Network Atlas of which WBRC is a member.

WBRC has continued to supply information to all Service Level Agreement holders including Environment Agency, Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, together with providing data to environmental consultants and local natural history groups, with species identification assistance to members of the public on an ongoing basis as single data requests. This year WBRC began working to the 1st year of the 3 year (2024-27) strategic plan with an overview to secure and further develop the organisation.

Staffing continued at 1.8 FTE in with 2 long-term volunteers contributing greatly during this reporting period within the areas of data processing and administrative duties. Commercial enquiries remained an important income stream, representing c.45% of total income, Service Level Agreement streams were stable during this period and all look to renew for next financial year. WBRC can report a sound financial status to end the year.

The update of the Worcestershire area of the National Ancient Woodland Inventory was completed during this financial year. This is a major project was fully funded by Woodland Trust in conjunction with Natural England.

The database has continued to grow over the year, giving access to over 1.7 million records in the county. The methods by which data is funnelled into WBRC have begun to evolve over the last few years and much more biological recording is undertaken by individuals via online portals such as iRecord. WBRC is working to update and maintain processes to ensure we collate and provide access to the best possible data for the county.

Review of Financial Activity

The organisation finished the year with total assets of **£55,912.86**

Ruth Bourne

Chair of the Board

Worcestershire Biological Records Centre
Financial Statement - 01.05.24 to 30.04.25

Charity Number 1096279
Company Number 4416182

		£
Income		
Contributions	Worcs Wildlife Trust	10,500.00
Contributions	Worcs County Council	4,750.00
Contributions	Environment Agency	10,437.56
Contributions	Woodland Trust (Ancient Woodland Inventory)	9,000.00
Contributions	EcoRecord Project Grant	7,500.00
Sales		38,691.77
Bank Interest		628.48
Total income		81,507.81
Expenditure		
Employment Costs		85,543.32
Phone & Broadband		174.00
Insurance		724.77
Expenses/Travel		263.69
Office/Equipment/IT		2,223.58
Training/Conferences		947.80
Rent/Rates		1,316.03
OS Licence		695.54
ALERC Membership		580.00
Total expenditure		92,468.73
Deficit for year		-10,960.92

Balance sheet

£

Bank Balance Brought Forward	66,873.78
Deficit for year	-10,960.92
Bank Balance Carried Forward	55,912.86

J Buhse 25/2/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

WORCESTERSHIRE BIOLOGICAL RECORDS CENTRE

On accounts for the year
ended

APRIL 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1096279

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

J Blakiston

Date:

26/2/26

Name:

JOHN BLAKISTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

ACMA (Member in Practice)

(if any):

Address: Rose Cottage, Spring Grove Bens
Bambling Bypass, Bambling, Wors
DYN 113

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

NONE