

Policy for BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorders

Previously known as Vice County Recorders (VCR)



Background

The British Dragonfly Society (BDS) is a charity and the name is well respected, so we must act at all times in the best interests of our members and of dragonfly conservation. This may at times require patience and a high level of diplomacy.

This role was previously called Vice County Recorder, but Watsonian Vice Counties are poorly understood by the public, so a name change became necessary. **The principle of using Vice Counties as recording units geographically remains though.** Political boundaries can change and regularly do, but Vice Counties provide a stable structure over time, enabling comparisons to be made. It also ensures that no area falls between changing boundaries.

This document sets out to define the role of the BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder and how the BDS can best support the BDS Recording Scheme (formerly DRN).

BDS also has policies for Volunteers and Local Groups which may already cover part of the Recorder role as described below.

Core activities of a BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder (these may be carried out by more than one person, but a single point of contact is usually required)

- Encourage submission of county records. Use of iRecord is the preferred option.
- Wherever possible thank observers for their records and develop their interest further – either directly or indirectly through local websites, Darter or other publications.
- Upload records submitted direct to the BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder at least annually to iRecord.
- Validate & verify all records submitted either directly or via the iRecord system.
- Direct local recorder effort towards under-recorded areas and species.
- Encourage the use of Complete Lists and repeat visits wherever possible.
- Encourage more volunteers to monitor important dragonfly sites.
- Keep all recorders in the county up-to-date with recording progress by producing an annual Darter newsletter article.
- Act as a central point of contact in the county for conservation and Priority Site advice.

Regular recorders may be alerted to under-recorded sites in a number of ways:-

- By articles in local natural history newsletters or on local websites.
- Directly by email or letter.
- By personal contact at events and field meetings where maps may be displayed.
- In response to queries about “how they could help”.

Additional activities (Optional extras that would be helpful to the BDS and may enhance county recording)

- Promote membership of the BDS.
- Arrange field meetings, run workshops, give talks and attend events to raise the profile of dragonfly recording and conservation.
- Set up a BDS Local Group or support existing Local Group involvement by attendance at events and meetings.
- Data analysis and presentation as detailed feedback to recorders.

- Liaise and cooperate with Local Record Centres and other wildlife groups in the county and surrounding areas, where appropriate.
- Post requests for records on county email forums and social media – requesting the 'what', 'where', 'when' and 'how many' for all records.
- Provide advice to local authorities and country agencies as necessary or when requested to do so.
- Encourage the production or repeat of a local county atlas.

Support for BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorders

What the BDS can provide:

- Equipment if requested and funds allow.
- Materials for publicity, membership forms etc.
- Training in species identification and ecology.
- Recording system training and support.
- Health & Safety advice (e.g. Risk assessments for field visits, events etc).
- Insurance cover for events publicised on the BDS website.
- Contact details of other BDS members in the county (Note: the Data Protection Act only allows us to do this if the BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder is also a BDS member).
- Annual Spring Meeting - Sharing knowledge and experience within the co-ordinated BDS Recording Scheme.
- Recognition of the various skills that people bring to the role.
- Regular communication (Dragonfly News, BDS e-news, Darter etc).

It is expected that in order to receive the above support from the BDS, that the BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder will be a member of the BDS wherever possible.

If the core activities of a BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder are not carried out and the BDS fails to receive sufficient records from a Vice County to serve its needs as a data provider and advisor on dragonfly conservation, the BDS may seek to replace the BDS County/Area Dragonfly Recorder with another individual or group.