



### Requesting a site visit from HBRG

HBRG is a small membership organisation for people interested in recording wildlife in the Highland Council area. It was founded in 1986 and currently has about 130 members. We have members who are interested in many different groups of species, but we do not routinely record higher plants (i.e. flowering plants and ferns) or birds, because these are well covered by organisation such as the BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) and BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) respectively. An exception is made for Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) of higher plants, which we do record, as a condition of our grant-aid from NatureScot. We are all volunteers - the organisation has no paid staff, but we do receive a grant to enable making our data publicly available.

Our membership includes people who are interested in and knowledgeable about many different species groups: mammals, reptiles and amphibians, slugs and snails, worms, butterflies and moths, beetles, bugs, flies, ants, bees and wasps, grasshoppers, woodlice, spiders, fungi, lower plants (mosses, liverworts and lichens), plant galls and more.

As volunteers, we would carry out a site visit as one of our programme of summer field meetings. So the types of information we can provide will depend on which members are able to attend on the day. After such a visit, which you would be very welcome to join, we would supply a list of the species found, with some notes on any which are legally protected, or otherwise of particular interest.

We are unable to undertake the kind of comprehensive surveys required to accompany Planning Applications, nor to set up scientifically rigorous monitoring programmes. All of our work is conducted on the basis that all records made on our visit will be submitted to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas, which is a publicly available online database. These records will be accessible online at full resolution except in the case of protected or vulnerable species (e.g. badgers) where revealing the exact locality could expose the species to unlawful persecution. It is NBN policy that such records are displayed at reduced resolution. HBRG currently has nearly 300,000 records on the NBN Atlas.

For further information please check our website ([www.hbrg.org.uk](http://www.hbrg.org.uk)) or contact [secy@hbrg.org.uk](mailto:secy@hbrg.org.uk)

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