Living Record hits half a million records nationwide - and 278,000 of those are from Dorset!

Dorset recorders have been involved with Living Record since it started in 2009 when Adrian began working with the Dorset Dragonfly Group to set-up an online recording system. Since then it has evolved into a comprehensive system for recording across the taxonomic groups.

A huge thank you to all of you who have got involved, coming along to training sessions, using LR for your recording and providing feedback to Adrian and DERC which has allowed us to make changes and improve LR for everyone.

By March 2015 LR had collected 273,425 records for Dorset. The majority of these are for moths and vascular plants but dragonfly, bird, reptile and lichen recorders are also making an impact plus several thousand records for other groups.

But it is not all about numbers. What is exciting for us at DERC is the quality of the data coming in through LR. Because the data comes to DERC verified and in a standard format, it will make it easier for us to get the data into our main database where it can be used for a whole variety of things including conservation projects and planning screening. So, even if you only occasionally add records, please do keep going, it all helps us build a picture of Dorset.
As well as celebrating the progress in Living Record we also wanted to highlight some of the new features Adrian has added and respond to some often-asked questions.

### New Features

**Verification comments:** using the Possible Issues page you can check for comments from the verifier. In the example below several records have been queried.

You can click on the Check: Queried records to take you to the map and each record.

Note: If you agree with the verifier and change the record your original identification will be gone unless you mention it in your comments. For example:

The verification comments will not be downloaded with the record but they will remain in the system for you to see if you go back to a record.
**New Features**

Two new fields “How identified?” and “Evidence retained” have been added so recorders can include a note on individual records to support their identification. “How identified” may relate to equipment used or particular features you have looked for. You can use the Evidence retained field to note if you have kept a photograph or herbarium specimen for example.

**Queries**

**Why can’t I see bat records on a 1km distribution map?** For some species (c. 20 species plus all bats) there are restrictions on displaying records at greater resolution. For some of these species it is because they can be easily disturbed or are threatened by collectors but others are only found on private land. This is controlled by DERC and the county recorders.

**Will Living Record use new species names?** Unfortunately the scientific names for species do change occasionally (more often now with DNA testing). Adrian has already begun to update LR to cope with these changes by tackling plant names and updating the system with those used in Stace 3 (the current bible for vascular plants). To add a record for Celandine the recorder can use the English name, the familiar old Latin or (using the new Stace 3 list) the current Latin, *Ficaria verna*. The new name comes up in brown and will, hopefully, help the recorder adopt the new names. *Asplenium scolopendrium* is another example.