

Cornish Biodiversity Network

Validation and Verification Policy

All the species and habitat data accessible via the Cornish Biodiversity Network's (CBN) website is validated and verified to ensure the quality of the data.

Data validation is the process of checking for the completeness of a record, the accuracy of transmission and the validity of its content.

Data verification is the process of checking the accuracy of the identification of the species/habitat being recorded.

1. The processes of validation and verification

- To validate a record manual and automated data validation routines are carried out on data entry (grid references, dates, sources etc.).
 - Records have the correct scientific nomenclature in accordance with the nationally recognised Natural History Museum's Species Dictionary, as used by the NBN, the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) or other expert sources.
 - The legal and national statuses of taxa are drawn from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) *Conservation Designations for UK Taxa* (current version is Taxon_designations_20180125). The latest edition (the 2nd edition) of the *Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly* (CISFBR, 2009) is used for the local status of taxa.
 - Standard habitat/biotope definitions are used where appropriate, including Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and the Phase 1 Habitat Classification.

- To verify a species record, the following are checked:
 - Who made the record – are they known to the CBN/taxon verifier?
 - What was seen and whether someone else determined the identification.
 - When it was seen.
 - Where it was seen.

- The majority of the records have been verified by the recognised County Recorder or Recorder Group for that particular taxonomic group.

- Taxa new to the region or are known to be difficult to identify are automatically highlighted and referred to local or national experts for verification.

NOTE: Validation and verification is an ongoing process.

2. Metadata

Metadata is the mechanism for documenting the source and characteristics of datasets and are produced for each dataset. See the CBN *Metadata Policy*.