



Data and Information

Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA)

In 1995, all of Warwickshire's six local authorities, plus Solihull and Coventry Unitary Authorities, Natural England and the Environment Agency, joined together to establish the Habitat Biodiversity Audit, managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The aim of the Audit was to survey the whole of Warwickshire to provide up-to-date biodiversity information.

Since 1995, this project has computer-mapped every field and boundary for the whole of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull to a national standard methodology. The data is held on a Geographical Information System, which provides high quality colour coded maps and linked site notes with a powerful tool for interpretation and statistical analysis.

Surveying is ongoing, and a mechanism has been established to update the HBA on an annual basis. The aim is for each field and boundary to be re-surveyed at least every five years.

This data is invaluable in protecting and enhancing habitats for wildlife across the sub-region. The council uses the information for a range of purposes, including spatial planning purposes.

The HBA is the only recognised Best Practice model for monitoring and auditing biodiversity by the European Union Committee of Regions (December 2006).

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