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Editorial

The prospect of a Biological Recording seminar later this year is a good excuse to examine the role of Local Biological Records Centres. A thought provoking article (and, I hope, comment provoking) by Bill Ely is published in this newsletter.

The article concerns species and site recording and touches on a few points I have been thinking about for a time. These involve site recording, a field for which no recognised national network exists at present. Not only is the approach to site recording very diverse, but the use of data by LBRCs is equally so. The form in which data is collected and stored must be tailored to its potential users. Some LBRCs are heavily involved in planning decisions, SSSI selection and even reserve management. How far should we get involved and how much time can we justify spending on such activities? Is this a role that is best played by a national body, or should museums be looking for extra staff to specialise in this field? At present we feel that the level of involvement of most museums is dependent on the demands by other bodies and the time and inclination of the curator; no clear national strategy exists. Do curators think that they could leave this aspect of their work to other bodies, such as local authority ecologists or even planning authorities? Where do we draw the line?

Comments please for the next issue. Even a half page on what approach you take and why would be of interest.

Happy New Year!

N.B.

Subscriptions for 1984 were due on January 1st. If you have not yet paid then please do so; further reminders are time-consuming and expensive. The rates remain unchanged for 1984: £4.00 personal membership, £7.00 institutional and overseas membership.

Please note that BCG membership is now approved for income tax exemption, and approval has been effectively back dated to April 6th, 1982. Please inform your local Tax Office and make the necessary claim. The letter I received from the Inland Revenue is reproduced below and gives full details.

John Mathias, Hon.Treasurer