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It is to be expected that the discovery of new sites and species will lead to some being scheduled as S.S.S.I, made into nature reserves, or some conservation activity being taken on their behalf.

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Guidebook for Local Biological Records Centres - a synopsis

The B.C.G. Committee has agreed to support the production of a guidebook for those running, or proposing to run, a local biological records centre. The draft of this will be discussed at the meeting of centres at Monks Wood on 1st and 2nd December and then presented to the A.G.M. of the Curators Group on December 3rd before final printing is sanctioned.

The following is a synopsis of the proposed guide. The Honorary Editor would welcome comments from members.

1. Introduction
2. Area of coverage - reasons for aiming at one centre for each County Council or equivalent local authority area - historical county and vice-county recording - need for national network centred on B.R.C.
3. Types of information and functions - emphasis on site and species information of high quality - relationship with local authority biologists who would concentrate on landscape evaluation? Service, in addition to planning, for research and general public enquiries.
4. Sources of data - Literature, Museum, Field records - BRC, BTO, WFT, etc., and priorities both of sources to abstract and groups to tackle, Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

5. File Structure. The right mix of grid and site files.
6. Schemes and materials available - with an estimate of costs of the files, maps and cards necessary to set up system.
Use of microfiche and computers.
7. Site - Geological and Habitat classification - review of Sites Recording Scheme and suggested modifications, including need to add access details.
8. Dissemination of data - including consideration of use of E.D.P. for stimulating recording and to inform conservation organisations and general public - Red Data Book, Floras and Faunas. Annual and local meetings of Centres for coordination.
9. Enrolment and use of voluntary help both in the centre and in the field. Kinds of schemes in which young children can participate effectively.
10. Role of the Centre in relation to Trusts, N.C.C., Local Authorities, Nat.Hist Societies, Ministry of Defence, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Etc.,
Need for a Natural History Forum in association with Community Council?
11. Relations with BRC - the methods of data exchange and the priorities for species and sites.
12. Confidentiality.
13. Appendices a) List of Records Centres/map
b) List of gazeteers
c) N.C.C. Regions
d) Bibliography.