

iRecord verifiers' newsletter March 2020

Dear iRecord verifier,

This short newsletter is being sent to everyone who currently has a verification role linked to their account on the [iRecord](https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord) website. It can also be accessed via the verifiers' resources page:

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/resources-verify>

Topics included:

- iRecord and iNaturalist
- The current and old verification pages
- iRecord technical developments
- Webinars for verifiers
- "Why I use iRecord"

iRecord and iNaturalist

We have had further feedback following the trial imports from iNaturalist last year. Responses have been mixed, but on balance have been weighted towards not continuing this import process, due to a range of issues around data quality, data flow and data duplication as well as limitations on the technical/software side of things. We have taken the decision not to continue importing iNaturalist records during 2020, and more information on the reasons for this is available via the iRecord Help menu at:

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/linking-inaturalist>

If this decision causes difficulties for your recording scheme, or if you have any suggestions as to how we could resolve some of the difficulties in future, please let us know.

The current and old verification pages

As of today the menu headings have changed so that the old verification page is under the heading "Verify – old" and the new one is now just "Verify". The long-promised revision to the verifiers' guidance document should be available later this week. In the meantime see the verifiers' resource page:

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/resources-verify>

We will have to switch off the old verification page at some point, to help maintain site performance, but there are still one or two issues to resolve before we do that.

iRecord technical developments

We are aware that the Download functions (from Explore – Download) are sometimes failing to run for some users. Work is under way to set up a new download page that will use the same 'elasticsearch' technology that the new verification page uses. Among other things this will remove the need to impose a limit of 20,000 records in any one download.

Webinars for verifiers

During the coming months we are going to run some online webinars to demonstrate the current verification tools, and seek feedback from verifiers. I'm not sure how much demand there will be for this, and we want to run a fairly small-scale trial to start with. To join in you will need to be able to log in to the webinar via your computer's web browser, and if possible to use the computer's speakers and microphone, but it is also possible to join by phone.

If you would be interested in joining such a webinar please email me:

marharv@ceh.ac.uk

"Why I use iRecord"

I wrote this as a blog post in January. It represents my own personal views as a volunteer recording scheme organiser, and is not an official statement from BRC or UKCEH, but it may be of interest to some of you:

<http://kitenet.co.uk/wp/2020/01/14/why-i-use-irecord/>

Best wishes,
Martin Harvey

on behalf of the iRecord team
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