

Name of Method: Integrated Habitat System (IHS)

Summary of Method: The method has been developed by the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), in consultation with other organisations (<http://www.somerc.com/cdrom.php>). IHS is aimed at providing an integrated approach to the collection, management and analysis of habitat data. The approach is based on optimising the use of existing habitat data from a number of different sources through effective translation and providing a basis for overviews of the habitat resource. It includes a software translation tool, which can translate various data types into BAP priority habitats, manuals for field survey, protocols for GIS use etc.

Advantages of Method: Provides a summary of ecological information drawn from a number of sources, managed in the same database.

Limitations of Method: Requires a licence to be purchased and renewed on an annual basis. Data within the IHS is limited to UK information only.

References: www.somerc.com
South West Ecological Surveys, Levett-Therivel sustainability consultants and Oxford Brookes University, 2004. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners. Report to CCW, EN, EA and RSPB.