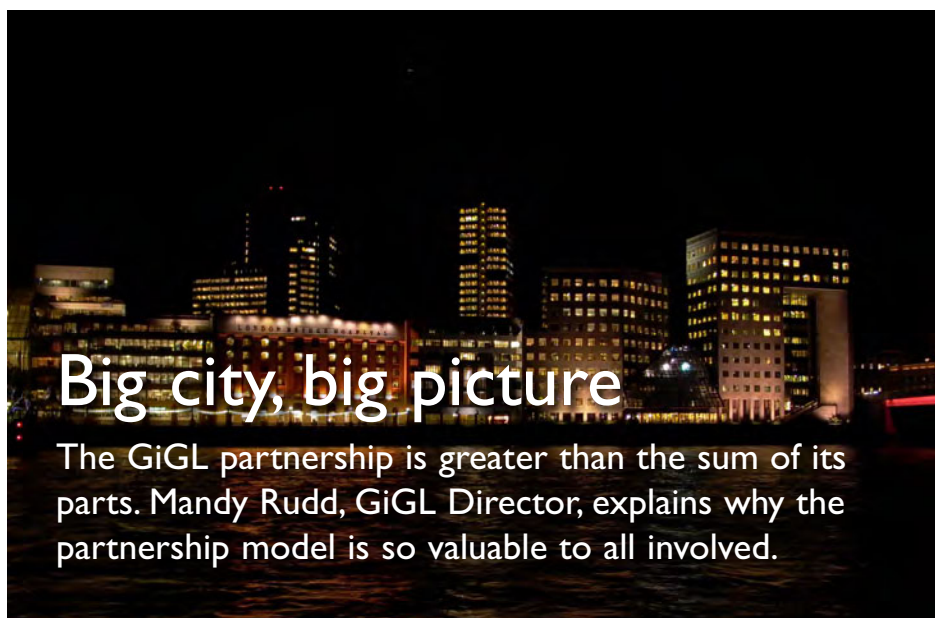


# the GiGLer

*The Greenspace Information for Greater London Environmental Recorder*



## Big city, big picture

The GiGL partnership is greater than the sum of its parts. Mandy Rudd, GiGL Director, explains why the partnership model is so valuable to all involved.

The 'collect once, use many times' ethos is at the heart of GiGL's work.

The relationship between GiGL and GiGL's partners isn't simply that of contractor and contractee. GiGL is run as a business, albeit not-for-profit, with the full cost of collating, managing and making data available being shared amongst our partners and customers.

*The costs of generating data and setting up systems to match those of the GiGL partnership would be prohibitive for an individual organisation.*

As well as sharing the costs, the partnership model allows partners to easily access the knowledge and expertise

of GiGL's steering group, recorders advisory group, and individual partners, and the expertise of our colleagues in other biodiversity records centres and in the National Biodiversity Network.

The time and financial costs of generating data and setting up systems to match those of the GiGL partnership would be prohibitive for an individual organisation. Working with us ensures best value.

A number of issues arise from this partnership model – those under the spotlight in this issue include providing credit where it's due to London's army of recorders, and recognising and protecting the rights of data owners.

## Inside this issue

### Credit where it's due

Whether for press, publicity, for presentations or publications, GiGL stats are invaluable. Just remember where you got them!

[page 2](#)

### Copy rights and wrongs

Who owns the data that we collate and you use?

[page 3](#)

### The GiGL film club

A simple analogy to explain what rights partnership does and doesn't provide.

[page 5](#)

### Bird's-eye view

Aerial photographs reveal London's hidden greenspaces.

[page 6](#)

### Up, up and away

Recorder 6 is now up and running. Discover some of the benefits to customers.

[page 7](#)

### GiGL News

Pignuts, planning and PTES.

[page 8](#)

The GiGL partnerships' records have passed a significant milestone – having exceeded the one million species mark – a fantastic achievement and all thanks to our partners. It is vital that the efforts of our data providers are recognised and appropriately acknowledged by the end users of our services. With that in mind, you will find some brief guidance on press and publicity below

We are often asked about the copyright issues surrounding data produced by partner organisations and individuals, as well as the restrictions on the use of their data. Oliver Grafton, the National Biodiversity Network's Data Access Officer, has written us a really useful article about this topic on [page 3](#), opposite. We have

added some GiGL-specific examples to help explain the need for data access policies and data use licenses.

And finally, there have been some significant in-house developments. In partnership with London Wildlife Trust, GiGL are working on a year-long garden research project looking at land use in London's gardens; more on this from Chloë Smith on [page 6](#). On the system development side of our work, we have finished our database upgrade and are now running Recorder 6. Matt Davies, GiGL's Data Manager, explains the opportunities this presents for new and improved services on [page 7](#).



## The GiGL press gang

Credit where credit's due. A great deal of work lies behind the snappy press and publicity stats GiGL provides.

GiGL's partners are making ever-more use of our growing data holdings to create snappy, media-friendly statistics in support of their biodiversity work – in press releases, publications and presentations.

While we are delighted that GiGL data are valuable in communicating the value of biodiversity, we need to ensure the role of GiGL's partners and staff in creating this information resource is acknowledged.

If you are using information derived from GiGL data in your publicity, it is essential to acknowledge the work of the GiGL

partnership. The data supplied to you come from a vast range of sources; partners, individual recorders, national organisations and others.

Acknowledgement of their contribution, of the funding and time it takes to produce the data, and of the skills of the GiGL team who facilitate access to this comprehensive resource, enhances our reputation, flags our work to organisations not yet involved, and allows us to further develop our data holdings.

Our data can be manipulated to meet the needs of any number of stories even, by

analysing socio-economic information alongside biodiversity data, to demonstrate how many Londoners benefit from improved access to open space. Statistics can be generated by partners or on request by the GiGL team.

*If you require bespoke statistics or information about the work of GiGL to include in your PR work, please [contact the GiGL team](#) who will be glad to help.*



# Know your copyrights

Do you know your copyright from your elbow? Who owns the records in GiGL's database? Oliver Grafton, of the [National Biodiversity Network](#) explains the ins and outs of data ownership, with GiGL examples from Mandy Rudd

Ask Auk

As a GiGLer reader, you are probably already one of the estimated 60,000 people who collect wildlife records in the UK. The records that you provide GiGL are the foundation of our work and contribute to a greater understanding of the wildlife that lives in the capital.

But, when you hand your records to GiGL, what exactly are you passing on? Who owns the wildlife records that you create and we use?

In the eyes of the law, a documented wildlife record – paper or electronic – is considered a literary product. In the same way that an author is automatically awarded a legal right to protect their intellectual property – the investment they make in creating their work – so too is the creator of a wildlife record. Copyright allows you to exercise control over how your intellectual property is used under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988. If you create a record in your own time, you hold any associated copyright. If you create a record as part of your

## GiGL's accessing data policy

GiGL's fundamental principle is to make available all records, no matter how sensitive, with the appropriate interpretation, via GiGL and via the National Biodiversity Network's Gateway. However, access to records is restricted where general availability could pose a real threat to species or habitats, or would compromise the supply of data.

For further information on the policy please [see our website](#)

employment, copyright is awarded to your employer; unless you are a freelance or independent contractor. In this case, you retain copyright over any works you produce for a client unless your contract specifies otherwise.

## GiGL contract annex

We want to be clear that we have your permission to add your records to the GiGL database. The data exchange principles promoted by the National Biodiversity Network emphasise this; "A clear transfer of authority should be made when a biodiversity data resource is put together; to allow biodiversity managers to act on behalf of the biodiversity data owners."



For this reason, it is important for organisations that commission survey work to specify who will own copyright of the survey data, that they require access to data at full resolution, and, if they wish to supply those data to GiGL, the format they should be in.

GiGL can provide a contract annex that outlines:

- The processes of data entry in Recorder 6 or Recorder-ready spreadsheets
- The minimum quality assurance and quality control checks
- The information and metadata requirements of GiGL systems.

### But why should you permit GiGL to use your records?

GiGL is widely regarded as the 'one-stop shop' for data on London's wildlife and open spaces. It provides services to individuals and organisations at a local, national and international level, including recording schemes and the wider public. The partnership's data inform planning decisions and broader agendas including health and well-being; help target conservation work; contribute to better understanding of species distribution and change; and generate greater interest in and understanding of wildlife and the environment.

The GiGL database contains a wide range of wildlife information collated from hundreds and thousands of records from public and professional surveys. New records are checked, formatted and may have contextual information added as they are entered into the GiGL database – work that relies on the skills of GiGL's staff and the knowledge of taxonomic experts with whom GiGL works.

GiGL has its own associated intellectual property rights that protect the work of creating and managing our database. These are in addition to, and do not remove or replace, the intellectual property rights of each recorder. GiGL's intellectual property rights allow us to control how our database and information within it is used. Just as GiGL needs permission to use your records, anyone wishing to use information drawn from GiGL's database needs GiGL's permission.

Intellectual property rights were originally established to enable individuals and organisations to profit from their own intellectual creativity – to encourage greater creativity within a free market economy. The cutting edge of the medical research industry, for example, thrives on intellectual property rights. However, although these rights stimulate medical creativity, they also mean that resulting advances are not readily available to the majority of society.

Experience within the biodiversity sector to date has been the polar opposite. Few if any recorders use their records for financial gain. It is increasingly accepted that greater understanding of the natural environment and our impact upon it can be gained by maximising the availability and use of records.

GiGL's own policy is not to profit from providing access to records. GiGL is actively working with the wider NBN partnership to look for new funding models that will benefit everyone involved in biological recording – including you and 59,999 other recorders.



## The GiGL Film Club - a simple analogy

Membership of a film club allows you access to DVDs of your choice, whether your interest is in black and white classics or the latest releases, art-house or blockbuster; without the financial outlay of buying the entire library.

You may watch the films you borrow, but are not permitted to copy or re-distribute them.

Your annual subscription to the club contributes a small fraction of the running costs of the film club but, by sharing these costs between all members, the resource becomes accessible and sustainable for all. The time and financial costs of assembling that library, of paying for the requisite expertise to manage your own film library of similar scale and quality to the film club would be prohibitive.

If your membership expires, your right to borrow DVDs also expires and you must return those films still in your possession.

## GiGL Data Use Licences

GiGL requires each partner to complete and return a copy of our data use licence for each year that they have a service level agreement with us. We also provide bespoke products to our partners' contractors on request, and these contractors are also asked to sign a copy of a slightly different version of the licence prior to us supplying data. The licence sets out four conditions of data supply.

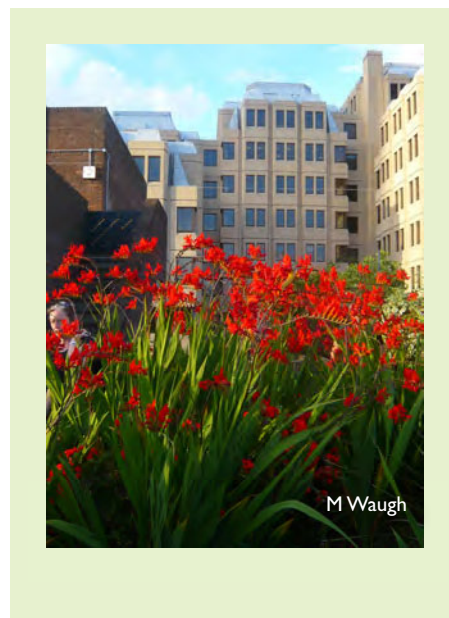
- Data are supplied for in-house use only
- On termination of a service level agreement, all data not owned by the organisation must be removed from all systems
- Responsibility for compliance with the agreement by all of a partner organisation's employees falls to the signatory
- GiGL can terminate a service level agreement if a partner is in breach of these terms.



There are more than three million private gardens in Greater London – a significant resource for wildlife and people. Despite the extent of London's gardens, information about their current use is scarce and concern is growing that changes in use – paving, car parking, development, etc., may reduce their value for wildlife. London Wildlife Trust and GiGL have joined forces to deliver the Garden Research Project to fill this gap in our knowledge. The project is funded by The Wildlife Trusts and the Greater London Authority, both of which have an interest in the value of gardens for wildlife and climate change.

Gardens are central to the Trust's vision to develop an ecologically functional network of green habitats within London, and to The Wildlife Trusts' national vision for 'Living Landscapes'. The results from the project will inform the London Trust's ongoing campaign to promote and encourage the role of London's gardens in supporting wildlife. The methodology will be transferable to other organisations for potential future projects.

The Greater London Authority is particularly interested in the apparent loss of London's gardens. By providing



information about where planning permission has been granted for developments, the GLA's input has been invaluable in tracking trends in changing garden composition and the impacts of

development. The research will provide evidence of the value of, and threats to, gardens within the city, so informing policy decisions.

Volunteers have provided access to their gardens, helping to identify broad habitat categories – garden lawn, hard surfaces, tree canopy cover, etc. Using these categories and aerial photographs from two time periods, I am now examining changes in garden land use over the last ten years. Given the impact of housing development, particular attention is being paid to gardens that have been developed within the last three years.

The sampling strategy, designed with expert advice from Dr Dave Dawson, ensures a representative balance of different sized gardens from every borough. Habitat coverage estimates from the sample will enable London-wide coverage to be extrapolated. A Geographical Information System (GIS) model will be developed – mapping garden networks across London and providing information about their biodiversity value and function. This will draw on existing resources managed by GiGL, including data on other green space, climate change modelling and socio-economic indices.

The enormous size of the gardens dataset presents significant challenges for processing, sampling, analysing and presenting extracted data. GiGL's existing data management and analysis expertise made GiGL the ideal partner for this project.

The data collection phase of the project is now underway and we anticipate preliminary results in the summer. The final findings will be launched in the autumn.



## The only way is up

Matt Davies, GiGL Data Manager, on the benefits of our latest software upgrade

M Waugh

After considerable effort to install, accurately migrate data and develop the custom reporting we need for our day-to-day work, our Recorder 6 database is now up and running.

Having reached the one million record milestone, the limit for the old Access-based system, an upgrade was essential. By conducting rigorous quality assurance and control throughout the upgrade process, we were able to improve data integrity while data were transferred, and to speed up our reporting mechanisms.

Recorder 6 is still based on the same well-documented, open and accessible NBN data model, but has a SQL-server platform, which allows us to store an almost infinite number of records. It is also more robust and secure, meaning there is even less chance of database corruptions.

Recorder 6 includes improved data capture and reporting tools, which will benefit GiGL and our partners in a number of ways. GiGL are accustomed to receiving data in various formats – paper reports, Excel spreadsheets, text files, custom databases and more. Until now, we've either had to manipulate these to a particular Excel format that would allow us to upload via an import wizard, or laboriously re-enter each record. While the new import wizard doesn't do all the work for us, it does accept a wider range of formats, which should make things a bit easier. It

also remembers matches to the inbuilt species dictionaries, meaning that future imports from the same source will be much faster and easier.

The first improvement that GiGL partners are likely to notice is the new 'spatial reference qualifier' added to the data exchange information. This is a 'health warning' that indicates the accuracy of the original grid reference. For example, a six-figure grid reference (such as TQ123456) is accurate to 100m, while a four-figure grid reference (such as TQ1234) is accurate to only 1,000m.

These accuracy flags are the first of many improvements we will be making to our reporting systems. Future improvements are planned to take advantage of the fact that SQL server is spatially enabled and much more powerful than Access (because it runs queries directly on the server). These will include a flag to indicate data validation status, greater automation of quarterly data exchanges – possibly meaning we could run exchanges every month if there is sufficient demand – together with more regular data uploads to the NBN Gateway. The migration to Recorder 6 appears to be one small step for GiGL, one giant leap for biological recording in London!

## GiGL news

### One million records and counting

The glory of becoming GiGL's millionth record goes to a pignut, recorded by Barn Hill Conservation Group. The lucky pignut was one of nearly 400,000 species records imported to the GiGL database during the 2008/09 financial year. The total number of species records reaching a whopping 1,178,824 by the end of March, representing 11,300 different species. Over the same time period we imported in excess of 6,500 habitat records, bringing the total up to 62,106.

We are still very keen to assist our partners in making their data available – particularly to ensure good geographic coverage for London's protected species. While some of our partners have provided excellent London-wide datasets, coverage of other species groups is less comprehensive. We will be working with national organisations to fill the gaps by generating new data, but existing data are just as important in building up the complete picture.

*If you hold protected species data that you would like to share via the GiGL partnership, ensuring that your data inform planning decisions and practical conservation work, please [get in touch](#).*

### Planning screening

Local authorities have a duty to ensure that legally protected species and priority habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development. Screening planning applications is generally a time-consuming process that allows only a small proportion of applications to be assessed for biodiversity interest.

With this in mind, GiGL recently worked

on a project with the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC), Natural England and local authority partners of GiGL and BRERC to build a prototype tool that enables planning applications to be screened against the record centres' data holdings. The prototype is aimed at two distinct end-users of biodiversity records centres' services – local authority planners and ecologists.

GiGL is about to recruit a planning officer to undertake the second phase of the project; developing the prototype into an operational tool to automatically screen planning applications against biodiversity data and to evaluate and test the system in at least two London boroughs.

GiGL will be working with a number of partners and other relevant regional and national organisations to ensure the final outputs of the project can be utilised by all biodiversity records centre partners.

### Staff changes.

Lauren Alexander 'Gordon' left GiGL in January for a new role as Mapping Officer on the People's Trust for Endangered Species' 'Hedgerows for Dormice' project. Lauren joined our team in December 2005 as a part-time Data Assistant, working her way up to the position of Senior Information Officer. Lauren is sorely missed, but her departure presents an opportunity to strengthen links with PTES, who own a lot of relevant and useful species data for the capital.

The Royal Parks have extended their contract with us for another year, so Claudia will continue in the role as GiGL's Royal Parks Officer.

## GiGL Staff

### Mandy Rudd

GiGL Director  
020 7803 4278  
[mandy.rudd@gigl.org.uk](mailto:mandy.rudd@gigl.org.uk)

### Matt Davies

GiGL Data Manager  
020 7803 4279  
[matt.davies@gigl.org.uk](mailto:matt.davies@gigl.org.uk)

### Tim Hogg

Information Officer  
020 7803 4277  
[tim.hogg@gigl.org.uk](mailto:tim.hogg@gigl.org.uk)

### Chloë Smith

GiGL/LWT Garden Research Officer  
020 7803 4275  
[chloe.smith@gigl.org.uk](mailto:chloe.smith@gigl.org.uk)

### Claudia Watts

GiGL Royal Parks Officer  
Based in Richmond Park

### Lyndsey Cox

GiGL Data Entry Officer  
Based in Western Australia

## the GiGLer

Commissioning Editor – Mandy Rudd  
[mandy.rudd@gigl.org.uk](mailto:mandy.rudd@gigl.org.uk)

Editor – Miranda Waugh [ask@askauk.com](mailto:ask@askauk.com)

Design, photography and illustrations – Ask Auk [www.askauk.com](http://www.askauk.com)

## GiGL Partners

A complete list can be found online at <http://www.gigl.org.uk/About/Partners/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

*GiGL is part of London Wildlife Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no. 1600379 and registered charity no. 283895. Registered office, Skyline House, 200 Union Street, London SE1 0LX*