



Planning the Future (LERC 2.0)

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LERC

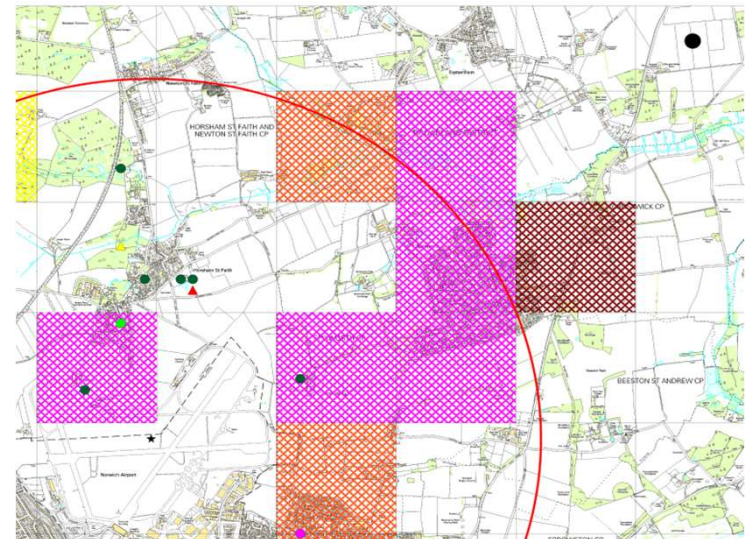
- Local Environmental Records Centre
- Collect environmental records from numerous sources
- Supply them for a range of projects
 - Including to inform local decision making, e.g. through ecological consultants or local authorities.
- Most records are of a species for specific place and time, collected voluntarily.
- But there are growing number of other types of record.

2.0

- The above definition is what LERCs currently are, and have been for several decades in some cases.
- 2.0 is what they *might* become, depending on the demands of the planning system are

Now

- Data is needed in protected species work, typically to support the conclusions and recommendations of consultants.
- It's also used by local authorities:
 - Provide an alert for presence of protected species
 - Inform local plans
- These services are highly valued and likely to continue for the foreseeable future



Changes

District Level
Licensing

25 Year Environment
Plan

Natural Capital and
ecosystem services

Net Gain

Legislative changes post
March 2019

Creating challenges and opportunities

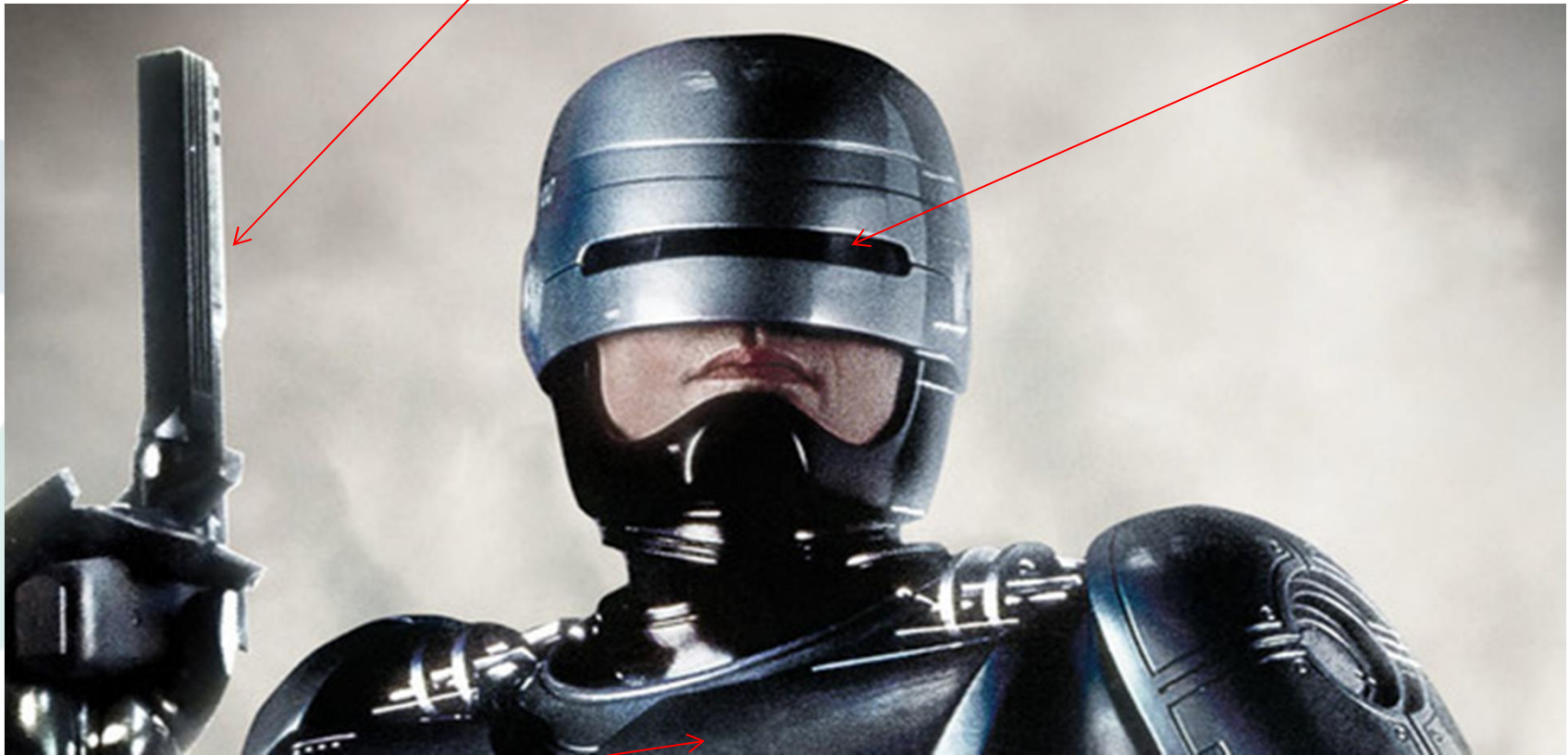
The future...

Data Gun

For shooting ecological data at
unscrupulous developers

Thermal Vision

For surveying nocturnal fauna



Outer Shell

Resistant to all forms of British weather

... is scary.

More realistically (and less scarily)

What is it that equips LERCs to deliver, or contribute to, new policies and systems?

What really are LERCs?

Perhaps...

“A team of people dedicated to managing the **spatial environmental data** for a specific locality and managing the **human relationships** that enable this data to be collated and used.”



Already happening....

Data Collection	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone)
	eDNA
Data Analysis	Predictive Modelling
	Accessible Greenspace Mapping
Data Use	Net Gain
	Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services



Why LERCs?

“A team of people dedicated to managing **spatial environmental data** for a specific locality and managing the **human relationships** that enable this data to be collated and used.”

- **Spatial environmental data**
 - Many sources of data in one place
- **Locality**
 - Local *matters*
 - Local knowledge very important in data verification etc. fostering relationships with stakeholders, building feelings of ownership.
- **Human relationships**
 - Working with volunteers reduces costs significantly – are volunteers likely to work so closely with for-profit enterprises? (some would)

Challenges

- **Standardisation / Consistency**
 - Businesses don't want to have to translate outputs depending on where in the country they are operating.
- **Service**
 - This has to be of a reasonable speed and standard at an affordable cost.
- **Knowledge sharing**
 - There is a need for LERCs to be able to learn from and train each other. Perhaps even sharing equipment where necessary.
- **Demand**
 - Businesses, local authorities, national government, the public all have to want to plan for a better environment. This is perhaps the biggest challenge of all.

The real future LERC 2.0...



... is not so scary.