

# 22 collections and counting

Christopher Weddell, Senior Gardens Advisor



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# Why English Heritage records plants

# **Organisations**

## Historic England

- National Advice and Information
  - Government Advice
- Heritage Protection and Planning
  - Designation
  - Heritage Protection
  - National Planning
- Historic Archive

## English Heritage

- National Collection
  - Historic Properties
  - London Blue Plaques
  - Curatorial

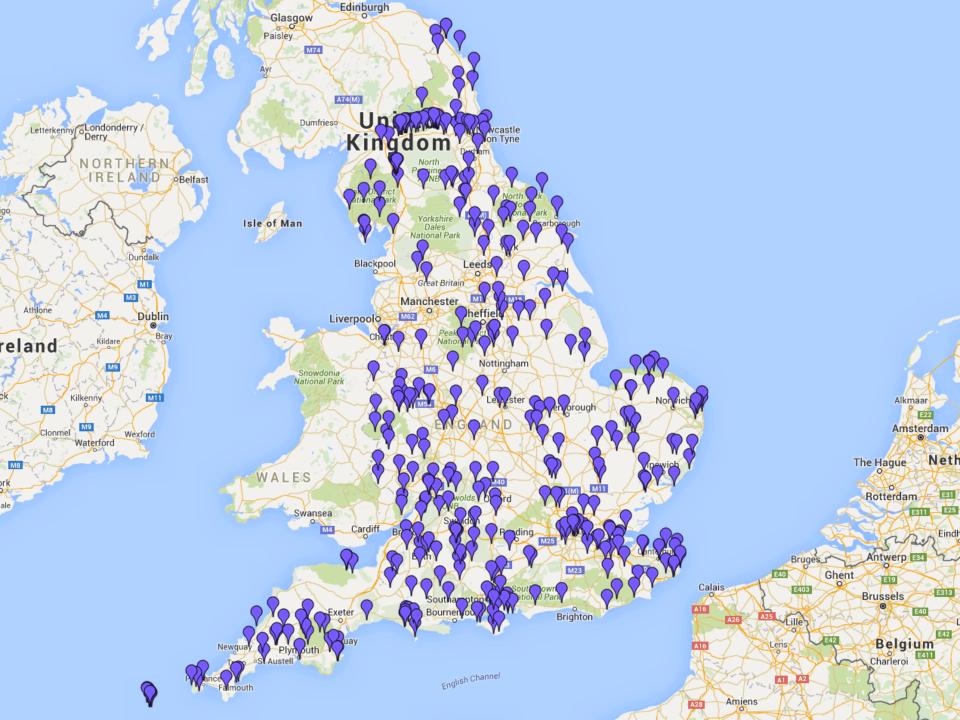


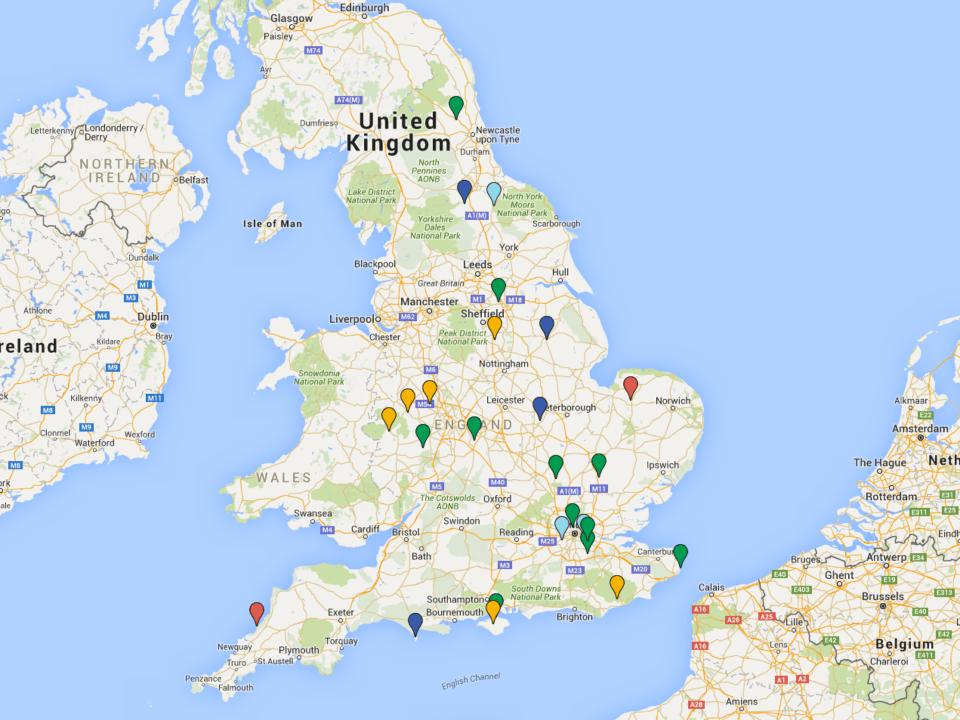
# **English Heritage**

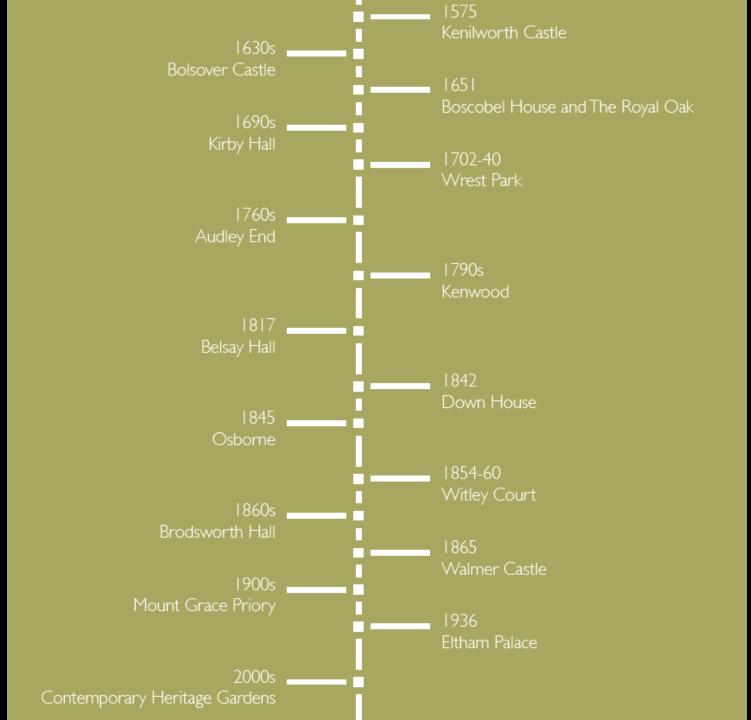
- 66 Castles
- 13 Agricultural & Industrial Sites
- 3 Municipal Buildings
- 6 Historical Bridges
- 53 Prehistoric Sites
- 23 Historic Gardens
- 53 Roman Sites
- 27 Forts & Defences
- 2 Hill Figures
- 3 Medieval Villages

- 47 Halls, Houses & Domestic Dwellings
- 47 London Statues
- 7 Palaces
- 1 Battlefield
- 1 Cold War Bunker
- 84 Ecclesiastical Sites























# Why English Heritage records plants

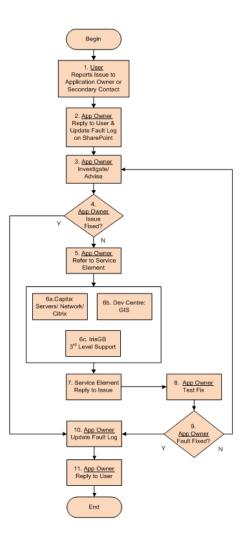
- Plants are part of the national collection, as much as furniture, paintings, museum exhibits.
- English Heritage gardens are valuable historic resources which provide a living record of planting designs, landscape features, etc.
- Many hours of research spent to uncover historical information on each site and it is our responsibility to maintain the accessibility and continuity of this information for future custodians of our gardens and landscapes, and to share it with the public.
- Without historical records much of our work would lack cultural and historical significance and continuity.
- Support decision making, allows changes to be tracked.



# IrisBG and IT Teamwork

# Service Support Document

- English Heritage
- Historic England shared service agreement:
  - IT support and services:Capita Secure Information Systems Limited
  - GIS support and services:
    Historic England GIS team

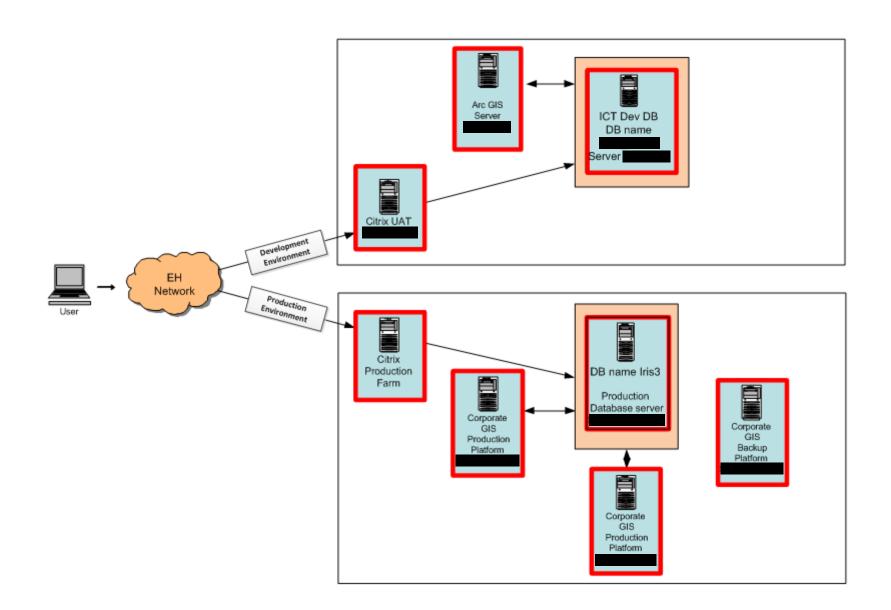




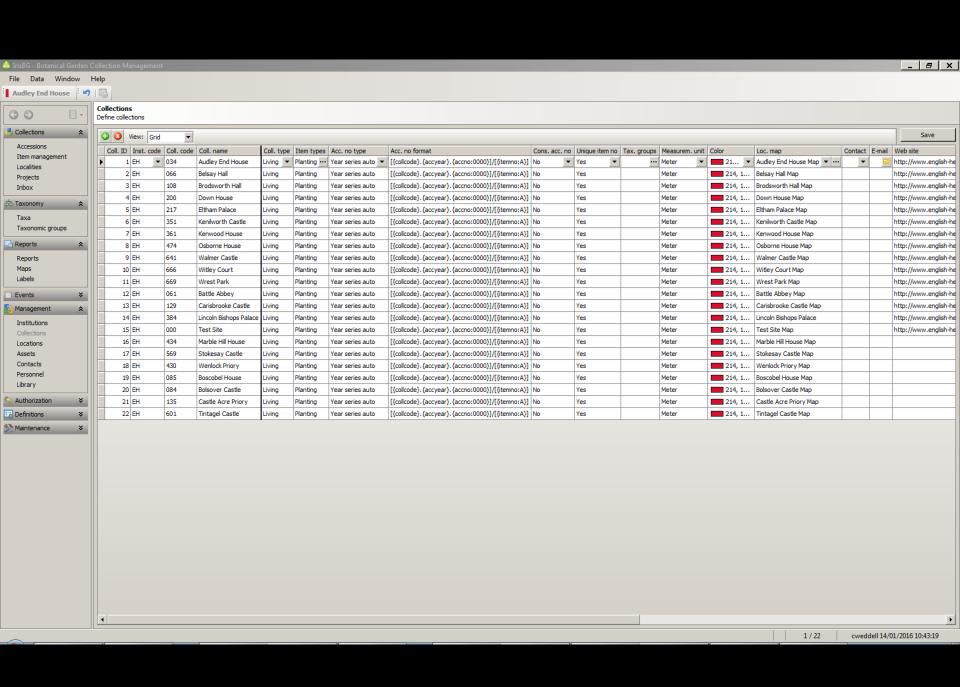
## IrisBG installation

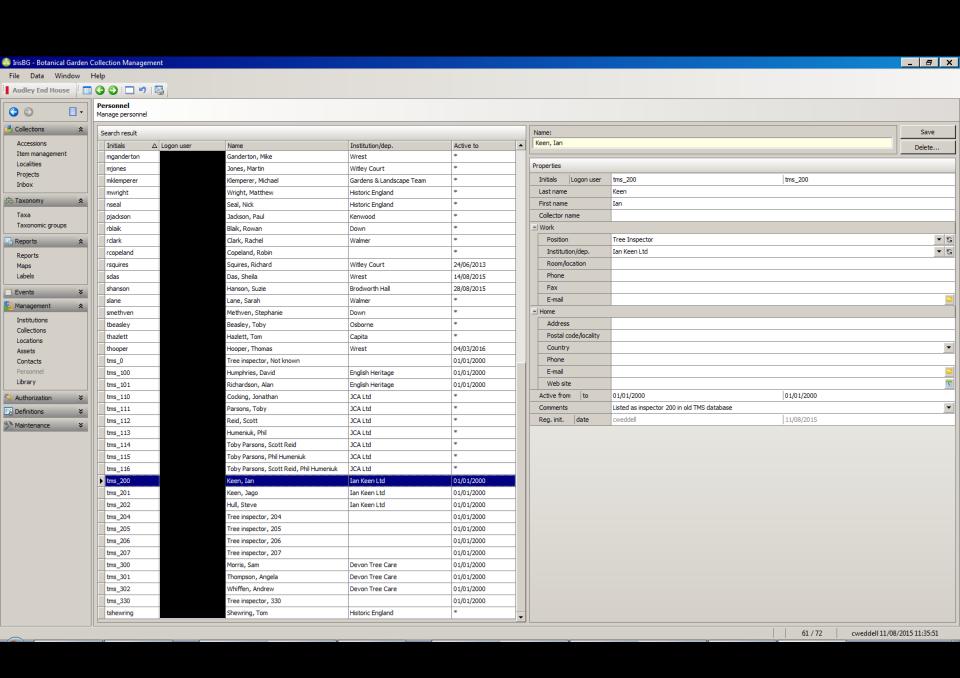
- IrisBG
  - 5 concurrent users and unlimited plant collections
  - Mapping component (WSG84)
  - Data Import
- Installation / operation
  - Users access IrisBG via Citrix XenApp, which connects to a back end SQL database. There is both a test system, hosted by the Development Centre, and a production service.
  - A Single Sign-On feature has been enabled for both the test and production environments so users can now log on using network credentials.

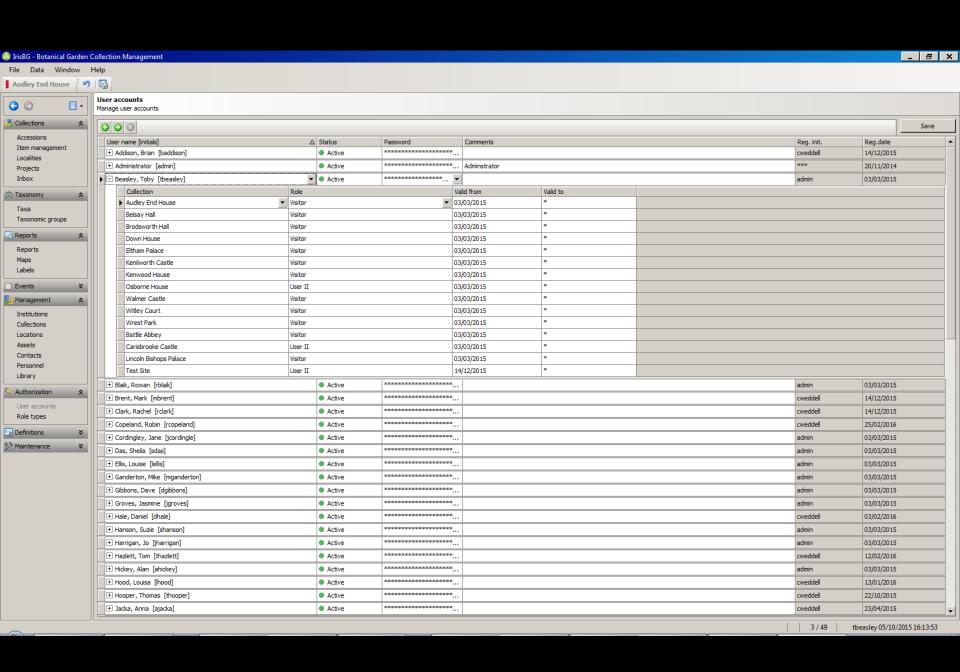


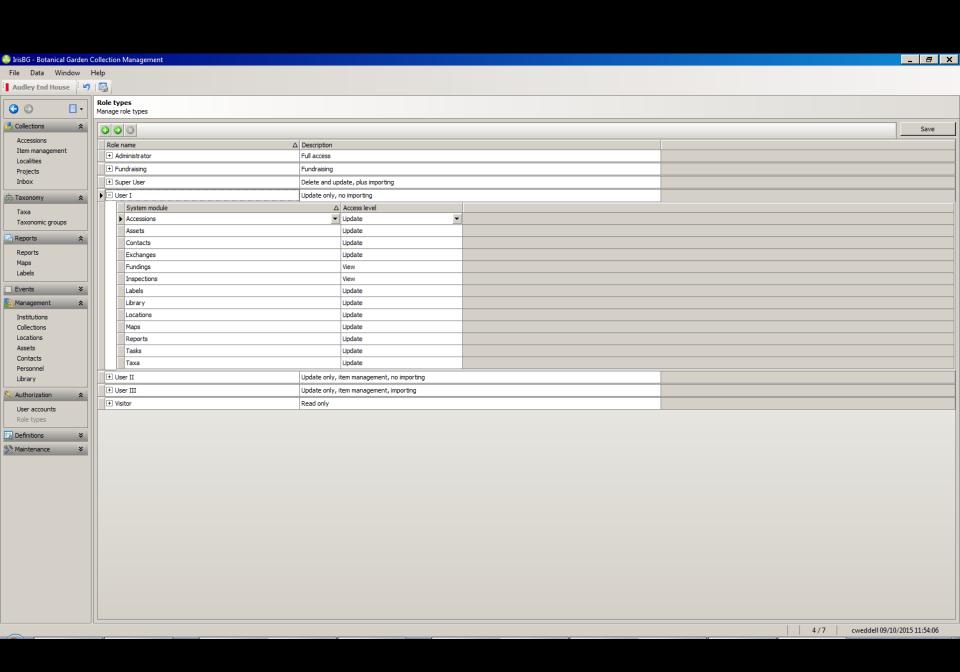


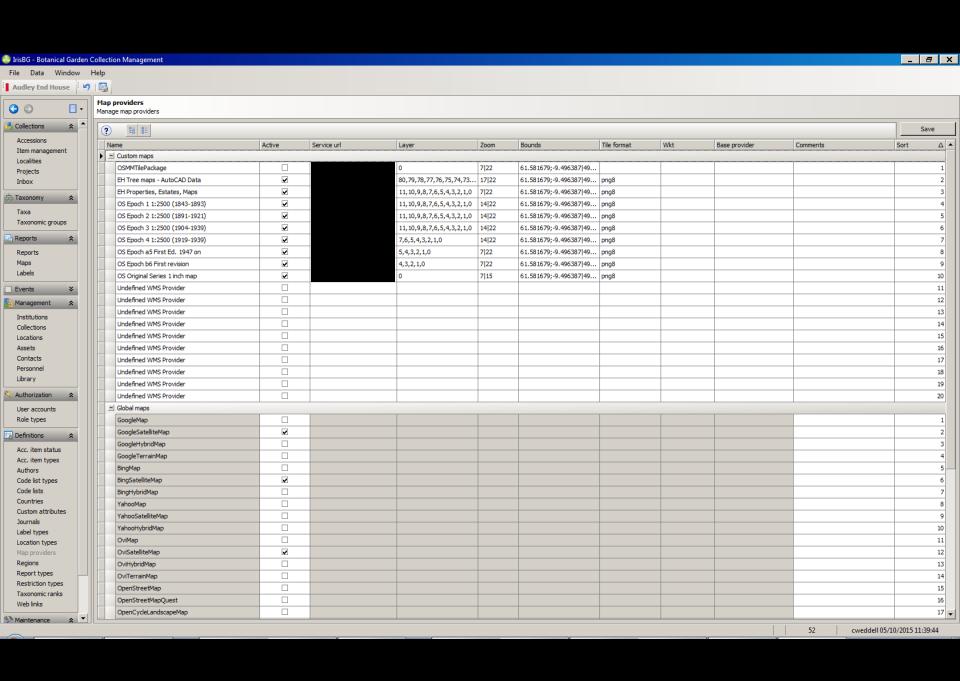
# 1 year on with IrisBG

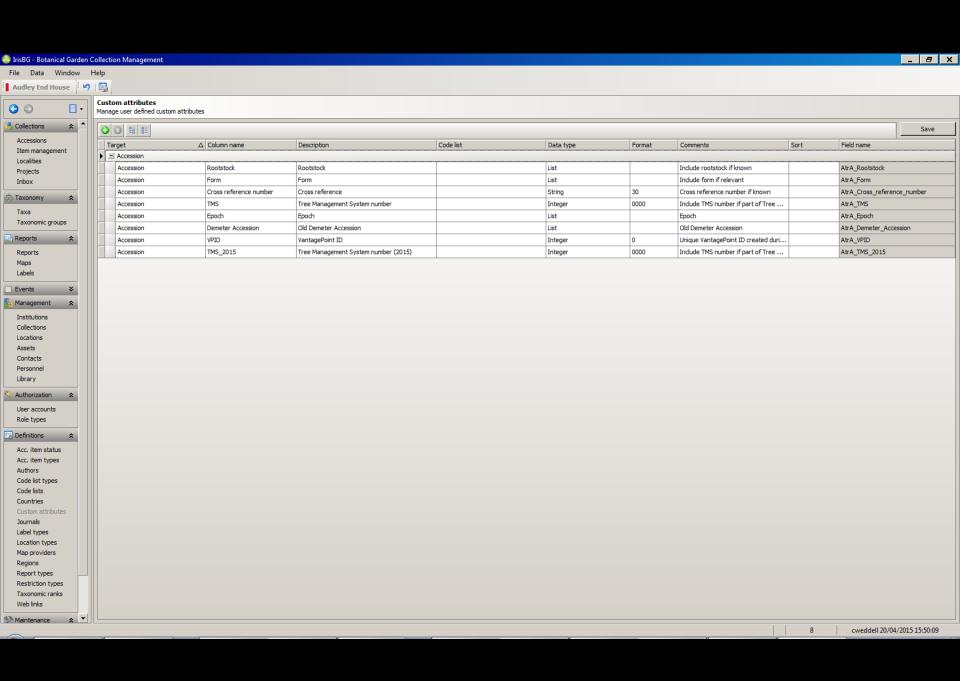


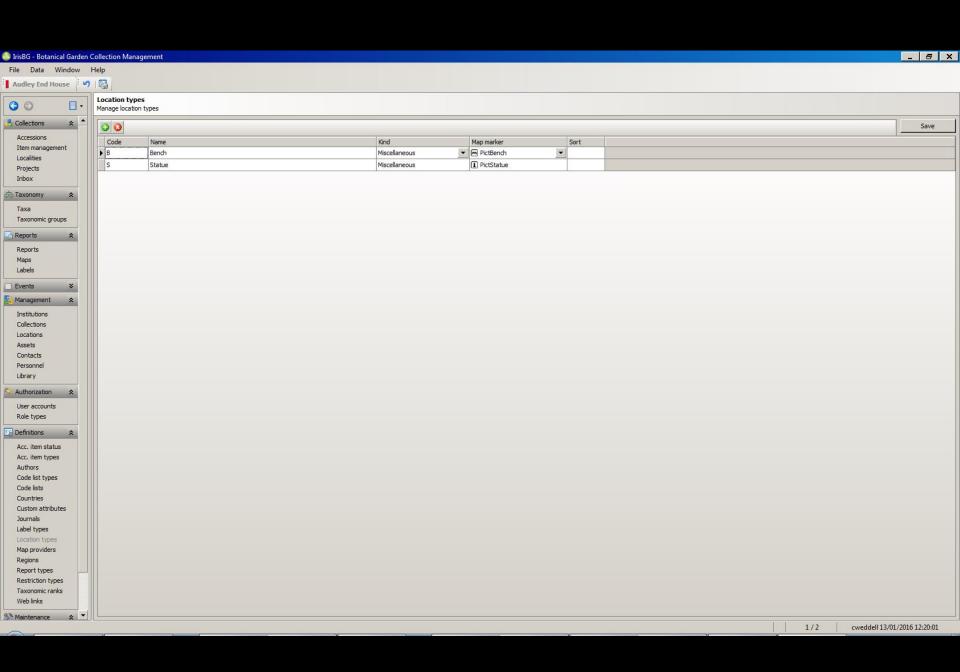


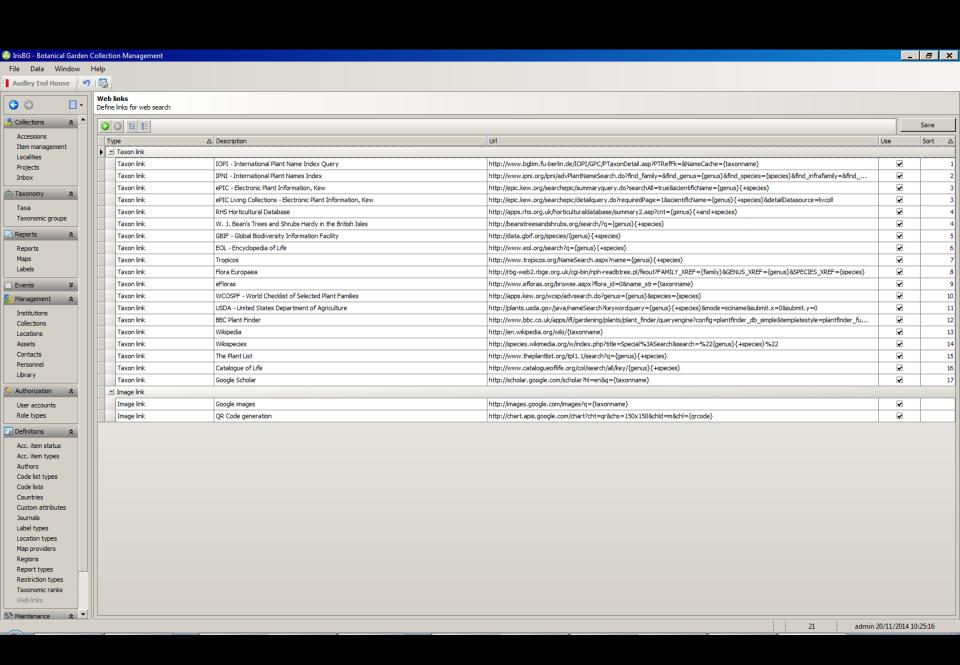












# Plant Records Team

# **Gardens Estates** Head Gardeners **Conservation Maintenance Managers** Garden Team Regional Landscape Advisors Garden Volunteers IrisBG **Curatorial** Gardens & Landscape **Development** Interpretation **Fundraising** Senior Landscape Advisors / Plant Records Manager

## Supporting users

- User guide to embed data standards, data quality etc
- Additional topic sheets tasks, item management, assets, etc.
- One site 1-1 or 1-2 training
- Telephone calls
- Stepped User Roles
- Low number of mandatory data fields
- Importing data where possible previous system, Tree Management System, digitising paper records etc
- Single sign on



## Data

#### Details

- Accession year (target to complete annual accessioning by end of year so auto generated)
- Accession number (auto generated)
- Taxon name (the best name possible without too much work)
- Origin contact / nursery

#### Items

- Type Planting (auto default)
- Location
- Status
- Date of planting
- Number of specimens



#### Accessioning

The Accession Number (with its qualifier) is the unique identifying mark assigned to plant material, and is the main key to organising records within the gardens collections. This number links the plant material to its data and is therefore crucial for identifying the plant or group of plants, their origin and history in the Garden. It stays with the plant throughout its life and should never be given to another plant or reused. IrisBG uses a qualifier to relate accessioned items (plants) to specific location, as the same accession cannot be recorded in more than one location at a time.

Before any new plant material is accessioned it should be remembered that English Heritage will only accept legitimately collected or acquired material. This includes a number of laws and conventions such as CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora); CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), and any other laws operating in the country concerned. PBR (Plant Breeder Rights) must also be taken in to account in all English Heritage Gardens. For further information see page 21

It is the responsibility of the individual member of garden staff who obtains the plant material to complete the Plant Movement Form (example on page 19) and either add the accession to IrisBG immediately or store in the labelled box files ready for accessioning at a later date.

#### What gets accessioned?

All plant material which enters the garden including material for glasshouses, bedding and seed should automatically be given an accession number and the accession sheet completed for input into IrisBG.

#### The Accession Number

The format for an accession number is: [site #].[year].[####] e.g. 000.2008.0121, 000.2008.0121 etc

For plants with a known or reasonably accurate planting date the accession number date should reflect this, otherwise the year the accession number was generated should be used.

A row on the plant movement form should be completed for each new accession, for template forms see page 19

#### Possible Exceptions or Anomalies

- If a plant is moved it retains its accession number and qualifier the planting history is updated to add the date removed for its old locations and a date planted for its new location.
- If several groups of plants exist in the same location e.g. repetition of planting through a border (and it came from the same stock / supplier) it would have the same accession number and qualifier, but the number of plants / groups would need to be noted.

#### Assets - Benches etc

#### Assets

IrisBG can store information about assets such as benches, points of interest, etc., with descriptions, map coordinates, photos, etc. Assets are in the Management menu.

Asset types are defined within location types, to categorize the different records and assign different markers for the map. As such Assets can be viewed on the Location Map.

Two Asset types are currently defined (Bench, and Statue), additional types being considered include interpretation panel and sign.

In order to manage and collate records assets should be grouped using the hierarchical tree structure provided by IrisBG. If the group does not already exist for a site/collection it should be entered as follows:

#### Benches

- Code Benches
- Name Benches
- Type Bench

#### Statue

- Code Statues
- Name Statues
- Type Statue

	Code A	Name	Туре	Mapiref.	Comment	Coord. lat	Coordiong.jy	Descr.	Image	Pu	A
<b>×</b>	= Benches	Benches .	Bench 💌	•	-		•	-	-	•	. 🕶
	- B1-2	In memory of builde Galilaby	Bench			51.452100	-0.313867		-		V .
	B2-2	In loving memory of Robert S	Bench			51,451638	-0.315911		-		J .
	- B3-2	Remembering Kay & Peter Fri	Bench			51.450509	-0.316273				V .
	B4-2	Stephen Peter Turner-Smith	Bench			51.450363	-0.316018		-		V .
	- B5-2	Rachel Laura Harrington 13.2	Bench		508529425	51,450203	-0.315835		-		J .
	1B6-2	For Tracey with our love 196	Bench		508529427	51.450072	-0.315664		32		v.

#### Benches

Individual entries should be included as a subitem of Benches.

- Code the basic code is B1, B2, B3 etc. A year code is used by Fundraising only to quickly identify the year the bench was installed (if known).
- Name the dedication panel text
- Type Bench
- Map ref. not used
- Comment only used by Fundraising to include the respective CareID#
- Coordinates should be included for all known benches and relates to the agreed location for the bench
- Description additional details if known / needed
- · Image photo of the panel / dedication text
- Publish leave blank
- Active defaults to active, if a bench is removed / the commemorative period ends then the record should be set to No

#### **English Heritage Plant Movement Form**

GARDEN:			YEAR:	SHEET NUMBER:				
Accession Number	Plant Name	Material	Quantity	Date	Source	Garden Location*	Status*	Notes

Material

P - Whole Plant

S - Seed or Spore

B - Bulb

V - Vegetative part (cutting)

T - Tissue Culture

O - Other

\* include date if different from date in previous column

Status

C - Current D - Dead

S - Stored (dormant) N - Needs Attention

L - Lost

O - Other

T - Transferred

U - Unknown





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