



A Question of Ecology – answers from biological recording

23rd to 25th April 2015, 'High Tor 1', The Edge, University of Sheffield

Thursday 23rd April

9:30 Registration and refreshments

Workshop on tools and technology for collecting and interpreting biological records

10:00 Welcome and Introduction. Chair Dr Tom Webb

10:05 Dr David Chesmore, University of York

Progress and Prospects in the Development of Automated Biodiversity Assessment

10:25 Jon Chamberlain, University of Essex

Using social media to access biodiversity data

10:45 Quickfire talks

- Rachel Pateman, University of York and John van Breda, BiodiversIT – *Indicia for biological recording and research (Moors for the Future)*
- Trevor Collins and Martin Harvey, Open University and David Morgan, Field Studies Council – *Field Network System*
- Rich Burkmar, Field Studies Council – *Tom.Bio QGIS Biological Recording plug-in*
- Laurence Livermore, Natural History Museum – *Scratchpads*
- Rachel Stroud, National Biodiversity Network Trust – *UK Wildlife Portal*
- Tom August, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – *rNBN and SPARTA*
- Sara King, Ecosulis - *Biodiversity Quality Calculator*
- David Bodenham, University of Leeds - *TaxonAid*

12:00 Demonstrations and discussion

Visit the speakers at their stands to find out more about the technology they are demonstrating and discuss how you could apply it to your own biological recording or research activities.

13:00 Lunch

The Edge Café on the ground floor. Tea and coffee will be available in High Tor 1

Discussion workshop on challenges and opportunities in biological recording and research

14:00 Introduction to workshop. Chair Dr Alan Stewart

14:05 Introductions to workshop topics:

- Quentin Groom, Open Data
- Nick Isaac, Data repositories and data re-use
- David Chesmore, Technology
- Kat Bruce, DNA techniques and biological recording
- Martin Harvey, Quantity and quality: making record verification fit for purpose
- Tom Hunt, The role of LERCs in supporting recording and research

15:15 Open Space workshop

The speakers above will facilitate discussions about their topics, asking 'what do we want to achieve?', 'what are the barriers', 'how can we overcome them?' and 'which organisation/s should lead on this?'. Delegates can move from one discussion to another as they please.

16:15 Coffee/ tea break and posters

16:45 Feedback from workshops and closing remarks. Close at 17:30.

19:30 Conference dinner at the Curator's House, Botanical Gardens

Friday 24th April

- 09:30 Registration for new arrivals
- 10:00 Welcome and Introduction.** Chair Dr Sarah Whild
- 10:10 Professor Kate Jones, University College London and Bat Conservation Trust
Keynote address: Technology for Nature?
- 10:40 Dr. David Roy, Biological Records Centre
The use of biological records to understand a changing environment: what have we learnt from 50 years of the Biological Records Centre?
- 11:00 Dr Jon Yearsley, University College Dublin
Methods of mining recording data for estimates of recording effort
- 11:20 Thomas Starnes, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
Environmental niche modelling - neither a black box nor a silver bullet ⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 11:25 Dr Kat Bruce, NatureMetrics
Biological recording for the other 95%: novel approaches for large-scale biomonitoring of invertebrates
⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 11:30 Coffee / tea break**
- 12:00 Dr. Teresa Frost, Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre and ALERC
Curiosity Begins at Home – Data Scientists in Local Records Centres
- 12:20 Lois Mayhew, Alderney Wildlife Trust
Notes from a (very) small island – challenges and opportunities for biodiversity data in Alderney
⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 12:25 Dr Andy Millard, Yorkshire Naturalists Union
The YNU and The Naturalist: promoting biodiversity recording in Yorkshire
- 12:45 Debbie Alston, Derbyshire Mammal Group
Plotting to publish: lessons learnt from the Derbyshire Mammal Atlas project ⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 12:50 Rachel Stroud, National Biodiversity Network Trust
NBN Strategy Action Plan ⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 13:00 Lunch and NFBR AGM**
- 14:15 Welcome to afternoon session. Chair Dr Nick Isaac
- 14:20 Dr Mark A. Spencer, Natural History Museum
Natural History Collections and Environmental Change Science – a holistic approach to integrating 'historic' objects, citizen scientists and hypothesis driven research
- 14:40 Ivan Wright, Shotover Wildlife
Shotover Hill then and now - delving into 100 years of data
- 15:00 Dr Jane Delany, Newcastle University
Building on success - evolving intertidal data validation
- 15:20 Drew Bennellick, Heritage Lottery Fund
Funding for people-powered Science ⚡Quickfire talk⚡
- 15:30 Coffee / tea break**
- 15:50 Helen Jones, Woodland Trust
Observatree: bringing together citizen scientists and tree health professionals to tackle tree disease
- 16:10 Dr Phil Smith, Sefton Coast Partnership and Ben Deed, Merseyside BioBank
Volunteer recording on the Sefton Coast – collaboration and conservation
- 16:30 Tim Graham, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Data and delivering big - learning from the Humberhead Levels NIA
- 16:50 Questions and closing remarks. Close at 17:00.
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