

15TH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK CONFERENCE

Lakeside Conference Centre, York

THURSDAY 19TH & FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2015



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL – BUILDING THE NBN PARTNERSHIP

SYMPOSIA

This conference includes four symposia as well as the annual Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture. The symposia are:

- Global Perspectives
- Local Perspectives and the Learning Pathway
- Beyond BioBlitz: Public Engagement in Wildlife Recording
- Global to Local - Planning and Partnership

AWARDS FOR BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

An important event at the 2015 conference will be the National Biodiversity Network Awards for Biological Recording, developed in conjunction with National Forum for Biological Recording and the Biological Records Centre. These will be presented on the evening of Thursday 19 November at the Merchant Taylor's Hall in York. These inaugural national awards will be given out to individuals, groups of people or organisations that are making outstanding contributions to biological recording and improving our understanding of the natural world.



**Swarovski Optik UK is the primary
sponsor for the 2015 NBN Awards.**

SPONSORS

Conference lunch sponsor



Conference programme sponsor



Student attendance



Sir John Burnett memorial medal presenter



THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Morning session: Global Perspectives

Chairman: NBN Trust Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell

Time	Activity
09:30	Registration and coffee
10:00	Welcome and introduction by NBN Trust Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell
10:05	Keynote address Donald Hobern, Global Biodiversity Information Facility
10:35	Alison Dyke, Stockholm Environment Institute
10:55	Dominic Oldman, British Museum
11:15	Tea/coffee break
11:45	Keynote address Roderic Page, Glasgow University
12:15	Liam Lysaght, National Biodiversity Data Centre
12:35 - 12:55	Speed talks Tom August, Biological Records Centre Ella Vogel, NBN Consultants Portal Katy Potts, Train the Trainers Ben Brown, NBN PhD researcher, University of Nottingham
12:55	Lunch, posters, displays and demonstrations

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Afternoon session: Local Perspectives and the Learning Pathway

Chairman: NBN Trustee, Roddy Fairley

Time	Activity
14:00	Plenary presentation on engagement - Jonathan Silvertown, iSpot / University of Edinburgh
14:30 - 17:00	Parallel symposia
17:00 - 17:05	Chairman's summing up of day 1
17:15	Buses depart for central York for UK Awards to celebrate biological recording and information sharing

Symposium A-global to local

Time	Activity
14:35 - 14:55	Ed Bartlett, National Trust
14:55 - 15:15	Tatsuya Amano, University of Cambridge
15:15 - 15:35	Rachel Stroud, NBN
15:35 - 15:55	Rich Burkmar, Field Studies Council
15:55 - 16:20	Tea/coffee break
16:20 - 16:40	Ryan Clark, Buckinghamshire County Council
16:40 - 17:00	Damian McFerran, Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)

Symposium B - "Beyond BioBlitz: public engagement in wildlife recording"

Time	Activity
14:35 - 14:40	Introduction- Savita Custead
14:40 - 15:55	Carousel provocations and discussions (20 mins per table): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussion 1 - Walking for wildlife - The Wildlife Trusts - Paul Wilkinson- Discussion 2 - Nature recording at events - Bristol Natural History Consortium - Matt Postles- Discussion 3 - Going digital - Natural History Museum - Lucy Robinson- Discussion 4 - Suitable for broadcast? - Bristol Natural History Consortium - Savita Custead
15:55 - 16:20	Tea/coffee break
16:20 - 17:00	Reflections and structured panel discussion. Chair: Savita Custead

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

Morning session: Global to local - planning and partnership (session 1)

Chairwoman: NBN Trustee - Teresa Frost

Time	Activity
09:00	Registration and coffee
09:25	Welcome and introduction
09:30	Keynote address - Andy Musgrove, British Trust for Ornithology
10:00	Suzanne Waymont, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
10:20	Janet Simkin, British Lichen Society
10:45	Tea/coffee break
11:10	Paula Lightfoot, Seasearch
11:30	Jan Collins, Bat Conservation Trust
11:50	Christine Johnson, Outer Hebrides Recording Group
12:10	Katie Watson, Student - Nottingham Trent University
12:20	Bill Ely, Volunteer
12:30	Lunch, posters, displays and demonstrations

Afternoon session: Global to local - planning and partnership (session 2)

Chairman: NBN Trust Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell

Time	Activity
13:45	Award of NBN Honorary Membership
13:50	The Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture, 2015 – David Stroud, Joint Nature Conservation Committee
14:20	Chris Du Feu - Volunteer
14:40	Matthew Arnold, MEDIN
15:00	Tea/coffee break
15:30	Student Speed talks Joseph Bailey, University of Nottingham
15:40	Student Speed talks Phillip Buckham-Bonnett, University of York
15:50	Dave Raffaelli, University of York
16:10	Andy Clements, British Trust for Ornithology
16:30	Chairman's summing up
16:35	End of conference

HOW TO REGISTER?

Registration is via the website of the National Biodiversity Network – www.nbn.org.uk

NBN members receive a discount on the price of registration. Discount for early bird registration is available until 9th October 2015.

DO YOU WANT TO SPONSOR A STUDENT OR NGO TO ATTEND?

We would like to celebrate 15 years of the National Biodiversity Network by securing sponsorship to pay for 15 students and 15 representatives of UK NGOs to attend the conference. Please contact the Secretariat if you want to sponsor the conference in this way (support@nbn.org.uk).

Other sponsorship opportunities are also available and can be found on the NBN website.



CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Donald Hobern - Global Biodiversity Information Facility



Donald grew up on the Essex coast and has had a lifelong passion for natural history, in recent years focusing on Lepidoptera, with particular interest in plume moths and the Australian fauna. His career has been in informatics and he is currently Executive Secretary of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, <http://www.gbif.org/>), headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. GBIF is a global partnership to share biodiversity data. From 2007 to 2011, he served as the inaugural Director of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA, <http://www.ala.org.au/>), overseeing the development of the national database and web portal.

Talk title: **'Making Biodiversity Accessible – Sharing Data to Inform Society and Support a Sustainable Future'**

Andy Musgrove - British Trust for Ornithology



Andy is Associate Director of Monitoring at the BTO, having worked there since 1996. He has particular interests in building engaging online systems for volunteer data collection, both for structured surveys (such as the Wetland Bird Survey) and for less structured wider biological recording (notably through BirdTrack).

He also jointly created the popular website BUBO Listing in his spare time. He is personally interested in understanding how readily traditional bird surveyors could develop the skills necessary to record other taxonomic groups. To this end, he now spends much of his spare time recording across as wide a range of species as possible, regularly tweeting his latest finds as @andymus1.

Talk title: **'Omni-thology: How do we capitalise on the potential of the UK's huge network of birdwatchers to expand their taxonomic recording horizons?'**

Professor Roderic Page - University of Glasgow



Roderic is perhaps best known as the author of the phylogenetic visualisation program "TreeView", and more recently his "iPhylo" blog. Rod started out as a crustacean taxonomist, before being swept up in the debates on panbiogeography and vicariance biogeography that raged in the 1980's and 90's.

After gaining a PhD at Auckland University, New Zealand, he worked as a post doc at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and The Natural History Museum in London, before taking up a lectureship at the University of Oxford. Since 1995 Rod has been at the University of Glasgow, where he is Professor of Taxonomy. A past editor of Systematic Biology, he is currently Chair of the GBIF Science Committee. His current work focusses on linking together biodiversity data from diverse sources.

Jonathan Silvertown - University of Edinburgh and iSpot



Jonathan Silvertown is an ecologist, Professor of Evolutionary Ecology and Chair in Technology-Enhanced Science Education at the University of Edinburgh. He has devised several citizen science web projects that crowdsource biological data. iSpotnature.org is a social network that rapidly and accurately identifies observations of any species of wildlife. Half a million observations and 30,000 species have been identified to date. **Evolutionmegalab.org** is an online survey of polymorphism and evolution in banded snails that operates throughout Europe.

Treezilla.org – The Monster Map of Trees – aims to map all the trees in Britain and calculate the value of their ecosystem services. Jonathan is currently working on a new project that will enable students and others to create their own mobile apps based on open and crowd-sourced data of all kinds.

Talk title: **'iSpot: What have we learned in 7 years online?'**

David Stroud - Joint Nature Conservation Committee



David is JNCC's Senior Ornithologist and has helped manage many of the UK's bird monitoring programmes for over 20 years, working with a range of partner organisations. He is a member of the Ramsar Convention's Science Panel and actively contributes to the work of Wetlands International, EU Birds Directive processes, as well as chairing the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement's Technical Committee.

David's personal ornithological interests include the study of Greenland White-fronted Geese, having undertaken research through its international range (including studies on Greenlandic breeding areas since 1979); work that at least brings some slight engagement with the real world! David will present the Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture.

Talk title: **'Data across scales: from local studies to global change processes'**.



SPEAKERS



Tatsuya Amano is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge. Tatsuya worked for the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences in Japan for 5 years, after which he joined the Conservation Science Group in Cambridge, mainly working on the effective use of scientific information for biodiversity conservation.

Talk title: **'Spatial gaps and trends in biodiversity data'**



Matt Arnold is the Data Officer of the Marine Biological Association. He began at the MBA in non-native species research before making the switch to the data team last year. Matt also sits on a number of working groups within MEDIN, the UK's marine data standards network.

Talk title: **'Marine Data Standards: From the Very Big to the Very Small'**



Tom August works at the Biological Records Centre as a data analyst where he focuses on developing tools for analysing biological records data and making these tools available to others. He made the move from the field to the office after studying UK bats for his PhD. Tom also works to make existing datasets more accessible and has developed 'rnb' – a tool to access NBN data from the R programming language. Tom is interested in the role technology plays in biological recording, including its role in engagement, education and data collection and has won prizes for innovation in this area.

Talk title: **'Information & Innovation'**



Joseph Bailey is a PhD student in biodiversity modelling at the University of Nottingham. Specifically, his research aims to improve biodiversity models by incorporating geodiversity, a term that includes many components of non-living terrestrial nature, such as landforms, geology, and soil. The focal species are native and alien vascular plants and analyses take place at multiple scales across the whole of Great Britain. A key aim of the research is to promote the broader incorporation of geodiversity into nature conservation and planning.

Talk title: **'Incorporating geodiversity into biodiversity models across scales'**



Ed Bartlett is in the Land, Landscape and Nature team at National Trust's Central Office. He is a biologist, conservation manager and teacher by training. This year Ed has been co-ordinating the National Trust's 25 event Coastal Bioblitz Programme. He has been delighted by the fantastic support from the many organisations and individuals who have made this series a success in terms of both biological recording, and celebrating and experiencing nature on the coasts of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Talk title: **'National Trust Coastal Bioblitz Programme 2015'**



Ben Brown is a PhD student in visual perception at the University of Nottingham. His interests include public engagement with science, and the collection or production of data by ordinary people. During an internship with the NBN, Ben will explore the experiences and motivations of volunteer biological recorders.

Talk title: **'Classifying recorder motivations'**



Phillip Buckham-Bonnett is a PhD student at the University of York looking at the UK impact of the invasive garden ant (*Lasius neglectus*). The main focus of his research is the effects of the ant on native plants and animals and the characteristics that make it a successful invasive species.

Talk title: **'Mapping a cryptic species'**



Rich Burkmar is an ecologist looking after the FSC's Tomorrow's Biodiversity project. He has wide-ranging interests in natural history and is a keen recorder of spiders, playing an active role in the Shropshire Spider Group. He is particularly interested in the use of technology by biological recorders and previous roles include managing the Local Record Centre in Merseyside & coordinating the North Merseyside local BAP. He also has many years experience as a programmer and, in particular, a GIS application developer. He is the author of the FSC Tom.bio Productivity Tools – a QGIS plugin for biological recorders.

Talk title: **'Visualising biodiversity knowledge bases'**



Ryan Clark (22) works as a part-time ecologist with Buckinghamshire County Council and on a range of freelance projects. A lifelong wildlife recorder, Ryan tries to record as many taxonomic groups as he can identify, but his main passions are for plants and pollinators. He is one of five volunteers who co-ordinate the annual Garden BioBlitz and is passionate about citizen science as well as using his blog and Twitter (@RyanClarkNature) to encourage other young people to get more involved in wildlife and biological recording. An active member of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, Ryan sits on their Meetings and Communications Committee and has recently taken over co-ordination of their New Year Plant Hunt. He also posts on Facebook for the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society.

Talk title: **'From Birds to Bees...and Everything Inbetween'**



Andy Clements is Director of British Trust for Ornithology.

Talk title: **'Tackling biodiversity blindness - next steps for the NBN'**



Jan Collins is Head of Biodiversity at the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), the leading NGO devoted to the conservation of bats and the landscapes upon which they rely. Jan joined BCT in 2013 after over ten years working in ecological consultancy as a bat specialist. Prior to being a consultant she volunteered, and then worked for Somerset Environmental Records Centre as a Project Officer. As Head of Biodiversity at BCT she is responsible for co-ordinating the Biodiversity Team, including the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning, Built Environment and Investigations projects. Her role also includes influencing the development and implementation of policy and legislation affecting bats and promoting good practice in industries where bats may be affected.

Talk title: **'Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning Project - an update'**



Savita Custead is Director of Bristol Natural History Consortium, a charitable collaboration between 12 organisations working together to develop new formats for engaging the public and supporting environmental professionals. She has been involved in BioBlitz activities since 2006 and presented at the National Biodiversity Network conference in 2014. BNHC's regular activities include Festival of Nature and Communicate, and in 2015 they developed a new partnership with the European Centre for Nature Conservation in order to develop new practice around communication of Natura 2000 sites.

Talk title: **'Suitable for broadcast?'**



Chris du Feu is a former mathematics teacher, an amateur bird ringer, author of BTO Nestboxes Guide, manages the EURING Data Bank (www.euring.org) and, for the last 25 years, has been a very active recorder of slugs - a much-maligned and under-recorded group.

Talk title: **'Slugs and data flow'**



Alison Dyke is a Research Associate at the Stockholm Environment Institute, where her research focusses on environmental behaviour, particularly understandings of citizen science and social and cultural values in the contexts of trees and plant health. One of Alison's roles is as a Community Scientist on the OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) project.

Talk title: **'OPAL UK: From local action to national relevance'**



Bill Ely worked as a biology teacher in Rotherham during the early 1970s before working as a natural history teacher at Manchester Museum during 1974 and taking up the post of natural history curator at Rotherham Museum the following year. This involved collecting natural history records as well as specimens and during 1987 I was involved in promoting the development of the Recorder program written by Stuart Ball. During the early 1990s I became chairman of NFBR and represented LRCs on the CCBP. In the late 1990s the Rotherham BRC was transferred to the department managing the country parks and wildlife sites and I continued to develop the records centre until retiring in 2009.

Talk title: **'Building on local knowledge to target under-recorded areas'**



Christine Johnson is one of the instigators of Outer Hebrides Biological Recording and manages their database. A biologist with a life time of involvement in biological recording, Christine now devotes her time to encouraging other amateur naturalists to help map the flora and fauna of the islands.

Talk title: **'Putting dots on the map – biological recording in the Outer Hebrides'**



Paula Lightfoot is a tutor and regional coordinator for the Seasearch national recording scheme, and is currently undertaking PhD research at Newcastle University on mapping marine habitats from remote sensing data. As a Trustee of the National Forum for Biological Recording and former employee of the NBN Trust, Paula is passionate about supporting volunteer recorders and increasing the accessibility and use of biodiversity data.

Talk title: **'Not just a drop in the ocean! Seasearch and the role of local coordinators'**



Dr Liam Lysaght is Director of the National Biodiversity Data Centre based in Waterford, Ireland. An ornithologist by training he has extensive practical knowledge of biodiversity data needs for both conservation management and policy development having worked as a Park Ranger and Wildlife Officer with the Heritage Council, an independent advisory council to Government.

Talk title: **'The National Biodiversity Data Centre - driving a strategic approach to biological recording in Ireland'**



Damian McFerran trained as an entomologist and began his association with what would become CEDaR in the early 1990s. For the last 20 years he has managed the records centre and been involved with a number of local, national and international projects. During this time, he has managed the support of old Recorder and was involved with the development of Recorder 2000. Periodically he gets the opportunity to drift back to recording and now spends time encouraging the next generation of recorders. He has also come through a 10-15 year period of assisting numerous natural history publications. Time is now spent assisting the development of several initiatives, whilst ensuring that CEDaR retains a central role in recording.

Talk title: **'Recording Northern Ireland's Wildlife. The Story of CEDaR'**



Dominic Oldman is the Head of ResearchSpace (an Andrew W. Mellon funded project developing a collaborative cultural heritage research environment) at the British Museum, and a Senior Curator specialising in digital historiography, knowledge representation and Semantic Web/Linked Open Data methods. He is deputy co-chair of the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) Special Interest Group and contributes to the on-going development of the CRM International (ISO) standard).

Talk title: **'The culture of linked data'**



Matt Postles is a Programmes Manager with the small and dynamic team at Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC), a Bristol-based but nationally active charity engaging people with the natural world through collaborative action. BNHC ran its first BioBlitz in 2009 at Ashton Court in Bristol and has since been working with partners across the UK to promote and develop the concept, coordinating the National BioBlitz Network. Matt took over the lead of the BioBlitz strand at BNHC in 2011 and has been involved in running and supporting several events as well as raising the public profile of BioBlitz nationally.

Talk title: **'Nature recording at events'**



Katy Potts is on the Identification trainers for the future programme at the Natural History Museum. Katy is a recent Conservation Biology graduate with an interest in entomology. She is currently working on a project with the NHM on trapping methods of Coleoptera in an ancient oak woodland.

Talk title: **'Identification Trainers for the Future'**



Dave Raffaelli is professor of Environmental Science at the University of York, and is currently Director of NERC's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service Sustainability (BESS) programme. He enjoys collaborative, inter-disciplinary research on the dynamics of ecosystems and has worked extensively with other European colleagues and in North America, New Zealand and Australia.

Talk title: **'The Ythan Estuary, Scotland: unravelling 40 years of local biodiversity data'**



Lucy Robinson is Citizen Science Programme Manager at the Natural History Museum, London. She has worked in the field of citizen science for the past seven years, initially on the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) project, and now coordinating a broad programme of citizen science projects within the Museum. A core part of the Museum's citizen science programme is to support other practitioners to implement this research approach, and to this end Lucy has co-authored the Guide to Citizen Science (2012) and Guide to Running a BioBlitz 2.0 (2013). She is a member of the British Ecological Society Special Interest Group for citizen science, the global Citizen Science Association and the European Citizen Science Association, within which she leads a working group focussed on 'Sharing best practice and building capacity in citizen science'. This working group aims to support practitioners across Europe to develop their own citizen science programmes. Lucy has a BSc in Zoology from the University of Bristol and an MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds.

Talk title: **'Going digital'**



Janet Simkin teaches botany and plant ecology at Newcastle University, and has a particular interest in the conservation of species-rich grasslands. She is currently President of the British Lichen Society, and has spent much of the last 15 years developing their database of lichen records.

Talk title: **'Filling the gaps: the Lobarion survey'**



Rachel Stroud is the Data & Liaison Officer for the NBN Secretariat, working with data providers and data users to help improve the availability and use of data across the UK via the Network. Previously Rachel worked for the RSPB as their England Data Manager.

Talk title: **'The Growth of a Network: 12 months on'**



Ella Vogel is the Consultants Portal project officer for the NBN Secretariat, working to help ecological consultants easily share their records on the NBN Gateway, via the Consultants Portal. Ella has a BSc in Zoology and Conservation from Bangor University and has worked for Natural England, the Northumberland Rivers Trust and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, before starting her role with the NBN in June 2015.

Talk title: **'The Consultants Portal; shaping the way professional ecological data are shared and used'**



Katie Watson is undertaking a year-long work placement at Baker Consultants as part of her CIEEM accredited degree in BSc (Hons) Biological Science (Ecology and Environmental Management). She also volunteers with Nottinghamshire Bat Group, trapping bats as part of a research project into Nathusius pipestrelle migration patterns.

Talk title: **'Nature reserves: The effects of artificial light pollution on bat species richness and abundance'**



Suzanne Waymont is a Senior Ecologist at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (www.gmwildlife.org.uk). Suzanne has worked at the Ecology Unit for 19 years. Before this she worked for Kent County Council and the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Talk title: **'The Role of Local Record Centres in the Planning System'**



Paul Wilkinson is Head of Living Landscapes for The Wildlife Trusts, and has responsibility for leading and supporting the achievement of the vision across the UK, including leading key terrestrial and freshwater policy and advocacy for TWT. He previously worked as the Director of Regional Policy for The Wildlife Trusts in the East of England, during which time he was elected to be an environment representative on the East of England Regional Assembly, and chaired the region's Biodiversity Forum for 6 years. Paul is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, has been the Norfolk Biodiversity Coordinator and worked as the Development Manager for an environmental education charity in Norfolk.

Talk title: **'Walking for wildlife'**

