



**CITIZENS, SCIENTISTS,
SPIDERS & OTHER SPECIES:**

HOW A NETWORK FROM NOTTINGHAM HAS INFLUENCED
THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE UK & BEYOND

25th October 2016, Houses of Parliament at 3:30pm



CITIZENS, SCIENTISTS, SPIDERS & OTHER SPECIES

The panel will examine the challenges facing Government to ensure the availability of open data to enable decision takers in government, industry and local communities to take better, environmentally friendly decisions.



Barry Gardiner, MP is currently the UK's shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, Energy & Climate Change, and Europe. Under previous Labour governments he served as the Minister for Biodiversity.

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David Askew is Director of Evidence at Natural England, where he has worked since its creation 10 years ago. He has worked in agricultural advice and nature conservation for 30 years.

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Dr Jo Judge is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Biodiversity Network. In leading the NBN, she is at the forefront of promoting the importance of using biological data to educate, engage and inform at all levels from school children to government policy decision makers.

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Dr Sara Goodacre is Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences at the University of Nottingham. She is an evolutionary biologist who studies variation in natural populations, with a particular interest in the role of spiders as potential pest-control agents in agricultural ecosystems.

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WHAT IS THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY NETWORK?

The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) is a membership organisation built on principles of collaboration and sharing. Our vision is that:

“Biological data collected and shared openly by the Network are central to the UK’s learning and understanding of its biodiversity and are critical to all decision-making about nature and the environment.”

To achieve that vision the Network must deliver improvements to the recording, collection, verification, curation, aggregation, analysis and use of biological data in the UK.

The Network’s priority is to grow the national commitment to sharing biological data and information. The NBN is a non-partisan registered charity.

WHAT IS THE NBN ATLAS?

The NBN Atlas will be the largest species database for any country in the world. This collaborative project brings together biological and ecosystem data collected by individuals and organisations throughout the UK and makes them freely available online for use and

analysis. The NBN Atlas will help to improve biodiversity knowledge, open up research possibilities, and change the way environmental management is carried out throughout the UK. It will be a key tool for use by government when considering environmental policy.

WHAT GOVERNMENT CAN DO

Government can commit to:

- ✓ Support the NBN Atlas, by working in partnership with the NBN to share and manage biodiversity data.
- ✓ Support the NBN Atlas as the primary resource for biodiversity species records in the UK.
- ✓ Recognise the importance of and encourage the sharing of biodiversity data openly.
- ✓ Ensure commitment of funding to collect and curate biodiversity data e.g. via citizen science programmes.

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Over the past 16 years, the National Biodiversity Network has been working to develop access to millions of species records from across the UK. Defra recognises the huge contribution made by many citizen scientists who have helped to create the largest species database for any country in the world. It is important for Government and partners to maintain this valuable data resource by continuing to work in partnership with the NBN to share and manage data.

Ian Boyd, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

FIND OUT MORE

- www.nbn.org.uk
- www.nbnatlas.org
- www.opaexplorenature.org
- www.nottinghaminparliamentday.uk
- State of Nature - www.nbn.org.uk/news-events-publications/state-nature-2016-infographic
- NHM ID Trainers - www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identification-trainers-for-the-future
- www.tompkinpress.com
- www.attitudedesign.co.uk



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