



“Data – what is it good for?”

**17TH NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY  
NETWORK CONFERENCE**

**2016 – 2017**

National Museum Cardiff

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November 2017

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We would really appreciate your feedback on this year's NBN Conference. Please complete the form online at: [tinyurl.com/yc7unssf](https://tinyurl.com/yc7unssf) or scan the QR code to go straight to the survey.

Wi-fi – free public access is available in the Lecture Theatre and no code is needed to connect

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME



Professor  
Michael Hassell

Welcome to Cardiff for the National Biodiversity Network's annual conference, which this year has the theme of:

### “Data – what is it good for?”

We would like to thank you for attending this year's two day event, which continues to move around the country and which brings us to Wales for the first time.

It has been a significant year for the NBN with the launch of the NBN Atlas, NBN Atlas Wales and NBN Atlas Scotland and this will be discussed in greater detail within the workshops on Thursday afternoon. We have included workshops again this year as we feel it is important to allow people the chance to give feedback and put across their views to the wider Network. I hope that you will find these useful and worthwhile.

In addition to the workshops, we have a full programme of presentations so, I hope that you will find this a valuable event. We also have the ceremony for the UK Awards for biological recording and information sharing, which will see us recognise those on whom we rely so deeply, our network of recorders.

As we come together to hear more from our Network colleagues at this Conference, we thank you for your ongoing support and hope that the next two days will once again allow us to celebrate our combined successes and to look forward to future developments positively.

With warm regards,

*Michael Hassell*

## THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

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09:30 Registration and coffee

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### Morning session: NBN progress and partnership

Chair of morning session: Jen Ashworth, NBN Trustee

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10.00 Welcome and introduction by NBN Trust Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell

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10.05 **Keynote address**  
“Why I joined the Twitterati - Making entomology and natural history visible using social media” – Professor Simon Leather, Harper Adams University

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10.35 “Through partnership, a lot *can* be achieved in 12 months!” – Jo Judge, NBN Chief Executive

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10.55 “The SBIF Review: reimagining our data infrastructure” – Ellen Wilson, Chair of the Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum

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### 11.15 Tea / coffee break

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11.45 “A bold step: building on the past to meet new approaches in Wales” – Helen Wilkinson, Manager, Knowledge and Information Management and Barnaby Letheren, Specialist Adviser, Enterprise Data Management, Natural Resources Wales

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12.05 “LERC Wales: Delivering an Evidence Base Fit for Wales” – Adam Rowe, Manager, South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre Limited (SEWBReC)

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12.25 “Verification - next steps and an opportunity to feedback to the partnership” – Jo Judge, NBN Chief Executive

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12.35 Q&A

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### 12.45 Lunch, posters, displays and demonstrations

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### Afternoon session: How is the NBN Atlas supporting your data needs?

Chair of afternoon session: Andrew Wood, NBN Trustee and Treasurer

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#### 14.00 Discussion workshops

Five parallel sessions. At the end of each workshop a set of clearly defined actions will be made, with responsibility for taking the actions forward determined and agreed by the group.

1. How can the NBN Atlas work better for marine data?  
Workshop lead – Paula Lightfoot
  2. An Atlas for all – is the NBN Atlas supporting different uses and different users? Workshop lead – Tom Webb
  3. How can the NBN Atlas better support the NBN Data Flow Pathway?  
Workshop lead – Barnaby Letheren
  4. The NBN Atlas – a demonstration and future development discussion  
Workshop leads – Holly York and Jo Judge
  5. What are the barriers to sharing data on the NBN Atlas and how can we overcome them? Workshop lead – Ben Deed
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#### 15.45 – 16:15 Tea / coffee break

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16:15 – 16:45 Workshop feedback to the auditorium – what are the next actions?

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16:45 – 17:00 Q&A

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17:00 – 17:05 Chairman’s summing up of day 1

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17.15 – 17.45 NBN AGM

As the AGM is taking place as part of the NBN Conference, anyone, including non-members, is able to join this meeting, but only the eligible members are able to cast a vote on relevant items.

As well as the resolutions, the AGM will include updates on the NBN Governance Review, NBN Membership Review, NBN Action Plan Business Priorities Update and an open Q&A session

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#### 18:00 – 19:15 UK Awards for Biological Recording & Information Sharing

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## FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

09:00 Registration and coffee

### Morning session: Data, data everywhere – sharing and using data across the NBN

Chair of morning session: Jo Judge, NBN Chief Executive

09:25 Welcome and introduction by NBN Trust Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell

09:30 **Keynote address**  
“Assessing the state of nature: past, present and future” – Dr Mark Eaton, Principal Conservation Scientist, RSPB Centre for Conservation Science

10:00 “Let’s Talk about Data” – Matt Postles, Bristol Natural History Consortium

10:20 “Recorder 6 and all that” – Steve Whitbread, ALERC Director

10:40 “Collection, Collaboration, Collation & Circulation of plant records in West Glamorgan” – Barry Stewart, Bryophyte Recorder for Glamorgan & Plant Recorder for West Glamorgan

10:50 “The Wet Bit Around the Edge: Are Marine Data Different?” – Dan Lear, Head of Data, Information & Technology, Marine Biological Association

### 11:00 Tea / coffee break

11:30 “Data Sharing – The Earthworm Perspective” – Keiron Derek Brown, Earthworm Society of Britain

11:40 “Summary of questionnaire: What do ecological consultants want from GCER?” – Linda Moore, Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records

11:50 “NBN Atlas: A Consultancy Perspective” - Dr Rachel Roberts, Associate Ecologist, The Environment Partnership (TEP)

12:00 **Student speed talk**  
“How a student-led society can inspire a community’s perception on biodiversity” – Anna Moulin, University of Exeter

12:05 **Student speed talk**  
“Identification Trainers for the Future – a trainee’s perspective” – Steph Skipp, ID Trainer for the Future

12:10 “Bridging the skills gap in UK species identification – lessons learnt and next steps” – Stephanie West, UK Biodiversity Training Manager & John Tweddle, Head of Centre, Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity, Natural History Museum

12:30 Q&A

### 12.35 Lunch, posters, displays and demonstrations

### Afternoon session: Looking forward – opportunities for data and the NBN

Chair of afternoon session: Professor Michael Hassell, NBN Trust Chairman

13:45 Award of NBN Honorary Membership

13.50 **The Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture, 2017**  
“Data – what is it good for? Insights from network ecology” – Professor Yvonne Buckley, Chair of Zoology, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin

14.20 “How to find Treasure” – Maria Longley, Community Manager, Greenspace Information for Greater London

14.40 “NBN as a global player enabling biodiversity research through GBIF” – Tim Hirsch, Deputy Director, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Secretariat

### 15.00 Tea / coffee break

15.30 **Student Speed talk**  
“Project Splatter: Using Citizen Scientists to Monitor Wildlife Roadkill” – Amy Schwartz, PhD Student – Cardiff University

15.35 **Student Speed talk**  
“Climate change and checklists – monitoring natural colonists through biological recording” – Jamie Cranston, NERC iCASE PhD Student, University of Exeter

15:40 “Looking forward – mammal data and its potential at a national and international scale” – Dr Graham Smith, Lead Scientist and Head of Wildlife Epidemiology and Modelling, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Defra

16.00 “FSC BioLinks – 5 more years of caring and sharing THANK YOU HLF!” – Sue Townsend, FSC Biodiversity Learning Manager, Field Studies Council

16.20 Q&A

16.25 Chairman’s summing up.

16.30 End of conference

## UK AWARDS TO CELEBRATE BIOLOGICAL RECORDING AND INFORMATION SHARING



**Thursday 16th November 2017**  
National Museum Cardiff

18:00	Welcome drinks
18:30	Introduction to the Awards by NBN Chairman, Professor Michael Hassell
The following awards will be presented:	
18:35	Terrestrial and freshwater Awards Gilbert White, Adult Award
18:40	Terrestrial and freshwater Awards Gilbert White, Youth Award
18:45	Marine and coastal Awards David Robertson, Adult Award
18:50	Marine and coastal Awards David Robertson, Youth Award
18:55	Adult Newcomer Award
19:00	Lynne Farrell Group Award
19:05	John Sawyer NBN Open Data Award
19:15	Event close

### Sponsors of the Awards



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Habitat Aid also works with corporate clients and landscape and ecology professionals. These include the Co-op, Hillier's Nurseries, Nestle, M&S, Noble Foods and Good Energy. We also supply a number of government organisations and NGOs, including Friends of the Earth and various Wildlife Trusts.

[www.habitataid.co.uk](http://www.habitataid.co.uk)



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To find out more about our work, please visit our website [www.tep.uk.com](http://www.tep.uk.com).



Ranked amongst the top universities in the world, research at the University of Exeter focuses on some of the most fundamental issues facing humankind. The Centre for Ecology and Conservation at the Penryn Campus, delivers cutting-edge teaching and research to address factors influencing biodiversity and complexity in the natural world.

[www.exeter.ac.uk](http://www.exeter.ac.uk)

### Sponsor the 2018 NBN Conference

If you are interested in sponsoring next year's NBN Conference or wish to donate to the NBN, please contact us for more information at [support@nbn.org.uk](mailto:support@nbn.org.uk)





**Helen Wilkinson, Manager; Knowledge and Information Management and Barnaby Letheren, Enterprise Data Management; Specialist Adviser at Natural Resources Wales**

**“A bold step: building on the past to meet new approaches in Wales”**

A reflection on the use of biodiversity data in Wales and the changes required to deliver new legislation which has the environment and sustainability at its core.

@NatResWales

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**Adam Rowe, Manager of South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre Limited (SEWBRc)**

**“LERC Wales: Delivering an Evidence Base Fit for Wales”**

Looking at the unique aspects of the LERC Wales consortium and how we work with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales to support the new Welsh environmental policies and their commitment to evidence-based decision-making.

@SEWBRc

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**Jo Judge, NBN Chief Executive**

**“Verification – next steps and an opportunity to feedback to the partnership”**

We present the outcomes from the most recent working group meeting which discussed the display of verified and unverified data on the NBN Atlas and ask for your feedback on the proposals.

@jo\_judge

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**Barry Stewart, Bryophyte Recorder for Glamorgan & Plant Recorder for West Glamorgan**

**“Collection, Collaboration, Collation & Circulation of plant records in West Glamorgan”**

A case study of plant recording in a small area of Wales focussing on what motivates recorders to become data hogs.

@Gowermoss

*notes*

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**Dan Lear, Head of Data, Information & Technology, Marine Biological Association**

**“The Wet Bit Around the Edge: Are Marine Data Different?”**

Exploring the history and current state of marine data on the NBN Atlas and looking at some of the unique challenges faced in the marine domain.

@thembauk

*notes*

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**Keiron Derek Brown, Recording Officer, Earthworm Society of Britain**

**“Data Sharing – The Earthworm Perspective”**

The National Earthworm Recording Scheme presents its views on open data and data sharing, and what happens to earthworm records once they’ve been submitted.

@KeironDBrown

*notes*

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**Linda Moore, Development Manager, Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records**

**“Summary of questionnaire: What do ecological consultants want from GCER?”**

Some results from an online survey carried out by Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records in March 2017. We asked ecological consultants about what they want most from our commercial data service. What happened next will astound you!!

@Glos\_Records

*notes*

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**Dr Rachel Roberts, Associate Ecologist, The Environment Partnership (TEP)**

**“NBN Atlas: A Consultancy Perspective”**

Dr Rachel Roberts, Associate Ecologist, will summarise how consultants use NBN Atlas and its use in determining survey and mitigation requirements.

@TEP\_Ltd

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**Anna Moulin, Zoology Student, University of Exeter**

**“How a Student-led society can inspire a community’s perception on biodiversity”**

EcoSoc is a student led society that aims to enthuse and educate students and the community to conserve the local environment through biodiversity monitoring.

@anna\_moulin1

*notes*

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**Steph Skipp, ID Trainer for the Future, Natural History Museum**

**“Identification Trainers for the Future – a trainee’s perspective”**

Steph Skipp, one of the final cohort of trainees, will give an update on her experiences of this Natural History Museum-led UK species identification and training delivery skills programme.

@StephSkipp

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**Steph West, UK Biodiversity Training Manager, Natural History Museum and John Tweddle, Head of Centre, Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity, Natural History Museum**

**“Bridging the skills gap in UK species identification – lessons learnt and next steps”**

As the Identification Trainers for the Future project draws to a close, we take this opportunity to reflect on what we have learnt from the project and where the Natural History Museum is heading next in terms of supporting UK natural history skills development.

@BatGirlSteph78 @NHM\_ID

*notes*

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**Amy Schwartz, PhD Researcher on Project Splatter at Cardiff University**

**“Project Splatter: Using Citizen Scientists to Monitor Wildlife Roadkill”**

Project Splatter is a research effort to quantify and map wildlife roadkill across the UK, through the use of records submitted to us by ‘citizen scientists’.

@lizardschwartz @ProjectSplatter

*notes*

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**Jamie Cranston, NERC iCASE PhD Student, University of Exeter**

**“Climate change and checklists – monitoring natural colonists through biological recording”**

Since 1900, over 100 species colonised the UK, arriving through natural dispersal. What are the implications of these “Natural” Colonists for British biodiversity?

@cranston\_p

*notes*

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**Dr Graham Smith, Lead Scientist and Head of Wildlife Epidemiology and Modelling, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Defra**

**“Looking forward – mammal data and its potential at a national and international scale”**

Can we use NBN data to determine national population size and distribution? How much data do we need and how do we get there?

*notes*

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**Sue Townsend, FSC Biodiversity Learning Manager at the Field Studies Council**

**“FSC BioLinks – 5 more years of caring and sharing THANK YOU HLF!”**

FSC training and support including events in two regions with further developments in open access to share ideas and data with communities.

@SueTownsend3

*notes*

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## LUNCHTIME DISPLAYS AND DEMONSTRATIONS



### Identification Trainers for the future – Natural History Museum, London

Dr John Tweddle, Chris Raper, Steph West, Nicola Lowndes, Alex Mills, April Windle, Laura Sivess, Matthew Harrow & Steph Skipp

Come and learn how the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity is encouraging and supporting UK naturalists: from the UK Species Inventory to Identification Trainers for the Future and our citizen science programme.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part)



### National Silphidae Recording Scheme

Ashleigh Whiffin & Matthew Esh

Scheme organisers Ashleigh and Matthew will be providing an update on the activities of the recording scheme, as well as testing delegates identification skills with their new interactive identification guides.

[@SilphidaeUK](https://twitter.com/SilphidaeUK)



### Natural Colonists – Ecological Refugees or Dangerous Invaders?

Jamie Cranston – University of Exeter

New species are arriving in Great Britain through natural dispersal with environmental changes. However, their potential impacts remain understudied. As part of a PhD thesis, I'm interested in addressing this as well as talking with stakeholders to investigate their perspectives, gauging interest for a workshop at next year's NBN conference.



### The Environment Partnership

Dr Rachel Roberts

The Environment Partnership (TEP) is an award-winning consultancy providing multi-disciplinary environmental services to our clients in the private, public and voluntary sectors. Our ecologists work with colleagues from a wide range of disciplines to identify practical solutions on complex projects.

[www.tep.uk.com](http://www.tep.uk.com).



### National Forum for Biological Recording

Teresa Frost, Jodey Peyton, Martin Harvey, Graham Walley

NFBR is an independent voice for the UK's recording community; we promote the fun and value of biological recording to meet the country's biodiversity needs.

[www.nfbr.org.uk](http://www.nfbr.org.uk)



### UK Environmental Observation Framework

Jodey Peyton

UK EOF is a partnership of public sector organisations with interest in providing evidence from environmental observations to understand and manage the changing natural environment.

[www.ukeof.org.uk](http://www.ukeof.org.uk)



### Natural Apptitude

Dave Kilbey and Oliver Ridsdale

Natural Apptitude specialise in making citizen science based apps and websites for ecological organisations and projects.

[www.natural-apptitude.co.uk](http://www.natural-apptitude.co.uk)

## NOTES

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## DELEGATE LIST

Delegate name	Delegate organisation	Delegate email
Dr Jen Tom	Ashworth August	NBN Trustee / MBA / Defra jen.ashworth@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Lindsay	Bamforth	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology lindsay.bamforth@ceh.ac.uk
Charlie	Barnes	Fife Nature Records Centre charlie.barnes@glnp.org.uk
Brenden	Beckett	Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership bred.beckett@outlook.com
Charlie	Bell	Edge Hill University charlie@field-studies-council.org
Jemma	Bezant	Field Studies Council jemma@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk
Oliver	Billker	West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre o.billker@gmail.com
Jann	Billker	Youth Award - shortlisted nominee o.billker@gmail.com
Clare	Blencowe	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre clareblencowe@sussexwt.org.uk
Charlotte	Bolton	Seasearch/Marine Conservation Society charlotte.bolton@mcsuk.org
Emma	Bonham	Harper Adams University ebonham@harper-adams.ac.uk
Keiron Derek	Brown	Earthworm Society of Britain keironderekbrown@gmail.com
Yvonne	Buckley	Trinity College Dublin, Ireland buckleyy@tcd.ie
Rich	Burkmar	Field Studies Council richardb@field-studies-council.org
Lizzy	Cairns	Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) elizabeth.cairns@rspb.org.uk
Pauline	Campbell	Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) pauline.campbell@nmni.com
Purba	Choudhury	CEDaR, NMNI p.choudhury@nbn.org.uk
Dave	Clark	NBN Secretariat davidn.clark@environment-agency.gov.uk
Ryan	Clark	Environment Agency ryan.clark@northantsbrc.org.uk
Niki	Clear	Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre niki.clear@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
Richard	Comont	ERCCIS   Cornwall Wildlife Trust richard.comont@bumblebeeconservation.org
Jonny	Cooper	Bumblebee Conservation Trust jonnycooper1993@gmail.com
Tim	Corner	Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre tim.corner@brerc.org.uk
Julie	Cox	Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) julie.cox@gigl.org.uk
Jamie	Cranston	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC jc873@exeter.ac.uk
Dr Katie	Cruickshanks	University of Exeter kcruickshanks@butterfly-conservation.org
Rob	Curtis	Butterfly Conservation rob.curtis@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Delegate name	Delegate organisation	Delegate email
Katharine	Davies	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC katharine.davies@gigl.org.uk
Ben	Deed	Merseyside BioBank Deed.ben@gmail.com
Mark	Diamond	Environment Agency mark.diamond@environment-agency.gov.uk
Nicola	Dixon	Environment Agency nicola.dixon@norfolk.gov.uk
Dr Michael	Dodd	Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service michael.dodd@open.ac.uk
Dr Regan	Early	iSpot / Open University r.early@exeter.ac.uk
Dr Mark	Eaton	University of Exeter Mark.Eaton@rspb.org.uk
Ian	Egerton	RSPB iegerton@devonwildlifetrust.org
Chloe	Elding	Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) celding@wtwales.org
Matthew	Esh	Wildlife Trusts Wales matthew.esh@go.edgehill.ac.uk
Leslie	Evans-Hill	National Silphidae Recording Scheme levans-hill@butterfly-conservation.org
Moustafa	Eweda	Butterfly Conservation dataofficer@cbdc.org.uk
Krisztina	Fekete	Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre Krisztina.Fekete@naturalengland.org.uk
Bea	Finch	Natural England Beatrice.Finch@justice.gsi.gov.uk
Marina	Flamank	Ministry of Justice marina.flamank@environment-agency.gov.uk
Guy	Freeman	Environment Agency gfreeman@nhbs.com
Teresa	Frost	British Wildlife teresa.frost@bto.org
Anna	Georgiou	British Trust for Ornithology anna@bis.org.uk
Paul	Green	Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) paul.green@bsbi.org
David	Gregory	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland david.gregory@ywt.org.uk
Aisling	Gribbin	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust aisling@sup.org.uk
Colette	Hall	South West Scotland Environmental Information Centre (SWSEIC) colette.hall@wwt.org.uk
Natalie	Harmsworth	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust natalie@wildlifeinformation.co.uk
Matt	Harrow	The Wildlife Information Centre m.harrow@nhm.ac.uk
Martin	Harvey	Natural History Museum marharv@ceh.ac.uk
Michael	Hassell	CEH Biological Records Centre m.hassell@nbn.org.uk
Mark	Hawkins	NBN Chairman mark@composedimages.co.uk
Mandy	Henshall	Composed Images m.henshall@nbn.org.uk

Delegate name	Delegate organisation	Delegate email
David Hepper	British Dragonfly Society	david.hepper@british-dragonflies.org.uk
Tasha Hesketh	Edge Hill University	tasha.hesketh@go.edgehill.ac.uk
Amy Hicks	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc)	amy.hicks@sewbrec.org.uk
Tim Hirsch	Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	thirsch@gbif.org
Mike Hordley	Wiltshire & Swindon Biological Records Centre	michaelh@wiltshirewildlife.org
Martin Horlock	Norfolk County Council	martin.horlock@norfolk.gov.uk
Dr Karen Hornigold	Woodland Trust	karenhornigold@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Mollie Hunt	Moors for the Future Partnership	mollie.hunt@peakdistrict.gov.uk
Tom Hunt	Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC)	tom.hunt@alerc.org.uk
Sarah Hyslop	NBN Secretariat	s.hyslop@nbn.org.uk
Janet Imlach	Biodiversity Information Service	janet@bis.org.uk
Barbara Ismay	Schultmay Ltd - Entomological Consultants	schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk
Dr John W. Ismay	Schultmay Ltd - Entomological Consultants	schultmay@insectsrus.co.uk
Neringa Jakimaviciute	Environment Agency	neringa.jakimaviciute@environment-agency.gov.uk
Manon Katell Jobic	Project Splatter	projectsplatter@gmail.com
Christine Johnston	NBN Secretariat	c.johnston@nbn.org.uk
Sam Jones	Cardiff University	samuelpj101@gmail.com
Jo Judge	NBN Chief Executive	j.judge@nbn.org.uk
Gary Kennison	Gloucestershire County Council	gary.kennison@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Cheryl Knott	Lancashire Wildlife Trust	cknott@lancswt.org.uk
Emma Knowles	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC	emma.knowles@gigl.org.uk
Sara Lanyon	Field Studies Council	saral@field-studies-council.org
Dan Lear	Marine Biological Association	dble@mba.ac.uk
Professor Simon Leather	Harper Adams University	simonleather@harper-adams.ac.uk
Barnaby Letheren	Natural Resources Wales	barnaby.letheren@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Paula Lightfoot	Seasearch	p.lightfoot@btinternet.com
Maria Longley	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC	maria.longley@gigl.org.uk

Delegate name	Delegate organisation	Delegate email
Sue Loughran	FSC /TCV Natural Networks Biodiversity Trainee	suel@field-studies-council.org
Nicola Lowndes	Natural History Museum	n.lowndes@nhm.ac.uk
Daniel Marshall	Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)	daniel.marshall@brerc.org.uk
Lois Mayhew	Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	loismayhew@sussexwt.org.uk
Damian McFerran	CEDaR, NMNI	damian.mcferran@nmni.com
Justine Millard	Marine Conservation Society	justine.millard@mcsuk.org
Alex Mills	Natural History Museum	alex.mills@nhm.ac.uk
Linda Moore	Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records	linda.moore@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
Anna Moulin	University of Exeter	am769@exeter.ac.uk
Ben Mullen	Biodiversity Information Service	ben@bis.org.uk
Deb Muscat	Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre	Manager@cbdc.org.uk
Andy Musgrove	British Trust for Ornithology	andy.musgrove@bto.org
Samuel Neal	Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	samuel.neal@norfolk.gov.uk
Yelena Nefyodova	Cardiff University	NefjodovaJ@cardiff.ac.uk
Tomo Noda	University of Exeter	tn273@exeter.ac.uk
Adrian Norris	Conchological Society Recorder	adrianxnorris@aol.com
Jetta Oben	University of South Wales	jettaoben@yahoo.co.uk
Liam Olds	Colliery Spoil Biodiversity Initiative	Liam.Olds@museumwales.ac.uk
Jamie Owen	Cardiff University	jmeowen@hotmail.com
Dr Katy Owen	Coordinator, Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative	katy.owen@norfolk.gov.uk
Abigail Pedlow	Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)	abigail.pedlow@brerc.org.uk
Clare Perez	Marine Conservation Society	clare.perez@mcsuk.org
Sarah Perkins	Project Splatter	PerkinsS@cardiff.ac.uk
Steven Peters	Environment Agency	steven.peters@environment-agency.gov.uk
Jodey Peyton	UKEOF	joyt@ceh.ac.uk
Sarah Phillips	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	sarah.phillips@kew.org
Charlotte Pink	Edge Hill University	charl_pinky@hotmail.co.uk
Matt Postles	Bristol Natural History Consortium	matt@bnhc.org.uk
Sarah Proctor	Moors for the Future Partnership	Sarah.proctor@peakdistrict.gov.uk



Delegate name		Delegate organisation	Delegate email
Sally	Rankin	Recorder 6 reseller	s.rankin@btinternet.com
Chris	Raper	Natural History Museum	c.raper@nhm.ac.uk
Anthony	Roach	Earthwatch Institute (Europe)	aroach@earthwatch.org.uk
Rachel	Roberts	The Environment Partnership (TEP)	rachelroberts@tep.uk.com
Reuben	Roberts	NBN Secretariat	r.roberts@nbn.org.uk
Adam	Rowe	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc)	adam.rowe@sewbrec.org.uk
David	Roy	Biological Records Centre	dbr@ceh.ac.uk
Helen	Roy	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	hele@ceh.ac.uk
Mandy	Rudd	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC	mandy.rudd@gigl.org.uk
Katherine	Rushen	Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service	katherine.rushen@norfolk.gov.uk
Colin	Russell	West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre	colin@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk
Lorna	Shaw	Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre	lornas@essexwt.org.uk
Richard	Siller	Scottish Wildlife Trust	rsiller@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk
Laura	Sivess	Natural History Museum	l.sivess@nhm.ac.uk
Stephanie	Skipp	Natural History Museum	s.skipp@nhm.ac.uk
David	Slade	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc)	david.slade@sewbrec.org.uk
Kate	Smith	West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre	kate@westwalesbiodiversity.org.uk
Graham	Smith	Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	graham.smith@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Dr Deborah	Steele	DEFRA	deborah.steele@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Giselle	Sterry	NBN Secretariat	g.sterry@nbn.org.uk
Barry	Stewart	County Recorder	moonmoths@gmail.com
Jackie	Stewart	The Wildlife Information Centre	jackie@wildlifeinformation.co.uk
Roy	Tapping	Cofnod - North Wales Environmental Information Service	roy.tapping@cofnod.org.uk
Gerry	Thomas	County Recorder	gerry.thomas7@btinternet.com
Tom	Thomson	Buglife (Invertebrate Conservation Trust)	tom.thomson@buglife.org.uk
Sue	Townsend	Field Studies Council (FSC)	sue.t@field-studies-council.org
Kath	Turvey	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	kattur@ceh.ac.uk

Delegate name		Delegate organisation	Delegate email
Dr John	Tweddle	Natural History Museum	j.tweddle@nhm.ac.uk
Ella	Vogel	NBN Secretariat	e.vogel@nbn.org.uk
Ian	Wallace	Caddis Recording Scheme	lancschesh@hotmail.com
Graham	Walley	National Forum for Biological Recording (NFBR)	peg9000@hotmail.com
Fiona	Ware	National Museums Scotland	f.ware@nms.ac.uk
Claudia	Watts	Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC	cwatts@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk
Tom	Webb	BES / NBN Trust / University of Sheffield	t.j.webb@sheffield.ac.uk
Steph	West	Natural History Museum	Steph.West@nhm.ac.uk
Ashleigh	Whiffin	National Museums Scotland	a.whiffin@nms.ac.uk
Sarah	Whild	Manchester Metropolitan University	s.whild@mmu.ac.uk
Steve	Whitbread	Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC)	Steve.Whitbread@harrow.gov.uk
Derek	Whiteley	Sorby Invertebrate Group	invertebrates@sorby.org.uk
Rebecca	Whitla	Edge Hill University	rebecca.whitla@go.edgehill.ac.uk
Laura Guy	Wilkinson	The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	laura.guy-wilkinson@cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk
Helen	Wilkinson	Natural Resources Wales	helen.wilkinson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Amy	Williams Schwartz	Project Splatter	WilliamsSchwartzAL@Cardiff.ac.uk
Savita	Willmott	Bristol Natural History Consortium	savita@bnhc.org.uk
Ellen	Wilson	RSPB	ellen.wilson@rspb.org.uk
Graeme	Wilson	The Wildlife Information Centre	graeme@wildlifeinformation.co.uk
April	Windle	Natural History Museum	a.windle@nhm.ac.uk
Andrew	Wood	NBN Trustee & Treasurer	andrewcharleswood@hotmail.co.uk
Elaine	Wright	South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc)	elaine.wright@sewbrec.org.uk
Laura	Wright	Student	laurawright96@gmail.com
Mark	Wright	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	mark.wright@daera-ni.gov.uk
Holly	York	Wales Biodiversity Partnership	holly.york@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk





*“We will grow our capacity and capability to record and collect high quality biological data”*

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