

25th National Biodiversity Network Conference
Thursday 20 November 2025
SS Great Britain, Bristol
25 years of “Making data work for nature”

08:45 - 09:20 Registration

Morning session

09:20 - 09:25 Welcome and introduction by Pete Tomlin, NBN Trust Chairperson

09:25 – 09:35 Dr Gareth Thomas, NBN Trust CEO – *“Sharing a vision for the future”*

Session 1: **25 years of collaboration – chair of session Eleni Polychroniadou**

09:35 – 10:00 Keynote address – Dr John Tweddle, Head of Centre for UK Nature, Natural History Museum – *“Looking back, looking forward: reflecting on 25 years of partnering with the NBN Trust”*

10:00 – 10:15 Tim Corner, Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre – *“Kestrel’s fluffy ears”*

10:15 – 10:30 Martin Harvey, UKCEH Biological Records Centre (BRC) – *“From field observation to global data: (some of) the many links between recorders, schemes, organisations and portals”*

10:30 - 10:45 Simon Pickles, National Forum for Biological Recording (NFBR) and North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) - *“Rooted in Data, Growing Through Time”*

10:45 – 10:55 Q&A

10:55 – 11:25 **Tea / coffee break**

Session 2: **The here and now – chair of session Rob Cooke**

11:25 – 11:40 Christine Tansey, Biodiversity Data Manager (NBN Atlas) – *“The NBN Atlas: building capacity and connections”*

11:40 – 11:55 Dr Ben Holt, The Rockpool Project – *“The Big Rock Pool Challenge - A UK wide marine citizen science adventure”*

11:55 – 12:10 Emma Squire and Devmini Bandara, PhD students, University of Exeter (RENEW Biodiversity Programme: Renewing biodiversity through a people-in-nature approach) – *“iNaturalistUK User Survey and Observation Records”*

12:10 – 12:25 Dr Damian McFerran, Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR), National Museums NI – *“CEDaR, what has it all been about?”*

12:25 – 12:40 Dr Carlos Bedson, Natural England – *“Designing a climate change resilient landscape connectivity network from a multi-species perspective”*

12:40 – 12:45 Q&A

12.45 – 14:00 **Lunch, posters and displays and other optional activities**

Art corner – “Draw Your Study Organism / Favourite Species” with Dr Lauren Cook – Sir Marc Brunel room

NBN Record Manager – video demo on the Better Biodiversity Data project stand

Self-guided tour of SS Great Britain.

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Afternoon session

Session 3: **Chair of session – Pete Tomlin**

The Sir John Burnett Memorial Lecture 2025

14:00 – 14:30 Katie-jo Luxton, RSPB, Executive Director, Global Conservation - *“Making data work for nature; the value of monitoring and recording to inform State of Nature reporting, drive recovery action and influence systemic change”*

NBN Awards for Wildlife Recording 2025

14.30 – 15:15 Announcement of winners and highly commended nominees

15:15 – 15:45 **Tea / coffee break**

Session 4: **Beyond the now – what’s next? – chair of session Louise Li**

15:45 – 16:00 Kate Ingenloff, Scientific Officer, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) – *“Advancing Biodiversity Data Sharing in GBIF”*

16:00 – 16:15 Duncan Allen, Defra – *“From Observation to Action: Using iNaturalist to help Monitor and Elevate Plant Health Awareness in the UK”*

16:15 – 16:30 Dr Lauren Cook, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology – *“Translating environmental DNA (eDNA) for monitoring nature”*

16:30 – 16:45 Fireside chat – Dr Gareth Thomas, NBN Trust CEO and Tom Gray, BBC, Head of Nature – *“Engaging the widest audience for nature”*

16:45 – 16:50 Chairperson’s summing up

16.50 End of NBN Conference

17:00 – 17:15 NBN Trust AGM

NBN Conference is organised by:

With huge thanks to our 2025 NBN Conference partners: