



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR
BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

NBN and NFBR

Rooted in Data Growing Through Time



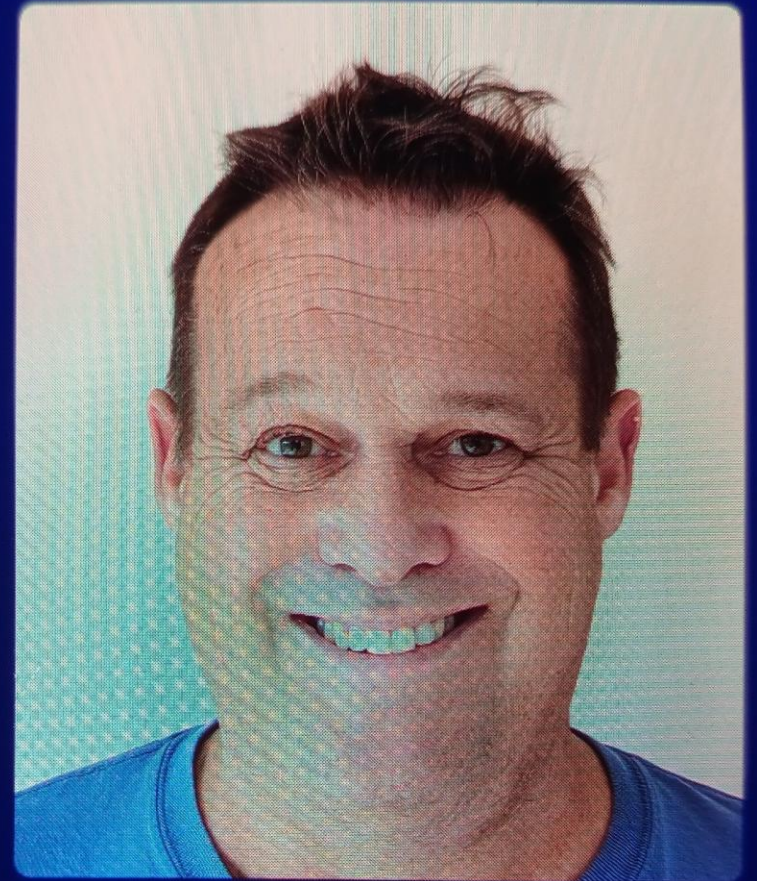
Simon Pickles,
25th National Biodiversity network
Conference



Then and Now

A cautionary tale.

Senior Railcard



ISSUED
Online

**Networks for Nature: A
conference
25 years**

 **Sunday 7th
December 2023**

 **York Hospital**

 **www.neyedc.org**

 **North & East
NEYEDC
ecological data centre**







NATIONAL FORUM
FOR
BIOLOGICAL RECORDING

Who are we?

- A membership organization that represents, at a national level, the interests and work of biological recorders across all taxonomic groups.
- Members include individual biological recorders, Local Record Centres and recording schemes and societies.
- We think of ourselves as an *independent voice* for biological recorders in the UK.





What do we do?

- NFBR works in two distinct spheres. Firstly, through its two governance bodies, the Executive and Council, the NFBR membership is represented at a strategic level in the UK.
- NFBR seeks to keep them membership abreast of national developments in ecological data that might impact on the practice of biological recording
- The second sphere relates directly to the immediate needs of its members.





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A Bit of Shared History

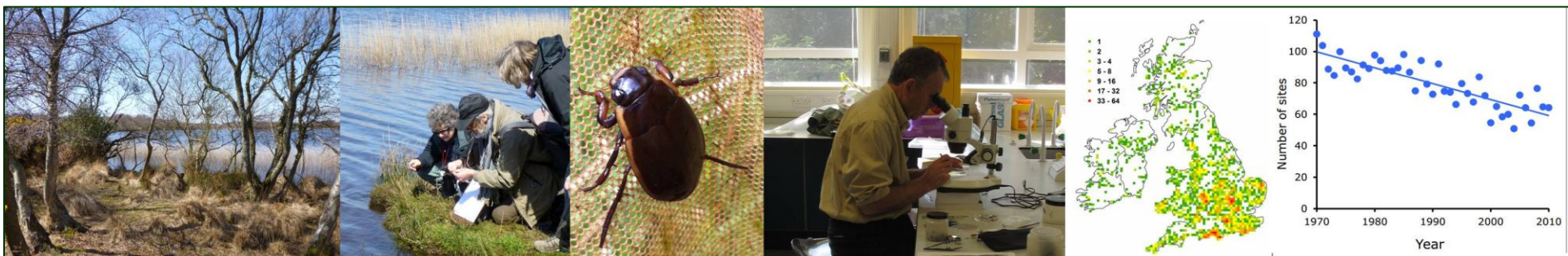
- 1964 BRC is established at Monks Wood on 1 April with F.H. Perring as its head.
- 1968 Dr Perring coined the 'Biological Records Centre'. The phrase 'biological record' came into existence.
- 1986 NFBR formed as the National Federation for Biological Recording
- 1988 Linnean Society Report, "Biological Survey: Need and Network" was produced by Prof. Sam Berry. This project was promoted by the National Federation for Biological Recording (NFBR) and Biology Curators Group under Paul Harding.
- 1990: The Co-ordinating Commission for Biological Recording (CCBR), chaired by Sir John Burnett, started work on research for building a case for a national system.
- 1995: CCBR Report "Biological Recording in the United Kingdom" was published. This included a detailed national scheme for Biological recording and publication coincided with "Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group Report – Meeting the Rio Challenge".
- 1996 Initial moves to establish a UK-wide biological recording network. Foundation of NBN partnership.
- 1998 Sir John Burnett became Chairman designate for, what was to become, the NBN Trust.
- NBN Trust registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee on 25 August 2000.



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Networks and Platforms

- The NBN Partnerships predates the first iteration of NBN Gateway by 8 years.
- From time-to-time we have been guilty of focusing on the platforms of data dissemination over the network of data collectors and collators.
- Sometimes the local level, where data is still collected and where nature recovery is delivered feel a long way from the NBN.



NFBR
ATE'NT
DEAD





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NBN & NFBR



Ambition 3:

Citizen science is valued, supported & expanded as major source of biodiversity data

The NBN Atlas supports everyone in their biological recording journey

**Foster knowledge sharing and guidance materials on informatics.
Highlight impact of contributions**

The NBN Atlas supports all biological recording

- Increased engagement with rapidly growing user groups, identify and meet their needs
- Foster knowledge sharing and capacity building in conservation projects
- Share guidance on biodiversity informatics and how to find and use the best data for research
- Develop partnerships to drive standardisation and data sharing of next-gen data collections

Greater connectivity of data and people to projects



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Ambition 4:
NBN is a well-
connected and
highly collaborative
community with a
united voice on key
issues

**The NBN Atlas is a
leader in best
practice biological
data sharing**

**Develop the
community, leverage
new technologies
and look beyond the
Living Atlas**

The NBN Atlas is
innovative and
embedded in nature
recovery

- Work with technical partners to integrate new technology into workflows (data lakes, indexing etc.)
- Evaluate and adopt AI and machine learning in the way we validate, process and analyse data
- Create open API ecosystem for seamless integration with UK and global conservation technologies
- Secure funding to explore POCs to service the UK Biodiversity data

The NBN Atlas is at the
forefront of new
technologies

*“Your scientists
were so preoccupied
with whether or not
they could, they
didn’t stop to think
if they should.”*

- Dr. Ian Malcolm

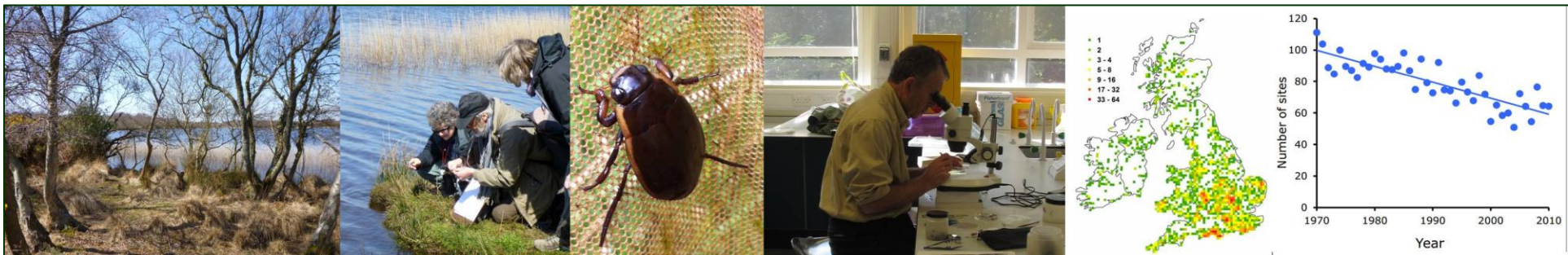




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CRED?

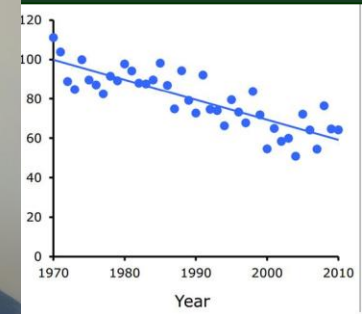
- **Communicate** the vital importance of grass roots biological recording in monitoring the state of nature and the efficacy of measures to aimed at nature recovery at both a local and national level.
- Act to enable inclusive **resourcing** of existing biological recording activities and facilitate the growth of the biological recording community across all taxa.
- Work towards clear, efficient and **equitable** ecological data flows in which the roles of all data collators are clear, transparent and mutually recognised and critically, the interests of data creators are respected.
- Establish pathways to enable the **deployment** of new equipment, techniques and technologies to the front-line of biological recording.



Rooted



gh Time



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