



Connecting the Dots
Saturday, 2nd April 2022



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes
Environmental Records Centre
Annual Recorders' Seminar 2022



SEMINAR OPEN from 9:30

For further information about this event, please visit: www.bucksmkerc.org.uk/seminar

MORNING SESSION

- 10:00** Chairman's Welcome *Mick Jones*
- 10:10** An Introduction to the Ancient Tree Inventory *Tom Reed*
- 10:40** The National Reptile Survey *Rob Ward*
- 11:00** Tracking the Impact *Nick Marriner*
- 11:15** Updates *BMERC*
- 11:35** Refreshments break—Photo competition entries will be playing during the break
- 11:45** Updates from the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership *Nicola Thomas*
- 11:55** Recording Pollinators, Soldierflies and more *Martin Harvey*
- 12:20** The DECIDE Tool: Recording nature where it matters *Michael Pocock*
- 12:35** City Girl in Nature *Kwesia*
- 12:50** Lunch break—Photo competition entries will be playing during the break.
To vote in the photo competition, visit this link: forms.gle/FR3jzPayoth1ij7CA
Voting will close at 13:30 pm, so don't forget to vote!

AFTERNOON SESSION

- 13:25** Introduction to the afternoon session *Mick Jones*
- 13:30** Important Invertebrate Areas: Putting Bugs on the Map *Jamie Robins*
- 14:00** People and nature: mapping benefits of nature and opportunities for nature recovery *Dr Jim Rouquette*
- 14:30** Refreshments break
- 14:40** The Changing Flora of Urban Woodland *Holly Woo*
- 15:05** Updates *BMERC*
- 15:35** Recorders' Updates
- Moths *Martin Albertini*
 - Recording Buckinghamshire's Birds *Mike Wallen*
 - Natural History Journal, *Fritillary* *Helen Read*
- 15:55** Photo competition winners and closing remarks *Mick Jones*



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SPEAKERS

Mick Jones MBE, *Chairman*

Mick Jones MBE has been volunteer warden at BBOWT's Dancersend Nature Reserve in the Chilterns for the last 40 years. His interests have developed over this period from birds and plants, through fungi and butterflies, to slime moulds, plant galls and beetles. He is currently chairman of the BBOWT Chilterns Group which organises events and co-ordinates volunteer activity in the area. He has chaired the annual Recorders' Seminar since 2009 and is involved in a number of other BMERC activities.



Tom Reed, *Woodland Trust*



Tom Reed works for the Woodland Trust as the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) Citizen Science Officer. The ATI is a citizen science project that asks everyone to help us map the locations of special ancient, veteran and notable trees. The aim is to increase our knowledge about their distribution, build respect for them and to aid their protection. Tom oversees the project management of the ATI, and as part of this provides training and guidance in how to recognise and record ancient/veteran trees.

Rob Ward, *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust*

Rob Ward is a conservation biologist and has been working with amphibians and reptiles for 15 years. Rob works for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC) as their Data and GIS Officer. ARC is a national charity committed to conserving amphibians and reptiles, and saving the disappearing habitats on which they depend. His role includes developing reptile and amphibian monitoring programmes and managing the organisation's data and mapping.



Nick Marriner, *Chilterns Conservation Board*



Currently working for the Chilterns Conservation Board delivering a number of landscape scale habitat and recording projects across the Central Chilterns. Nick is also a Trustee of the River Thames Conservation Trust where he is managing both a river focused Wetland Bird Survey and a catchment wide Atlas project. A keen birder and surveyor Nick also carries out regular surveys for BBOWT on their Upper Ray Meadows reserves, and both WeBS and Breeding Bird Surveys for BTO locally.

Nicola Thomas, *Bucks & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership*

Nicola is the Partnership Manager for the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (known as the "NEP"), the area's Local Nature Partnership. She works to bring together organisations from many sectors to set a clear direction and work collectively towards improving the local environment. Nicola will be presenting an update on the key areas of the recent work of the NEP. Much more information is available on the NEP's website: bucksmknep.co.uk



Martin Harvey, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Martin Harvey is an entomologist and biological recorder based at the UKCEH Biological Records Centre, where he works on projects including the iRecord online recording system, liaison with national recording schemes, and is part of the team for the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. He also teaches for Field Studies Council and on the biological recording MSc at Manchester Metropolitan University. As a volunteer Martin runs the national Soldierflies and Allies Recording Scheme, and is County Moth Recorder for Berkshire vice-county.



Michael Pocock, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Michael Pocock is an ecologist undertaking research on the interactions between nature, people and data. At UKCEH he works in the Biological Records Centre, supporting wildlife recorders and using records for research on biodiversity change. He is interested in innovating and developing citizen science and especially looking at the opportunities for this to work for the benefit of science and for people.

Kwesia, City Girl in Nature

Kwesia grew up in Deptford, an inner city area of South-East London. Along with many of her friends, neighbours and peers, who all experienced a great deal of the challenges that come with living in an area, and with people, who have often been neglected, excluded and marginalised. At her lowest, she received what could be regarded as a gift and a blessing. An opportunity to be part of a British Exploring Society's expedition to the Peruvian Amazon Rain-forest. She spent 3 weeks in a remote part of the jungle, with no phone or contact with the outside world, with a group of people that she barely knew. This, in many ways, was a life-changing experience for her. She experienced the beauty of nature, where there was no judgement, just life teeming with energy and opportunity. This led to the start of *City Girl in Nature*, as a way to give back to her community. To share her love and passion for the outdoors, and belief that everybody should have the chance to be healed, to be nourished, and to live with abundance.



Dr Jim Rouquette, Natural Capital Solutions

Dr Jim Rouquette is a Director and co-founder of Natural Capital Solutions, an environmental consultancy that helps organisations understand, assess and make strategic decisions about their natural capital assets. He is an experienced environmental and interdisciplinary scientist having spent over 20 years working in academia and as a consultant. He is an expert on natural capital and ecosystem services (understanding the benefits that nature provides to society) and the many different ways that this can be assessed and is particularly interested in the power of mapping to bring these assessments to life. Prior to setting up Natural Capital Solutions, Jim completed many years of post-doctoral research on biodiversity and ecosystem services at a number of leading universities, and a NERC Policy Placement Fellowship working with the Environment Agency.

Jamie Robins, Buglife

Jamie Robins is Programmes Manager at Buglife, The Invertebrate Conservation Trust. He leads on Buglife's national programmes including its B-Lines work to restore and re-connect our best remaining wildflower rich habitats, Important Invertebrate Areas to map the most important areas in Britain for invertebrates, and its planning casework and planning policy engagement.



Holly Woo, The Open University

Holly Woo is a PhD student at The Open University studying the impacts of urbanisation on ancient woodland ecosystems. Her research focuses on patches of ancient woodland that became surrounded by an urban landscape during the development of Milton Keynes over the last 50 years. She is using historic plant species records to investigate differences in the biodiversity of these now "urban ancient woodlands" compared to more rural ancient woodlands in Buckinghamshire. This helps us understand how impacts such as high visitor pressure, pollution, habitat fragmentation and invasive species affect communities of ancient woodland plants in an urban context.

Mike Wallen, Buckinghamshire Bird Club (County Recorder)

Mike was born and has always lived in Buckinghamshire. His interest in nature and birds in particular started in childhood. He has been Birding passionately in Bucks for 40 years, serving on the committee of the Bucks Bird Club, subsequently joining the County Records Committee and then becoming County Recorder. Mike is particularly interested in Visible Migration and Peregrine Falcons.



Thank you from the BMERC Team!

The BMERC Team is Claudia Bernardini, Julia Carey, Fiona Everingham, Mark Rodgers, Matt Sharp and Rhiannon Flemming.

Thank you to our wonderful community of volunteers and recorders! Your contributions of time and records are essential to our work.

If you want to keep up to date on BMERC activities, please visit our website: www.bucksmkerc.org.uk or email us to subscribe to our newsletter: erc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. You can also contact us by telephone to request a paper copy if you do not have access to email: 01296 382431. We're also on Twitter: [@BucksMKERC](https://twitter.com/BucksMKERC)

We would also like to thank our partner organisations:



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



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milton keynes council