

LERC Wales Biological Recorders Symposium

Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Saturday 25th April

This event will give delegates an opportunity to learn of collecting and identification techniques, old and new, which are being employed by biological recorders in Wales and the value of biological records to current evidence needs.

The event will appeal to biological recorders, students and professionals from organisations working in conservation within Wales.

The afternoon session will consist of a series of classroom and field based workshops together with a parallel discussion session exploring ways of encouraging new recorders and supporting biological recording in the future.

A number of places will be reserved for students. The event presents opportunities to get a taste of practical skills and where students might gain further skills and experience volunteering with organisations in the sector.

09.30	Registration Coffee on arrival	
10.15	Diana Reynolds Welsh Government	Welcome and Introduction from the Chair
10.20	Laurence Livermore Digital Project Manager with the Natural History Museum.	Setting our specimens free. NHM's journey in establishing a programme to digitise its 80 million specimens. Discussing the cultural context of collections, how we digitise them, the innovations required, share and re-use of the data, who uses the data and the future of digital specimens
11.00	Richard Dawson PoMS volunteer & Visual Artist	PoMS: The UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. The only scheme in the world producing results of international importance to the understanding of insect abundance, declines and conservation actions of bees, hoverflies and other flower-visiting insects. The talk explains what it is, what it has achieved and how you can get involved.
11.30	Comfort break	
11.50	David Harries, Vice-County recorder for fungi in Pembrokeshire, his interests lie mainly in grassland fungi taxonomy.	DNA Barcoding. Is it for field enthusiasts? As DNA barcoding becomes more accessible and affordable, this talk introduces the concept and explores the options available to field enthusiasts.
12.20	Rebecca Blackman Planning Ecologist	Is Hazel Dormouse mitigation effective? <i>Details to follow</i>
12.50		Question panel
13.00	Lunch & Networking	

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Session 1 begins 14.00. Session 2 begins 15.00

Workshop 1	Den Vaughan (Landsker Ecology)	Seeking the Emissivity of Dormice – an exploration of TI as a survey tool. A brief, presentation/discussion of a year's trial of a 'budget' thermal imager for finding dormice. The instrument will be on hand for people to explore.
Workshop 2	Richard Gallon (Cofnod)	Unusual invertebrate sampling techniques Rarely recorded invertebrates are often associated with underworked microhabitats. Innovative traps and sampling techniques can help reveal this cryptic fauna. Richard will demonstrate some of the methods he has used to find interesting spiders in North Wales. Many of these techniques will be applicable to recording other terrestrial invertebrate groups.
Workshop 3	David Harries (Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Network)	An introduction to the practical aspects of extracting DNA. This session will include preparing a sample for amplification of the barcode region and an introduction to the Bento lab portable DNA laboratory which combines a centrifuge, thermal cycler and gel visualisation unit in one package.
Workshop 4	Craig Shuttleworth (Red Squirrel Survival Network)	Red Squirrel Monitoring Techniques <i>Details to follow</i>
Workshop 5	Norman Lowe (Brecknock Moth Group)	Moth Trapping Methods & Techniques Discover the various techniques & methods for attracting and trapping moths, the pros & cons of these and how to get involved in moth recording schemes.
Workshop 6	Laurence Livermore (Natural History Museum)	Wiki edit-a-thon for natural history. The various wiki-based projects provide an excellent place for sharing natural history with the general public, specialists and others. This workshop will give an overview of key platforms (Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons and Wikidata), how they are being used by other groups/institutes and the possibility of contributing data to them on the day.
Workshop 7	Richard Dawson (PoMS)	An introduction to <i>Aculeates</i> in the Field A 'hands-on' covering ecology leading to where to look & techniques for catching, combined with basic field ID of bees and wasps, including how to differentiate between bees, wasps, sawflies, syrphids & ichneumons, along with a look at basic morphological features and identifying to genera in the field.

15.50 Closing remarks from the Chair (*Diana Reynolds*)

16.00 Departure

Evening

Montgomeryshire Moth Group will be running a moth trap at the Centre for Alternative Technology on Saturday evening, for attendees staying overnight for the field day on Sunday.

Sunday 26th April

Join us for a field trip to nearby [National Nature Reserve Ynyslas Dunes](#). The field event will run c10am – 4pm, attendees are welcome to come for all or part of the day.