

TVERC Autumn Recorders' Conference, 7 October 2017, Reading:

Main speakers

Catchment Co-operation and the Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative

Martin Moore, Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative

An overview of the River Loddon Catchment, from the perspective of the Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative. The group established in 2007, has tried to engage with other parties working within the catchment, to represent fisheries and conservation concerns with those groups and explore common grounds of interest. This has led to close and useful working relationships with a wide range of partners in the catchment. The continuing dialogue is now starting to bear fruits with projects and initiatives being delivered on the ground, hopefully robust projects with multiple benefits.

Martin Moore has been working in the freshwater fisheries field for over 40 years. A keen angler, he attended Sparsholt College before briefly working as a Water Bailiff in Glamorgan. He subsequently joined Thames Water Authority which evolved into the National Rivers Authority where he was a Fisheries Officer. He now runs a small freshwater fisheries contractor business, mainly working in the SE. He is also a long term member of the Institute of Fisheries Management and the International Association of Astacology.

He became chairman of the [Loddon Fisheries and Conservation Consultative](#) in 2007, which has led him to become involved with local bodies including the Loddon Catchment Partnership, Loddon Basin Flood Action Group, Swallowfield Flood Resilience Group, and the Loddon Observatory. He has also recently received an award from the River Restoration Centre. He is keen that his experiences over the recent decades are shared with others to help with the conservation and management of the local natural, particularly aquatic, environment.

Website: <http://www.lfcc.org.uk/>

Great Crested Newts: A whole new world of conservation?

Dr Jeremy Biggs, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Over the last 5 years there has been a revolution in the way we can record great crested newts with the introduction of the new environmental DNA (eDNA) technique for recording the species. eDNA is beginning to be used around the world to record freshwater plants and animals, with the UK national great crested newt survey, run as part of the PondNet programme, being one of the most advanced and well-developed surveys using the method anywhere in the world. Jeremy will describe the work that has led to the development and application of this new method, how local recording networks are getting involved in the use of the technique and the practical application of the method in the conservation of great crested newts.

Dr Jeremy Biggs is the co-founder and Director of the [Freshwater Habitats Trust](https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/), a national charity with headquarters in Oxford which works to protect life in freshwaters. FHT believes that maintaining rich and healthy freshwater habitats brings benefits to everyone, and the staff and volunteers work to protect these habitats through strong practical action backed by sound research-based information. Jeremy has over 25 years' experience as a freshwater biologist with a special interest in the ecology and conservation of ponds and other small waterbodies, river restoration and the protection of aquatic biodiversity at a landscape scale. He leads several large partnership projects such as the Water Friendly Farming initiative and the Million Ponds Project, and helped introduce new environmental DNA recording techniques for great crested newts into the UK. He is also actively involved in the voluntary wildlife recording sector, is a life member of the British Dragonfly Society and President of the European Pond Conservation Network.

Website: <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/>