

TVERC Autumn Recorders' Conference, 7 October 2017:

Workshops: select one option

1) Pantheon invertebrate habitat analysis

Pantheon (www.brc.ac.uk/pantheon) is an analytical tool developed by Natural England and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) to assist invertebrate nature conservation in England. The website can import invertebrate species lists and produce analyses, attaching associated habitats and resources, conservation status and other codings based on the species found. This workshop will demonstrate how you can use Pantheon to 'add value' to your species lists. It will provide some background on how Pantheon was developed, and outline the various types of information it contains, along with the caveats that you need to bear in mind when using it.

Martin Harvey is an entomologist and biological recorder. He works part-time at the Biological Records Centre at CEH Wallingford. In 2016 he coordinated a review of the Pantheon system for Natural England, working with other entomologists to steer its development, and is a member of the Pantheon steering group. He uses Pantheon to help analyse data from his own entomological surveys. As a volunteer, Martin is county moth recorder for Berkshire and runs the national recording scheme for Soldierflies and allies.

2) Pooling our time and recording efforts across the Thames Valley

Many of us survey wildlife for one or more organisations – but often carried out separately. How can we work together to make better use of our time, skills and interests?

What survey initiatives might combine effectively, and how?

Join this workshop for the chance to share your experiences to date, to suggest any ideas for approaches and for specific joint efforts, or simply to hear more and be inspired. We can use examples of current and planned recording projects and how these might be combined with wider wildlife recording drives.

Anna Broszkiewicz was born into an off-grid farming family in 1971 and has always had a strong connection to nature and the outdoor life. After an early career in the music industry and then hospitality, Anna graduated in 2000 with a BSc in Biological Sciences and began working for the RSPB in their conservation department, where she works to this day. Anna's primary focus has been to enable numerous volunteers to survey both arable and pastoral farmland, running events to communicate the RSPB's work to the wider public and presenting at both local and international conferences. Projects on the horizon include encouraging keen birdwatchers to improve their skills, and existing experts to widen their field to other flora and fauna.

In her spare time, Anna is studying for a Diploma in Permaculture, continuing with various house projects to make her home sustainable, and finding uses for the many kilos of tomatoes that have grown this year in her garden. She lives in Leicester, England.

3) Earthworm Identification

Hidden right under our feet just about wherever we are - earthworms species are critical, economically important and under-recorded. Here is a wonderful chance to learn more including how you can help gather and share information about them. Anthony will lead a workshop giving you the opportunity to look at the habitat preferences of earthworms and the key features to use for earthworm identification. The session will include a quick visit to a nearby field site for the chance to take part in some practical sampling techniques, Earthworm handling and recording.

Anthony Roach is a naturalist and science communicator who has trained with the Natural History Museum's Science Educator team since 2010. In 2015, he became one of the first of the 'ID Trainers for the Future' trained in biological recording with scientists and field ecologists at the Natural History Museum London's Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity. He is the Enquiries Officer for the Earthworm Society of Britain and the Community Engagement Co-ordinator for Earthwatch Institute (Europe). Anthony is passionate about observing wildlife and is a fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

4) Oxfordshire's Dinosaur Footprints

How fast can a dinosaur run? Could you jog with a *Megalosaurus*, or would you be happy keeping pace with a *Cetiosaur*?

Take part in this fun and informative workshop to find out. The footprints you will be presented with in this workshop are based on those produced by dinosaurs during the Middle Jurassic Bathonian stage of Oxfordshire 165 million years ago, modelled from a trackway found in Ardley Quarry. From the size of the stride we will be able to calculate the relative stride length of 2-legged and 4-legged dinosaurs. The footprint models are an example of the many, fascinating geological records tracing wildlife present in much earlier periods. We are delighted to have a geology workshop as part of this conference to promote the efforts of geological recorders and TVERC's geological data role across Berkshire and Oxfordshire. If the weather is kind part of this workshop may be held outdoors.

Owen Green has worked in the Earth Science Department at the University of Oxford since 1989. Previously he was Curator of Geological Collections at Goldsmith's College, University of London. At Oxford he helped establish the Palaeobiology Laboratories and supported the research of staff, and was co-author on a number of papers studying the world's oldest (3.5 billion years old) putative fossils from the Archaean of Western Australia. Other diverse research includes a study of the last shallow marine carbonate-platform foraminifera of the Tethyan Ocean recorded in rocks from the NW Himalayas 50.5 million years ago, as India crashed into Asia, and larger benthic foraminifera from Oman, seasonal growth and development of the extinct flightless New Zealand moa bird, and historical studies of Oxfordshire born William Smith. He is the author of *A manual of Practical Laboratory and Field Techniques in Palaeobiology* (2001), member of Royal Microscopical Society, and has organised Outreach events on volcanoes and mountain building. He is currently Chair of the Oxfordshire Geology Trust, the geo-conservation charity promoting local geology to the public.