

THE LONGER THE BETTER
A celebration of long-term datasets in commemoration of the
300th anniversary of the birth of Robert Marsham FRS

Sponsored by The Linnean Society of London and
The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Wednesday 22nd October 2008

At the Linnean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BF



Lesser Celandine © Tim Sparks

The value of long-term environmental datasets is being increasingly recognised in the light of climate change and other drivers of environmental change. Robert Marsham FRS, was one of the pioneers of long-term data gathering when he started recording the “Indications of Spring” on his Norfolk estate in 1736, subsequently continued by his descendants until 1958. This meeting aims to review the various uses of long-term datasets for understanding our environment and to discuss the issues surrounding their maintenance and development.

The meeting will aim to attract practicing ecologists and policy makers who use the information in government and elsewhere. There will be a series of presentations on a variety of topics, which will be multi-disciplinary in nature, and the meeting will end with a panel discussion taking questions from the floor.



**Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



PROGRAMME

09.30 Coffee

Morning Chair: **Dr Steve Killeen**

(Chair, Environment Research Funders' Forum & Head of Science, Environment Agency)

10.00 *Introduction and talk on Robert Marsham*

Prof Tim Sparks (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)

10.30 *Long-term datasets (Their value, serendipity (unforeseen value), and loss)*

Prof Alastair Fitter (University of York) &

Prof Andrew Watkinson (University of East Anglia)

11.00 *Phenology*

Dr Humphrey Crick (British Trust for Ornithology) &

Prof Tim Sparks (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)

11.30 *Distributions*

Prof Chris Thomas (University of York)

12.00 *Population modelling*

Prof John Harwood (Sea Mammal Research Unit & University of St Andrews)

12.30 Lunch

Afternoon Chair: **Dr Andy Clements**

(Director, British Trust for Ornithology)

13.30 *Pollution*

Prof Richard Shore (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology)

14.00 *Monitoring for conservation*

Dr Tom Tew (Natural England)

14.30 *Monitoring marine resources*

Dr Simon Jennings (Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science)

15.00 *Land use*

Prof Tom Williamson (University of East Anglia)

15.30 Panel Discussion

Chaired by **Prof Andrew Watkinson** (University of East Anglia)

Members: **Dr Tom Tew** (Chief Scientist, Natural England)

Baroness Young of Old Scone (President, British Trust for Ornithology)

Prof Jeremy Greenwood (British Trust for Ornithology and St Andrews)

Prof Jonathan Silvertown (Ecological Continuity Trust, Open University)

16.00 Tea – end



**Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

The
**LINNEAN
SOCIETY**
of London

