

FSC BioLinks

5 more years of caring and
sharing
THANK YOU HLF



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BioLinks Development within FSC

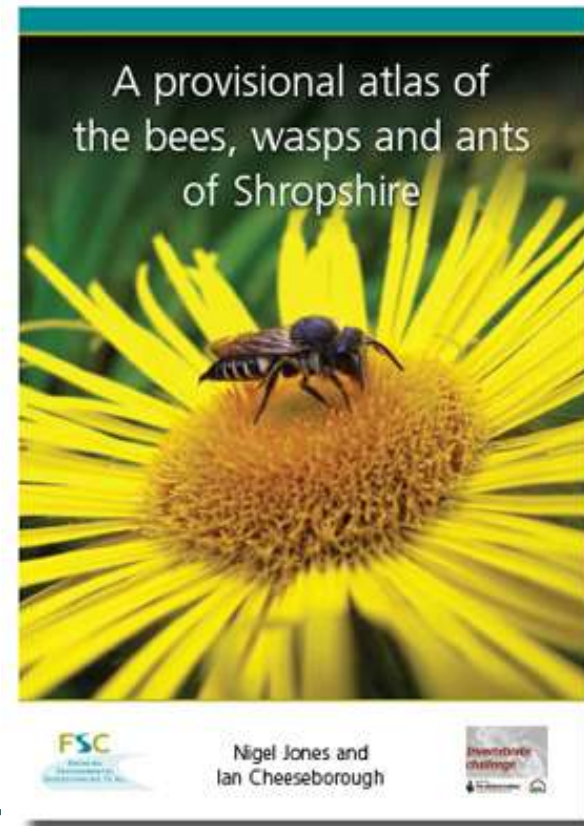


Central Direction

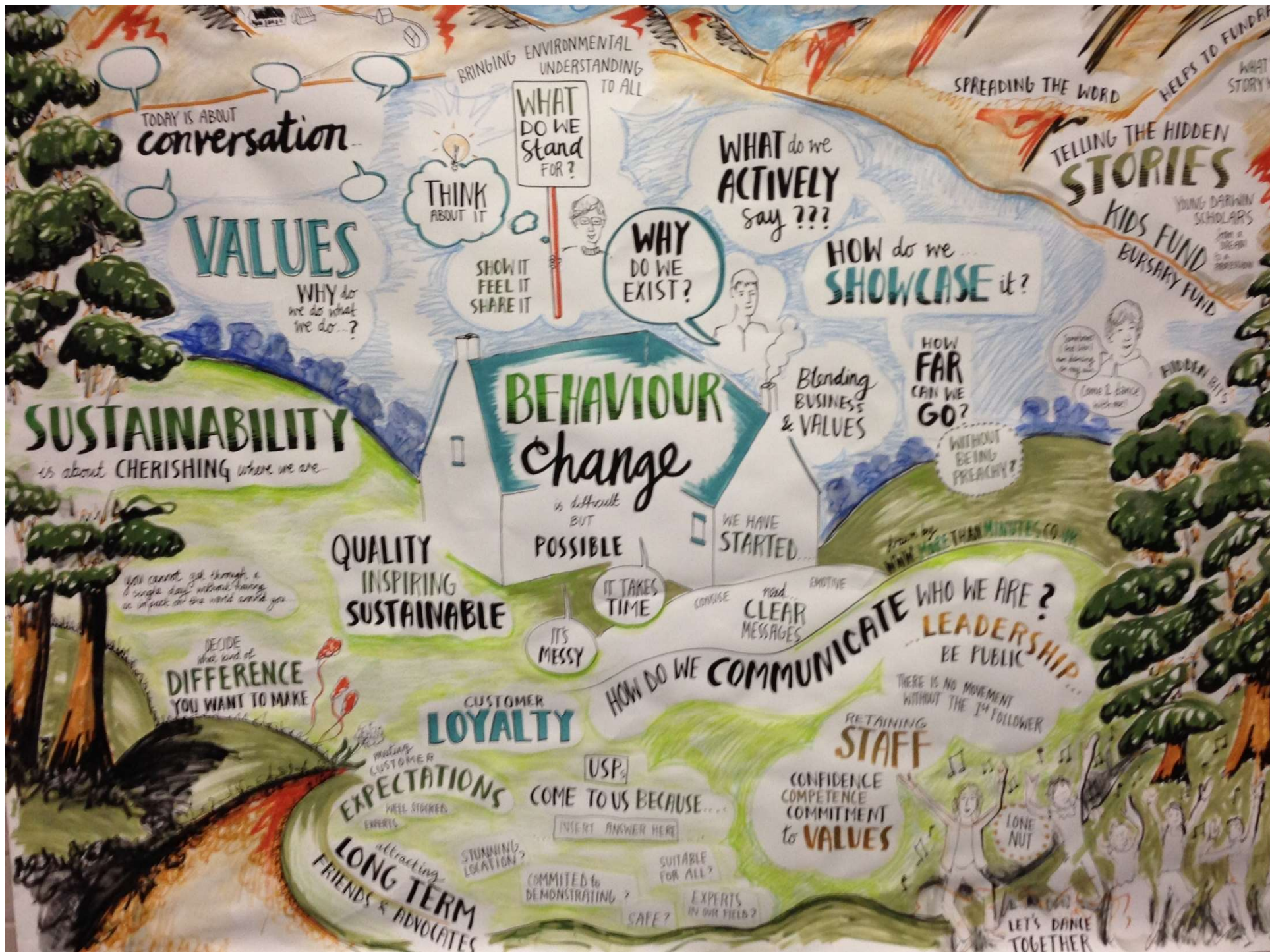
In the FSC Vision

Appoint and designate
staff for delivery of
development phase

FSC Publications



UNDERSTANDING TO ALL



Development Phase: THANKS!

Consultation

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graph TD; A[Consultation] --> B[Public Consultation Workshops]; A --> C[Stakeholder Meetings]; A --> D[Online Survey]; A --> E[Site Manager Survey];
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Public
Consultation
Workshops

Stakeholder
Meetings

Online Survey

Site Manager
Survey

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Development Phase Outputs

FSC BioLinks Consultation Report

Analysis of the FSC BioLinks development phase consultation from April 2016 to January 2017.

31st January 2017

FSC BioLinks Development Plan for Training Provision

Outline of the development pathways for volunteers investigated within the FSC BioLinks development phase consultation from April 2016 to January 2017.

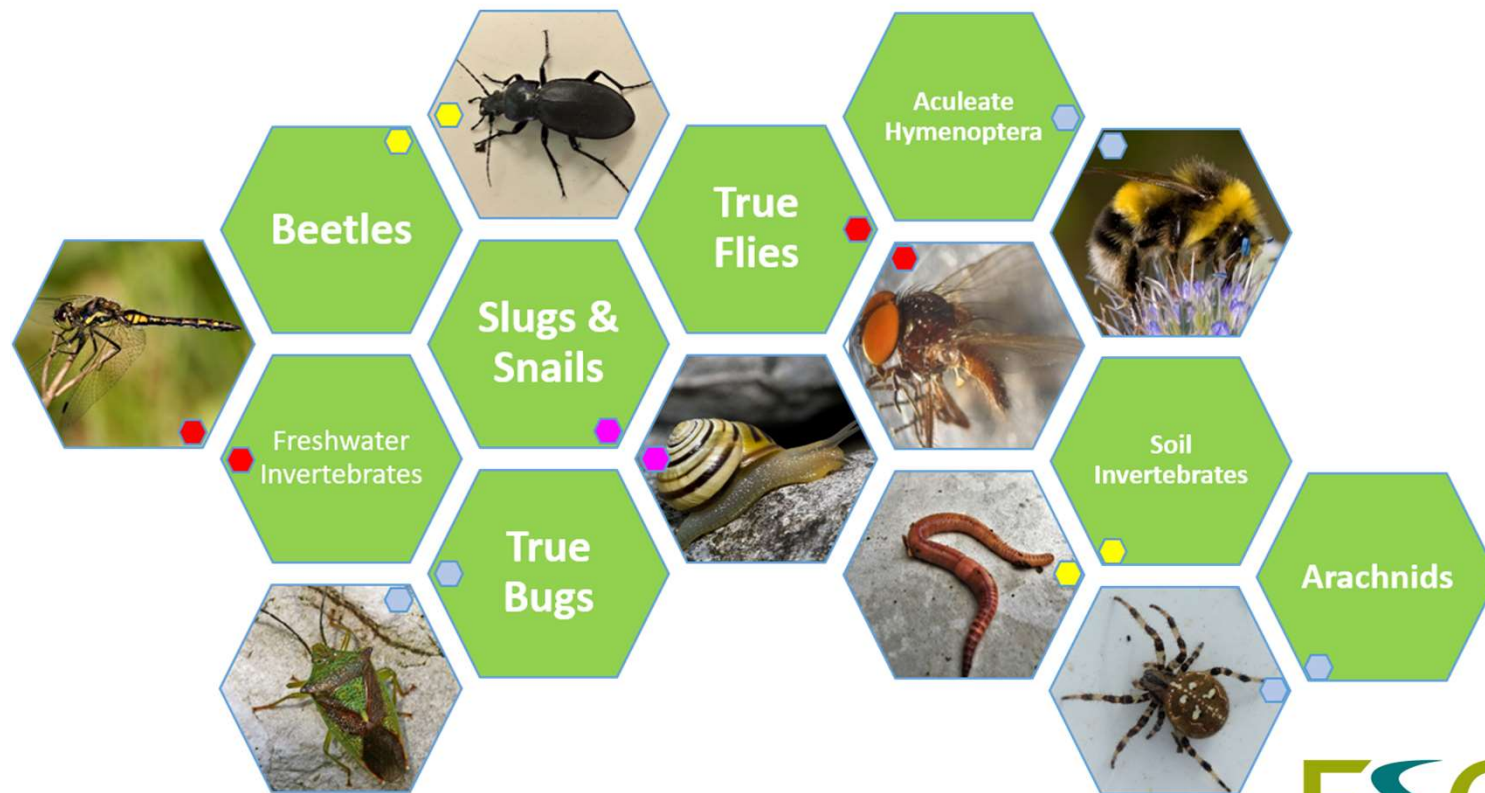
31st January 2017

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Consultation Findings

Taxon Groups



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Why does the FSC want BioLinks now?

- To build on the momentum from existing and past projects
- To support those FSC aspirations which are not commercially viable, especially hard to reach taxonomic and community groups



- To secure, develop and sustainable communities
- To act on all we have learnt from the consultation

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Creating invertebrate species records

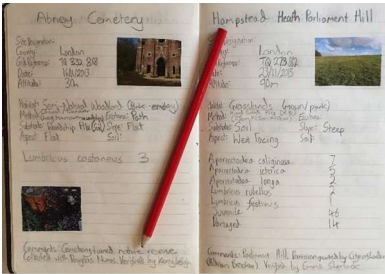
Demonstrating uses of
natural history
collections

Interpreting invertebrate assemblages for site managers

Filling gaps in species distribution knowledge

Diversifying the data we collect

Increasing the number
of invertebrate species
records



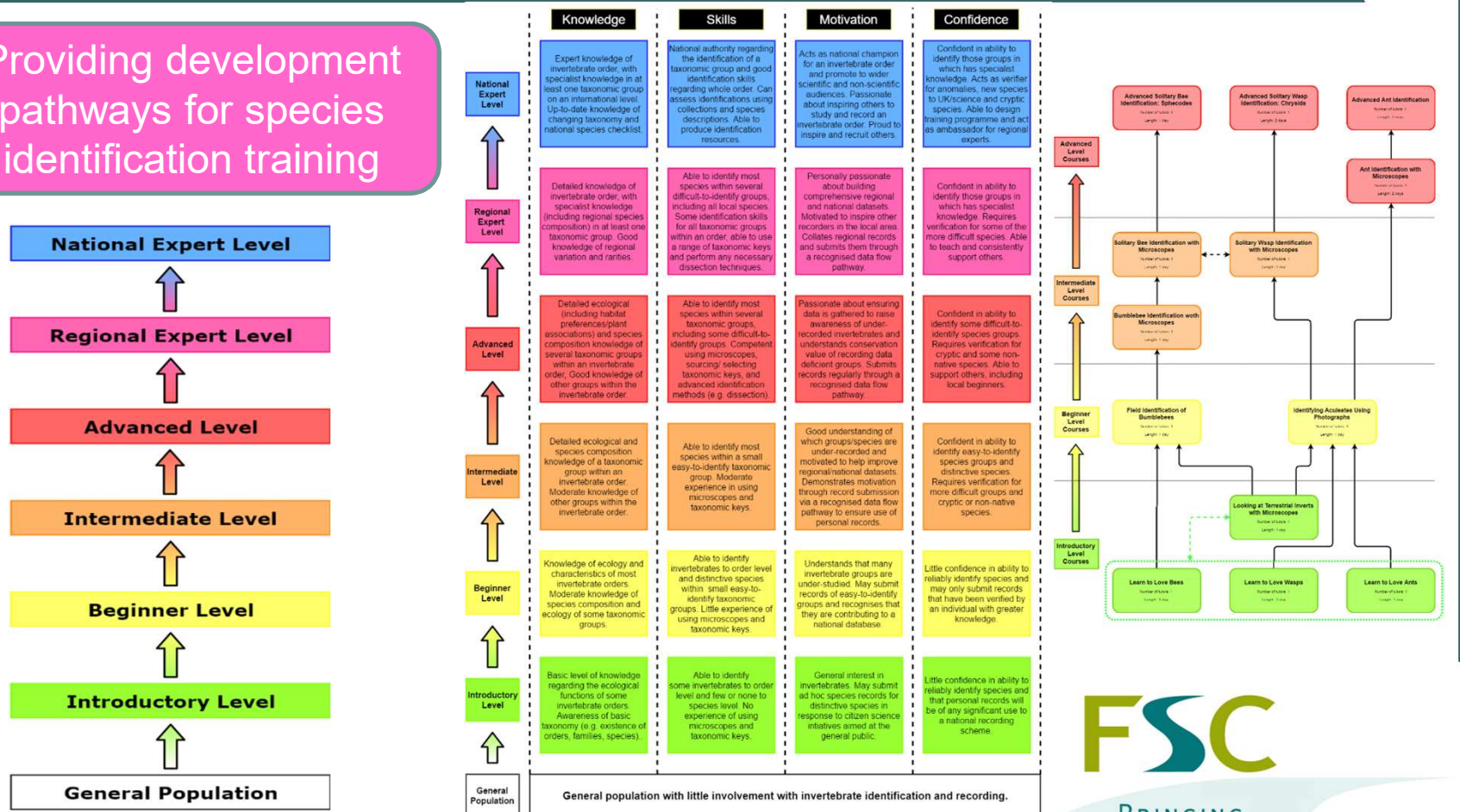
The FSC logo is displayed in a large, bold, green font. Below it, the tagline "BRINGING ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING TO ALL" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. The background of the slide features a large, light blue, abstract shape that resembles a stylized wave or a drop, positioned behind the text.

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Aim 2: Develop nature's guardians

Volunteer biological recorders provide a service that is used by both local and national decision makers, informing planning decisions, conservation action, research priorities and much more.

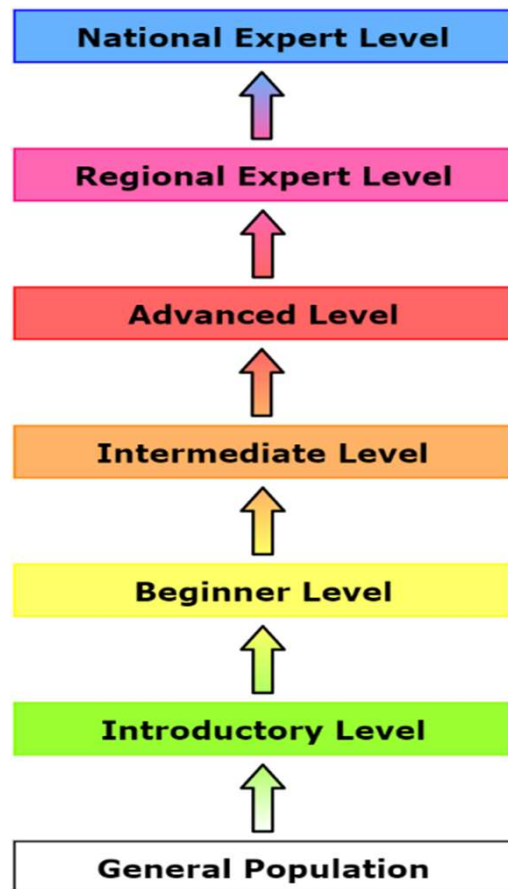
Providing development pathways for species identification training



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Consultation Findings People



Knowledge

Expert knowledge of invertebrate order, with specialist knowledge in at least one taxonomic group on an international level. Up-to-date knowledge of changing taxonomy and national species checklist.

Detailed knowledge of invertebrate order, with specialist knowledge (including regional species composition) in at least one taxonomic group. Good knowledge of regional variation and rarities.

Detailed ecological (including habitat preferences/plant associations) and species composition knowledge of several taxonomic groups within an invertebrate order. Good knowledge of other groups within the invertebrate order.

Detailed ecological and species composition knowledge of a taxonomic group within an invertebrate order. Moderate knowledge of other groups within the invertebrate order.

Knowledge of ecology and characteristics of most invertebrate orders. Moderate knowledge of species composition and ecology of some taxonomic groups.

Basic level of knowledge regarding the ecological functions of some invertebrate orders. Awareness of basic taxonomy (e.g. existence of orders, families, species).

Skills

National authority regarding the identification of a taxonomic group and good identification skills regarding whole order. Can assess identifications using collections and species descriptions. Able to produce identification resources.

Able to identify most species within several difficult-to-identify groups, including all local species. Some identification skills for all taxonomic groups within an order, able to use a range of taxonomic keys and perform any necessary dissection techniques.

Able to identify most species within several taxonomic groups, including some difficult-to-identify groups. Competent using microscopes, sourcing/ selecting taxonomic keys, and advanced identification methods (e.g. dissection).

Able to identify most species within a small easy-to-identify taxonomic group. Moderate experience in using microscopes and taxonomic keys.

Able to identify invertebrates to order level and distinctive species within small easy-to-identify taxonomic groups. Little experience of using microscopes and taxonomic keys.

Able to identify some invertebrates to order level and few or none to species level. No experience of using microscopes and taxonomic keys.

Motivation

Acts as national champion for an invertebrate order and promote to wider scientific and non-scientific audiences. Passionate about inspiring others to study and record an invertebrate order. Proud to inspire and recruit others.

Personally passionate about building comprehensive regional and national datasets. Motivated to inspire other recorders in the local area. Collates regional records and submits them through a recognised data flow pathway.

Passionate about ensuring data is gathered to raise awareness of under-recorded invertebrates and understands conservation value of recording data deficient groups. Submits records regularly through a recognised data flow pathway.

Good understanding of which groups/species are under-recorded and motivated to help improve regional/national datasets. Demonstrates motivation through record submission via a recognised data flow pathway to ensure use of personal records.

Understands that many invertebrate groups are under-studied. May submit records of easy-to-identify groups and recognises that they are contributing to a national database.

General interest in invertebrates. May submit ad hoc species records for distinctive species in response to citizen science initiatives aimed at the general public.

Confidence

Confident in ability to identify those groups in which has specialist knowledge. Acts as verifier for anomalies, new species to UK/science and cryptic species. Able to design training programme and act as ambassador for regional experts.

Confident in ability to identify those groups in which has specialist knowledge. Requires verification for some of the more difficult species. Able to teach and consistently support others.

Confident in ability to identify some difficult-to-identify species groups. Requires verification for cryptic and some non-native species. Able to support others, including local beginners.

Confident in ability to identify easy-to-identify species groups and distinctive species. Requires verification for more difficult groups and cryptic or non-native species.

Little confidence in ability to reliably identify species and may only submit records that have been verified by an individual with greater knowledge.

Little confidence in ability to reliably identify species and that personal records will be of any significant use to a national recording scheme.

Room at the Top

BioLinks Volunteer Learning Pathway

Knowledge

Expert knowledge of invertebrate order, with specialist knowledge in at least one taxonomic group on an international level. Up-to-date knowledge of changing taxonomy and national species checklist.

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Aim 2: Develop nature's guardians

Volunteer biological recorders provide a service that is used by both local and national decision makers, informing planning decisions, conservation action, research priorities and much more.

Providing development pathways for species identification training

Supporting volunteers

Bringing new volunteers into biological recording

Celebrating volunteer success

Biological recording good practice

Recognition of volunteer learning

Making identification resources more available



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Aim 3: Strengthen the biological recording network

The biological recording community consists of a diverse range of organisations and individuals that are all working towards the common goal of ensuring our natural heritage is better understood.

Community
engagement

Upskilling the experts

Diversifying the pool of
volunteers

Learning difficulties pilot

Helping other
biodiversity training
providers

Sharing good practice



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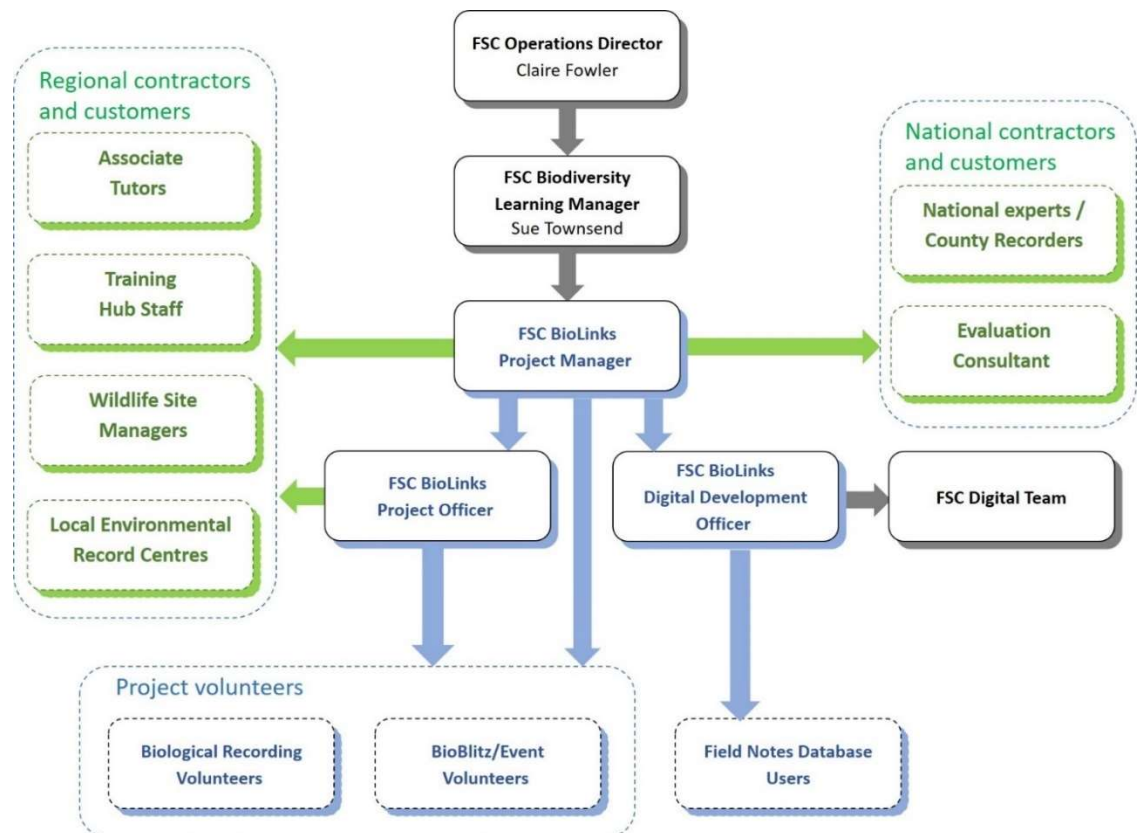
Aim 4: Effective project management

The success of project activities is dependent on effective management and evaluation of project activities, following good practice with clear procedures.

Recruit the project team

Manage and train the project team

Liaise with our Associates



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Key delivery phase legacies

Upskilled Volunteers

Sustained increase in recording to support monitoring biodiversity heritage

Resilience within FSC and the volunteer communities

Participants can follow a recognised development pathway

Strengthened networks to maximise partnerships

Visualisation, atlases, field notes and identification resources will be developed and maintained on FSC hosted web pages

Sustained managed digital resource

Appropriate microscopes and identification guides will be stored at hubs..

Sustained managed equipment hubs

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BioLinks aims to help people to be engaged, motivated, informed, trained, supported, developed to sustain communities and FSC for the future



Key to Groups of British Grasses

Info	Reset	Most likely	Least likely
Un-used characters:		False Brome	True Brome
show hide		Rye-grasses	Meadow-grasses
Inflorescence		Quaking-grasses	Vernal-grasses
Raceme		Wheat	Cock's Foot
Spikelet arrangement		Bromes	Bent-grasses
Alternate		Couch or Lyme-grasses	Millet-grasses
Spikelet shape		Melick-grasses	Cat's-tails and Timothy
select option		Rye	Fox-tails
Glumes		Oats	Hair-grasses
select option		Dog's-tails	Soft-grasses
Floret number			Barleys
3 or more			
Awns			
select option			
Awning length			
select option			
Awning type			
select option			



<http://www.tombio.uk/?q=visualise#multi-access>

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A strengthened network...



London
Natural
History
Society



Freshwater
Habitats Trust



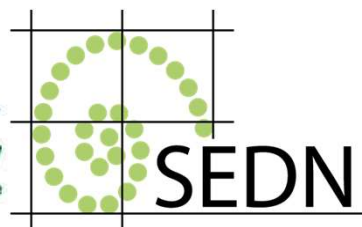
WOODLAND
TRUST



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR
BIOLOGICAL RECORDING



BWARS
Bees, Wasps & Ants
Recording Society



Worcestershire
Biological
Records
Centre



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The FSC BioLinks Vision

“**BioLinks** will develop nature’s existing guardians and engage a new generation to record and tell the story of natural heritage. This will be achieved by offering structured personal development for volunteers and strengthening the biological recording community through working with an extensive network of affiliates.”

Final Thought



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