



BioLinks

Biological recording provides vital information about Britain's wildlife and how it is coping or not with habitat loss and climate change. The UK needs more biological recorders to fill the knowledge gaps so that campaign organisations and governments can take action.

FSC BioLinks is a £1.4m training and skills project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We are filling the skills gaps in invertebrate identification with programmes in the West Midlands and South East England.

FSC BioLinks has accessible entry to engage the curiosity of individuals wanting to connect with nature as well as boosting the knowledge and skills of those who are interested in biological recording as a career.

This project has already expanded the UK's database of 'unloved' invertebrate species with thousands of new records.

“ Well done for finding such inspirational speakers and on adapting so seamlessly to the current situation.

“ You have no idea just how your meetups brighten up my week.



Moving online

BioLinks courses moved online within two months of lockdown starting.

Our invertebrate courses enabled learning to continue at a time when so many opportunities were closed. We also built new communities at a time of isolation for many.

FSC BioLinks delivered online support to volunteers in species identification, which is no easy task when identifying tiny soil creatures – but crucial for biodiversity.

Our 'Virtual Meetups' also introduced topics as varied as bees, hedgehogs and hornets.

BioLinks will continue online courses. Post pandemic, these skills will be in greater demand as governments tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.



2,920 learners attend events and courses

2,900 new biological records created

5,500 learners on 39 online events

18,246 people read blogs to support biological recording skills

Courses rated 4.4/5.0 for usefulness