

30th November State of Nature Event Chat Box Script

19:34:42 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : Take a look at our Create a Wilder Somerset 2030 strategy here: <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/what-we-do/create-wilder-somerset-2030>

19:52:11 From Lucy Marsh : We will share all of tonight's presentations after the event if you are unable to read the text. Thanks

19:52:12 From Barry Hawkins : will these slides be available to download? they are quite small and hard to view on the zoom platform

19:55:45 From bapardhy : I'm surprised not to see Wood Pasture and Parkland in your list of habitats. A habitat in serious decline and rare in the county and in the UK

19:56:58 From Lucy Marsh : Please do let us have your questions for our panel of speakers. Please send them to 'Everyone' in the chat box. Thank-you.

19:58:52 From Debbie Sweet : I'm sorry I've joined late. So may have missed some info. I have a question regarding the wetlands and future management. Is there any plan to restore peat lands to soak up carbon, or is Somerset so low that there isn't much point for the future, with regards sea level rises.

20:04:59 From Lucy Marsh : We are recording this event if you did miss the first few minutes. The recording will be on our website in the next few days. It will also be emailed out to all attendees. We apologise again for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

20:11:35 From eleanorhandler : Please post the websites and links that are being mentioned...

20:11:48 From Lucy Marsh : If you do have any questions for Leon and Lisa about data or anything else in their presentations, please type them here in the chat box. Thanks

20:11:52 From bapardhy : Is NBN the main way to record wildlife sightings? What is GBIF? How are you spelling it and what does it stand for

20:13:38 From Leon DeBell - SERC : I would recommend iNaturalistUK as the main portal for wildlife recordings - they will still go to the NBN, but as we're starting to promote the use of iNaturalistUK - probably better to stick with the one platform.

20:14:03 From Lisa Chilton : www.nbn.org.uk

20:14:12 From Lisa Chilton : www.nbnatlas.org

20:14:18 From Leon DeBell - SERC : <https://www.gbif.org/>

20:14:19 From Lisa Chilton : www.gbif.org

20:14:45 From Lisa Chilton : <https://uk.inaturalist.org>

20:14:54 From Lisa Chilton : www.nbn.org.uk

20:18:47 From Sue Pargeter : Could you produce postcards for us to give to our local postmen/women to encourage them not to drop rubber bands, incorporating a picture of a hedgehog suffering from a rubber band?

20:19:05 From Simon Briggs : We have badgers nearby. Can badgers and hedgehogs peacefully co-exist?

20:20:07 From Anne Carpenter : Or promote the collection of rubber bands by the public? I always pick them up when I see them. always useful to have rubber bands, and of course it helps the safety of wildlife.

20:21:29 From Sheila : Ref rubber bands, the post office ask for them to be put into post boxes and they will reuse them

20:21:31 From Sue Pargeter : So do I, but I'm sure I miss lots!

20:21:45 From hanna : i do the same Anne, forever picking them up when I walk the dog.

20:22:41 From Anne Carpenter : Another point: we could leave food out for hedgehogs, but doesn't this encourage rats too?

20:23:03 From Lucy Marsh : Some great questions coming in - thank you. We will try and answer them all in the Q and A session later.

20:25:34 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : Check out the BIG Hedgehog Map here:
<https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

20:25:43 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : Access Hedgehog Street here:
<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

20:25:50 From Sheila : Can council workforce who use strimmers etc be given advice please

20:25:59 From Rosemary Keele : From Ged Keele (not Rosemary Keele)

I have been using iNaturalist in Brent Knoll for the past three months and various other places so I can make some comment on its use. The ability to ID a species correctly is variable.

Over the past season we have done three moth counts in our local churchyard in an effort to produce good quality records. The first count in May required extensive research by one of us to ID to a reasonable standard. In July we had the services of an experienced moth trapper but in September we trialed iNaturalist. Our count was poor but we were able to ID 5 out of 6 with the application. So this was a success.

My personal experience with flowers appears to be good but one must be careful to have one specimen in the picture. If I forget a name iNaturalist will jog my memory. Spiders are difficult to photo and can thus cause problems. Casual photos of insects cause similar problems but one triumph was to ID a Rufous Grasshopper outside my front door.

20:29:53 From Lucy Marsh : Our Q and A session follows Helen and Karuna, therefore please do post your questions here in the chat box for our guest speakers. Thanks.

20:30:38 From Leon DeBell - SERC : Seek is a great accompanying app for iNaturalist to help with species i.d. As you've rightly said, it's not always accurate but can be a big help in either whittling down the options or getting an identification close enough for the data to be useful. Invertebrates are a great example of this. many species can't be identified to the species level, due to needing dissection, but even genus or family level is still useful.

20:32:01 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : You can have a look at the Taunton Wards mapping project here: <http://www.somerc.com/taunton-wards/>

20:34:19 From Bo W : can we have a record of the chat please?

20:34:54 From Joe J : If there was 1 thing you would encourage smallholders (10 acres or less) to do, what would it be?

20:35:03 From Helen Deeming : Citizen Science is great idea but what responsibility do (district) councils have to protect and enhance green spaces in their ownership and to carry out biodiversity surveys. Especially when they are BAP priority habitats.

20:35:47 From Lucy Marsh : Hi Bo. Yes, we will record the chat and share the links afterwards with the recording. Thanks

20:36:03 From jolyon chesworth SWT : there have been a number of research studies carried out on accuracy of ID apps, Seek/Inat were one of the best at minimising false positives so would usually only ID to a level it was confident of. When I use ID apps I always then refer to other sources to verify, books, other websites or asking specialists

20:36:22 From Sheila : Are there any councillors on here...engaged?

20:37:18 From Linda : We collect bird species data that goes to Somerset Ornithological Society and the BTO. Does SERC obtain from them? If not, would they like it?

20:39:40 From Lucy Marsh : Thank you for all of your questions. If we can't answer them all tonight, we will endeavour to answer them after the event.

20:39:48 From Rosemary Keele : From Ged Keele to Leon

20:40:20 From Karuna T : We should stop destroying peatland

20:41:29 From Bo W : not SERC ?

20:42:25 From Rosemary Keele : From Ged Keele to Leon

The final ID that SEEK couldn't cope with was a swallows egg: the IDs offered were: Trivia – a sea shell, Common spangle gall wasp, Brown hairstreak and Sea potato! Not very helpful.

20:42:28 From Bo W : specialist or amateur / commui]

20:42:43 From Georgia Stokes (she/her) : Agree Karuna - peat restoration is challenging and very long-term. we need to protect our peat now, keeping it in the ground and wet.

20:42:46 From Anne Carpenter : Regarding maintaining wild areas in our gardens, should we cut back long grass in the winter, or leave it for overwintering insects?

20:42:56 From Bo W : community /

20:43:09 From bapardhy : Nothing beats having a specialist on board to ID things. We have recorded over 300 species of moths at Easthill in Frome largely because we had a kind moth buff with us. We could not have done it without her

20:43:36 From Helen C : great q re wild areas - I'm confused by this too

20:46:15 From alison : Thank so much really interesting

20:46:36 From Barry Hawkins : good evening, I work in the climate team in Somerset West and Taunton District council. the council is due to merge into one

20:46:38 From Bo W : One - Unitary by April 2023

20:46:45 From bapardhy : We have been told that landowners have a Duty of Care for BAP habitats eg Easthill in Frome. But we cannot find out whether there is a mandatory Duty of Care. Without it supported by law, important habitats are at serious risk.

20:47:43 From Trish : South Somerset District Council's Sarah Dyke leads their Environment Team who are very engaged with the climate emergency and you can subscribe to their GetSussed newsletter for updates on what they are doing and how they can help us in our communities

20:47:51 From Bridgette B : I we have at least one and maybe two housing developments in Merriott, how can you help work with developers

20:48:28 From Anne Carpenter : Regarding peat protection as a carbon sink, there are companies on the Somerset Levels that are still actively digging up peat and selling it as garden compost. Surely this must be illegal now. But, how can it be prevented?

20:48:46 From Bo W : There should be policies across the board by 23 = get your suggestions in as soon as poss!

20:50:20 From Bo W : Please check out Reimagining the Levels.

20:51:11 From Trish : SSDC Environment Dept is also very happy to hear about development concerns in local areas with advice on how to consider biodiversity issues, environmental concerns

20:51:12 From Anne Carpenter : Thank you!

20:52:11 From Bo W : <https://www.adaptingthelevels.com/>

20:53:10 From Peter Bright : lay of the insecticides and other pesticides

20:53:44 From Amanda : Don't replace grass lawn with plastic lawn. Seems fashionable for laboursaving

20:53:45 From Trish : did you all see The Wild Gardener on BBC on Friday evening? Watch both episodes. Inspirational!

20:54:04 From Barry Hawkins : i think local authorities should encourage the public to do less so rather than a yearly/monthly cost for green bins do it on per collection?

20:54:15 From bapardhy : Does the Trust have a department who lobby UK Government to tighten laws to safeguard nature? IE why not prioritise brownfield development and stop digging up green fields for development?

20:54:36 From Georgia Stokes (she/her) : Lots of resources on our website about managing land for nature <https://www.somersetwildlife.org/team-wilder/team-wilder-resources>

20:55:05 From Bridgette B : thank you all, given me a lot of interesting contacts and information to pass on!

20:55:11 From Helen C : does swt do any work persuading farmers to flail less or later? all the hedges near me are flailed annually in october, destroying food, shelter etc

20:56:11 From hanna : Thanks to all the speakers, I've found this evening extremely informative both for my personal and professional interests

20:56:28 From Fergus : Many thanks to all the speakers

20:56:29 From Bo W : Magic. Thank you.

20:56:32 From Kate : brilliant evening. Thank you

20:56:41 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : Sign up to enews here:
<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/what-we-do/news-publications/email-newsletter>

20:56:44 From Barry Hawkins : Thank you to our host and all the guest speakers its greatly appreciated

20:56:47 From Helen C : Thanks so much! Fascinating and v useful x

20:56:51 From David : Thanks to all the speakers.

20:56:58 From Hannah Paddison - SWT : You can donate here:
<https://www.somersetwildlife.org/support-us/donate>

20:57:18 From Alison R : Thank you very much to all the speakers, a most interesting and informative evening.

20:57:32 From Grace Johnson, Hedgehog Street : Thanks all :)

20:58:08 From Georgia Stokes (she/her) : Thank you everyone for coming and for the great questions.