Conference 2024 – Raising Standards
October 17th , 9:45am - 4:30pm, Birmingham

Programme

Morning

9:45 — *Arrive, refreshments and pastries*

10:15 — **Welcome**

10:20 — **Setting the Scene**
A presentation highlighting a few things that have happened in the LERC network since we last met.

10:40 — **Workshop A**
A choice of 4 workshops that will enable LERCS to work together and share good ideas and practice.

11:40 — *Morning break / Exploring*

12:00 — **Workshop B**
A choice of 4 workshops

13:00 — *Lunch*
Visit the market place

Afternoon Session

14:00 — **ALERC AGM**

14:20 — **Who, What, Where and When Next?**
An introduction to the afternoon sessions that will identify what we need to do as a network to raise the standards within and outside of our network.

14:30 — **Feedback from morning sessions**

14:45 — **Workshop C**
Exploring different options.

15:30 — *Afternoon break*

15:50 — **Discussion**
Suggestions and feedback from the workshops.

16:20 — **Summing up**

16:30 — *Leave*

Workshops A

1. Pushing For The Use of "Real" Data - *Sarah Whild & Graham Whalley (NFBR), Mandy Rudd (GIGL)*

LERCs' core business is to provide good quality data services to a wide range of stakeholders so data standards are at the heart of what we all do. Recent legislative and policy developments have led to changes in the data services/data requirements landscape so this workshop will provide an opportunity to find out about the National Federation for Biological Recording's campaign for real data and ALERC's Data searches project. We will discuss what we can do together to ensure that the message about the importance of robust data and LERC services in decision making is heard.

2. Ancient Woodland Inventory Update - *Josie Monaghan (NEYEDC), Charlotte Dacre (WSBRC), Elina- Marielle Doss (MBB)*

As the Ancient Woodland Inventory review, a project which involved a huge number of the LERCs in our network, draws to a close, this is a time to reflect on the benefits of working together and exchanging knowledge and ideas to achieve an excellent, conservation critical, quality data set on a precious, irreplaceable habitat. There will be a chance to discuss LERC experiences of being involved in this project and reflect on what went well, as well as note any lessons learnt which can be taken into future collaborations.

3. Regional Data Service Agreements - *Mark Wills (NEYEDC), Adam Rowe (SEWBRC)*

Across our network there are numerous examples of regional collaborations amongst LERCs to deliver standard services and data products. We want to be able to support everyone's ability to deliver these, make the necessary arrangements and enter the agreements which allow future regional services to be delivered effectively. We will share and discuss existing examples of good practice across the network and would like to hear from you as to what we can/should be doing if we are approached to deliver regional data services and respective agreements.

4. Training and Knowledge Exchange - *Keiron Brown (Biological Recording Co.), Doyin Adeleye (ALERC)*

Over the past few years ALERC have increased their focus on supporting training and knowledge sharing amongst the network, but there is more that we can do together, so in this workshop we will discuss training needs and priorities for the membership, as well as wider knowledge exchange ideas and opportunities within the network. Is there scope and appetite for members to join forces with the ALERC board and create a Training and Knowledge subgroup to support ALERC to improve its offer and what can LERCs do?

Workshops B

5. Raising Standards: the IT systems to deliver better service - *LeonDeBell (ALERC), Elina- Marilelle Doss (MBB)*

The conference's technology corner! An opportunity for anyone keen to find out more, share and discuss ideas and technical solutions that help LERCs work more effectively and expand and improve our services offer. The discussion will focus on a range of subjects across LERC IT systems, processes and services. Staff from NBN will share details of a new national data management system being developed to collate, manage and share data in Scotland. **Note**: This workshop is aimed at staff that did not attend the first LERC technical group meeting, or those not normally involved with the technical side; but that have ideas, thoughts, etc. around how these things could help them in their day-to-day LERC lives.

6. Local Wildlife Sites Project - *Ashleigh Poole (RSWT), Mandy Rudd (GIGL)*

Local Wildlife Sites are a key data set for which most, if not all, LERCs have some responsibility. These data form part of the service LERCs deliver locally and are a critical data set required to inform Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts has been commissioned by DEFRA to carry out a review of local sites and Ashley Poole (RSWT) who is responsible for this piece of work will be giving workshop participants an overview of the project so far, including the results from a recent questionnaire to which many LERCs would have been involved in responding. There will be opportunity to ask questions and discuss any matters arising and priorities going forward.

7. A National LERC Habitat Database? - *Dan Carpenter (Digital Ecology), Mark Wills (NEYEDC)*

The aim of this session is to explore the appetite, opportunities and barriers to creating a national LERC habitat database with ALERC members. Dan will outline some options for the creation of such a database, and then challenge participants to think through how such a database would be created using a SWOT analysis.

8. City Nature Challenge - *Andy Slater (EcoRecord), Doyin Adeleye (ALERC)*

The City Nature Challenge is an international event which celebrates wildlife by encouraging people to record it in the place where they live. It takes the form of an annual four-day global bioblitz at the end of April. A number of LERCs have already been involved in their respective areas and are part of the UK CNC network. This workshop is an opportunity to find out about the City Nature Challenge and how LERCs can help deliver it and to exchange ideas on how to make it successful and encourage people to take part.

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Good Practice Market Place

Send us a poster or bring a display that showcases something you are proud of and tell us how it's making a difference.

Geeks Corner
- See Ellie (HERC) to hear about the QGIS Check Validity tool.
- Have you developed an app or a bit of code you want to share?

The Influencers
- Showcase your marketing and social media campaigns that made a difference.

Local Matters
- Find out about mapping for Wiltshire's Neighbourhood planning – Jon (WSBRC)
- Tell others about a local project you have done…it could be an Atlas, a service, developing a new group.

Policy Place
- A place for your BNG, LNRS, and other soapboxes.

Book your Space

Please let us know in advance if you are:
- Bringing a display
- Need a table, electric point, etc
- Would like a Poster printed out

Tell us more in the Further Booking Information Form.
Deadline: Monday 14th October.

Preferred Workshops A and B

Tell us your preference by completing the Further Booking Information Form.

Special Requirements

Please let us know in the if you have any special dietary needs or have any other special requirements in the Further Booking Information Form.

Further Booking Information Form

Click/Scan the image below. **Deadline**: Monday 14th Oct**.**

ALERC Conference 2024 - Further booking information

The Signing Tree Venue
Venue details and how to get there.

We are looking forward to meeting you all.