**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Interviewer(s): INT

Respondent(s):

**INT: So, my first question is how long have you been doing any sort of biological recording and how did you start?**

P14: Right, let's think I suppose I first started recording probably about oh crumbs, probably getting for 40 years ago now. I think from probably when I sort of got my own place to live in and such like, so about 40 years, early 80's, what was the next bit of the question?

**INT: So, how did you start, did you kind of have a general interest in natural history that developed into recording or?**

P14: Yes, I've always had a general interest in natural history from sort of childhood and then I think teenage years, university years it rather took a backseat as these things often do and then when I started work and settled down a bit it's something that comes back into your life. So, I think it started off with just recording, and I think because you know first place we lived in, the first time we had a bit of land you know a bit of a garden and so just started recording what was turning up in the back garden, particularly butterflies at the time, that's all we've been, the first thing that I reasonably systematically recorded and then I record things like you know, if we went out somewhere I started getting a notebook and writing things down and it developed from that really. Started doing moths about 1990, I got a moth trap and the whole thing has just grown and grown you know, I've taken on sort of responsibilities of record collator, county butterfly recorder and all that sort of thing and sort of participated in various other sort of projects as well.

**INT: How long have you been county butterfly recorder for?**

P14: Since, oh let's see when did it formally happen, about 2008 I was sort of helping [Name] who was the previous butterfly recorder and it got the point where I was doing all the data input and I was sort of maintaining the database, it got to the point where almost by osmosis I became county butterfly recorder and that was confirmed by the [wildlife society] and that's, so I just sort of, he faded away a bit and I faded up so to speak, it was never a formal election or anything like that or application.

**INT: Yes, and other species groups that you mentioned butterflies and moths, are there other things that you record or is it just focused on those?**

P14: It's basically, I mean I do moths and you know I trap in the garden pretty well every night and I go out and trap at one or two other sites as well during the season and I help [Name] who's the county moth recorder because I look after the website and you know, help him sort out some of the rather interestingly formatted records that he gets sent. I mean my background particularly in later parts of my working life is I.T. so I've got more I.T. experience than he has so I spent some time writing one or two bits and pieces to help him. I also participate in various other surveys, I've been doing the [WILDLIFE ORGANISATION]'s garden bird watch since the mid 90's, I don't do any other form of bird watching, I occasionally report interesting things to the [wildlife organisation] you know particularly if it's something really unusual, for instance a few years ago we had a barred warbler in the front garden which is only the second [county] record in 40 years so I report things like that.

**INT: Yes.**

P14: And there's an amphibian and reptiles survey going on in the county at the moment to update a book that was published a long time ago and I do that because it's very easy, if you're out in the field doing butterflies and day flying moths and things like that it's very easy to note down any you know animals that you see as well, so I do that as well.

**INT: So, what sort of area do you cover then? Do you kind of stick to your county?**

P14: Well I stick to both because obviously [wildlife charity] is [county] and [county], our local branch and it's a little bit complex because I'm formally the recorder for [county] but I actually look after a database that covers both counties so [county] being North [city], north of the [river] and sorry west of the [RIVER], so I have the database for that and I work with the [city] recorder [Name] who I think has also agreed to talk to you who covers the whole of [city].

**INT: Right.**

P14: So, we have quite an overlapping remit and for instance it's me who sends records to [ENVIRONMENTAL DATA CENTRE], I send them in from for [county] specifically and I mean technically because part of [county] includes, because obviously it doesn’t include it as an administrative county but it includes [district] which is now part of [county], I also send some records in to the [county] Environmental Records Centre as well because it's run by, it's maintained by the [county] Wildlife Trust so it's -

**INT: So complex.**

P14: It's a complex interaction between vice counties, administrative counties and history.

**INT: Yes.**

P14: So, I record all over, I go into [city] I mean I used to live until we moved out to [CITY] in the mid 90's I lived in West [city] so yes, I know a lot of [city] well up until a year ago I used to go into [city] quite a lot and you know I still go in even when we had less lockdown bits last year I went into [city] a couple of times visiting sites, advising people on transects and so on and things like that. So, I've recorded all over North [city] as well so I don't observe a strict boundary and if I rock, you know if I go somewhere else outside the county, if I see things then I report those records to the local county recorder as well, because you know sometimes you fill in gaps.

**INT: Yes, so do you do any of the structured butterfly surveys as well, the UK BMS or the Wider Countryside?**

P14: Yes, I do two transects, I'm actually the transect coordinator and the Wider Countryside butterfly recorder for [county] and [county], so my wife does a Wider Countryside one as well. So, I do a couple of transects so they're the main because I'm also very, I record butterfly records for [county] and [county], so yes.

**INT: It's a full-time occupation.**

P14: It is, well yes I find that since I retired, I mean I retired about 10 years ago early, very lucky and gradually I spend as much time staring at this P.C. dealing with records particularly in the winter really than I spent staring at the P.C. at work it sometimes feels like.

**INT: Not what you think you're going to do when you retire necessarily.**

P14: No, but I enjoy it you know, I like imputation, I like numbers and things like that so it suits me fine.

**INT: Yes, it's important to find people like you I think isn't it that can do, have got the natural history interest but then also the I.T. skills, I've spoken to a few people who are county recorders and have got those I.T. skills.**

P14: Yes, it's usually because increasingly over the last 10-15 years you've needed both, I mean that was one of the things that we went from a completely paper based system obviously not that many years ago to being virtually nothing, very little comes in on paper now. There's still a few old lags who send in the paper lists at the end of the year which are a real pain to deal with to transcribe them, so we probably get a lot fewer mistakes nowadays if they send, either put things into the system like iRecord or UKBMS or you know, quite a few people send me spreadsheets and things like that.

**INT: So, it must be everyday then is it that you're doing something to do with recording? Either recording yourself or working on records?**

P14: Yes, pretty well, yes.

**INT: And what's the balance between time spent recording and time spent dealing with the computer side of things?**

P14: Well hopefully in the sort of spring, summer or early autumn it's out in the field as much as possible and then obviously you know, the colder months of the year a lot of time sitting in front of the screen, but yes I do try and if stuff comes in I'm not someone who likes to let my inbox build up and build up and build up, I try and deal with things as they come in because you know I've obviously got some time in the evenings and things like that. So, you know it's not a complete break or anything like that but yes, obviously last year was a bit different with the circumstances but.

**INT: Well, I heard people saying that they got more records last year because people were kind of sorting out their backlog I guess and they'd got the time to kind of submit records that they’d been sitting on. Did you see that kind of spike in records being submitted?**

**[0:10:46.5]**

P14: Oh yes, I mean we got record, you know more records last year than any other year and that was just for the current year, you know a lot of people were doing their local exercise walks every day and writing that stuff so you know some areas were extremely well surveyed last year because you know people would have been going further afield, you know people didn't go on long holidays, they didn't go to people who might have a boat or a cottage or something somewhere out in the countryside which they go to for quite a long time were stuck within a few miles of home a lot of the time so we actually got more records that way. And you know things like the big butterfly count there were more people who did that because again people were stuck close to home and so you know, there's some quality questions about some of the data that comes in with the big butterfly count, I mean I think if you speak to some butterfly recorders they'd basically just throw the whole lot in the bin straight away, I've always taken an attitude that if you sift it a bit you know there's probably 70%-80% is useable and some of it is unusable. So, it would be silly to, especially in an area like we've got which is very you know, pretty urban a lot of people tend to, you know the only time you get records from the urban areas is when things like the big butterfly count is happening which concentrates people’s minds on their local area, so and I think particularly in [city] it fills in so many gaps in distribution and yes with most things they're probably right. So, if people are recording the same square, one sees a peacock and says it's a tortoiseshell and the other sees a tortoiseshell and says it's a peacock the thing balances out anyway, so it's only if they see something really rare that you can't make that sort of assumption.

**INT: Yes, and so last year you saw the usual suspects doing more recording but some new people coming in as well, so people that you hadn't necessarily received records from before had spent time recording when, because of lockdown?**

P14: Oh yes, there were a few, some new people. I mean a lot of the usual suspects as you say, I mean we have the usual thing there's always a certain attrition rate because a lot of recorders tend to be at the older end, I don't necessarily mean that they're all old but it's just mobility, one of the main reasons why things like transects often end is because the person is not mobile enough to walk this route every week of the year and then it's quite difficult, people are often very enthusiastic about starting a transect in an area that they want to do a transect in but they’re much less enthusiastic about taking over a different one because however much I say you know, transect isn't about getting the maximum number of butterfly records, it's not a harvesting thing, it's a site monitoring thing, it's still a lot of people are still put off doing that. But yes that's the way it goes.

**INT: Yes, so what was it that motivated you to start recording back in the early 80's then and would you say those motivations have changed over time?**

P14: I think partly it was just to have some sort of record of what was being seen in the back garden for instance, just to compare year to year just my own interest. I mean I suppose I'd say, when did I join [wildlife charity], in the early 90's I think it was and you know I didn't really submit my records to anyone else until the sort of mid 90's I think when yes, my predecessor [Name] who was very active from the early 90's onwards in getting people to actually send their records in and actually started coordinating records and working with someone else’s who actually had some I.T. skills you know and could actually crunch the numbers to some extent and started producing the annual butterfly report which we carried on doing ever since, he was one of the first people to do an annual publication about 95. Yes, and you see that there's and when you read that you see the value of lots of people contributing all their records together rather than just doing it for their own interest, so that's how it developed really.

**INT: So, it was seeing that you were, your records were being used for something else I guess?**

P14: That's right yes, it wasn't just trainspotting basically if you like there's actually a purpose, a wider, greater purpose for it and someone had you know tried to encourage and I think it's much, you know with all the citizens science now it's much more widely accepted that you're not just as I say trainspotting, you are actually contributing to a greater good if you like.

**INT: And so, what is it that you hope that your data are used for? I mean I guess you probably know some of the things that your data are used for but perhaps directly, I mean do you know that your data at a particular site are used for example?**

P14: Yes, I mean for instance particularly if you know an owner of a site so for instance you know there is County Wildlife Trust sites where we supply the data to them from transects and from casual records, we're asked to contribute information to quite a lot of management plans that are being, not just by wildlife trusts but by people like in [county] the Countryside Management Service who look after a lot of sites. And various other things, you know we've tried to make sure we get on as consultees with a lot of bodies and so that you know say if there's a road scheme being put forward by the County Council or you know various Borough Councils in [city] that we're known as people to go to for records. Obviously they go to the record centre as well but we can put more context around them you know as opposed to them being this is a species list of this site, you know we can say this has gone up, this has gone down, you know these areas and provide more information obviously on site management and things like that, so there's quite a lot of that, that goes on.

**INT: And do you do that yourself?**

P14: I do and other people in [wildlife charity] do, yes.

**INT: And then are there other things that, sorry my son's at the door, this is the trials of working at home.**

P14: That's all right.

**INT: Sorry, I can hear the door handle going. When I'm in the house he just wants to be with me, doesn't want daddy. Are there other things then, I guess that's your kind of immediate use of the data by [wildlife charity] but then obviously by your local branch of [wildlife charity] but then obviously the data go beyond that to the NBN or the Record Centre or whoever else, so are there other things that you kind of hope that your data are used for or that you know that your data are used for beyond that immediate use by the branch?**

P14: Yes, I mean obviously it all goes up into you know the UKBMS and NBN system so we know it's being used for the big reports that come out, you know the state of Britain’s butterflies, the state of UK moths and you know at least in theory that information gets up to a governmental level and helps to inform environmental targets and environmental policies you know and it's all debatable how much it does of course, what's said and what's done are two different things often. But you know, and this is something I was trying to emphasise, you know the data isn't just, you know it goes up from the very local it's nice to know what's in your garden or in your local patch right up to forming an element of national environmental policy and you know, we get enquiries from let's take it down to a more local level again you know we sort of advise private land owners as well, you know various estates in [county], farmers, things like that to greater lengths, some are more amenable than others to getting advise. So you know for instance there's an estate near us called [historic building] which owns a lot of farm land, a lot of land and you know it's still fairly intensively farmed in places but it's, the people who manage it are aware of environmental concerns and so you know a few years ago I met with their sort of senior environmental person and you know got a permit to go over their private land as well and survey, tell them what's happening on their land with the conservation margins and areas of planted meadow, that sort of thing. So, and yes I know I'm by no means the only person who does that, you know quite a few people have got relationships with you know, with landowners and so on, I mean that tends to happen more in a country area, you don't get so many estates in Greater [city] but you know, there are organisations like the [CHARITY] for instance, [international conservation charity] you know that we work with as well and supply information.

**[0:20:57.2]**

**INT: Okay, so do you do monitoring for them or is it more kind of providing advice on management?**

P14: It's a mixture of both because the two things go together, I mean yes in terms of monitoring there are various transects they use as the usual forms of monitoring, some of that is actually done by their employees themselves and they feed the information back to us, some of it is done by our membership and you know obviously some people are in both organisations.

**INT: Then [international conservation charity] have they got, are you talking about the land around [PARK], do they own that sort of?**

P14: Yes, well on their particular land which is basically the zoo and their car parks and one or two other bits of land, I mean they have an employee who actually does transects on that land that feeds it into us and obviously if they ask questions we will give them information because they haven't got that, you know they’re not that big on for instance on invertebrates as they are on vertebrates, I mean the guy who does the transects for them is a senior keeper of birds you know he knows his butterflies no problem there but obviously we can help there sort of interpret the results and say you know, for instance they got very excited when they found a white-letter hairstreak on some elms you know we can tell them more about why, you know the fact that elms despite what people think sadly around here are not the rare declining species, you think they are and you know I think it is a case of saying you know if you've got elms you may well find the white-letter hairstreak and you know have a good look because it's not the kind of thing that's best found on a transect walk because of its behaviour. So, yes it's stuff like that.

**INT: And then do you feed that back to your local branch membership as well in terms of like telling people how their data has been used?**

P14: Yes, I suppose there's three ways that we do that, one is we produce every year we produce an annual report that goes out to all the membership and it's also sent out electronically now to about 120 people in all the sort of organisations who seem to have an interest, local councils, conservation bodies, friends groups because there's a lot of those for various sites that summarises what's happened in the county. I mean if you're interested I'm happy to send you copies.

**INT: Yes, that would be great actually, yes.**

P14: Yes I'll drop you a couple, send you a pdf of a couple.

**INT: Yes, because the other part of this project is looking at, so I'm kind of focussing on people who are producing data but the other part of the project is looking at people who are using data and how biological data is used so, and you kind of sit across both of those so yes that would be really interesting, yes.**

P14: Yes, I'll send those off to you. And so that's one form, the second form is that each year we produce an annual, what we call an annual review which is looking at the activities of [wildlife charity], it's only about an eight-pager and one of the things that I introduced into it a few years ago was a section on engagement and so there we sort of missed out organisations, not necessarily every organisation but the sorts of organisations of people that we work with in terms of providing information and advice but there are other things we're doing, doing outreach talks and things like that, advice on setting up transects or other more casual forms of surveying, so we do that. And then obviously you know a newsletter, every so often I write things about what happens to your records you know, try and talk about that in talks that I do, so you know we try and keep people informed and I mean I did a, I've been doing some Zoom talks through the winter, I did one last week just you know talking about records from last year and trends and things. Only about 60 people attended but you know it's more than we'd get for a face-to-face talk.

**INT: Yes, that's good, yes.**

P14: And you know just emphasising some other areas where organisations only really want to hear about rare things or exceptional numbers of things, you know every record counts so we want to know, you know I'm interested in one common butterfly in the corner of somewhere so you know so that we build up a whole picture, especially in a very urban area like [city] where people think no it's urban, it's built up, there's not going to be anything. So, you know we try and emphasise that no record is too trivial to be sent in and you know to some extent that works.

**INT: Yes.**

P14: There's always people who say I'm sure I saw something or oh yes I'll start writing things down and send it in and that's the last you hear from them sometimes, the good intentions and there may be good reasons why they can’t fulfil those intentions but you know I think increasingly it is working. And with things like iRecord so people can just stick things on their mobile phone and know it's going to be dealt with without them having to actually send it to anyone that helps.

**INT: And so, I guess two things, two follow ups but do you give anyone any kind of personalised feedback on their records? I mean I guess you probably can't because you just get so many.**

P14: If people send me a list or send me an email then I will always try and reply to it, you know it depends it might just be thanks for sending your records, you know just letting them know they've been safely received but if they mention something particularly interesting or a concern about a particular area then I will, you know we'll try and give them a personal response. And the same on iRecord you know if someone puts in stuff and it's all just standard stuff then I don't send them a message back but if there's a question or a query or something particularly interesting I will attempt to either send them an email or a message through the system asking for you know, more information or saying this is an interesting record. So, I mean this happened last year where we had one or two strange instances of things like marsh fritillary's turning up across [city] and [county] and it turned out in various places across the whole of [REGION] so you know I certainly followed those up because you know sometimes people don't realise the significance of what they're reporting and you know sometimes they're only too aware of it which is why they report it. So, yes I do try and give feedback and you know if someone sees something particularly interesting I will try and go to the site to see if I can replicate that and you know sometimes you meet them, sometimes you don't, sometimes you have to consider some of the things that come in you perhaps don't want to meet the person.

**INT: Yes, so do you do any, so you kind of mentioned this message about all records are important to your membership but do you do any kind of asking people to go to particular places or try and target people's efforts in any way?**

P14: I have tried yes, it doesn't always work. A lot of people if they are recording tend to have their own patches which they like to stick to, I know several people who do what appears to be virtually the same walk every day and report you know tons and tons which is fine and sometimes people get in touch and say I live in X, where would you recommend that I go?

**INT: Oh okay.**

P14: Especially in [city] where fewer people have got their own transport so they say is it somewhere local, somewhere I can get to easily by public transport, so you know I try and recommend sites and try and steer them away, you know there are some sites which are so well recorded that you know although I say every record counts it's just people duplicating other people’s efforts. And I think there is a certain amount of reluctance to go to places which don't appear to be very good, I think part of it is probably personal safety because there are some areas where people think I don't really fancy going there because I don't think I'll be safe and you know especially with the events of the last few weeks that's probably going to be something that's increasingly understandable and increasingly in people’s minds because you know particularly in Greater [city] where this is a pilot study for every [PARK] there's a rough area of scrubland behind some derelict factories which may well harbour some interesting butterflies but you know quite understandably at times people aren’t that anxious to go and visit. I mean I'll go and visit any old place and wade through piles of, but you know I'm a middle-aged man so you know -

**[0:31:02.9]**

**INT: It's a different, yes unfortunately it's a different prospect isn't it.**

P14: Yes, I see people you know people don't necessarily like walking along the bits of towpath on the [RIVER] or [CANAL] in [city] because they're worried that you know they could be rather isolated. But you know it's trying to point people to sort of public, less surveyed public parks but the moment you get to things which are, there is almost this thing that if a place hasn't been surveyed then it's probably because people know it's no use if you see what I mean, it's a circular assumption rather than I've always been someone who's thought, I've been surprised to see there's some vast arable fields in [county] that we have, you know a lot of people will not go to that sort of area because they think it's going to be boring, it's going to be dull, you know they want to go to the big butterfly, what we know as the [NATURE RESERVE] where they know as long as you keep your eyes open you're going to see something interesting and rare but they won't necessarily go to somewhere and walk three or four miles around footpaths or as I say in [city] to the more less well known green spaces and maybe record a peacock and a speckled wood or something like that although that information is obviously useful.

**INT: So, when you're planning your own visits during the recording season, is that the kind of thing that you're thinking about is places that are under recorded?**

P14: Yes, yes I mean I try and get you know particularly in like I say north east [county] popularly known as the arable desert and so I tend to go out there because I'm the kind of person who likes to do that sort of thing and I don't drive so I tend to go up by public transport or go out on my bike and so I'm quite happy to, I don't have to find a parking space, I don't have to do a circular walk and I'm quite happy to wander for 12, 15, 18 miles in a day just noting down what I see, but you know that's not everyone's cup of tea.

**INT: So how do you plan that then, do you look at the records that you've got and are you thinking this is an under recorded square for example that I'm going to visit or is it that you haven't been there before, like what information do you use to plan those visits?**

P14: It's a mixture of those things, I mean obviously as the recorder and compiling the maps I've got a pretty good idea in my head of where's well recorded so I'm unusual in that respect, I carry a lot of the information around in my head. But particularly, I mean we tend to record on a five year blocks, so you know it's almost like the old soviet five year plans, so for instance in the last year which was 2019 of the previous five years you know I looked on the maps and sort of got my ordinance survey maps out and drew squares all over them in places where there were very few records and made a particular attempt to go up there and walk as many of the paths, byways and so on at you know crucial times of the year, you know spring and summer and stuff and try and fill in the gaps and I know there are other people who did that as well. Obviously last year was the first year of a new set so it didn't really matter where you went because and obviously there were restrictions on where you could travel to, so I didn't get up to the really badly recorded areas but that would be the aim. I mean in the annual report in the talk I did you know I publish maps showing the hotspots and the cold spots, now to a lot of people these are just dots on a map but it gives you an idea of the general area and I always offer if anyone wants to get in touch with me about particular target areas you know I'm very willing to point them to places and there are a number of people who will do that but inevitably you will still get many more people who want to go to the main nature reserves where they know they'll see different stuff you know but not everyone is as fanatical as I and a few other people you know, you've got to look at that, it's just the way things are.

**INT: Yes, and is there, so there's the kind of filling the gaps and then are there other things that you use to plan your recording over the season? Do you have particular nice sites that you like to kind of visit every year?**

P14: Yes, I mean there are a few of the hotspot sites that I like to visit, I mean for instance I've mentioned a couple of times a place called [Nature reserve] which is right on the [COUNTY] border but it is actually a ton of [county] that sticks out, it's a well-known site but it's quite tricky to get to by any means, there's hardly any parking there for instance but it's one of our best, if not our best colony of chalk-hill blues. And every year I try to go up there for instance because I do, it's not a formal transect but I do a couple of, walk a couple of lines across the site at what I think is going to be the peak of the season just to try and because no-one does a transect up there to try and get an index for the number of chalk-hill blues so I've been doing that for a few years just so that we can see comparative numbers. I mean the other big chalk-hill blues sites on the whole have got transects on them so they don't need that sort of treatment but you know I'll go up to those particularly [Nature reserve] which is quite easy to get to because you can sit having a drink at the clubhouse there and watch chalk-hill blues flying over the rugby pitch.

**INT: I used to live in [county], well I used to work for the Wildlife Trust in [county] and during that time lived in [VILLAGE] in [county] but also lived in [TOWN] in [county] so I know that area of the world a little bit and yes, [Nature reserve]is just lovely.**

P14: It is, yes oh yes.

**INT: The pasque flowers that would be what we would be thinking about at this time of, it's coming up to that season isn't it.**

P14: It's coming up to that season, yes I mean they're wonderful up on [district], yes that's a good site.

**INT: Yes, let me just look at my questions. So, yes when you go to a site then you're, so any sight that you go to are you hoping to make a full list of species that you see there?**

P14: Yes.

**INT: So apart from I guess maybe when you're doing your targeted chalk-hill blue walks or something like that?**

P14: Yes, for instance as I say so for instance to go to somewhere like [Nature reserve] we'll get a bus to a village called [village] which is about four miles away and I do quite a nice walk across so I'll be recording all the way through that walk, do the targeted surveying but also you know then have a wander around generally surveying what else is there and try and go back a slightly different way and record all the way down there. So, yes you know I'm always recording you know if I'm on a tube train and you see something that you can identify flying and I'm not the only person who does this on a tube journey you know, oh there's a brimstone on that embankment, you know because obviously see like a brimstone it's pretty obvious what it is but of course you go down a line in the summer when all the buddleia is out and it's covered with whites you can't really tell as you past on a train if it's a large white or, so those records obviously don't exist but you know to stop somewhere if you stop at a signal and you see some small tortoiseshell flying around the buddleia I tend to, I still tend to record on paper and I put it into a spreadsheet.

**INT: So how do you get your grid reference for where you are?**

P14: Right, well I've got an app on my phone so I look at that.

**INT: Okay, so you'll just look at your phone and then note down the grid reference in your notebook?**

P14: That's right, yes the old school stuff, as I say you know I don't tend to do it. Occasionally if I haven't for some reason if I haven’t got, I just make a note of where it is and look it up on a map like a street map or something and find the grid reference but I increasingly use you know since the era of smart phones it's just as easy to look up the grid reference on the phone.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P14: But I don't find it that easy to then input everything, especially if you're walking around and recording for several hours at different sites I don't find using something like iRecord particularly helpful for that, even if it means that I've got to transcribe a load of stuff into a spreadsheet later in the day which can be a bit tedious I still find that you know just my personal, I find that easier.

**[0:40:21.0]**

**INT: Yes, yes. Let me just look at my questions, so are you, you're kind of equally happy going out into the arable areas and countryside as you are going into urban areas? You kind of, you don't have a preference of one over the other, it's more about completeness I guess.**

P14: It is, yes I think I've always been someone who likes to complete things you know even doing the various surveys that we used to have to do at work about your attitudes to work I'm someone who's always been a completer.

**INT: We need more people like you.**

P14: I'm quite happy to, you know for instance things like the brown hairstreak, if you want to go and find that in our area you've got to go into urban areas because that's at the moment it doesn't exist in [county], it only exists in North [city] but you know it's not the easiest thing to find and various other species that are you know more common in the built up urban area, I mean holly blue is much more common, it's well distributed but it's much more common for instance in [city] than it is in [county], much better distributed and you know I'm very willing to go to these places and one of my interests is church photography for instance and so visiting, you know if you go to a church visit you go and have a good look around the churchyard as well because there's some big wild churchyards and cemetery’s and things like that in Greater [city] which are worth looking at.

**INT: Yes, they're some of the important green spaces really aren't they in that urban area, they provide quite a lot of the natural space I guess don't they and an important part of the infrastructure.**

P14: Absolutely, I mean I did try and get a churchyard survey going a few years ago actually, I had meetings and contacts with the environmental people in [city] and [city] dioceses but I don't know, it seemed very difficult to persuade anyone to go out and I thought this is a good way of persuading them because most people don't live that far from some sort of church and you know a churchyard is a nice constrained space and it's you know, generally pleasant to walk, well some of the ones in [city] aren't so pleasant I suppose. But for one reason and another the number of people who got as enthused about it as I did was actually quite small and it never really took off which is a great shame because I feel that you know, we could have probably got some quite useful information and the diocesan authorities were all in favour of it but people didn't seem to be as enthused about it as I hoped they would be.

**INT: Do you think that was about just people being asked to go a particular place or do you think it was that they were, there's something about the churchyards in particular that put people off?**

P14: I think partly it may be that and it may also be the person, you know some churchyards in [city] are quite lonely, they're very overgrown and so on and maybe yes, it just didn't seem to appeal to people in the same way as it appealed to me. I think yes, a lot of people don't like to be directed, I mean we've had people who have done a transect of a site and they've said they've done it for one year and said I don't like the discipline of having to walk this exact same route 26 times or however many times they've been able to do it in a year on the exactly the same route, I'm very happy to visit the area but vary my routes a bit and wander around and you know they still submit lots of records but they will not do a transect and there is to some extent like, not a narky that's probably a bit strong but people don't like to be told too much what to go and do. So, we're got one or two other people like that who you know are very happy to do a lot of quite systematic recording but not put it into a one or two people who walk things which are effectively transects but will not accept the discipline of having to put them onto UKBMS and record the route. And so, you know what can you do, you don't want to put them off by, the last thing you want to do is say to people you've got to do this or you can't do it, you know it's much better to get some level of cooperation than put people off with bureaucracy because you know a lot of people hate bureaucracy and -

**INT: Is it that, that you think put some people off? Is it the kind of administrative side of things that you think is the barrier for some people?**

P14: I think it does, yes I think any system that comes in has got to be seen to be very collaborative and not involve lots of form filling and there are still people who don't like sitting at their computer or don't have a smart phone and you know you can nudge people, you can try and you know say no to them in the right direction but if you say you must do this or you will do this because there was one of, a lady who got in touch with me when I sent a list out to a number of names for this project, one said she was interested but could I phone her and we had about a half hour discussion which I wasn't expecting to be so long before she actually agreed - I won't say who it is - before she actually agreed to be one of the names to be put forward who was very worried that she was going to be told what to do and where to do it and how to do it and that you know, would she be around when it was necessary to do it, would participating in this first interview mean that she's committing herself. So, lots and lots of things and it took quite a lot of, well hopefully gentle persuasion that you know her first commitment was you know just to this hours conversation because the project was trying to find out what people’s attitudes, at least that's how I interpret it, people’s attitudes and thoughts were rather than you're going to sit there and [unclear 0:47:03.8] talking about you will do this recording and you will report it back and if you don't woe betide you, so there are people like that.

**INT: Yes, I think it's acknowledging that people have all sorts of different motivations and behaviours and it's finding the group of people who will be most willing to be nudged to go to particular places and acknowledging that that's not going to be for everybody but hopefully there will be a selection of people that will be more amenable to that.**

P14: Yes, I think it's nudging as you say, I think it's a buzz word at the moment, nudge units and so on but yes it's that, so some people just don't like to be told what they can do or what they might do, they just like to make it up as they go along and you know we don't want to lose those people but you know if we can get, there are certain people and there are other people who I suggested who are on the list who are, who I think would be very amenable for this sort of project but you know I tried to get a good mixture from people who only send in a few records, well as the original thing said for people like me who are sort of obsessed and people who maybe send a dozen records a year from a very limited area.

**INT: Yes, I guess because my feeling is that maybe those people who don't send many records part of the reason that they don't send many records might be because they're just not quite sure where to go or you know, if what they're doing is useful or and you know and it might actually be those people who would be more amenable to being told to, being asked to go to particular places because it gives them a bit of structure and a bit of guidance.**

P14: Yes, I mean certainly that would appeal to me you know if I was in that position and I think there are some people who it will appeal to and there will be some people who it won't, I mean obviously I mean presumably apart from the ones I sent you've got quite a number of names from other people at that initial meeting so you'll be already getting quite a lot of different attitudes. Are you going sort of from interviewing, are you sort of mixing everyone up or are you sort of interviewing people who are already fairly formally into recording downwards or if you like?

**[0:49:41.2]**

**INT: I mean I haven't tried to do it in any sort of systematic way but I think probably of the ones that I've done so far, so I think this is my seventh they probably have been more on the kind of keener side of things I guess but I have done one or two where it's people who have only submitted a few records a year and then a few people who like butterflies and moths is not their main thing so they're more kind of keen birders and they just do butterflies as they're out doing birds. But yes, I've had, what am I at now, 60 people already kind of express interest in being interviewed so obviously I can’t interview all of them so what I'm doing is people that I don't have the capacity to interview we've got a sign up so that people can give their names to be put on a list to hear more about the project in the future and maybe be involved in the other stages of kind of testing the tool in the summer and things like that. So, it was one of those where we kind of asked you guys to all suggest names thinking that we'd probably get like two or three back and be struggling to get people and it was the total opposite, it was yes we've got all these people and so which was obviously really good but then you feel bad don't you that you've kind of asked people and then you don't necessarily have the capacity to talk to everybody. But I think there are like I say, these next stages that people can potentially get involved in if they want to or just sign up so they can just hear more about the project and you know that might be enough for them, or they can just say they don't want to hear any more about it so. But yes, because [city] we did [county], you guys, [Name] I think we did as well because I think that came into Greater [city] -**

P14: That's right, [Town] and [Town].

**INT: Then there was like the [county] and [REGION] transect recordings so it was all lots of different groups as well so I've tried to get a mix across the different areas as well as the different types of people and then I've got all my Yorkshire lot as well, so. And this is just butterflies and moths, I'm trying to do orthoptera as well but they've not been quite so, well I think there's just not quite so many of the -**

P14: No, it will be a smaller recording community I'm sure.

**INT: Yes, yes. I mean thank you for all your efforts in terms of getting those names and hopefully you at least will stay in touch with the project so that maybe you can like disseminate things from the project through your channels with the branch.**

P14: Oh, yes absolutely.

**INT: I think that is all my questions, I'm just checking. So, I guess just the last one is there anything else that you wanted to say about your recording motivations or habits that you don't feel you've had the chance to say?**

P14: No, I think I've gone on quite a lot but yes I think it's hopefully made it fairly clear.

**INT: Yes, it's been really interesting thank you and it's nice to, nice to hear about somebody who uses the records so much as well and that's you know, that must be a really rewarding part of what you do is actually seeing some hopefully like improvements to habitat management and things like that as a direct result of your recording.**

P14: Well, yes it is, yes, it doesn’t always work.

**INT: Which I think most people are one step removed from aren't they whereas you've got that kind of direct link so that's nice and it's also nice to talk to somebody who enjoys going to these urban areas because I've spoken to quite a lot of people who are in [county] and kind of go down into the [NATIONAL PARK] and rather than like being urban recorders necessarily so it's nice to talk to somebody who's got that focus as well.**

P14: I was just going to say all the people that I got in touch with and who are on that list of suggestions are, I deliberately picked people who I know live in or record in [city]. I mean they may like myself or one or two others also record in [county] or may even live in [county]. But yes, so all the people, there are lots of people I could have suggested who are [county] people but wouldn't go into [city] in a million years so hopefully you've got some people who have got knowledge of the urban area in the other people that you choose to talk with.

**INT: Yes, that's good because I think it is a different process of making a decision about where you will go to compared with a rural area, there are like we talked about safety and things like that there and transport, there are other things you kind of have to, or different things you have to think about compared with those rural areas so that's useful, thank you.**

P14: Okay.

**INT: Okay, thank you very much for your time.**

P14: That's alright [INT].

**INT: And yes, I'll keep if it's okay, keep your contact details so we can keep you in touch with the project.**

P14: Absolutely, I'm very interested to know what comes out of this.

**INT: Yes and hopefully we've got a meeting this afternoon where we're talking about the kind of next stages that will come after the interviews and what that will look like in terms of working with the recording community so we should get some updates out soon, probably after Easter now but yes it will be coming soon hopefully.**

P14: Lovely.

**INT: Okay, thank you very much for your time.**

P14: Thank you.

**INT: Okay then, bye.**

P14: Bye-bye.

**Audio ends: [0:56:17.0]**