**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 17th May 2021

Interviewer(s):

Respondent(s):

**INT: So, I have got a series of questions but it is supposed to be just a bit of a chat as well. The first question is, how long have you been doing any recording and how did you start?**

P29: I’ve been recording, mainly plants actually, probably, well it’s 2021, probably a little before 2010 probably. It was mainly through botany which is my sort of main interest. But also, and that was because there was a really good botany group lead by the recorder [Name] and if you wanted to learn more about plants then that was really the way to do it. It was a group of botanists who would go out and [Name], as the recorder, was very dedicated to trying to pick up records from all of the vice county which is very large. I think the [VICE COUNTY] is one of the top, one of the biggest four vice countries in the country. So he was very dedicated to try and get coverage of botanical records but also to try and teach people a bit about botany. I just really enjoyed the visits with them. But at the same time, I also have done some voluntary work with the [National park] and got quite interested, in particular, on [Moor] which at the time was managed by the [CONSERVATION ORGANISATION]. They were very keen to get records of all species, you know that were relevant – because they were looking at the whole ecosystem on the moor and they were, they had plenty of people who were recording birds. But, I like, I enjoyed doing the voluntary work up there, I enjoyed spending time up there and learning more and more about the moorland. I very quickly realised that Small pearl-bordered fritillaries were very abundant up there. So I asked [Name] about what would be best way to record the population. And so for about five or six years I did a butterfly walk simply to, the peak of small pearl-bordered fritillary flight time and there was a massive population then. But over the five or six years it just vanished.

**INT: Oh really?**

P29: Yes, there’s virtually none flying up there now. If you go and the weather is really good, if you find two or three you’re doing really well. Whereas, quite close by, on a verge in [forest] there’s, well a couple of friends recorded a couple of hundred walking up and down the verge. So yes, I think it is a species that will increase and decrease. But, so that was I guess where I first started doing anything recording butterflies. But at that time, the [National Park] wanted you to report records particularly of things like Adders to them and if you are on [Moor] they wanted to know that you’d seen some Adders and if you saw a rare plant then [NATIONAL PARK] would want to know about it and so would the National Park and so would the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] and so it continued really. So yes, I got into the way of making records and then realised that if I was outside the National Park then it was important to make records to [REGION] Ecological Data Centre. Because getting a bit involved in conservation I realised that the only way any records had any influence on any planning applications was if the records were lodged in the right place so it was either the [National park] or [REGION] Ecological Data Centre. And, well I am a member of [naturalist club] and I do have an interest much wider as you can tell than plants. So yes, so I do try to make sure records go to the right place.

**INT: So is it a very wide range of species groups that you actually submit records on then?**

P29: I do some, I do actual surveys and recording of amphibians, I’ve got a great crested newt monitoring licence so I do put records in for [SPECIES RECORDING SCHEME]. I do record Adders when I find them. I do some recording for the [woodland government department] as well because they’ve contacted me and a friend to do mainly botanical stuff but we did some surveys when they were going to reintroduce the Duke of Burgundy Fritillary and they wanted to know the cowslip and primrose cover, and other plants as well. We did some detailed surveys then for the [woodland government department] and sometimes did botanical surveys for them. So yes, so plants, some butterflies. I don’t do a butterfly transect because I don’t think my – you know butterflies on the wing are, I find really hard, particularly white ones and I don’t get reliable data for that. [naturalist club] do some recording so anything that I think is particularly interesting, you know so if I see something that might be of interest to [naturalist club] I’ll report, the fungi, other insects that I can get photographs of or that I may potentially recognise to them. And then I started moth trapping probably five or six years ago. That was because I met someone who she was a very keen naturalist but she’d had a nasty accident and it had left her in a wheelchair. I got to know her through plants mainly. But she was finding it really hard to go out and do plant surveys and she’d been quite interested in birds as well. I said to her, what you need to do is do a moth trap because you can just put it out in the garden and see what’s there. But I’d found it a bit daunting in the past to try and – because a lot of moths are very similar and so I’d found it quite daunting to do any moth recording in the past. But anyway, she said yes shed get a moth trap and our local moth recorder, [Name], was really supportive and helped choose the moth trap and he was quite keen to get some records. So we started putting her moth trap out in her garden in [village]. It is a great place because it was a nice garden but it was right on the edge of rough pasture and then onto moorland. So we got a really good range of moths. If we were a bit stuck over what species between us then [Name] was always happy to have a photograph and help out. I mean I’d been to a few of [Name]’s public, well where he’s invited people to his mercury moth trap, moth lamp in the past so it’s how I’d got really interested. We were doing really well until she decided she was going to move to [REGION].

**INT: That’s convenient.**

P29: Yes and I live in a flat with no garden and at that stage I didn’t have the allotment either. I thought what am I going to do? And anyway I took, I knew a few friends with gardens and [Name] leant me a moth trap so I did a bit of moth trapping using his moth trap in people’s gardens and then through a rather strange set of coincidences I finished up with a mains moth trap of my own.

**0:10:11.5**

I always wanted to try and do some moth trapping out on the Moors so I’ve now got an LED moth trap as well made by a friend’s husband which I now do take out occasionally to places where I feel safe to leave it out in the wild. So I’ve got a few regular gardens I go to, I’ve got two really good, and I’ve got two really good sites, one on the edge of [Moor], because it was [Moor] that I initially really wanted to get to when it was managed by the [organisation] and the other one is at [place] which is [place]. And I put it there when we were, [naturalist club] were going to do a recording event for the [woodland government department] there. Unfortunately, it got cancelled about three times due to bad weather but in the meantime I’d found quite a nice secluded place where I could leave my lamp where it wasn’t going to be noticed by anybody. So I’d taken it up there a couple of times. I’ve got one of the gardens and I can leave both the mains trap in within their garden and they have a wild field near the coast and I can put the LED trap over the wall in the field. So I can get some quite good moths there as well. So I sort of rove around a little bit, yes.

**INT: Yes, so when you are choosing sites to go to for any species, group that you are interested in, what is it that, is it a particular species or a particular habitat or just a particular site that you are interested in?**

P29: Well I guess with the most rigorous recording I’ve done is for the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] with plants and [Name] unfortunately died last year and, but he was you know the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] were really working on trying to get their recording coverage for their Adders for 2020. So whereas normally I just go to places that I like for recording, I did start trying to seriously fill gaps so I’d look quite – you know because that’s what the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] were trying to do, and the new recorder [Name] was left a bit – he’d expected to be joint recorder with [Name] for years to come and just, but unfortunately say [Name] got an illness and died very, within about six months so [Name] was left as Recorder on his own. There are very few plant recorders in [VICE COUNTY] and it is a huge vice county. So for that I would choose squares that were sort of ideally not too far away and, but had very few records and I would then just do square bashing. Up to 2020 I’ve sort of, basically I stopped then.

**INT: Had you had enough of it?**

P29: Well there doesn’t seem to be the drive to get that coverage so I have been out recording and been meeting up with [Name] but sometimes with a few other people. We’ve done some surveys for the [woodland government department] but they have been mainly really nice sites which have been well-recorded over the 20 years for the Adders and so we’ve been free to go back and record where we want to rather than where there’s no records. So some wonderful habitats in [Forest], so yes, I think that’s really looking at places where there are some lovely plants, interesting plants. But at the same time if going there and trying to get food records of what is there at the moment both for [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] and the [woodland government department] or for wherever it is that we choose to go. I am doing some surveys in [forest] at the moment which is where I am doing the square for [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] but I am also keeping a record of all the plants for the local environmental group who do various bits of habitat improvement. They have been planting trees and there’s been some changes so I am going to try and record now and in future. So I do that with plants. While I am out doing plants, if I see any butterflies I note them and put them in as casual records and I put those into butterfly conservation; the local recorder. And if I am, you know if it’s a moorland place where I am out and I should happen upon any Adders or what have you, I’ll make a note of those and I will make a point of visiting a number of ponds but I tend to go back to the same ponds. Unless somebody asks [naturalist club] to do something, and then I might go and look at somebody’s different pond then and I’ll go and do that one. But moth trapping I just keep an eye on the weather. On the rare occasions when the weather is really good for moth trapping I then choose which garden or whether I’m going to go out onto the moors and I have probably about eight different sites/places that I can go and they are slightly different habitats and so I go to those.

**INT: Yes, it sounds like a full-time job doing all of those different pieces. Do you think you are probably recording every day something or other?**

P29: Well no, but it is just I am out a lot and although I am not recording every day, I may make a record or two on quite a lot of days and then you know, well some weeks I may well spend several days actually doing something that’s specifically aimed at. I mean if I am doing pond surveys then I will probably go and visit a pond and go for a walk wherever it is. So it is not really very onerous but it just helps me choose where I am going to walk that day.

**INT: Yes, and is it your Vice County that you are mainly recording in? Do you ever go further afield?**

P29: Not really, no. I mean in [Town] you have to go a long way to get out of [VICE COUNTY] (laughter), miles in every direction. So no, I don’t - and if I am, for any reason if I am outside [VICE COUNTY] which hasn’t happened for a year I don’t think, then if I come across anything I tend not to record it at all.

**INT: And can you sort of pinpoint what motivates you to do that recording and has your motivation changed over time, and does it differ between different species groups?**

P29: Oh very much so, yes. I mean so I think moth trapping is probably the most different because it is a very specific thing, sort of it is something where you decide the weather is right, you go and put the moth trap out, you have to get up at the crack of dawn which I don’t like doing and then you, because you know you need to be there sort of at first light. Oh yes I forgot to mention the bats. Yes, I sometimes leave, I’ve got a bat recorder as well and I might leave the bat recorder out as well particularly if I am moth trapping. That tends to be only new places. Once I’ve recorded at a place, I very rarely go back and do more bat recording. So, yes, so moth trapping I, get up really early, go out with a flask of tea and usually – I mean you’ve chosen as such it’s a nice day, go out to some really nice place and it’s like opening a treasure trove to see what’s inside the moth trap. It is just a delight really.

**0:20:09.1**

Because I don’t like getting up early, I would not attempt to do that usually more than once a week, maybe if it was, if there’s been very poor weather and then there’s a stretch of good weather I might do a couple of times within about five days at different habitats. But mostly probably, well no more than once a week and the weather would probably say quite a bit less than once a week. But that is just something that is – and by the time you’ve finished normally you’ve got the full day in front of you anyway.

**INT: And are you submitting those records somewhere then?**

P29: Oh yes, I mean [Name] is really helpful and also the VC recorder is very helpful so yes, I do submit them and anything that I find, that I am unsure about the identification I consult [Name] or maybe the VC recorder if [Name] suggests passing it on. If I do submit something I like to be confident that it is right. So yes that’s like – other things, I mean I might choose to go out for a day and do some botanical recording but I don’t say I do that, I might do that once on my own and once with others in a week, maybe. Although if I am out and I come across a rare plant I will make a note and get a grid reference. So, and similarly with anything that I come across. I just like being out on the moors or out in, at this time of the year out in the woodland, out in the forest. You know when the sun is shining I just like to be out doing something.

**INT: Yes, so what is it about the process of recording then that kind of interests you or keeps you going with that? Is it what you think the data will be used for or is it just for your own kind of learning?**

P29: I think it is both, yes it is really is both. I think recording plants, because I’ve always enjoyed plants and I think it was joining the botany group that showed me how much more there was to plants than just enjoying looking at wild flowers and thinking that you knew something about what they were. Because you know when I first joined I remember I rang [Name] and he said oh you know do you know anything about plants and I said well I know quite a lot of their names. And then I went out with the botany group and thought I don’t know nothing, you know (laughter). So yes, so it’s really taught me a great deal and I guess with botany I felt I owed it to the likes of [Name] who spent such a lot of time teaching, because he was so driven to get the records that I wanted to help and did realise that the data was useful. I guess [Name] was also quite helpful over that because he’s always been keen to try and, he’s found the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] method of recording not the most helpful to him. And with developments around [Town], you know we’ve got some very rare habitat in [Town], a bit of salt marsh and it’s the only bit between [RIVER] and [BEACH], and we’ve got a sort of ongoing planning dispute over it because the adjacent landowner keeps trying to grab it. That’s been going on for quite a lot of years and it really brought it home to me that it’s records that make the difference to anything of that sort. That’s been quite a motivation as well how the data can be used to influence such decisions. And if the data is not there, even though everybody knows that something grows there, it’s not going to make a difference unless there’s a proper record.

**INT: So have you ever targeted your recording in places that you think are vulnerable to development?**

P29: Yes, because there’s an area just, again near [Town] just up the [RIVER] where there’s quite potentially going to be some development. So I’ve been quite careful to send records in that case to the Data Centre. So within the immediate confines of [Town] I do send records to the Data Centre. I mean the other thing is, I am the botany recorder at [naturalist club] so that’s also been a motivation to keep a lot of what there is because I have to write an annual report every year.

**INT: So do you do verification of records then in that role as well?**

P29: No, well hardly anybody sends any plant records in to [naturalist club] to be honest. But yes, if somebody is unsure about something then I will go and have a look at it. But I say, in the years that I’ve done that you know it’s probably only about four or five times that I’ve ever looked at a plant for anybody and you know I get very few records sent to me.

**INT: So for writing your report then, are you drawing data from other, from the Vice County?**

P29: Well we do do field trips, I mentioned stuff in field trips. I mentioned any interesting records that I’ve come across. And if somebody has been kind enough to send me anything I try to mention that to encourage people to do it more in the future. But then plants around [Town] are pretty well recorded. Occasionally people discover something but it is not frequently.

**INT: Yes, and is that because of [Name]’s efforts in the past that they are so well recorded?**

P29: Well I guess it is a nice place. Actually [naturalist club] as quite a long and reasonably distinguished history, it’s over 100 years old so people have kept records. My predecessors are recorders are both really good botanists, far better than I’ll ever be. So one of them is still around and living in [Town], but he’s terrible at putting, you know he knows all, well he doesn’t just know plants, he used to be a tutor at a field study centre up the road so he knows many tAxa, but he tends to know where everything is but he very rarely records things.

**INT: Interesting, you would have thought somebody like that would automatically want to record what they see?**

P29: One of the records that came up this last, you know in the last six months, in fact during lockdown was mistletoe because I started, we have a Facebook group for [naturalist club] and somebody posted some, a picture of some mistletoe in a tree on this particular bit of land which I think might be vulnerable to development and one or two people commented on the mistletoe in this area. I was thinking I didn’t know mistletoe grew there. So I have had access to the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] database for quite a long time and I find it really interesting looking at what grows where and how rare things are and so on. So I had a look to see where mistletoe grew locally and I found in [VICE COUNTY] there was only about four or five records and most of those were a single plant. When I went to have a look at our area, there’s masses of it, it’s growing all the way down to really ancient hedgerows and in the back garden of the butchers where there’s a car park. So, and [Name] had made a record, I think in 2002 of one plant somewhere in that area but there have been no records since. So since there was some possibility of one of these areas becoming a sink I consulted the ecologist at [Town] and at [CITY] and although it is least concern on the red data book, Mistletoe is really rare in [VICE COUNTY].

**0:30:29.1**

And I know there are lots of conservation projects for it where it is disappearing from orchards down south and also it has an association with mistle thrushes which we get round here a lot, and black cats which we increasingly are getting. You know so would this influence whether there area was a sink and coincidentally [Name], in lockdown, had produced a rare plant register which apparently affected planning decisions and because mistletoe was listed in there as locally rare then this will be a key record. So anyway I spoke to [Name], my botanist who has lived here for a long time and I said to [Name] you did know about the mistletoe? Oh yes that’s always been growing, I’ve known about that since 1969 (laughter).

**INT: How strange, yes. So do you use your data then to kind of talk to people about how they should be managing sites or do you use your own data in that way at all in terms of like helping to inform conservation?**

P29: Yes, I mean recently, well people sometimes come to [Town] Naturalist because I am sure you know that everybody is wanting to re-wild everywhere at the moment. But if there’s, if there are bits of ground where some work is likely to go on, there was an example in [Village] there’s a slope from just under [Hotel] and it is very rough ground and it is mainly bramble and thickets and there’s a few bits of grassland on it. The Tourist Association wanted to sort of take this area a little bit in hand and so they started seeking advice about what to do. And they approached [Town] Naturalist, they also approached the Ecologist at [district] Council who I know really well and he suggested we should all confer and also with the Records Centre as well. And so I knew I’d done a conservation task there once with the [National park] and there had been some quite reasonable, there’d been some interesting grassland. So I went and did a plant survey for them and had a quick look to see if there were any rare species recorded on [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] because – and then went and, you know they were very interested in trying to make it slightly more managed but not very managed so yes, so I sort of worked with them to, and also with the ecologist at [Town] to try and put together a plan. And then the [Moors] ranger came and joined us so that you know, so we did a sort of combined [Town]/[Moors] conservation task with a few local people helping at the end of the season to cut some of the grassland and rake it. There’s a meadow nearby where I’d been doing plant surveys for a project with the [NATIONAL PARK] for quite a long time, it’s managed as a hay meadow and there’s loads of yellow rattle. So whenever I do the survey I go with the paper bag and I always collect quite a bit of seed so we did a few scrapes on this coastal slope and scattered yellow rattle, because if they are going to try and manage the grassland I think encouraging it a bit will help. They’ve got quite a tricky course to steer because else with all these places, you know they are half way between, there are people who want it to be just cut down to the ground and made tidy and then they’ve got the re-wilders who say don’t touch it, don’t touch a leaf, nature will look after itself. They were wanting to steer a middle course and so, and that is what I prefer to try and get at. But again because they were, I knew they were interested in the ground, when I did my plant survey I also just noted down anything else that I recognised. There were a few butterflies and birds around so that was just for their benefit really to help in what they might achieve. Yes. I do try to keep, I do try to put in some casual records of the butterflies to the Vice County Recorder as well, being big on butterfly conservation but I am not very rigorous about that. I think at the end of the year, oh dear I haven’t made proper notes of all my butterflies. And there seems to be a lot of confusion about butterfly data in that you know transept data goes to one person and if there’s some sort of app and that data goes to somebody else and casual records go somewhere else and so I’ve caught shy of using any of the apps or anything, I just collect things together, make a spreadsheet at the end of the year and send it to the Vice County Recorder. But I guess if I had an app that I knew was going to be useful for butterfly conservation, then I would probably make better casual records because it is so, you know I use my phone for grids and I do sometimes use iRecord and I’ve now been forced to use a bit of iNaturalist because that’s what the [woodland government department] likes. And I think the National Park are going to be using iNaturalist but - so but you know if you are out and you see something and you are stopping and having a look at it, it’s not difficult to just click something and if the record words fine. But yes, if it comes to writing notes and collecting them at the end of the year, I mean even with plants I am not very good at doing them until the nights draw in.

**INT: Yes, that’s the winter task.**

P29: Yes.

**INT: And so all these different routes that you submit data to, it sounds like you’ve got lots and lots of different people and places that you submit data to. Do you feel like you get good feedback on that data and what it is used for?**

P29: Well I don’t know, the Moths report, the [COUNTY] Moths Report for the [NATURALIST GROUP], butterfly and moths report is fantastic. I mean that is superb feedback and I think butterfly conservation and the moth recorders they just do an amazing job there, brilliant. So yes, with the butterfly records definitely. I mean with the botany records, because the Recorder is a good friend then you know sort of, and I’ve got access to the database. I don’t particularly feel I am doing that - well I don’t feel I am doing that particularly for anybody else, I just do it and I mean poor [Name], I just feel as though he got landed with a very difficult role and he would bemoan the fact that he’s got one – well I mean some of the other Vice Counties have been divided into smaller pieces like Cumbria divided themselves into about three or four pieces for botany. Whereas you know he’s got the whole Vice County and there’s nobody else doing recording. I am giving him a bit of support.

**INT: Well in such a vastly populated area as well it’s hard isn’t it to persuade people to go out. I mean there must be various bits of the Moors that are so remote that people don’t really want to, or can’t get to because they are not publicly accessible.**

P29: Well the Moors you’ve usually got right to roam but not many people will want to track quite a few miles over no footpath.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

**0:40:08.1**

P29: Unless they’ve got a pretty good idea there’s something very exciting there when they get there.

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P29: I mean that is part of the motivation is to look at sites where rare plants have been recorded in the past and see if we can still find them. So we do do quite a bit of that.

**INT: Okay, yes. So for the plants you feel like it is something that you are doing for yourself and the Vice County Recorder, and so then for your kind of casual butterfly records and your amphibian and reptile records, do you get feedback on those at all?**

P29: Well again, the amphibian and reptile records, [Town] Naturalist organised a training session for amphibian identification and recording quite a few years ago at [Village]. [Name] [Name] and [Name] came, one came up from somewhere near [COUNTY] and the other one from [CITY] to come and do a workshop, spent a weekend, and they did a whole day workshop and then they did a field trip visit of their own the other day. When people are prepared to go to so much trouble and it’s to train you so that you can help them with surveys, it seems only right to carry on sending records to them. So it, and yes, well actually their feedback is terrible because you can’t even see what you put in. if you put a record into [SPECIES RECORDING SCHEME] it’s a black hole, you know you never see what went in. if you want to remember, because I am not very good at putting records in, if I can’t remember whether I put submitted or not, I have to send them an email and say have you got a record from me this year. So yes, the feedback from them is terrible. I mean at least with [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] can get onto the database and see what’s there. And also you can see with the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] publicly accessible database you can see splodges appearing in tetrads and you can recommend other members of [naturalist club] to have a look at the distribution of this plant on the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE] database. So that’s really good feedback that you get from –and I say the butterfly and moth report is brilliant. I do virtually, I don’t do many bird records and yes, bat records, I don’t do a lot of bat records. When I do send records in I just send them to [REGION] Ecological Data Centre and hope they get there.

**INT: So are there things that you hope your data are used for? Once it goes past you and the Vice County and I guess to a national level, are there things that you hope that your data are used for?**

P29: Well as far as I can tell the [EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE]’s main interest is in working out plant distributions and whether there are new plants appearing, other ones dying away. And that certainly I think is the motivation in the area to try and see whether we’ve still got the plants that we used to have. So yes, so that I guess the national, well I guess producing the Atlas as a national effort which I felt quite definitely part of. And I guess I just trust to a certain extent that people like [SPECIES RECORDING SCHEME] and [CONSERVATION CHARITY] who are the other, and I suppose [CONSERVATION CHARITY] as well – I guess if it’s a conservation body that I’d put a record in for, I feel that I just sort of trust that hopefully the data is proving useful in their efforts on conserving whichever species they are interested in. And anything that I put into the Forestry, I know is used in management because you know that’s a sort of, we’ve got very good local network with the Forestry ecologist and the other local naturalist clubs, you know [Town] and [place] and also the [Botany Group]. I mean there is quite a good naturalist network on the [NATIONAL PARK] and so, and for conservation work we do all work together really.

**INT: So is the social side of things important for you as well, do you think is that part of your motivation?**

P29: Well I really enjoy going out with other naturalists, I like going out on my own as well and the moth trapping is always on my own, the moth identification is always on my own. I really enjoy going out with a few other naturalists. I also, I mean I do do the field programme for the [naturalist club] so I do take groups out on walks, ID walks. Yes, that’s enjoyable too. But I guess it is particularly going out with a small group of other naturalists or other botanists that I do very much enjoy.

**INT: And for those field trips, are you targeting particularly interesting sites, is it around that kind of oh we know there’s been a rare species recorded here before?**

P29: I mean there’s [Name] for instance, I don’t know if you know it’s floating people behind the [SITE] at [Moor] and [Name] from the University, well she was University of [city], I think she was botany professor for a long time. She did her PhD up there about nearly, it’s 40-50 years ago now, she set up a transeCt across this floating bog which has some, it doesn’t have many species but it has some really rare stuff up there. And it’s been continuously, more or less continuously monitored for between 40 and 50 years and [Name] was wanting help with the monitoring so the [woodland government department] and in particular [Name] sort of helped not just continuing with her monitoring but expanding it. And so that was part of volunteering for the [Moors]. If they want someone to volunteer to go and do some botany work then I am always happy to help. So I’ve done quite a few surveys up there and it’s usually, well [Name] occasionally still comes out and [Name] who is a fantastic all-round naturalist; and usually one or two others will come out and we will do a botany survey. It is a really good day, we don’t just do the botany, we see adders, we saw large butterflies up there last year for instance. And just, you know contributing to that pool of data which is used. There’s lots of universities doing studies up there as well. Part of that data is used together with some amazing weather station and water turbidity monitoring and all sorts of stuff that they are doing to see how climate change is affecting this floating peat bog which should have dried up years ago but is still there and is – at least I hope it’s still there, it’s been so dry now but it is still supporting the only site in our Vice County for bog rosemary and cloudberry. And it’s totally unmanaged now. The [woodland government department] have agreed, they are gradually – because at one stage they planted some of the peat bog up with trees but they deforested and they were also looking at how the deforested bits had regenerated and you know, well it is just fascinating. So it is really interesting to see what is happening and know that the data is being used but also just being out there. Well normally just being out there with the naturalist is great fun. I mean [Name] can produce some awful weather in June. I’ve had hypothermia up there in June. So anyway, but yes it is social and the data getting used and feeling that it is actually protecting in a way the future of an area like that and also building on all the work that people like [Name]had done.

**INT: Yes, it is continuing that legacy isn’t it and making sure that that continues into the future?**

**0:50:05.2**

P29: Yes.

**INT: That sounds like a fascinating site to be, to have access to.**

P29: Oh it’s great. Yes, I mean we get permission to go through the [ORGANISATION]. Other than that, it’s very remote so quite hard to get to and the ground is horrible.

**INT: You’ve got to know what you are doing on a site like that haven’t you, you’ve got to know where to tread I guess and where not to tread?**

P29: Well yes, I mean I actually had – it is very uneven so it is not easy to get over but three of us did do a survey of a particularly tricky bit where the Forestry had only just been cleared and there was a nasty very deep bit of – well not nasty, very nice bit of deep bog at one point which was tricky to get over. Three of us there. And I tripped up, or at least I missed my footing, I think something sort of, one of the tufts I was trying to tread on tipped over and I finished up upside down with my head down a hole and my bum up in the air and there was water in the bottom of the hole and I realised I was actually stuck.

**INT: Really.**

P29: So I was so glad that the other two, I am sure I would have managed to extract myself in time but I just felt, you know I can’t easily, I tried to roll over but then I was tending to go under the water and oh, it was never actually, you know never ever done anything like that before, I felt so stupid. Fortunately the two people with me were kind enough to fish me out and not stop taking photographs. (Laughs).

**INT: That you know of yet. Did it shake you up a bit though, I imagine it leaves you a bit shaken something like that?**

P29: I volunteered to go with [Name] because I had said you shouldn’t be there on your own.

**INT: I’ll look after you (laughter).**

P29: And of course it was during last summer when we were all from different households so we were all carefully having our lunch two metres apart and they had to grab me one on each hand and haul me out (laughs).

**INT: Oh dear.**

P29: Anyway so yes, very embarrassing. But yes I mean I do enjoy it.

**INT: Yes, so it sounds like you’re doing a lot of it already but is responding to requests to visit particular areas, to record something that you are interested in? Are there particular, would there be barriers to what you would be willing to do in terms of responding to those sort of requests?**

P29: Well I think there would be barriers. I mean actually I went yesterday, because there’s some people in a nearby village who have a bit of ground they want to make more wildlife friendly. You know they wanted to know what they could do and whether, and what was there and help identifying things. So that’s just something I did with [naturalist club] and with another one of the recorders. So we just spent an hour up there recording what – it’s only a small piece or ground, recording what was there which wasn’t very much actually. And I shall, I’ve got write up a list and just send a note to them with some suggestions about what they might do. So and you know it is not a bit of ground you’d have thought of looking at other than - but a village and they are really wanting to improve, they’ve got a bit of rough ground and they want to make it better for wildlife, if I can, if I can [naturalist club] can help them do that, that’s something that I really am very happy to do. But that is purely a sort of community effort. If it’s a community effort am happy to help.

**INT: So are there others you think you would respond to those requests?**

P29: I mean like the community, [Village] one last year. And I do, I mean I do do the monitoring of botany at the Beavers Site for the [woodland government department]. So again I will respond to requests for botany site monitoring, you know or a list from the ecologist at the [woodland government department] if I can. Although if it’s a bit too far I might not go. And I used to do a Meadow Survey for [organisation] with a friend who lived down in [Village] and the Meadow Survey was really close to [Village] but it is a long way from me. And the friend is no longer able to do it so I declined to go last year. I think I probably will opt out of that because it’s quite a long away and a lot of the motivation was to spend a day out in Meadow with this friend and I’d probably go over early and she’d …

**[Audio Ends:** **0:55:51.8 ]**