**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date Transcribed: 23rd May 2021

Interviewer:

Respondent:

**INT: So the first bit is about kind of-**

P09: You’ve got a big screen over you saying you’re being recorded. So I’ll just get rid of that.

**INT: Yes I think you just have to- Yes, so the first questions are about kind of what type of recorder you are and what type of recording you do. And then the second bit’s about how you make decisions about when you go out recording.**

P09: Okay.

**INT: And then the last bit is about what you do with the data. So the first question is, how long have you been recording? And how did that start for you?**

P09: I’ve been recording since I was 14. So that was when I was at school. And then the adjacent school, I went to school in [Town] in [COUNTY].

**INT: Oh yes. I used to live in [Village].**

P09: Oh right, well there was a school in [Village] called [school], which were - I was a member of [insect organisation], so I was already very enthusiastic. And [Name], he ran a bug club, used to pick me up with the school bus and their menagerie. And we used to go every year to the [INSECT ORGANISATION] annual exhibition. And from there that cultivated my interest. I mean my real interest in nature in general was due to my grandmother, who was very keen on, and botany was quite good. And I took it from there really. So 15 I guess I was already getting really seriously into biology O level, thinking of doing my A levels, following a career in science. And part of that was I had a trip to [Nature Reserve]. And met a few of the luminaries from there. And we started recording in those days it was using punch cards and the post. And then I recorded for a few years. And then my school wanted me to go and study medicine, so I remained a lifelong member of the [INSECT ORGANISATION], maintained an interest in entomology, career in general practice does get in the way a bit.

**INT: Yes.**

P09: So I retired at 55 which is young, because I was fortunate to be able to do that. And fulfilled- I trained at [City] University and met my wife there. And my working career was in [County]. So I was quite involved with [County] moth recording. And little bits of conservation work when I could fit it in every weekend we were out in the country, moth trapping or whatever. And we came, I promised my wife we’d come back to [COUNTY]. And I said, well that’s fine. As long as it’s a national park. There’s plenty to choose from. And we ended up in [Village] which is just, I can see, at the moment I can see [peak], so that’s just south of [Village], north of [Village]. And that was 15 years ago, and I’ve been for 11 years permanently now.

**INT: Uh-huh.**

P09: And slowly got involved with [unclear: 0:04:06]. And obviously I’ve been a member with the [wildlife charity] since it really began. So donkeys years ago, and then became [wildlife charity] when it was rebranded. And then an opportunity came along here when [Name] was taking over the chairmanship of the [wildlife recording organisation], the [WILDLIFE RECORDING ORGANISATION]. And he appealed for anybody who might to help out with the recording role. And I volunteered to become a VC recorder. And he shuffled things around and I ended up being recorder for [VICE COUNTY]. And I’ve been in that role for five years or so. I have been involved with transect recording since the start, well since the pilot stage at, which must be 11, 12 years ago now I guess, in [County], where I had one of the first pilot transects at [SITE] which is on the edge of the [REGION]. And that was the first experiment. I don’t think that transect is still running. And for a while I had a transect in [County] and then a wider countryside transect here, one we were talking about, which is the one with the Northern Brown Argus. And then since then I’ve become more involved with the [NATIONAL PARK]. And monitoring the BAP, Biodiversity Action Plan species. And I’ve been running a single species transect for Northern Brown Argus also at [Village], but adjacent to the wider countryside square at [heath], and that’s been for five years or so. Six years. Yes six years ago we started that. So there’s a continuous run of data there as well.

**INT: So is it just butterflies? Or do you do moths?**

P09: No, no, no I do lots of moths. The moth trap runs every night. It’s on a timer. And I volunteer for [Wildlife Trust] at [nature reserve]. Which is the only site, well it was until we discovered another one, was the only site for the Barred Tooth-striped moth. And I’ve sort of taken over the role of doing the moth surveying for [nature reserve]. And that’s slowly been, under [Name]’s encouragement, I’ve been slowly expanding the interests. And looking out for some of the really quite rare [COUNTY] specialists. And it’s calcareous grassland specialist moths that I’m getting involved with. And we’re- I’m now working with [Name] from [wildlife charity] on the [wildlife conservation project]. And that’s really quite interesting as well. So a lot of that’s about the rarer moths of the [NATIONAL PARK] as well.

**INT: So that’s about targeting particular sites then is it though, under recording.**

P09: Sites and species yes. So we’ve found another, another location for Barred Tooth-striped. I also- I share the recording role for [Naturalists Society] as well. So I cover a big chunk of the limestoney bit of [NATIONAL PARK], the butterflies. And so that’s [AREA], [AREA], [AREA], and then not as far as [VILLAGE] though. And right the way up to the southern border of [AREA]. So that’s quite a big area.

**INT: Yes. Yes.**

P09: But there’s not many people in it. And there are some fantastic sites and it’s very under recorded. And every year there’s something quite interesting comes out, where people discover something new.

**INT: And are there other species’ groups? Do you do birds or plants or anything like that?**

P09: No.

**INT: No.**

P09: I take an interest in plants. But more because that feeds into, the geology feeds into the botany, the botany feeds into the entomology. You can only study it entirely in the round can’t you? If you’re going to really understand what’s to be found where.

**INT: And so going back to kind of how you started recording. Can you pinpoint what it was that motivated you to start?**

P09: I just, well yes I think I’ve already touched on that. I think it was my grandmother brought me to- Gave me an interest in the natural world. And that stayed with me. And then I latched onto entomology and lepidoptery when I was 13, 14. And I was on holiday in Dorset which is where Worldwide Butterflies were based, well still are based, which is Robert Goodden’s business. And I came across this shop in Lyme Regis which was full of set butterflies, and I’d never seen anything like it before and I thought this is for me.

**[0:10:00]**

And around about that time I was, I joined the [insect organisation] and then there was the school connection really. I met [Name], who was- He died just recently, and there’s some, there’s a few obituaries certainly in the [INSECT ORGANISATION] [wildlife magazine] about how inspiring he was at getting people involved in entomology when they’re young. I was swept up along with that.

**INT: Do you think your motivations have changed over time?**

P09: Yes. Because now even, then the problem was loss of habitat and pesticides and pollution and Rachel Carson and Silent Spring, those were seen as being the big threats. Now the big threats are those plus climate change. And one thing that the medicine did teach is enough about technology and IT to be able to understand data and processing. And so we were, as a general practice, we were one of the very first to be completely paperless. And so I’d got into a habit of rigorous data entry. That’s been a transferable skill and so yes, it’s changed in that I’ve taken what I’ve learnt and been able to adapt it. Now it’s more a case of trying to get other people enthused and trying to spread the message. But all really fundamentally underneath it all, is a desire to do something to arrest the decline and ensure that there’s some pockets where life and species can survive and repopulate from.

**INT: So, thinking about how you decide where to go recording and what you’re going to record. So do you have a plan for every season of all the different places that you want to visit? Or is it-**

P09: Yes. [laughs] Yes largely. Yes. [laughs]

**INT: It sounds like it’s going to be methodical in some way. [laughs]**

P09: Well everything’s got its season hasn’t it, yes. So yes, I mean, I’ve run two transects. So the dates are in for those.

**INT: Is that the WCBS? So do you do a [INSECT MONITORING SCHEMES] transect? Or is it just-**

P09: Yes I do a single species [INSECT MONITORING SCHEMES].

**INT: Okay, yes.**

P09: Which is weeks- Well it used to be week 9 to 19. Now it’s 8 to 19. That’s because the northern brown argus is now flying a week or two earlier than it used to. So this year we’re going to start earlier. So that’s going, so that’s in the diary for May until August. I’ve got the barred tooth-striped moth work, the surveying work. So that’s starting in mid-April. And I’ve got a, we’re going to do a training video for people to try and find it elsewhere within [COUNTY]. That’s myself, [NAME]. So that’s in the diary. Already started the nightly moth trapping, which is automated. I just get up in the morning, empty the moth trap every morning. Don’t get many up here because it’s quite an elevation. And the northern brown argus flies at the same time as the cistus forester and the least minor and the, a little bit later, the <name 0:14:24> plumed. So I pick up those when I’m doing the transect walks. Then there’s once a month I do voluntary wardening at [NATURE RESERVE], so I’ll always set a moth trap the night before. And then I expand to new sites as well if I can identify something worthwhile. And then I’m always looking for new sites for [VICE COUNTY] for things like the small pearl-bordered fritillary. And likely looking habitats where I’ve got no data, or I’ve got- Because I’m the recorder I’ve got all of the data. And I can see from there historical records and where I can target a species and then go look for it in places where it used to be. So we might have a trip out looking for northern brown argus for instance in [AREA] or [AREA].

**INT: So it’s often targeted around a species then that you’re wanting to find.**

P09: Yes, yes well or it looks attractive on a map and on a satellite image yes.

**INT: Looks like a likely piece of habitat where you might find something interesting.**

P09: Yes. Or the historical data says there was something there before and you’ve got to rediscover it.

**INT: And what about just gaps in records?**

P09: Yes. Done a lot of work with that with [Naturalists Society] because well if you plot everything in the recording area you can see where the gaps are. And so for a number of years we ran a campaign for trying to get within the [Naturalists Society] recording area, we identified all the tetrads that didn’t have a butterfly record ever. And the database starts in ’46, 1946. So there were about 15 really hard to get to tetrads. And we spent a few years getting people out into those tetrads. And some of them are really challenging. We got a record at least in every single one now.

**INT: But are they sites that are unlikely to be revisited because they’re so hard to get to?**

P09: Yes. And also because they’re not very rewarding. Mainly because it’s quite bleak moorland. And you know what’s going to be there. Even without going you can see it’s going to be- At best you’ll get green hairstreak, small heath, green veined white or some <name 0:17:27> coming through.

**INT: And this is you kind of processing the records that you hold as VC recorder to look for places that you might go to.**

P09: No, that was for the [CONSERVATION ORGANISATION] records.

**INT: Okay. So you’re working with that team to kind of identify places that you might go to.**

P09: Yes, we did that, yes.

**INT: And are there other groups that you’re involved with? Or other sources of information that you use to plan visits?**

P09: Well yes, because there’s the [National Park] Lepidoptera meeting. And from there we would collectively look at the known good sites that are SSSIs, that aren’t visited as much as they perhaps should be without the help of volunteers. And I’ll try and get to a few of those every year as well within the national park.

**INT: And so you mentioned that you’d tried to get other people enthusiastic about recording as well.**

P09: Yes, and people are. The problem is is that the vast majority of the people that I access on a- and know personally on a regular basis live in [TOWN] and [Town] and down in the south of the recording area in [VICE COUNTY], or the bottom- The southern end of, in [AREA] as you’d call it I suppose. So I’m lucky I live in [AREA], I’m already a good long way further north. But north of where I am there are fewer people until you get to a cluster in [TOWN]. And there are a few recorders in the [AREA] Field Society, where I’ve got relationships with people and they send me records. And there are recorders in the [AREA] Naturalists Group which are based around [AREA], around [VILLAGE] and [VILLAGE]. And I’ve got access- I have connections there.

**[0:20:00]**

And I’m also a member of [CONSERVATION ORGANISATION]. So I’m aware of what goes, there’s some cross-fertilisation goes on. Sorry I just sound- it’s my emails as they’re coming in here. Yes, so yes, I mean I guess I’m known well enough. And then I gather information as well about, from the recorders in [VICE COUNTY]. So when they send me their records they also send me moth records and I send those onto [Name]. There’s a network.

**INT: Yes. Yes. And so what messages would you say people are receptive to in terms of when you’re making requests? Or asking people to go to particular places?**

P09: It’s a bit- They ask- They’ll send me an interesting record, to which I could be very enthusiastic and invite them maybe to get the newsletter, which I write twice a year. Or I can give them a breakdown of other species they may find in that same location. Or I’ll give them a tip of something else to look out for. Or a place to go. Or a bit of field work, field craft that they can use. And just a bit of gentle encouragement to begin with. And then some people really get interested. And then they start taking it on. And it’s quite rewarding.

**INT: So it’s them learning something. You’re providing them with that learning opportunity.**

P09: They come to me with something. I’ll give them an answer and more.

**INT: Yes, yes. It’s a lot of your time though, is it? [laughs] It sounds like-**

P09: Oh yes, but it’s okay, I don’t mind that. That’s all right. I’ve been busy all my life. This is easy compared to general practice.

**INT: Yes, yes. [laughs] And would you say that there are some kind of usual- You mentioned like remoteness of sites and not being likely to see anything particularly interesting. Are there other things that kind of put people off, or put you off going to a particular place?**

P09: It’s just distance for me. Oh and consent. Because you often need landowner consent. This is why I’m really looking forward to working with [Name] and the [PROJECT] because she’s beavering away getting consent. And it’s a lot easier if you know you’re going to a remote location and that you’ve got landowner consent to go and be thorough. Even if it’s open access countryside, you know, that there’s some landowners are, they’re not so happy about it. And if you have got complete clearance to go and do what you do, then it’s actually a pleasure.

**INT: You don’t want to be looking over your shoulder the whole time do you?**

P09: No or for cattle. [laughs]

**INT: Yes, yes. And then does that differ, I guess it must do between the moths and the butterflies? Because the moths obviously comes with the added complication of equipment.**

P09: Well yes, that means that I have to do it more locally yes.

**INT: Okay.**

P09: Or join in with the [WILDLIFE RECORDING ORGANISATION] moth trapping stations. Every year they’ll pay a visit to a location one for each of the five Vice-Counties spaced out over five months so for the summer. And occasionally I’ll participate in that and just go along and take the generator. But I don’t really like sleeping out overnight really these days.

**INT: No. So the targeted moth surveys that you’re doing, like at [NATURE RESERVE], are they day time, day flying moths?**

P09: Yes. So what I- I actually now have three battery operated moth traps, no four actually. Four battery operated moth traps. And they all have photo electric cells so they switch on at night. And then they switch off in the morning. So I set them up for an hour or two, because they’re expensive, they’re not the sort of thing you want to leave lying around in the countryside for other people to find. And so you need to set them up at dusk. But they’re light enough to be taken a few miles. And then set up in a location. Go home and then get up the next morning and try and get there early enough before the birds have got stuff.

**INT: Yes. Yes. And that’s, so you’re willing to kind of park and then walk and carry the equipment as well.**

P09: Yes I do that yes.

**INT: Yes, okay. [laughs] And then, so if you’re visiting a particular site say for butterflies, do you make a full list of everything you’ve seen? Or are you only recording say a target species? Or a particular location.**

P09: No all butterflies and all moths.

**INT: Okay. So you like-**

P09: Yes, and I keep an eye out for the botanists. My botany friends for things of interest that they might be keen to see. Because you know, because I get information from them because if I’m looking for a specific species, then I’ll be asking them what the distribution is of the food plant. And they will give me locations. And I can come up with lists of places to target.

**INT: And then you can give something back to them if you’ve seen something interesting.**

P09: Which I do yes. So, yes. Yes.

**INT: It’s important to have that network isn’t it?**

P09: Yes.

**INT: And that conversation.**

P09: Yes. So I get through [Naturalists Society] who are a very supportive organisation. Very healthy naturalist trust. And they’ve got a big membership, 500 I think, somewhere around about 500 usually. And at least 100 of those are very active. So you can, you’ve got a lot of people you can work with.

**INT: Is the social side of things important for you?**

P09: Yes, yes. Same with my friends yes. [laughs]

**INT: And feeling like you’re part of something bigger.**

P09: Yes. Very supportive yes.

**INT: That’s nice. Very nice. And then in terms of the data, obviously that’s a big part of your role is managing all of that as well. So in terms of your own data, do you kind of enter the records as you go along? Are you taking notes on paper in the field and then you’re putting it on your spreadsheet when you get home? Or your database?**

P09: Yes. Not necessarily immediately I get home no.

**INT: Have a cup of tea first.**

P09: [laughs] No, no sometimes it will wait a few weeks. And then I’ve got a bulging notepad, and it gets to the point where I think, I can’t afford to lose that notepad. I’d better just get it down.

**INT: And then you collate everything that the end of the year and you send it to [CONSERVATION ORGANISATION], is that right?**

P09: Yes. Yes that’s right yes.

**INT: And then do you do-**

P09: [over-talking: 0:28:03] county recorder.

**INT: To the county recorder.**

P09: He gets a copy. But yes, and then I send it directly to [Name] now, [Name].

**INT: And do you use that data- So obviously you use that data in terms of thinking about where you might do other surveying and looking for gaps and things. Do you use that data in any other way? Do you kind of do your own analysis in terms of looking at trends and things like that?**

P09: Yes. Yes and for [VICE COUNTY] I do. And I share that role for [Naturalists Society].

**INT: Okay.**

P09: So we have a Dropbox account, which I look after. But it’s the master spreadsheet is on there. And then I will usually do the mapping. And some of the analysis. But most of the analysis is actually done by [name] now. Or before that it was [NAME] who used to do the work. And we’ve just had a change over. So most of the data entry for [Naturalists Society]s is not done by me. I do some of it. But we share the role of analysis and then writing a report. I mean the good thing about [COUNTY] and [Naturalists Society]s is that both organisations have a very quick turnaround from cutting off the data returns from the recorders, analysis, writing a report, and getting it back out. So usually by now, there’s- I sent out a spring report for [VICE COUNTY]. We’ve had an online Zoom recorders evening for butterflies which I didn’t do, [name] did but I contributed to.

**[0:30:07]**

But normally we would meet at one of the- At [PLACE] in [Town], which is a big meeting centre. And we’d have a recorders evening and then discuss that year, the previous year’s data. And that’s usually in March.

**INT: Okay.**

P09: So there’s time- There’s tight timescales for producing information for the report. But when it goes out to the members, or to the recorders, which is their feedback for what they’ve done, it’s fresh in their minds and it’s all very- It’s recent data. And the interpretation of it would be, it’s an earlier indication of what happened in the year before what you’d get back from [wildlife charity] nationally. And it’s got the local flavour.

**INT: Yes. And are you using that data for other things in terms of informing site management, or making recommendations to people?**

P09: Yes. I have done. I mean I’ve done some research on the tissue moth which lives in the limestone caves and has particularly a big colony that overwinters as adults in [PLACE]. And I did some work breeding release recapture. And from that I was able to identify that this particular group, this particular group of moths didn’t read the textbooks. They only feed on one particular type of a buckthorn. And we didn’t know where they were feeding. And eventually we tracked down these five enormous bushes a kilometre away from the cave where obviously they all were, and there was a lot of problems with overgrazing and rabbits grazing as well. And we were able to, was able to make a recommendation through my connection with the [NATIONAL PARK] Butterfly Group to say that we should be including purging buckthorn into the tree mix for all new planting with the [NATIONAL PARK] on limestone grassland, on limestone areas. So now there’s a recommendation in that that tree is included in the mix. And I dare say that wouldn’t have happened if I hadn’t done the research work in the first place. So that’s a step in the right direction for preserving that. Then the barred tooth-striped its big colony is in [NATURE RESERVE]. And that’s a ash over hazel traditional woodland. And ash is really suffering with Ash Dieback. But within [NATURE RESERVE] there’s a lot of privet and the barred tooth-striped moth will feed on both young ash seedlings, and upon privet. And with 99% of the trees, ash trees in [NATURE RESERVE] dying, which will have an effect on seeding and recruitment, unless there’s a miracle some time soon, if the barred tooth-striped moth is going to survive it’s going to have to make do with privet only, which is not its favoured I suspect. I think it prefers young ash trees. But I think it will survive in [NATURE RESERVE] because there’s a lot of privet. But we’re not engaged in growing privet from cuttings in order to try and get it into any locations where we find the moth in future. And I managed to find the barred tooth-striped moth using those portable moth traps and a pheromone lure in [WOOD] which is in [AREA] where this is no, there’s no privet at all. And so we’ve got a programme of growing privet from cuttings. And we’re going to put it into those locations so that the moths in those locations might just survive because they’ll have an alternative food plant.

**INT: What’s the strategy with the ash trees then? Are they going to fell them?**

P09: Yes, well they’re being felled where they’re close to public access.

**INT: Okay.**

P09: Dangerous. Really, really brittle. And we’re just, fingers crossed- And hope that some of the seedlings have got some resistance. But it’s not looking good at all, really quite grim.

**INT: And when that’s the main canopy tree, I mean I guess it’s not just the loss of the food plant, but it’s what that does in terms of the right kind of shade conditions and microclimatic conditions and things like that isn’t it.**

P09: Well there’ll be other- Other trees will take over. And there are others that are moving into the space, but the canopy is very much more open in [NATURE RESERVE] than it’s been forever. But that’s much more like a wood pasture anyway, which is a particularly healthy environment. So but with global warming the beech trees are seeding very thoroughly. You get very little surviving underneath beechwood, so it becomes dominant. And that’s a very open woodland floor which would not suit things like the barred tooth-striped.

**INT: Gosh. So then when your data kind of leaves your hands as well, and goes off to [wildlife charity], do you get any feedback in terms of what that data are used for?**

P09: Yes. Yes of course we do yes. Yes. Because there’s the State of Britain’s moths, State of Britain’s butterflies. There’s the scientific journals that we’re sent links to as and when they’re published. So you can see where it’s being utilised yes.

**INT: And are there any kind of things that you wouldn’t want your data to be used for?**

P09: You have to respect landowners request for privacy. You have to be cautious about how open you are about sharing it. Because you can end up annoying somebody who gives you access and losing faith with them. And so you need to keep the access.

**INT: So how does that work at the moment then? Do you flag certain records as being sensitive?**

P09: Yes.

**INT: Yes okay. Yes.**

P09: Yes we’ve been through a process of that because [WILDLIFE GROUP] are now actively mapping online what is to be found where, and part of that was trying to go through and work out which sensitive species should have their locations withheld. Which sites should be withheld because the landowners might not be happy about it. Perhaps the best example of that would be the [SITE], where all made a decision that it’s probably best to not put any data on at all because the [LANDOWNER] will get upset if people are going out looking for butterflies when they’ve got [CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES].

**INT: So that just appears as a blank on the map.**

P09: It should do. I don’t know whether it will. I haven’t checked it.

**INT: Yes. And then would you be willing yourself to visit places that you were asked to visit to record? And what kind of might persuade you to do that? And who would you be receptive to messages from to do that?**

P09: Well I do that self-motivated anyway. And it’s a joint thing between me and [Name] at the moment inasmuch as she has asked me what I think would be suitable sites. And then she’s the one that chases up the consent. And if she can obtain consent and she asks me to do one I would be more than happy to, you know. It’s a joint thing. We do it together. Similarly if [NAME] at [NATIONAL PARK] asked me to do something then I’d be willing to do that too.

**[0:40:05]**

**INT: And are there particular, would it be kind of more motivating for you to look for a particular species? Like a rare species?**

P09: Yes. Yes. [Name] does that regularly yes.

**INT: Asks you to go and-**

P09: Yes. Well he uses the same techniques that I use on other recorders. Which is, he says, “Well now you’ve found this, perhaps you might keep an eye for that.” And that’s the sort of thing where I think, well yes, I could do that. [laughs]

**INT: Yes. And it works.**

P09: He knows that I’ll volunteer for these things without much persuasion.

**INT: But it’s that kind of personal relationship I guess is it that’s important.**

P09: Yes. It’s a very funny actually because we both- We didn’t realise this until 15 years ago, but we were both in the same year of medicine in [City]. And we were in alphabetical groups. Our paths didn’t cross. But if you look at the graduation day photograph we’re both on it.

**INT: [laughs]**

P09: How weird is that?

**INT: That is weird. I didn’t realise he was a medical man as well.**

P09: Well yes he was a GP too. There’s lots of us. I think it suits our personalities.

**INT: I think you’re right, it’s about those transferable skills isn’t it. Like I’ve spoken to other country recorders and Vice-County recorders who have been accountants or worked in IT. And it speaks to those people who have developed those skills and can apply them. And they’ve got that rigor and know how to handle data.**

P09: Yes I get just as upset about misidentifying a moth as I do about missing a diagnosis in a patient. Yes.

**INT: [laughs] Is one slightly more important than the other?**

P09: Yes. That’s why I can relax. [laughs]

**INT: [laughs] You can sleep at night.**

P09: Yes well no, well largely, yes. [laughs]

**INT: Well I think that’s all of my questions that I had on my list. But is there anything else that you feel like you’ve not been able to, you wanted to say about your recording, or experiences you’ve had trying to persuade other people to record?**

P09: I keep being asked by other authorities to get more recorders if you can. And I’ve exhausted it really. I cannot get more people to record in [vice county] because they’re just not there. And that is really difficult. And I live a long way away. I mean it takes me an hour to reach the border even from here. So you know, it’s right the way up through [AREA] and through [VILLAGE] and over towards [VILLAGE] before I’m into [VICE COUNTY] myself. So we could do with a recorder in [VICE COUNTY], a recorder actually that lives in it. It’s frustrating. But it’s distance really.

**INT: So if you feel like the people, the number of people is not going to increase, do you feel like the- Where people are recording and where the effort is focused, could that be distributed better to kind of improve coverage?**

P09: No I don’t think so because you can only push people so far. [over-talking: 0:43:58] all of that. And I’ve used, used everything that I can think of. And I’ve been unable to get more people recruited. With the northern brown argus it was determined statistically that we needed to have seven [INSECT MONITORING SCHEMES] single species transects in order to have a statistically valid idea of its status within the national park. And it has been extremely difficult to get seven transects running and usually we don’t achieve it. So there has now been a change of emphasis and they’re moving towards timed counts, which is only 15 minutes at each site and not so frequently. And there’s a certain number of those timed counts that are deemed to be valid. But are less heavy in the use of volunteers’ time. And so far I haven’t been doing that work. Well I have for once for the small pearl bordered fritillary for a couple of sites that take me- It takes me three hours to, or two and half hours to get to a location. It’s a full day out. It’s great fun. But it’s a long way.

**INT: Yes. And then you end up spending as much time in the car as you do out and about in the nice places.**

P09: That’s right. That’s right. So I can’t ask people who go, who live another hour and a half further down [AREA] to go even further.

**INT: No. No. There’s real challenges that come with trying to record in rural areas. And my other set of interviews are in [CITY]. So it’s kind of almost the opposite. But then a whole other set of considerations in terms of you know, safety and things like that and the types of sites that people are willing to go to.**

P09: Well that’s right. The safety issues where I go is outside cellular reception for instance.

**INT: Yes.**

P09: Which you wouldn’t have that problem in [CITY]. And I fell once, broke my leg when I was doing-

**INT: Did you?**

P09: -a butterfly, when I was doing a butterfly survey for the [NATURE RESERVE], I was returning from there. Stepped over a wall and broke my leg. And I was off work for three months as a consequence of that. But fortunately there was a mobile phone signal. Or I would have been in real trouble. Because I’m usually on my own.

**INT: Yes. Oh, that’s terrible.**

P09: Well it worked out okay. It helped me decide to retire early.

**INT: Worked out for the best then. [laughs]**

P09: I remember lying there thinking, I’ve broken my leg. Great, I don’t have to go to work.

**INT: Yes.**

P09: Well if it’s that bad perhaps I ought to not go to work. [laughs]

**INT: That tells you something doesn’t it.**

P09: Yes.

**INT: Well thank you very much for your time. It’s very much appreciated.**

P09: You’re welcome.

**INT: And if you’re happy then we can keep your contact details on the record and we can send you updates about the project. And there might be other stages that get involved with if you’re happy to. Or you can just hear about how we’re getting on.**

P09: I’d like to see that. And any paper that comes from it you can share it, yes.

**INT: Yes. Will do. Okay. Thank you very much.**

P09: Okay you’re welcome.

**INT: Okay. Take care.**

P09: And you. Bye.

**INT: Bye.**

**Audio ends: [0:47:50]**