**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Interviewer(s): INT

Respondent(s): P34

Male: MALE

**INT: Okay. Fab. So, the first question is, when did you start doing any wildlife recording, and how did you start?**

P34: Gosh. I’ve been doing loads for years with [wildlife charity], and all of the, you know, [BIOLOGY ORGANISATION] [nature environment data centre] [wildlife activity]. Years and years doing that. But I got more into [nature environment data centre] – I didn’t know about [nature environment data centre] actually until about five years ago, when we got concerned over here about development on [SITE]. And we’ve lived next door to a private part of [SITE] that’s owned privately on the [RIVER]. And we’ve always noted the birds in the garden. And we’ve always noted the dark space for the bats. But we were doing that just as – because we were interested in wildlife. We didn’t know about [nature environment data centre].

But when this private owner tried to build actually on the [SITE] we realised it was going to destroy huge dark space, and nobody knew about it. Nobody seemed to know about it. So we contacted [INDEPENDENT CHARITY], [independent charity], and invited the CEO over – really nice chap – showed him the area. Showed him the space behind us as well, which was also under threat from development. And he said, “Yes, we’re interested.” And then he said, “[nature environment data centre] were really good because they needed to know about it.”

So we then started sending all our records to [nature environment data centre] direct. Because at first we were sending them to [INDEPENDENT CHARITY] but because they’re a small charity we found it wasn’t really being uploaded. It wasn’t happening, because they needed somebody there doing all that for them. So we just did it direct.

We were also in contact with [Name] who is the c guy, local [wildlife charity] guy. Really knowledgeable about bats. And he was really interested. So he was helping us as well. I was telling him about the fact we sit in our front room and we see the bats flying through. He couldn’t believe it. So that’s how we really got involved with [nature environment data centre]. And then we went to their event at the [MUSEUM].

And I set up a website, [wildlife conservation], just to raise awareness among neighbours and people of what was here, because we’d always known what was here but we hadn’t realised that people didn’t. Because there are local charities that do stuff, but they tend to do it on a different – they don’t do it on a personal level. They take records and do stuff like that. But we were just walking and chatting to people, they were really interested. So – and I don’t know if you’ve seen the website?

**INT: No, I haven’t.**

P34: I’ve just set that up. I mean, I’ve never done something like that before, so I did it with [INDEPENDENT CHARITY] through [University]. [University] have set up a free community thing, you can – it’s very easy to work, so I just set it up with [INDEPENDENT CHARITY] initially, and then I just do it now. So I add things to it -

[Over speaking]

**INT: And that [unclear 00:03:11] -**

P34: But – yeah. But [NAME] –

[Over speaking]

**INT: [Unclear 00:03:11]**

P34: Sorry?

**INT: So does that gather records that go then to [nature environment data centre]?**

P34: No, we do. My husband and I do that. And if anyone tells us – so if any neighbours now tell us, or any people we’ve met who are in the group, will tell us if they’ve spotted anything different, then we’ll do that. But mainly, we’re doing – we were doing it for this area, because this is quite a special area. It’s quite a dark space. And part of that [SITE] – it’s a very narrow piece of land – it should never have been in private ownership. It’s one of those anomalies that got sold off by the church when they were selling off pieces of land. And because you can’t walk along the river on this side, people couldn’t see what was going on.

And one part of it is actually [NATURE CENTRE], so, Site of Metropolitan Importance for [nature charity], the site behind us. It had, I was told by the [BOROUGH] Ecologist, they’ve actually noted things like toads, rare toads there. They’ve noted rare bats. Light sensitive bats further down the river. We couldn’t tell which bats they were, we just recorded what we saw and took photos of them, and took videos of them. And basically, we just send it to [nature environment data centre], so they kept that record going. And then whenever there was a planning thing coming in, we’d download that from them, and we’d give them the evidence.

But actually, we found our Flickr album, with the photos, and the dates on it, that seemed to have the biggest affect, because the photographs bought people in. So we had young naturalists coming in, and people who had not done it before. So then we started doing things like encouraging people to put water out in the garden, leave wild - all the things everyone’s saying. Everybody’s saying it. But we actually did it on a more local, friendly basis. And it seemed to work. We got lots of people coming back and saying, “I’ve never done that before.” And it’s good. So that’s, basically, what we do. It’s all on our website now [unclear 00:05:17].

**INT: So, have you got other people involved in recording wildlife through that then?**

P34: Some – I don’t know if they go to [nature environment data centre], but they do do the [WILDLIFE CHARITY] now. They do the garden watch, which they’d never done before. They do the butterfly watch, which they’d never done before, because we’ll take a walk sometimes, we’ll take a group, and then we get them all to do it direct. So we’re not trying to take over from other people. Because I find – I don’t know if you find – a lot of people are copying, or mimicking, things that are already there. I don’t if you’ve found that?

**INT: Yes.**

P34: Yeah?

**INT: And then it causes confusion doesn’t it?**

P34: Yeah.

**INT: People don’t know, is this the same as this? And –**

[Over speaking]

P34: Yeah, that’s what -

**INT: [Unclear 00:06:00] be a bit overwhelming.**

P34: And we’re not experts. We just love it. And we’ve got to learn more as we go along. We’ll go along to things like [Park] if they do an event, to try and learn anything. I think [nature environment data centre], when we went to [nature environment data centre], they had other people there trying to encourage you to come along and do things. But basically, for us, it was more about the local area. From our local walk, that we love, showing people what’s here and just getting them in on foot, you know, on the base.

Because there is a charity locally as well that’s set up. But I don’t know about you, but I just find it gets very cliquey once they set up? We met – we went on a couple of walks but it didn’t feel friendly. Perhaps it, you know, we just want people to, not be experts, but to enjoy it, and then learn along the way really. We’re photographers really. The photography has bought people in, and taking photographs of it, and showing it.

And I write an article, it was every week, but now I do it once a month, for the local paper. And that seems to – it gets to the people who are not converted, because I think, keep preaching to people who are converted it’s, like, they’ve already got the [WILDLIFE CHARITY] and [Name], and – so we’re trying to reach the people who don’t really do it.

**INT: Yes. And so, how do you think you got into that as a new person doing recording then? So you were doing the garden [wildlife activity], and the garden Butterfly Count?**

P34: Well we did [nature environment data centre] because we were so astounded that anyone could even attempt to build on this area. And they could have got it as well, because they use all these dials, don’t they, with their ecology reports and all the rest of it? Now in fact, we’ve now lost, behind us, we’ve actually lost – three years we saved – there’s a garage block behind us, which is an absolute habitat, I mean, it’s amazing. We got all of the local people involved. All objected. We even got planning on our side. The councillors on our side. We stopped it three times. It’s just gone through on appeal. The Appeal Officer’s just said, “Oh, it’s okay.”

And we got Dr [Name] from Yorkshire, your end, she’s amazing. She – we paid for an ecology report from her and she absolutely put down all of the ecology [unclear 00:08:23] this is ridiculous, and it’s still gone through. Still gone through. So, all we can do now is mitigate it. We’re trying to put some hedges up and – but it’s going to be – it’s going to have an effect, because [unclear 00:08:36] two/three storey buildings, and the lights going to go right under the dark space. So that’s why we got involved, to stop things like that.

We stopped the one on the [SITE]. That’s got quite strong laws. But unfortunately, the people that own that []SITE, they’ve gone very green now and it’s looking very green. But they’re involved with the developers, so we don’t know what’s going to happen next. We don’t know what will happen there. We did it to try and help the planners, and people with – because they’re so overwhelmed, we thought if we give them – instead of just saying we don’t want it, to give them some firm data, we thought that would be good. And we did win. We did win with them. And we also won with the councillors to get a TPO on the land. Amazing. We got a full TPO on the land to save the trees on there. So we found the recording really helps with that.

**INT: And so, how have you organised the recording on there? Do you go out with specific species groups in mind and say, today we’re going to do a butterfly survey, or a bird survey? Or is it more casual, in terms of you just -**

P34: [Over speaking] It’s a lot of casual because we’ll meet up – well not with Covid it’s been a bit more difficult – [Name] and I do it, really, nearly every day. Because, I mean, our – I don’t know if you can hear it, but it’s like a wildlife sanctuary here. You wouldn’t believe what we get in the garden. We get the most amazing array of birds and butterflies, and stag beetles, and everything, because we’re literally on the border of the [RIVER].

00:10:06

And on this [SITE], which was actually deserted for years and years. It’s now got these people unfortunately. But even with that it’s – because there’s no building on it, it’s still going to be okay. Hopefully. If they don’t allow building on it. But once you get light, and building, and footfall – the footfall on the other bank has gone up from a 1,000, I think, a week, to 2,500, which is lovely -

**INT: [Over speaking] Is that with Covid?**

P34: Yeah. Lovely, people coming in. But because we’ve got the rugby here, it’s a rugby walk as well, everyone is heading for that. So all of the animals are now – wildlife are coming on to this side of the river, because there’s not a walkway on this side. So we’re trying to keep it, you know, some little areas that are more – less footfall [unclear 00:10:59] and areas where you can, obviously, you want the public to have access, and I’m not against that, but you’ve got to let the animals and the wildlife, and the – even the – I mean, some of the flora is amazing along here. So amazing. We’ve learnt so much about where caterpillars go and where [unclear 00:11:15] go.

But to answer your question, [Name] and I do it, really, every day, so if we noticed something different, or something unusual. But also, if we notice just to say, they’re still here or they’re not – the bullfinches aren’t here anymore. They’ve gone. But we’ll then notice we’re getting more starlings now, which we weren’t getting before, so things like that. We’ll make a note of that and I just email [Name] at [nature environment data centre], and I’ll say, these are – I’ll either do it for the whole month or I’ll – if something unusual comes up then I’ll just email her, and then she collates it, and then makes a report, I think, every two months or something.

And then, if we go for a walk we’ll do it specifically aimed to people who, perhaps, have done the Butterfly Count before, or have never done – are worried that they don’t know what the bird is, or something like that. So we’ll do one and we’ll just go through what birds are here. What they’re likely to see. And then, stay with them and – or let them look at our photographs, because I know they find that quite helpful. Or they’ll ring us up, you know? But we do it quite informally at the moment. Are you doing it more formally then? Are you wanting to [unclear 00:12:25].

**INT: [Over speaking] No, I mean, everybody does something slightly different, is what I’m learning, from doing all of these interviews. So I think I’ve, probably, done about 35 interviews, and I would say everybody organises their recording in a different way [laughs]. So everybody is unique in that, I think. And some people like the structured side of things, and doing their -**

P34: [Over speaking] Ticking it off [laughs].

**INT: [Unclear 00:12:49] transect walks, and some people are like you, just like to go and go for a walk and note down what they see. And yeah, it’s -**

P34: [Over speaking] We do a specific walk, which I thought – because, I mean, my background is, you know, I’m a psychology – I was a [JOB], so I am quite keen on records, you know, on the statistic side of it as well. But the thing is, with this, I just thought, other people are doing that. You’ve got [unclear 00:13:13]. And as I was saying, my main thing is, from a – I like learning together rather than preaching to people, because we’re still learning. We’re not experts. I’m not an Ecologist. It’s – so, for me, I find a lot of people come, they know a lot as well from when they’ve seen something we haven’t seen.

So that’s why I’ve organised it really that, you know, we go for a walk, you tell me what you’ve seen in your garden as well, because our walk is a specific area, so we can build up any changes or any differences in it. It’s about, I would say, it’s about two and a half/three miles along the Corridor, so it’s quite a nice area. And it’s a quite diverse area because it’s got areas of the [Nature Park] which are literally being looked after by volunteers. So it’s got stag beetle places and we’ve got the kingfishers on the river there.

Then you’ll get a more built up area with a café and the park where the children are, which, you know, the ducks are so acclimatised they’ll come up and feed from you [laughs]. Then you’ll go to another bit and you’ll see the sparrows catching the mayflies. And then you’ll go to another bit – and you can go – you can walk for miles, and you can get to the [NATURE RESERVE], which is [WILDLIFE CHARITY], [Name]’s, which [ENVIRONMENTAL CHARITY] first set up. So that’s got the [NATURE RESERVE] and a little nature reserve. And you can go on there and they’ve actually got voles on there.

So it’s – I just find it such an amazing little spot. We’ve always called it our sanctuary. We’ve always loved it. So, I know other people are there. You’ve got [COMMUNITY GROUP], and you’ve got [COMMUNITY GROUP], and – but they all do different things. But it’s pulling in people who perhaps just go for a dog walk, or go for – and saying, do you know what’s here? And how valuable it is? And – or, have you noticed it? Are you interested in it? And then, they start doing things like the Butterfly County – they never heard of it. And I can’t believe it because it’s so well advertised, but I’ve had so many people tell me, “I’ve never heard of it.”

**INT: Really?**

P34: But that’s what we do.

**INT: And then they start doing things in their garden as well to help wildlife, yeah.**

P34: We’ve had a lot done, because we’ve actually put a picture – I mean, if you look on our – we’ve got birds on the floor bathing and feeding, literally, on our grass. And it’s just an ordinary suburban garden. And they said, “How do you do that?” And I said, “Just put a bowl of water out.” Frogs – we’ve had a muntjac in our garden, which is – people don’t believe you, but it’s a built up area. It’s quite built up. It’s just that this part here is River Corridor.

And there’s so many people live along this Corridor, and we found that one of the things we’ve been tackling lately is light pollution, which is why we didn’t want these three storey buildings, because – going to be awful – the lights going to be awful there. Just the shadow from the building let alone the light. But all the way along this edge here, everybody’s building up. Everybody. And at night they’ll just leave lights on right into the Corridor. So we’ve, casually, instead of – we’ll casually say to them, “Oh, the bats get affected by that.” And they’ll turn their lights off. Rather than go in and say, you shouldn’t be putting your lights on. So we just do it as we live here. That’s why we do it.

**INT: Would you say the social side of thing is important to you as well?**

P34: It’s really important, actually. It is really important. And that – people say, “Oh, it’s so nice having a chat.” We’ll just sit on the – one of the robin benches or something and just chat to people as they go by. And then they’ll keep in contact, or they’ll go on the website and stay. And then I’ll say, “Oh, we’re having a little gathering at [NATURE RESERVE],” and they’ll come. Because they don’t want to get involved – I find, they don’t want to get involved in a group. A lot of people, they don’t want to pay – I think it’s money again – every group is always wanting a subscription aren’t they, or something, which we don’t do. So I don’t know if that affects them. I say, I’d rather you join the Butterfly Count, or join the [WILDLIFE CHARITY], or do something like that. But we might occasionally have a picnic, or do something like that. Yeah, I think social is important, actually.

**INT: And then, [unclear 00:17:26] the learning side of things, who are you – I mean, you said you’re learning from other people that you talk to. Who else are you learning from? Have you got people [unclear 00:17:37]?**

P34: [Over speaking] Well, I get the – I get all the newsletters [laughs], I get everything that comes in. I do a lot of reading. I like reading. But I’ve got the – we have a [wildlife activity]ing magazine, because we’re very interested in birds. I haven’t joined the butterfly this year, it’s just money, I belong to – you belong to so many things, but I used to. I used to do that. And I do love the butterflies as well. But I’ll read a lot about it. I’ve got lots of books on it, obviously. And then, [Name], you know that back to nature, they send me a lot of stuff.

What else did I – we did something with them. I can’t remember what we did with them. This is way back. No, back to nature’s – he’s doing Cry Justice, that’s what we did. We did something [unclear 00:18:27], get people to try and understand about game birds and what’s happening. So we did a promotion on that to help him get that petition through. We got a lot of people supported that. So things like that, people will ask us and we can inform our group.

The little newsletter thing I do, it just goes to – I don’t know how many people it goes to. It’s somebody who does an online paper here. So it goes all over the borough. And that reached a lot of people initially, because I used to write every week. But I can’t do that now. So I do it once a month and then I’ll pick a topic once a month. If we see an unusual bird, we’ll tell them where it – perhaps they’d like to know about that. Or if somebody’s telling us about an event that’s coming up, nationally, or wherever, I’ll let them know – I’ll put the link in.

**INT: And are you exploring new species groups as you go then? You sound like you’re quite comfortable with the birds and the butterflies. Are you exploring other groups as you build up your knowledge?**

P34: I’m very interested in insects, yeah. I’m really interested in – because the insects are, you know, if we lose anymore of them, I mean, it’s ridiculous, isn’t it, what’s happening? So no, I’m interested in habitat. So whatever uses the habitat really, yeah. I know somebody here – now somebody told me this a while back, and I never found out what it was. But they had someone from the [MUSEUM] here that found a very rare beetle on the [RIVER]. But I never got – I couldn’t chase it up with them and find out who it was.

00:20:04

But I know that there – this has been quite an old piece of land here. It’s only now getting more and more used. Yeah, I’m quite interested in that. I’m interested in the flora too. Looking at the wild violets and the cowslips, and seeing what’s there and what lives on it. Yeah. No, I am interested in that.

**INT: So what – so all of those records will go to [nature environment data centre] then? Is it all different species [unclear 00:20:26]?**

P34: [Over speaking] Oh yeah, whatever we see goes to [nature environment data centre] with the – I don’t know if – do they do the flora? I have told them what we’ve seen. But also, we’ve got about, I think – [Name], how many pages have we got – Flickr?

MALE: 117.

P34: 117 pages on Flickr now. Because I found, for us, when we were much busier before, when we first started this, I found by putting the photograph up there with the date, and what it was, it just kept that record. And it was proof as well, because we could make up things, couldn’t we? Or we might get it wrong. We might identify the wrong thing. So that Flickr album’s been amazing because that’s gone right round the world. And we’ve had people like the – one guy from the British Wildflower thing, he’ll come on and say, “Oh, that’s this species,” so I write it down so the next time I know what it is. And I’ve found that really helpful, because you’re reaching people that I wouldn’t normally really reach. So the Flickr album’s been really good.

**INT: Yeah, and like you say, it’s, kind of, keeping a diary, isn’t it?**

P34: And it’s easy for us, we just – because we’re uploading them anyway. And then, we just pick out the ones that we think – from here. And then we a separate album, like [Park], because I love [Park], because it is all the Green Corridor, it is all interconnected anyway. But we’ll, specifically, do that area I’ve spoken about. And that is all the gardens in that area. Anyone who tells us anything. If they notice – we notice where the kingfishers had their babies this year, so we’ve recorded that. Kept that a little bit secret because we don’t want everyone turning up. But we did tell people that they’d had a brood there. I mean, I don’t know what you think that’s – if it’s any good. I know there’s other people doing this sort of thing, but we’ve enjoyed it, you know?

**INT: Yeah. Well yeah, and it’s nice that you’re enjoying it as well as doing it for the – I don’t – I guess, doing it to prevent development can sometimes put a bit of a negative slant on it. But -**

P34: [Over speaking] That’s why – yeah, that’s why I’ve always said all the way along, “Look we might not win with this.” [Unclear 00:22:34] got to look, like, when that happened I said, “Look, we’ve done this as well as we can. All we can do is mitigate it now. We can make sure the lighting – “ and in fact, I think we did pretty well, because we got the Head of Planning to write conditions on it. Ten page document he wrote for conditions, and they’ve all been accepted. So I feel that’s a win, in a way.

And also, we can ask people if they could put a hedge up, or if they could put some more flowers in, or if they can turn their lights down. And yeah, we try and be positive. But I’m not afraid of actually saying something because I think it’s wrong. You have to say something because otherwise this keeps happening. And if you don’t actually [unclear 00:23:18] and say, this is actually wrong, then nobody’s going to really take much notice if you just roll over all the time.

So we do say that, but I always take a positive because I don’t want the young people feeling so negative. That’s what I’m worried about. Because there’s so many young people coming on board now, and you want them to feel what we’re doing is valuable. Not, there’s no point doing it because this happens. So, yeah.

**INT: And then, so once your data’s passed on to [nature environment data centre], obviously, it’s used at a local level, but it will be used by others at a national level as well.**

P34: Yeah.

**INT: Do you – is that important to you? And do you ever get any kind of feedback, in terms of how the data’s used beyond your local area?**

P34: I haven’t actually, not from [nature environment data centre]. I mean, they’re always very pleased I’ve done it. They’re always lovely. And the report that – I realised what they did when I said, “Could I have the report to put in for this latest appeal?” And I think [NAME] did it. And I think it was quite a comprehensive – it was quite – very very wide. It went further than here. It was amazing. So I realised what they actually do. They pull in things from everywhere. Linking up the Green Corridors and everything. So that went on the file. And that included what we’d said, which was really good. And I understand it’s, you know, the microcosm’s important to us because we’re here and we know about it. But obviously, you’re part of a much much bigger thing, yeah.

**INT: And do you ever go out and do any recording beyond your local area? Do you ever think, there’s a nice species, or a nice site I’d like to go to a bit further away?**

P34: We do. We’ve travelled a lot in our time. We’ve done a lot of travelling. And I know this whole area. I mean, I – although I grew up – I – born in India, actually, but I’ve grown up all my life in this area, so we literally know every single green space and park here. And now we’ve got children and we – they go everywhere. Yeah. No, I love it. I love going and recording wherever.

In fact, we – I’ve only just gone on Instagram. I never knew about Instagram, but I – one of our neighbour’s children wanted to do Duke of Edinburgh with us, her voluntary bit, so she actually said, you know, “I can set you up with Instagram.” I thought, oh God. I’ve only got a smartphone I was given that I can receive here. But she set it up and I can actually use the computer to upload. So I’ve uploaded my photographs on that. And I’ve been amazed, actually, people contacting us on that.

And I’ve met people who live down the road here, and they’ll tell me things that they’ve seen here. And they’ll also say, I think they’ve given me – the [NATIONAL PARK], which I’ve never been to. Someone’s just told me to go there. And [NATURE RESERVE], someone’s just told me there’s a Dartford Warbler there. These are all people we’ve just met walking in [Park], or here, or they’ve come on Instagram.

And, in fact, one of them we’re going to meet up. She’s seen the website and we’re going to meet up, because she’s a Teacher locally, and they had an owl recently in their field, so we’re going to go and have a look at that. So no, I’d love to go and see other places, yeah. I’m very happy to do that.

**INT: It opens up new opportunities, doesn’t it? When you start talking to people like that, and then they can tell you the places they like to go to and – yeah.**

P34: Yeah, it’s interesting. Otherwise you can get quite staid, can’t you? And yeah, and I like – so what is your project aim – have you got the aim of it?

**INT: So this part is thinking about whether some people who do wildlife recording, like yourself, would be willing to use an App that we’re developing, which will – well it’s – so it’s a website and it’s an App. And basically, what it will do is, you can put your location in and it will tell you places, which are under recorded, and where records are needed from. So it will make recommendations to you as to, kind of, time of year and how – you could put in parameters, like how far you’re willing to travel, and things like that. And it would say to you, here are some recommendations of places that you could go to and tell us what butterflies you see, for example.**

P34: Oh right.

**INT: And so they are places where – which are under recorded and which records are needed from in order to improve our knowledge of where species are. So yeah, so it’s working out whether people would be willing to act on those recommendations. Because, obviously, some people just like to record in their own patch. But some people – for some people it’s a real motivator to go to places that other people haven’t necessarily recorded [unclear 00:28:13].**

P34: Well what sort of cases would they be then? I mean, just, sort of, are you talking about publicly accessible – obviously, publicly accessible places [unclear 00:28:21] Commons, or local Corridors?

**INT: Yeah, so we will have the open access maps on there – so it will be a map and it will show you where open access land is and footpaths are. It will be based around, like you say, places you can actually get to rather than giving you a recommendation in the middle of a private – area of private land that you wouldn’t be able to get too. So yeah, it will consider all of that.**

**So yeah, are there types of places – so is that something that you would be interested in? And are there types of places that you wouldn’t want to visit? Or, what would be barriers for you to do that?**

P34: Well, it depends how far away it is. I mean, we have got a car but I don’t really, I mean, I don’t drive now I let my husband – I’m really trying to not use a car now. So, if there were things that were on public transport I would prefer that. I don’t know what’s going to happen with Covid, but we were trying to go more that way, going on a train, going on public transport. But we do have a car, yeah. We need a car for elder care at the moment. So we can get there. So, obviously, I wouldn’t want to go too far from here. I don’t know what radius you’re looking at from -

**INT: Well – so these are the kind of things that we’re hoping that people will be able to specify themselves. So it will be personalised recommendations based on things like, how far you would be willing to travel.**

P34: But obviously, I mean, we do go on holiday or on trips, I mean, I’d be happy to do it, you know, we’ve got family down in [COUNTY], and we love going there.

00:30:03

And down to the [NATIONAL PARK], and round there. I should think most of those are very well recorded though.

**INT: Yes.**

P34: Yeah. But, I mean, I’m really interested in looking at some of these places people have told me on Instagram, because I’ve never of them. Some of these Commons that they’re telling me about. And they’re saying there’s nobody there. So they are places I’ve not been to, so we are going to actually explore that in the next few weeks. [NATURE RESERVE], I don’t know if you’ve heard of that?

**INT: No, it’s not part of the world I know very well. My sister lives in North London, but – so I know bits and pieces around there. But I don’t really know South London that well at all.**

P34: No. Well it’s beautiful here but, unfortunately, it’s just become so crowded. And lots of people are moving here from London now. Because we’ve got green spaces. So they’re all moving – they’re downsizing, would you believe how you can downsize to [BOROUGH], it’s one of the most expensive boroughs in the blumin' country, and they’re downsizing from [BOROUGH], because they’re trying to get out of, you know, it’s getting so crowded and polluted.

But we’ve noticed – we’ve lived here all our life, but we noticed how many more traffic and people there are. And, of course, we’ve got Heathrow. If that goes through I don’t think we’ll be staying, if the third runway goes through. I’m really hoping it won’t now. [Unclear 00:31:23] air pollution and everything.

**INT: Yeah. Are you under the flight path then?**

P34: We are – well everyone is. And we’re not too bad. We’ll get it once a month or something, you know, it’ll be bad. But we’ve had nothing since the lockdown really. Just the odd – and the difference in the birds, I mean, you can hear it now, but our dawn chorus is amazing. It’s fantastic. So, yeah.

**INT: Do you know what, it’s just started raining here.**

P34: Oh no. We’ve had, do you know, it’s been so [unclear 00:31:52].

**INT: [Over speaking] We’re so desperate for rain.**

P34: You need rain.

**INT: So dry.**

P34: Yeah, I know. We’ve noticed that. The garden’s been really dry.

**INT: Yeah. But I don’t -**

P34: [Over speaking] [Unclear 00:32:05] got rain, lovely.

**INT: I know. I feel like going around and dancing in it [laughs].**

P34: Yeah, go take a quick picture of it. Be lovely. So what sort of people are you looking for then, I mean, are you looking for people who are very computer literate, or very – I’m not wonderful at that, I have to say?

**INT: We’re hoping that it will appeal to a wide range of people really, from the very committed recorder, through to people, you know, like you say, when you start talking to people it is possible to bring them in. I suspect – I don’t know if this is true, but I suspect there’s quite a lot of people who would like to do some recording of wildlife but just don’t really know where to go or how to start. And so I’m hoping that it will also be a route into recording for some people.**

**So yeah, so it’s very much trying to appeal to a wide audience. And obviously, like I said, there will be some people that won’t want to do it because they dislike to go to the places that they’re likely to go to. They have their local patches. Some people are just so enormously busy, you know, when you get to the county recorder level, and they’re just – they’re so busy doing the things that they do.**

**So part of it is also trying to co-design our App and our website with people in the recording community. So that’s the next stage of the project is, we’ve got a very very basic, simple, design, and then we want some of the people in that – some recorders to test it, tell us what they like about it. What they don’t like about it. And then there’ll be updates and iterations, and we’ll get more feedback. So it’s – we’re trying to co-design it with the recording community, rather than us just saying, we think it should be like this.**

P34: So that App will be on a phone will it? Has to be on a -

**INT: [Over speaking] So it’s going to be a website and – so you can have it on the computer or you can have it on the phone. And it’s not going to be a platform for submitting records, it’s just for, in that planning phase of, where could I go to record, and it will give these recommendations about that.**

P34: Right okay. And then what will you do with that, write it up in a book or in a report?

**INT: Yeah, so this – we’ve got a few – well quite a lot of outputs that we’re hoping to develop. So this series of interviews that I’ve done will be written up into a report, because actually, what motivates people to record, and how they record is of interest beyond our project to the wider academic community, so that will get written up for that. And then, the App we’re hoping will be able to get some more funding to keep going. So at the moment we’re just focusing on butterflies, moths, and grasshoppers.**

P34: Right. I love moths. Yeah, we do moths a lot. Yeah. We get a lot of moths here. An awful lot, yeah.

**INT: Wow. Have you got a moth trap in your garden?**

P34: I haven’t, but one of my – [Name] is an expert on it. One of our people we’ve met. She knows everything about it. She’s got a moth trap. So on Instagram she’s one of my followers, and I’m following her. She knows – I’ve got to go and see her garden, because she does everything there. And they do a moth trap in the outdoor classroom on our sanctuary route, they have an actual moth trap there and they write that up. So I’m quite interested in going on one of those [unclear 00:35:54].

Yeah. No, I haven’t got one, but I should do one because we get so many here. Not as many as when we first came here, we couldn’t open the front door when we first came here with insects and everything. Before that was owned by these people. That was a wild area and honestly we had so many insects, so many bats, and the moths, my clothes were eaten to death as well, I mean, upstairs they – it was lovely, I loved it. There were so many. But that seems to have gone down an awful lot.

**INT: Well, I mean, that’s the case everywhere, isn’t it? So it’s, probably, what’s happening locally and what’s happening just, generally, in the countryside anyway, as well. Yeah.**

P34: Yeah. Grasshoppers, I’ve got some pictures – oh yeah, little drummer girl, this is another little girl that’s following us now – she is amazing, I mean, I should her about you. She knows everything. She’s put up lovely little pictures of crickets she’s just found on her purple flowers. And I’ve – we support her, because – gosh, she knows all these things. Her mum must have started her very young. But yeah, she – we’ve learnt stuff from her with all these crickets and things.

**INT: That’s great. It’s so nice when you can learn from children, isn’t it?**

P34: It’s great. It raises your spirits to think that they’re going to be doing it for us, aren’t they? But yeah, it’s amazing.

**INT: Well that’s it and, you know, I would say the vast majority of people that I’ve spoken to in these interviews have said that their interest in wildlife started when they were children. From their parents, and their grandparents, and they -**

P34: [Over speaking] You see, that’s not for me, you see, because we came from a different country, it was very hard for my parents. Really difficult starting again. Moving around until they could get established, and all the rest of it. But we were in this borough. And my brother and I, we spent all day up a tree. Things that kids don’t do now. I mean, we were in the park, [PARK], all day before there were – anybody went to look at nature. So I wouldn’t say we knew anything, but we were part of it. But no interest from our parents whatsoever. There was no teaching, as such. But I’d say, probably, I don’t know if it’s in – I just – I’ve just always loved nature, it’s just – you know, I love the animals, and I love that feeling of being out, and being part of it. So I don’t know where that comes from really. Unless that’s something everybody would love if they experienced it. Probably is, actually.

**INT: Yeah. I guess, it’s being comfortable outside as well, isn’t it? Having spent that time outside as a child, is being -**

P34: [Over speaking] Yeah, I’m not frightened. Yeah, I’m not – some – you’re right, some children are frightened aren’t they? We’ve noticed that, they’re very – because we’ll say to – go and get up the tree and, oh no. Yeah, you can climb up a tree. But it’s right, they’re not used to it because they’ve spent indoors so long, don’t they? Television - and they spend so much time – in fact, my daughter she was – she’s getting interested in Forest School, [unclear 00:38:59] Forest School, and she’s interested in having an alternative way of learning/teaching. So I said to her, school’s dead. School was dead a long time ago for a lot of children. And she’s saying, we could have a different type of teaching and learning. And I said, I know, [s/l Izzy 00:39:12], everybody wants it but you’ve got this huge structure, which is ticking all the boxes. Incredibly ridiculous, really, for little children to have to do all that.

**INT: Yeah. I know. I’ve got a two year old and a five year old and they’ve both gone to the same nursery, which is, basically, they are outside all day at nursery. Now the youngest one – the oldest one is in – just started school – and to be fair, I think they do make quite a good effort to have time outdoors. But I think that’s because he’s in reception, and I think next year it’s just going to drop off a cliff.**

P34: SATs.

**INT: They’re going to go from spending hours and hours outdoors every day to -**

00:40:02

P34: I know. But you see, you should talk to my daughter, she’s going – she’s trialling this thing at the moment. She’s going to do something in a beautiful setting in [county]where parents can come but they’re going to have – they’ve got a Mongolian hut and everything, and they’re going to do wild learning with the children. She’s get experts coming at Forest School. And the parents can at least have a break [unclear 00:40:23].

But she’s doing it to trial this school she wants to do where there’ll be a lot more learning – theme based learning like they do in Denmark and places. And – be amazing actually, because we want children to be self learners in the end, don’t we? They’ve got the – they’ve got ways of learning, if you stimulate that interest to self learn and not just regurgitate, be amazing if they can do it.

**INT: Well I think – yeah, the enthusiasms there for it – from parents and teachers, but it’s, like you say, they’re just crippled by, like you say, ticking boxes and -**

P34: [Over speaking] System. The system. And money. I know, it’s – I said this years and years ago. I remember when I was teaching I’d have some children, the G – was that GCSE or A-Level? No, GCSE, had a lovely girl, so bright, so so bright, but it was obvious to me she had a problem with organising her stuff. Dyslexia, or whatever you call it. It was obvious because she knew it all when I talked to her. But if you saw her work it just was a mess. So I, basically, organised it – I didn’t cheat – I just showed her how to organise it.

And she passed and got – I don’t know what she got – [unclear 00:41:39] she got really well done. But I said to her mother, this child’s really bright she just can’t do this academic stuff. But that doesn’t mean she’s not intelligent, or bright, or can go and do the course she wants to do. She just needs that help. But it does, it comes down to the teachers in the end, doesn’t it, in the end?

**INT: Yeah. Well, lovely to talk to you.**

P34: Oh yeah, sorry [laughs].

**INT: No, it’s okay. If you’re interested in hearing about what we do next, then I can send you a link to sign up, we’ve got a mailing list, and then you can hear about how the project develops. Reports that we produce. Opportunities to get involved in other stages. So yeah. And, is your website on your email? I’m just -**

P34: Email, if you go into [website] – if you come – if you scroll down my email you should have [WEBSITE], [wildlife conservation], and then Instagram as well. Is it on the email? Right at the bottom, probably.

**INT: Yes.**

P34: Yeah, so if you click on e-voice then you’ll – there’s pages and pages of it, because it’s been going quite a while. But if you click on the photos you’ll see all of Flickr, you’ll see the site, and the first page we’ve got the whole route that we’ve recorded. We just walked down it one day and just took pictures to show people where it was. And then, the Instagram is up to date all the time. I haven’t put my articles, I should – if you go into the news diary and come down you’ll read all my old articles, but I should update that really. Yeah.

**INT: I’ll have a look at that, it looks lovely.**

P34: Yeah. The photos, you know, [nature environment data centre] really like that because they said it makes it easier for them, otherwise they have to judge where the people are. I said, all mine have got a date and a recording on them. It’s lovely meeting you, [Name].

**INT: And you.**

P34: Lovely, yeah. Nice to know -

[Over speaking]

P34: - your kiddies are happy. That’s good. I like – yeah, lovely.

**INT: And also, you know, it’s so inspiring to talk to people like you who are making such a difference, so -**

P34: [Over speaking] Oh, I don’t know. I really – I don’t know if we’re making a difference. We’re interested, obviously, but yeah. I hope we make a difference. I hope we do because little things, don’t they, little things add up.

**INT: Exactly.**

P34: So are you.

**INT: Ah, thank you.**

P34: What’s your Degree in? Have you got your Degree? Are you doing a Masters or something?

**INT: Yes. I – my first Degree was in Biology and my PhD was in Ecology. Butterflies, actually so -**

P34: [Over speaking] Oh, wonderful. We saw [Name]. He lives here, you know, he lives on [Hill]. So one – here, I’ll show you something before you go. Don’t know if you can see that?

**INT: Oh yeah.**

P34: That’s my photograph when [Name] awarded me – we – it got into the final, it didn’t win, because we’ve got rubbish cameras. When we went there we couldn’t believe people’s cameras [unclear 00:44:41], but that white butterfly he, obviously, liked. But we went to [city] [Wildlife charity] for the [INDEPENDENT CHARITY] – the biodiversity pamphlet [Name] did, and my butterfly got in the final. Didn’t win. But yeah, he was there, he’s inspiring actually.

**INT: Yeah.**

P34: [Unclear 00:44:59] really really well.

**INT: He’s so generous with his time as well isn’t he, to go to things like that?**

P34: I know, he really is. Yeah. Oh, I love butterflies. Anyway, lovely meeting you.

**INT: And you. And I will send you that link.**

P34: Yeah.

**INT: And thank you so much for your time.**

P34: It’s a pleasure.

**INT: Okay.**

P34: Bye.

**Audio ends: [00:45:20]**