**CONFIDENTIAL**

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Interviewer(s): INT

Respondent(s):

**INT: The first set of questions are really just about kind of your recording behaviour and then we move onto thinking about like specifically how you go out recording and then we'll think about what you do with the data that you collect. So, the first question is how long have you been doing any sort of recording and how did you get started?**

P16: I think it was 2016 if I remember right, it could have been 2015, 2016 I think, it's 15 or 16 and it's actually purely coincidental how I started recording. So, I do have a big garden and I also have two acres of land joined to the garden and it's really species rich all of it and I'm also very much into my garden and I think it was 2015 whichever, I decided to open my garden to the National Garden Scheme but I have a field attached, next to the garden which we bought back in 2005 I think it was. It's actually unimproved grassland and the species that have come up in there are incredible, I've got over 100 different species of flowers and I decided that I would also open the field as well as the garden for open gardens and there were paths in it and whatever and I started monitoring all the different flowers that came up, photographed them, because I thought if it's a wet day and you've got lots of people descending and they won't be able to do anything, why don't you sort of have some records. So, I thought if I photograph everything I'll create an album, we'll have the conservatory open so people can sort of mill around in there, there will be one or two things to actually look at. But while I was in there, it will be in the May, June whatever I saw a little butterfly that I didn't know what it was, I was like oh don't know that one, what is it, went on the internet and pure coincidence I actually, I don't know what I googled or whatever but I actually came across [NAME]'s name well he's the county recorder, vice county recorder for the [wildlife charity]. So, I haven't to just send this really bad one tiny picture of this butterfly and ask him what it was and it was a dingy skipper, well there aren’t many around and he said oh you've got those in your fields, yes apparently and he said would you like to start recording what you've got and that is literally how it started.

**INT: Very good.**

P16: So, I've actually done talks to sort of like [women organisation] and all sorts of things like that about that and the garden and I call my talk; The Dingy Skipper Started It. That's literally how I got into recording and to be honest it's open all sorts of doors, I've met so many people, got involved in [wildlife charity], I go out doing conservation work with them, I also met the [unclear 0:03:36.9] recorder so it being naturalist I'm now on the committee for [Town] Naturalists. I've spearheaded a project along with another committee member where we're trying to get brimstone butterflies into the area and we've planted between eight and 900 of the alder buckthorn which is the food plant for the brimstone, the buckthorn that grows in acid areas and we've involved the National Park, the Forestry Commission, all the big organisations, [Town] Council, we've got everybody on board and we've had lots and lots of groups of volunteers out planting and we even one a £500 conservation award which went towards a new project on swifts. Literally, that is how it's happened, it's all evolved and it's really coincided well with me then reducing my working hours and then actually not working at all, so yes.

**INT: So, in terms of the recording is that still just in your garden or is it further afield as well?**

P16: Actually, just at home but because I'm now involved in the buckthorn project we are recording that, we did do a day’s course with the Ecological Data Centre with the mapping, I mean it was a very quick, that stuff is so huge you know, it's just picked a few bits out but what we wanted to do was create a map of the area where we've planted all the buckthorn and then monitor what's successful, what isn't, what's visited, what years the brimstones moved in.. So, we've created all these corridors, we researched existing populations because obviously we didn't want an isolated population of butterflies, that's not right but we're on the northern edge of the brimstones and of the [unclear 0:05:45.2] so we've created corridors at the [valley] on the cinder track to [Town], up the [TOWN] rail line, we've used natural corridors and created food plant corridors for them so obviously the recording will become useful for me in a different way, I would use other people’s records to monitor that project. So, it's sort of two reasons why I like to record, I record but I want to use other people's records as well, so there's two ways.

**INT: And do you record any other species or is it just butterflies that you record?**

P16: Well obviously I recorded all my plants, I discovered another one last Autumn, if you just look at different times of the year in different parts because the field is actually very warm and dry at the top and it's a bog at the bottom and a stream and a big wildlife we've put in so there's a huge variety of habitats. I started recording, we dug the pond out I think four years ago we had a pond dug, well I've had 12 different species of dragon and damsels so I record them, adamant about them I send my records to [COUNTY] Dragonfly Group. [Town]Nat’s come and do different monitoring things and I think some of them send the records off to different organisations as well because I even had Otters in my pond the week before last, I had four, I coincidentally went to look for frogs and all these eyes were looking back at me.

**INT: Wow. So, how close are you to the nearest water course then? How far have they had to travel?**

P16: So, the river is literally within 50 metres of the bottom of the field and the pond is probably within four metres of the beck which leads to the river.

**INT: So, they just come up, wow. I think I'd probably think I was seeing things or I'd gone mad or something.**

P16: Well I'd had my Coronavirus jab the day before and it gave me awful shivers and a shocking headache that day and I went to the pond that night, literally approached the pond down this little path that I've created through the trees and I saw this one pair of eyes like what is that, because I go on my own and it actually is really dark, I just had my head torch on and there was this pair of eyes, I thought oh it must be a fox and then there was honestly another pair and I though they're all in the pond, what is that? Yes, and then three dashed out and I thought oh my, they look like otters they can't be, can't be but one dived and so I actually did have my phone with me so I ran my husband, there's otters in the pond, bring the drill cam, so by the time [NAME] had arrived this one had stayed in the pond but the other three came back, so it must have been the mother and two of the juveniles and the mother must have done a bit of a headcount and said oh I'm missing one and they came back and I've actually got a little video clip of them.

**INT: Oh, that's amazing.**

P16: I know, yes so it's a bit of a wildlife hotspot where we are, I've even got a resident buzzard now, old Leighton.

**INT: Ha-ha, very good.**

P16: I even got hedgehogs last year as well and I haven't seen hedgehogs for a while, so.

**INT: Nice.**

P16: Yes, so I do spend an awful lot of time monitoring at home, I started monitoring insects and beetles and I don't know if you've heard of [Name]?

**INT: Yes, yes.**

P16: [Name]'s really good, I've never met [Name] but he's my Twitter buddy and he's really good at I.D-ing things for me, I'm building up records of all sorts of what I have here and it means I have some really good species.

**[0:10:01.1]**

**INT: And is there anybody else that you get that kind of support from in terms of identification?**

P16: [Name], so the plant recorder, she’s come to do surveys and found all the different grasses I've got and she is my partner in the buckthorn for brimstones project and she's really proactive at recording plants in the area as well, very proactive and she'll go off with [Name] because well he's the new vice county recorder and they go, so yes I do get a lot of support, yes.

**INT: And so, when [Name] first said to you have you thought about recording what you've got, what was it that kind of motivated you to actually do that, was it for yourself or was it thinking you were contributing to something else or a combination of different things?**

P16: Well since being a teeny tiny girl I've loved been in my wellies outside basically, I'm a very outdoor person, always been interested in nature, wild flowers, I don't remember butterflies much as a child, it was wild flowers that stick in my mind but because we used to have horses in the field when we first bought it and I was a lot busier then with kids and work and whatever, I didn't have time to sort of look that closely at it all the time, but after the horses went I just wanted it to be the best it could be, I'd already got into it because of the wild flowers but then when I realised that there was quite a scarce butterfly in it, it made me much more curious and interested to see what else there was, what else have I got and that is what it was. So, it was a case of yes I'd love to because then I thought as well you get the support from people that can help you identify, understand and encourage you know and sort of improve what you've got.

**INT: So that kind of fed into how you manage the site as well?**

P16: Absolutely, totally, yes. So, I actually a couple of weeks ago I did the spring cut, we try and cut in stages so we've got places for hibernation over winter but it's actually a really difficult site as well because it's very steep in places but I have a rough grass cutter and a rake and I spent four days doing the spring cut just by myself with a grass cutter. We do have a quad and a topper that we use sometimes but I prefer to do it myself because I want to get the very best out of it, so I've done a lot of reading, a lot of studying about what butterflies prefer, what habitats, what they need, what they prefer and I've tried to accommodate everything but I do get birds, so I've got a lot of meadow ants and ant mounds and I actually had was it the day before yesterday, three green woodpeckers in there. You know, it's just such an incredible place and I don't know why, I mean this is another strange one, I've mown it and mown it again with the second grass cutter that picks up the grass cuttings and my husband said to me, he said do you realise that's ridge and furrow and actually at the top of the bed you can actually see ridge and furrow which we've not noticed before, it really is old.

**INT: Yes, yes what was it before you had it then? Did somebody just -**

P16: Well if you saw where it is, it's really difficult to actually try and cultivate because of the gradient and it's at the end of some farmland so the farms a good mile up the road and the farmer just decided that he was going to sell this, because it's awkward you know, the grass was getting really wet and I think because it's really awkward it's always just been a bit of rough grass that you know, it's not suitable for anything to be sort of heavy agriculture on it which is great and then when the chance came up for us to buy it I said yes, because lots of other people wanted it and one of the reasons I wanted it is because I didn't want anybody else next to my garden. Because somebody else wanted it for motorbikes, somebody else wanted it for caravans and chickens and I was like no, I want it and it's amazing.

**INT: So, do you think it's getting to a stage where it needs some sort of protection then? Is that kind of another reason for having the records to you know, if somebody did want to come along and build on it at some point, is it?**

P16: It's ours, it's ours and I don't think they would be able to because the road access outside the house, it's not the best piece of road, it's quite a dangerous corner on a steep gradient and I honestly don't think access would be allowed and also within it we had six very mature oak trees, I've measured one and I think it's about 200, I think they're about 200 years old. The bank that we're on is called [Bank] and it goes all the way up and our house is [Place].

**INT: Very nice. So, do you do any, you don’t do any of the kind of structured recording then in terms of the transect walks?**

P16: No, it's purely from home. That's why I didn't know whether my interview would be of much use really to you because I don't go out and do the transect walks, I've thought about it but it also depends on where they send me because if I was going to somewhere off on my own I don’t like going too far off grid on my own, I'll be quite honest, I'm not too comfortable with it.

**INT: Yes, so I mean so this project is not necessarily thinking about asking people to go and walk transects but it is potentially thinking about asking people to go to a specific place and say just make one visit and make a list of species that they've seen there.**

P16: I could do that, yes.

**INT: And so, are there, are there types of places that you wouldn't want to go to?**

P16: Types of places, I wouldn't like to go right into some sort of deep wooded area away from anywhere, because I honestly I wouldn't enjoy it.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: And I think the transect thing as well was the whole you've got to do it every week because I get so involved what I've got here I'll be quite honest and we do have a daughter sort of in [COUNTRY] and if I wanted to go away for quite a while, if I say I'm going to do something I like to do it, I don’t like to let people down you know, I'd want to commit to something that I could definitely do but if it was visiting somewhere less frequently, yes, yes I'd be really interested because I'd actually really like to help and really like to contribute because there are some sites locally, well there is an actual mistletoe hotspot, one of the probably the only one in [COUNTY] and that’s not where we are, it's just about half a mile down the road and the Nat’s are actually trying to get that area made into sort of the nature reserve that you know has to be preserved. However, there's a very greedy landowner just on the cusp of that who's putting all the land up as available for building and I'd really like to stop those, you know help prevent if I can things like that happening, it's awful.

**INT: So, the motivation would be to kind of have those records available for making sure that places of value are known about?**

P16: Definitely, I think where we are now as I say with the new planning regulations I think it's vital now, yes I do.

**INT: So, would you be willing to go to places where you're not necessarily, you don't know that they're going to be great sites for butterflies, it's just somewhere that people haven't recorded?**

P16: Absolutely, yes I'd go and see what there is, I'd love to. I would really enjoy doing that and I think because somebody asked me to do it I would do it and I would take ownership of it, definitely.

**INT: Yes, and are there particular organisations that you would be more willing to act on that sort of request from? Who would you like to receive that kind of message from?**

P16: I don't think, I'd be happy for any of the more, like [wildlife charity], RSPB, BTO, the Wildlife Trust, any of those sorts but I don't, probably anybody because I can still see the worth in it, I don't think who asked me to do it would be such a big deal, it's the fact that I was doing it for a good cause.

**INT: Yes, and then so in terms of going back to your own recording, when you're recording in your garden are you making a systematic list every time you go out of everything you see?**

P16: Yes, I do a spreadsheet and then every so often I send it to [Name] and it goes onto the county records, yes.

**[0:20:06.4]**

**INT: So, are you kind of going out every day during the butterfly season to do a list of what you've got?**

P16: I don't go everyday but when I see something, I make sure I go at least once a week because you know if it was, if you were doing a transect you would do it wouldn't you on a day, you'd do it once a week so yes I do it once a week but if I see other things in between because obviously you can get better days weather wise in between you know that one day and if there are things that are just coming through that I'm only going to see once, excuse me, of course I'm going to record that. Well, butterflies can literally just fly through can't they and not be around.

**INT: So, do you take your notebook out with you and you make a list of what you see and then put it in the spreadsheet when you get back to the house?**

P16: Yes, or sometimes it's just in my head and I'll do rough counts of like the meadow butterflies and things like that, the meadow browns and if there's anything special that stays in my head anyway, like I actually had a silver-washed fritillary came and laid eggs on a conifer outside the kitchen door, I was just unpacking the shopping at that time and thought what is that, so yes that is on the county records now and I do have photos because I thought there will be people who don't believe this.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: It's quite sad though because we've actually got Dutch elm disease come back because I actually have quite a lot of white-letter hairstreaks in the garden as well unbelievably because that was a bit of another reason why people were really interested in where I am but I'm going to lose those sadly, I have potted up the self-seeded ones but I think we're going to lose the white-letter hairstreak from them which is sad but not a lot I can do.

**INT: No, no.**

P16: But we do have a really good range, I think I've had probably 23 or 24 different species of butterfly through now which is not bad for [COUNTY] is it.

**INT: So that is as good as it gets I think isn't it?**

P16: Yes apparently. [Name] said, he said, 'yours is a really good site you know in the whole of the [VICE COUNTY]' and I'm like really and so that's what makes me want to do it more but that's what makes me interested as well, like I've got really interested in conservation, I love going out doing the conservation work with the [wildlife charity] team getting stuck in and the same with [Town]Nat’s and I do volunteering for the National Park now as well in conservation work, I love it, it's great.

**INT: It's just led to all these different areas.**

P16: It has and when I've done these talks I've said that I sort of listed all the outcomes of this one chance encounter of seeing this butterfly, I probably would have done things like this but I'm not sure what would have happened you know if that hadn't of happened, I've met so many lovely people, made so many good friends and done so much and become involved in so much it's lovely. I've made some lovely friends as well who are re-wilding an area up near the abbey and they've got 11 acres of land and the birds that they’re getting are amazing and they're planning to plant a bird cover crop on part of the land now which is just, it was just really dense rye grass, it was dairy herd grassland and what they're doings phenomenal and we're really good friends and you know, I've given them plants and lots of tree saplings and things and yes, it's just great.

**INT: Yes, I think it's so important to be part of things like that as well because I think it's quite easy to feel a bit hopeless sometimes isn't it about the state of the environment.**

P16: I sometimes just have to put my blinkers on and think you can't save the world but you can do your own bit but if you go too much on social media or watch too much television like you said you'd almost give up.

**INT: Yes, and I think seeing those people who are willing to put a bit of effort in and those little projects that are happening and it does give you a bit of hope doesn't it?**

P16: Most definitely it does, yes it does and we need it.

**INT: Yes, it can be a bit depressing sometimes can't it. So, in terms of your buckthorn project then as well, have you started doing some recording there or is that more about you're hoping to use other people’s records did you say?**

P16: Hoping to use other people’s records because what we've done is with everybody that we've involved like the National Park and the Forestry Commission and all these people, especially the National Park in [COUNTY] they're very good and some of their rangers have been involved with groups of volunteers and there’s boards gone up explaining and asking people to send in records and when we've gone out and done talks, when we've sort of given plants out to people we've given them you know the [Town]Nat’s method of you know, your sightings so hopefully we've got an awful lot more people out there looking for brimstone butterflies. Because whenever we've planted or given plants out we've said but we record butterflies, will you tell us and people are doing so, so in that way records are really useful to us to see how the projects working, is it successful, you know where are the butterflies, what else could we do, yes.

**INT: That's amazing and hopefully this year when people can start to go out and about a bit more you'll get a few more records because I imagine last year was a bit, well it was difficult wasn't it?**

P16: It was difficult yes, but people just sort of sent what they'd seen in their local area and on local walks, yes.

**INT: And do you give feedback to people when they've submitted you a record?**

P16: Well we sort of share their excitement basically because at the moment it's really in its infancy, we're into the, obviously we had to stop planting just over a year ago but we'd done most of it so at the moment obviously the buckthorn plants are only quite small and the butterflies have to sort of find them, I know they can find them from quite a distance but it will take time, so at the moment it really is in its early stages and we've got to go back and also monitor the success of the plants. We need to do that because obviously we couldn't really do that last year, we've got to look because we planted some in the forests in sort of quite cold, hostile places but where brimstones have been seen, we've sort of tried to cover every possibility really, whatever's there.

**INT: So, you used the historical database of records then to think about where you could do your planting?**

P16: Well, what we've done is, sort of more recent history, where are our brimstones, how far away are they, well they're in [Town], they're in [woods walk], they're north of us towards [TOWN], literally they're all the way around us but they're not crossing the moors which is what other species apparently do as well, like Turtledoves. And so, yes we found out where populations are and then it's another [NAME] actually, it's [NAME] that's the plant recorder, she from the BSBI records looked where there was buckthorn, there are two types of buckthorn, there's the purging buckthorn which grows on limestone and the alder which grows on acid. So, it's the alder that we've focussed on and there isn't any in this area, we're literally on the northern limit of it so we've literally just slightly extended the plants northwards and as species are moving northwards it seemed like a logical acceptable thing to do, you know I'd never be one to introduced a random captive bred butterflies into an area, things like that I just don’t think they're a very good idea. But if you can encourage species and provide more habitat for them where maybe in the south if it gets too warm it becomes unsuitable for them then and because I involved, [wildlife charity] actually gave us some funding to us for the first set of whips, people were on board so it felt as though it was a good project because I'd never want to do a project, an ecological project that I didn't think was right, you know ethically, morally, whatever. But this one has had massive support, it's been great and being able to monitor that and people going out and gathering records has been really useful for us with that as well, so it sort of works both ways for me, yes.

**INT: Yes, and then the records that you send into [Name], do you get any feedback on those about how they've been used or anything like that?**

P16: They go into the annual reports, the [wildlife charity] annual report and you can see, I think it is because you have an interest you like looking at the report, you like seeing your dots on the map, it's quite nice or if you've been seeing the last one of the season or the last one or the first one and to also see how they're fairing as well because all the different species get the annual write up and you know, are they doing well, are they doing badly. It also encourages me to sort of thing right well I need to sort of do whatever I can and conservation wise it makes you want to do more, yes it just deepens your interest basically.

**[0:30:31.5]**

**INT: Yes, and then do you get any feedback in terms of how that data’s used beyond the county, sort of when it goes to [wildlife charity] central?**

P16: Not directly that, no just, you just sort of send your record in basically.

**INT: Are there any ways that you hope that data's used when it gets to a kind of national scale?**

P16: Well, you would hope that it's used in lots of different ways because there's an awful lot of data gathering and monitoring and sometimes I get a bit cross that there's too much monitoring and not enough action. I sometimes think that you can monitor something until it's not there anymore but if you're not acting why have you bothered monitoring, I haven't I'm a little bit like that, I'm like well but you need to do something, don't just go and count them.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: How long do we gather data for before we act?

**INT: Yes.**

P16: I know we need the data and I know we need it for decision making and I can really see the importance of the project that you're involved in when you've got big decisions of infrastructure, planning and whatever else it's crucial now to have records to be able to argue back almost at the decision making, I do definitely, yes.

**INT: But yes, you're a very good example of somebody that's like you say, taken that data and done something really tangible with it that's you know, hopefully actually going to have some benefit on the ground.**

P16: Yes, yes like I say you can monitor forever but if you don't act then what's the point.

**INT: And is there anything that you wouldn't want your data to be used for?**

P16: Wouldn't want it, only if it was detrimental to the environment generally, I mean I understand that there has to be development and housing, I understand that there's going to be infrastructure and it's going to happen but I can't think, I don't know how could my data be used for something that I wouldn't want it for, I can't, I don't know how it could be.

**INT: Do you have any concerns about privacy in terms of the data coming from your own land and going into -**

P16: Well, when it goes to sort of [wildlife charity] it's not actually named, it's dots on a map and so the actual, the fact that it's in my garden doesn't really show. However, there are a lot of people that do know exactly where it is and I've never had a problem with that but sometimes I think sometimes you do get people who are a little extreme shall we say in their outlook hobbies or whatever and I do have a Twitter account but I never put my location on there.

**INT: No.**

P16: Never put the exact place there because literally that goes worldwide doesn't it literally so I never put it public on there but via [wildlife charity] it doesn't disclose my actual address and the fact that it's my garden, so that's fine.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: I am careful to a slight degree, I've never had any problems but you never know do you.

**INT: Yes, you have to be careful don't you I think. I think that's all of my questions that I had on my list, but I mean is there anything you wanted to say in terms of like why you record, or what you get out of it that you don't feel you've had a chance to say?**

P16: I think I've probably said everything [INT] but I think you can probably tell that I'm very enthusiastic about it all, I love it and it's become a real big part of my life and as I say, nature always has but before I retired I was a teaching assistant for 15 years at a primary school, we got the old eco schools green flag, we did all sorts of things there and won all sorts of awards and did all sorts of things with the kids, we did gardening, we did all sorts of things because I loved doing it, yes I just do, always have yes and I'll do whatever I can to sort of improve things because I want to and because I really enjoy it, I love it.

**INT: That's great, it's very inspirational, I feel so lucky to have spoken to so many like really inspirational people from these interviews, it's just lovely.**

P16: That's great yes, because that must be, yes that must be good for you as well to realise there are a lot of people out there who are probably very, very willing to help you.

**INT: Yes, and also personally I've got two very young children so I don't have time like you were saying to do these things at the moment and just make -**

P16: Yes, you have to do things that they want to do as well and we ended up with one that wanted to do drama, one that loved horses so we ended up with the, we've had everything from goldfish to hamsters to horses like you do, well most people don't have horses but I'm that daft, I got one and then it was pregnant wasn't it.

**INT: Bonus.**

P16: That’s what everyone says but I tell you what it's twice the trouble and twice the expense, yes but no horses now but my daughter, my eldest daughter I've got one in where is she at the moment, just outside [TOWN], she's just bought another horse called [Name], and she loves her dressage and her jumping and then our other daughter [Name], another [Name] she lives in [TOWN] in [COUNTRY], so yes mine are all grown up.

**INT: But you're right, I mean we got a moth trap last year for the garden and that's been lovely with them because they could see it up close.**

P16: Absolutely, yes. So, my two [Name] is probably interested in nature and gardening less but loves being outside with the horse and walking the dog and [Name] obviously she's got the rainforest there and the barrier reef and she's, well she just got a job with a tourism agency but she was working for a company that had wildlife parks and a butterfly sanctuary doing the social media for them, so it's rubbed off with them, it just does and it did with me, I had a lovely upbringing basically in my wellies, I think that's the best way.

**INT: Yes, we were talking about that the other day because we bought these new shoes for my two year old and he's literally never worn them because he's just in his wellies all the time, I think my husband was getting a bit cross, he was like I've spent all this money on these shoes, [Name] can you wear the shoes.**

P16: I just wish more people were like that because there's far too many people in society who are so detached aren't they from the natural world, and it's dangerous, it really is, it really is. I mean I go out litter picking out here and it's foul, I can pick sacks full of it and we're quite near where they're building the new [mine], [mine] and they've been taking voluntary groups out litter picking the area, the verges and they've had to stop because they've found so many discarded catheter bags, they found 30 on the last go, so I can only think it's the same person.

**INT: Who doesn't want to dispose of them at home.**

P16: No, or he's out and about travelling or whatever and they're discarded everywhere and I'm thinking there's too many vile people as well and I know you're recording this but it's true that really do not care.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: They make me so angry, yes so yes.

**INT: Yes, but that goes back to the point about having the connection with the nice projects and the you know, it just balances that out a bit doesn't it.**

P16: Yes, absolutely, yes but we all do our bit and do what we can, yes definitely.

**INT: Oh well it was lovely to talk to you.**

P16: Yes, really good.

**INT: And yes, I will look out for your name now because now I know who you are and I'm sure I'll see your name come up on various things and I'll look out for your buckthorn project as well because that sounds great. I planted a buckthorn in my garden two years ago and it's hardly done anything, are they very slow growing?**

**[0:40:07.2]**

P16: It is alder buckthorn yours or the purging?

**INT: I don't actually know, I can't remember.**

P16: I can't tell you anything about purging because I don't know the plant but the alder at first and they've got a very dark, like a black stem with white dots on it and the buds almost look dead.

**INT: Yes.**

P16: Like have a pasting on them, yes give it another year but they do like to be, they like their feet wet, they like wet.

**INT: Oh.**

P16: Because I've planted it here, I mean that was the reason the buckthorn project started off, I just looked up brimstone plant food and thought oh buckthorn, I'm going to try it, I'm going to plant some in the field and then that's how that whole project started because I had planted some but I planted it in the wet at the bottom and they're tree size now, they've really grown. And they’re fantastic, they have little tiny white flowers that attract pollinators and then they have berries that the birds eat, you can still be getting flowers from May all the way through to September and berries all at the same time. I don't know any other shrub that does that, it just keeps producing more and more flowers, it's lovely.

**INT: Oh well, mine might be in a place that's a little bit too dry then but it is, it looks like a pathetic little thing and I think it's trying to grow towards the sun because it's started growing like that.**

P16: Right, you might have to move it.

**INT: Yes, yes unfortunately I don't have a wet spot though so I might just have to give up on it.**

P16: Yes, oh what a shame. Yes, are you in [CITY] then [INT]?

**INT: Just outside [CITY], just in a village just outside [CITY].**

P16: I have a sister in eastern [CITY].

**INT: Well yes, I'm in [village] so just to the east.**

P16: Right, right yes I feel lucky living where I do, I do really yes, we've been here a long time and then when we got the opportunity to buy the field we had to.

**INT: Yes, it's so nice to have that on your doorstep isn't it like, yes we've got I mean I do try to do my best but it is a small garden but I've got everything, like I've got the shrubs and I've got a tree and I've got a pond and everything that I can possibly cram into a tiny space.**

P16: Yes, I am still building everything, I sort of cut down, I build my habitats, I build sort of a bit in the hibernacula because I have moles as well and all the mole holes I clear off I thought right what can I do with all this soil, the hibernacula so I've piled all stones and logs and some pipes and I'm heaping molehills onto that now and I keep just doing all sorts of random stuff, it's great, if I had some kids here actually they'd love it.

**INT: Yes, they would.**

P16: So, yes it's just like a big grown up game really for me, it is though isn't it, it's really exciting, it is.

**INT: It's lovely, yes it's really nice. Right -**

P16: I'll let you get on then [INT] I'm sure you got something else to do. Lovely speaking to you.

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

P16: All right then, take care.

**INT: Okay, and you bye-bye.**

**Audio ends: [0:43:29.1]**