

<b>Floodplains iv</b>	
<b>Duration: 12:12</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	<b>Sound</b>
	<b>Interviewer:</b> So one of the things that we're really interested in today is finding out um how, how, how people find out about the, the project and um what your experience of the day has been so far? So how did you hear about this?
	<b>Male 1:</b> Well I think I've known about the project for a number of years but that probably because I work for the Environment Agency and we were closely involved in the hydrological understanding of floodplain meadows in the Thames catchment. Um and aware of, of the, the Floodplain Meadows Partnership. I've been aware of the project but not really had a chance to take part before. So it's been great to have an opportunity to just get involved today.  And I've found it a very enjoyable day and the sun is shining so I can't complain. And its, its nice to actually be involved in some detailed monitoring on a site that we've dealt with from a regulatory point of view but never really been involved in an ecological assessments. So it's great to get involved at that level.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right, right. Is that what you wanted to do was really to have a go at hands on?
	<b>Male 1:</b> But, well yeah. I mean I've done quite a lot of ecological monitoring in my time but I've never counted fritillaries in a scientific manner. So it's quite nice to be able to do that. Especially on a site that is the country's top site for this particular rare plant. It's great to get involved on this site.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> If, if we, one of the things that we'd like to do is may be um, well we will analyse the data but one of the things we're thinking of is running a workshop later in the year. Get our volunteers back again to see what's happening on the site. And to get your feedback and to find out, about, about may be organising the day for, for next day. Would you be interested in that?
	<b>Male 1:</b> I'm sure you could twist my arm, yeah. It would be interesting the workshop, yeah. One of my colleagues already helps a little bit with the organisation. But yeah, more than happy to help.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> OK. Thank you.  So one of the things that we're interested in finding out today is how you found out about the, the count here and what your, what your experience of the day has been so far? So how did you hear about it?
	<b>Female 1:</b> Um I think it was advertised locally wasn't it. I, I live here. I live here locally and

	I think I've seen you sort of in previous years.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Yes. We come year, so. But we advertise in the Cricklade Chronicle. So may be ...
	<b>Female 1:</b> That's where I saw it, yes, yes.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> OK. And what made you think, oh I'd like to have a go?
	<b>Female 1:</b> I'm just interested because I usually come and help down here when we, you know, sort of, with fritillaries and the, the various things around the town to do with the plants and everything, so.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. And has, has it, have you enjoyed the experience of sitting actually the detailed monitoring?
	<b>Female 1:</b> Yeah I, I think sitting in the middle of the meadow and er just enjoying the, listening to the birds and, yeah seeing, seeing the flowers. Yeah that's been sort of quite interesting.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> It's been good. Its um, one of the things that um we're interested in is whether you have done this kind of a thing before. Have you been involved in any natural history recording in the past?
	<b>Female 1:</b> No, no, no. First time with that, yeah.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> OK. Is it something that you might consider doing again?
	<b>Female 1:</b> Yeah, yeah. I, because I'd like to know sort of more about, yeah, what's made the meadow and, you know, what's effecting it and things like that.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. So one of the things that we were thinking of um is running a workshop may be in the winter time. To invite all the volunteers back again and show the data that you collected um to give you some feedback. And to start thinking about planning next year. Is that something that you'd be interested in?
	<b>Female 1:</b> Well that. It would be interesting to know, yeah. Because obviously we've only seen little quadrats and things and knowing what's happening yeah.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Yes. I, I mean hopefully then we'll be able to put it in to a wider context looking at what we're finding on the other two sites as well. And start to see how the pattern is changing across the country. Um I'll let you know when ??? 00:03:29.

	<p><b>Female 1:</b> That would certainly be interesting, yeah.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK, great thank you.</p> <p>So one of the things we wanted to try and do today was to find out a little bit more about the volunteers. What made you come and count today and whether you've enjoyed your experience? So how did you hear about it?</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> OK, well I, I know David Gowing from a long time ago when we worked together at Silsoe. And I did a little bit of work on these meadows looking at the nutrient status and the floods and how that impacted it.</p> <p>And being a keen amateur plant hunter I was interested in the plants here. And so the chance to come and take part in the survey. I've done similar things in different places. It was a great opportunity?</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK. So have you been and done the counts before:</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> No, I've not done the count here before. I've done them in, in other places. For other projects. And um so it was just something I wanted to contribute to really because I think these meadows are really important.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK, OK, well that's really interesting. And, and what have you thought of your experience? Has it been a ...</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> Its great yes. We've even organised the weather now.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> You've dressed up accordingly.</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> Yes I have dressed up accordingly.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> You've kept the rain away I think.</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> Something like that. I am a hydrologist so. I'm in control.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Thank you. Um and so if we organise some kind of a feedback session for volunteers to come back um and find out about the data. And may be get involved in a bit of data analysis and planning for next year you'd be keen?</p>
	<p><b>Female 2:</b> I, I'd really like to be involved in that. I've just been talking to David about how I could be more involved.</p>

	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK. Thank you very much.</p> <p>So one of the things that we're keen to find out about today is what motivates our volunteers to come and help and whether they had a good time and whether they'd be interested in being involved in the future? So how did you hear about the project?</p>
	<p><b>Male 2:</b> Um well I got an email um about a couple of months ago saying what had happened. And, yeah, I mean it sounded like a, a fun day out. And er it has been a fun day out in its own way.</p> <p>A lot of counting and a lot of measuring but then you know you feel its going towards something. You feel you're actually um doing something useful, you know, as well as enjoying yourself.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> So have you done much of this kind of natural history recording before?</p>
	<p><b>Male 2:</b> Um yes. I am a Warden of a nature reserve that adjoins my house. So um I've done a lot of recording. But actually not of this type, no. I, I record numbers of moths every night, you know. And I do butterfly transects in the summer. So I count butterflies. So I'm monitoring those sorts of things.</p> <p>The plants we don't monitor, you see. I just. Its not my speciality so although I try and get out there and record as much as I can um we certainly don't do any of this kind of, you know, detailed monitoring from year to year. We don't know how things are going.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Right.</p>
	<p><b>Male 2:</b> Except in a very general way.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Right. One of the things that we're trying to do this year is set up bumblebee transects as well on the meadows where we're counting fritillaries. Is that something you've thought about doing on your nature reserve?</p>
	<p><b>Male 2:</b> Um not bumblebees, no. I record them when they, when I find them in the moth trap, which I do every now and again. Some sort of appear there.</p> <p>Um I did actually try it last year, so I'd forgotten that. I tried one year when I was trying to count as well as count butterflies on the transect I decided to count insects, groups of insects as well. And it went well really up to about this time of year. And then the numbers started going up and up and up. And in the end I was recording, you know, um hundreds and hundreds and it was just taking me too long. So I think I stopped about May or June um because there was so many.</p> <p>I, I, that would have to be done in another way I think. Or perhaps a very short transect, you know, to get numbers of, of other kinds of insects.</p>

	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. You'll just focus on one particular thing that you're looking for may be?
	<b>Male 2:</b> Yes, yes. But I mean I always record dragon flies when I see them. Um I always record um things like um er beetles of particular kinds, you know, that I recognise. Er I do/???00:07:39 moths of course. Um but yes, so, so certain groups of insects. You know, we've got good records going back, whatever it is. Yes its 20 years now, so it's a long time.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Gosh that's very impressive actually. Um and so if we ran some kind of a, a workshop session for the data that's collected today and brought the volunteers back together again in the winter some time would you be interested in that kind of a thing?
	<b>Male 2:</b> Yes. What do you mean, a day sort of um?
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Well it would probably be an evening and it might well be based here actually which might not be so convenient for OU staff. But um I, I don't now. I haven't thought through the details. I'm just trying to work out if there is interest in having feedback from the data that's been collected.
	<b>Male 2:</b> Er, I'd certainly be interested, yes, yes. I mean whether, as you say you want to come two hours down here on a winter evening and then to two hours back again I don't know.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> OK that's lovely. And you've had a good day?
	<b>Male 2:</b> Yes, yes, very much. Very much enjoyed it so far. Well I mean, it would have been, in the rain it wouldn't have been so nice. But its been quite nice hasn't it, so.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> We've been lucky. Thank you very much.
	<b>Male 2:</b> OK, not at all.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> So one of the things that we want to do as part of this project is find out a bit more about our volunteers and how you found out about the project and what your experiences have been of the, the day. So I'm going to ask you a couple of questions if that's OK.
	<b>Male 3:</b> That's fine yeah.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> How did you find out about the, about the day today?

	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Well er I work at the Environment Agency and I'm friends with er Paul St Pierre, the infamous ecologist upstairs from where I'm, I er, I'm situated in the office. So he sent round an email basically. And I thought that sounds interesting. I don't know much about snake fritillaries. So um I just thought I'd sign up and come along.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK. So have you done much natural history recording before?</p>
	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Never actually, no. I work at the Environment Agency but it's quite a remote area on chemicals, regulation of industrial chemicals. So it's all quite new to me. But I'm quite in to nature I suppose, so um yeah it's something I wanted to try.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Right. Do you do sort of your own personal sort of going out and looking at birds and ...</p>
	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Yeah. A bit of that. Yeah. This time of year wandering around looking at bluebells, and I don't know, a bit of bird watching through the year.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Right. That's, that's really good. Good for Paul for drumming up a bit of support for us.</p>
	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Yeah, yeah. He, he does well I think, yeah.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Yeah he does. So have you have a good, has it been a good experience today?</p>
	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Yeah its, its been great. A lovely day and, and I've, I've never actually seen them before on mass like this. So its, it's really amazing. And it's been dry till now, anyway. So yeah, it's really good. I'll come again if you'll have me.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> Oh brilliant because that we going to be one of my next questions. One of the things that we are thinking about doing is running some kind of a feedback workshop later in the year to, to bring the volunteers back together again and go through the data and have a look at what you've found. And whether you'd be prepared to help out next year possibly?</p>
	<p><b>Male 3:</b> Yeah I think so. Definitely.</p>
	<p><b>Interviewer:</b> OK thank you very much.</p> <p>So one of the things that we wanted to find out today is to know a bit more about our volunteers' background and what motivated you to come and that</p>

	kind of thing? So um how did you find out about the project?
	<b>Female 3:</b> I work for the Environment Agency. Er and er one of my colleagues in our Biodiversity Team um come along and volunteered quite a few, quite a few years now. And er he drummed up a bit of interest with some of the colleagues internally. So, yeah.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> OK and have you done much of this kind of thing before?
	<b>Female 3:</b> Er not, not since my academic days. So er it's been a good ten years since I've done any sort of getting in the field and er and surveying.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. So what was your academic background then?
	<b>Female 3:</b> Um I, I spent quite a lot of time surveying coral reefs in the Red Sea. So doing sort of similar <span style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">line 00:11:20</span> transects and things like that. And also um a fair share of um sand dune um sort of surveying and, and that sort of thing. So yes, all geography and ecology background.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. So this kind of thing wasn't, isn't necessarily new to you, just a different habitat and yeah OK. And have you had a good, has it been a good experience?
	<b>Female 3:</b> Yeah it's been, it's been a really good day. Um I haven't um seen, seen this flower on such a, a large scale before. So it's really, really nice to come out and see it.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Yeah. And, and would you be interested in some kind of a feedback session?
	<b>Female 3:</b> I'd be really interested yeah. I'd be interested to see, see what the data comes out like especially compared to the previous years. Because I know it's been running for quite a few years. And, you know, with the situation with the drought and it, its kind of er dry conditions. It would be interesting to see if there's any correlations there.
	<b>Interviewer:</b> Right. That's great.