OJNCC JNCC Bulletin July 2020

Workshops and Webinars



A number of successful JNCC remote workshops and webinars were held throughout July. The <u>Monitoring Soil Moisture using Earth Observation virtual workshop</u> was a great success with over 170 delegates from 23 countries attending. Funded by the Caroline Herschel Framework Partnership Agreement for Copernicus User Uptake, the workshop had a truly collaborative feel with 'ask the expert' Q&A sessions, plus knowledge, ideas and potential future work sharing which resulted in many connections and proposals being initiated.

July webinars included:

- <u>Mapping from Space: remote sensing for migratory shorebird conservation at Bahía Lomas Ramsar site</u> on using Earth Observation (EO) for intertidal mapping and shorebird conservation. The webinar brought together shorebird ecology experts from the University of Santo Tomás in Chile and EO specialists from JNCC to showcase collaborative research funded by Defra.
- JNCC's Susan Zappala presented at the Institute of Air Quality Management's Integrating Tools for Air Pollution Assessment (ITAPA) - Learning from the Dutch Approach webinar, exploring how AERIUS can help address air pollution effects on ecosystems and recognising the benefit from emission reductions at a local scale.
- <u>Introduction to the Simple ARD Service</u> on how JNCC are working with Scottish Government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland and the Centre for Environmental Data Analysis to provide Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 Analysis-Ready Data for environmental applications.

Red kite re-introduction



July saw the <u>30th anniversary</u> of the re-introduction of one of Britain's most distinctive birds - the red kite - to the Chiltern Hills.

Once practically extinct due to persecution, 13 young red kites flown over from the Navarra region in Spain, took to the skies in their maiden flight in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1990.

Danny Heptinstall, JNCC's Senior International Biodiversity Adviser, said "In 1990, the UK had only a few dozen red kites, 30 years later there are over 10,000. JNCC is delighted to have played its part in this ground-breaking conservation success story, and look forward to the continuing success of the project and others like it."

For more than 25 years JNCC has provided robust evidence and trusted advice on nature conservation to enable UK governments to achieve their policy objectives. As a public body we also work in partnership with business and society. Our people are dedicated to providing high-quality evidence and advice on the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Our vision is to be a world-leading provider of innovative solutions, placing nature at the heart of sustainable wealth and wellbeing.

MASTS CASTS



The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology in Scotland (MASTS) is a consortium of organisations, of which JNCC is a member, working together to facilitate better communication, collaboration and co-ordination within the marine research community whilst ensuring Scottish marine science receives international recognition.

JNCC's Joey O'Connor, a member of the MASTS Deep Sea Forum, recently joined Hannah Ladd-Jones, presenter of the weekly MASTS CASTS, to talk about the West of Scotland deep-sea possible Marine Protected Area (pMPA) and how MASTS members can potentially help their teams better understand the pMPA's marine environment.

Scottish Government ran a <u>consultation</u> on the pMPA at the end of 2019 with a decision on designation expected in the Autumn.

Our new website turns 1!



This time last year, we published our new website and a year on, we have a new look and feel, which has been no mean feat!

It's been a huge task and has involved staff from every area of the organisation. We've worked hard to ensure we've migrated the important information and resources that many of the visitors to our old website used over to the new site. At the end of June we felt we'd reached a position where we could switch our old site off, and redirect all traffic to our new website.

We've also been developing areas such as the <u>JNCC blog</u>, blogging on a wide range of topics from adapting to home working and our role in the green recovery, to monitoring biodiversity in hard times.

LiDAR quality control

A JNCC report, funded by Scottish Government, with expert input from the Environment Agency, Historic Environment Scotland, Natural Resources Wales and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on the recommended quality control activities for LiDAR was published.

The Scottish Remote Sensing Portal was developed by the Scottish Government and JNCC to provide open access to public sector LiDAR data. LiDAR uses lasers to create detailed 3D models of the Earth's surface. As part of this collaboration, JNCC carried out an investigation into standard methods for ensuring and evaluating the quality of airborne LiDAR data. The report outlines the factors that should be included in a technical specification and summarises standard protocols for the quality assurance and quality control of LiDAR data.

Land use change report

Interested in how the food you eat and the products you use affect our natural environment?

A recent <u>JNCC report</u> looks at the carbon footprint related to land use change associated with producing and importing the goods that the UK consumes and investigates the feasibility of measuring greenhouse gas emissions attributed to agricultural production across a variety of scales and production systems for major internationally traded commodities.



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