

**Working as a plant ecologist at the
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology:
Aiding the understanding, prediction and mitigation
of threats to UK biodiversity**

The Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)

- The Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) is the United Kingdom's Centre of Excellence for integrated research in hydrology, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and their interaction with the atmosphere.
- CEH was formed in 2000 by a merger of the Institute of Hydrology, the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, the Institute of Freshwater Ecology and the Institute of Virology and Environmental Microbiology.
- CEH integrates UK-wide observation systems and curiosity driven research, from the smallest scale of genetic diversity to large-scale, whole-Earth systems. CEH also carries out scientific research projects worldwide, usually with local partners.
- CEH works across disciplines with the aim of facilitating academic, public, private and voluntary sector partnerships.
- There are four CEH sites, including (Wallingford (headquarters) , Lancaster, Edinburgh, and Bangor.
- CEH has 360 research scientists working in six different Science Areas:



Atmospheric Chemistry and Effects



Biodiversity



Hydro-Climate Risks



Pollution



Soils and Land Use

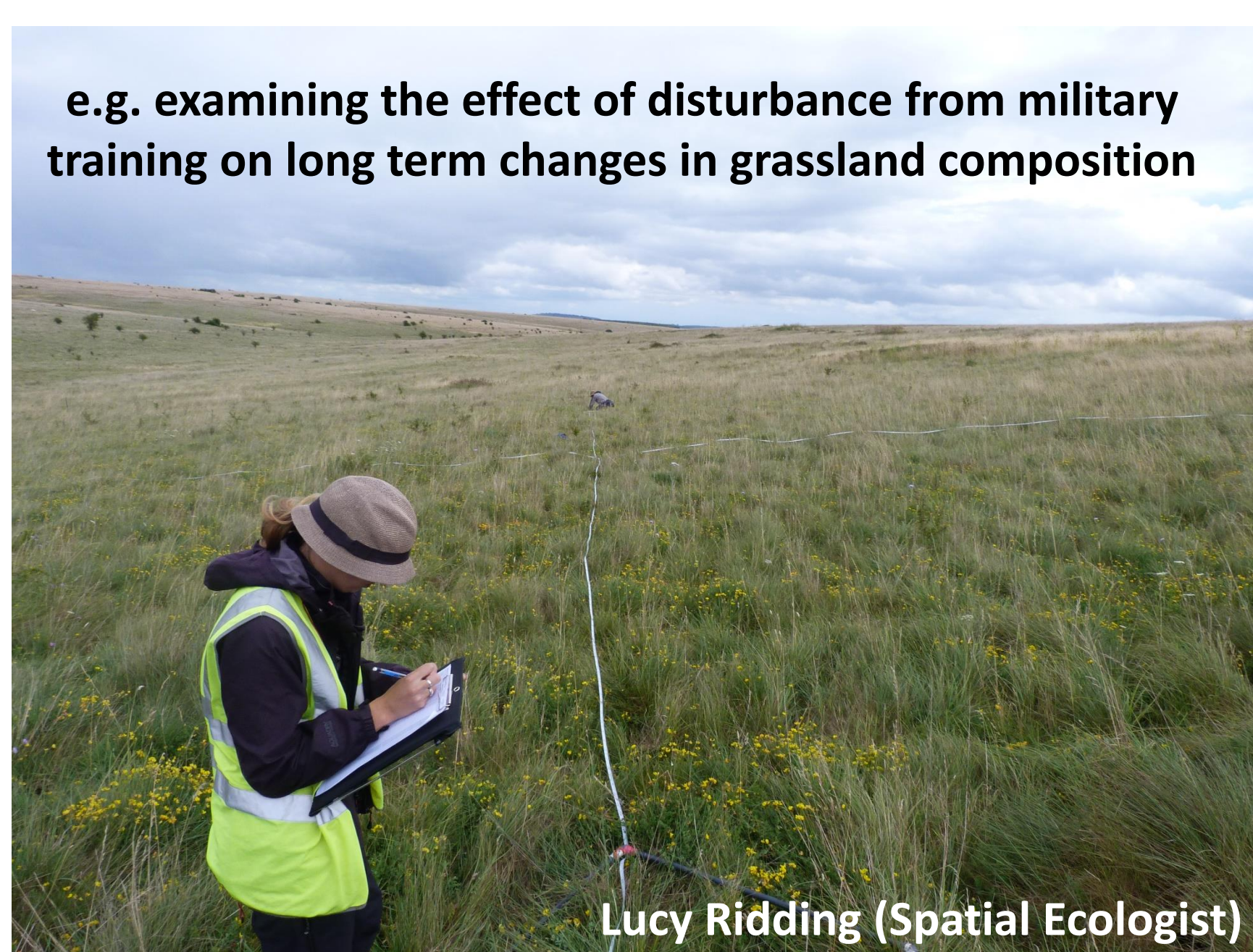


Water Resources

- At any given time, CEH also has c. 120 postgraduate students working on research projects; these students are jointly supervised by CEH scientists and scientists at various UK universities.
- CEH is currently part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), but will shortly become an independent environmental research organization.
- Central aspects of plant science and plant ecological research at CEH involve targeted monitoring of UK vegetation types and plant species populations, the execution and interpretation of field experiments e.g. in the context of ecosystem restoration and management, and working together with relevant recording schemes and societies.

Targeted monitoring of vegetation

- Targeted monitoring enables us to assess the status and trends of plant species and habitats, which can help inform conservation actions in the future.



Lucy Ridding (Spatial Ecologist)



e.g. assessing the extent of different heathland types over time

Field experiments

- Field experiments are usually designed to test approaches to ecosystem management and restoration, to help conserve habitat-specific plants and associated biodiversity



Sarah Hulmes (Field Ecologist)

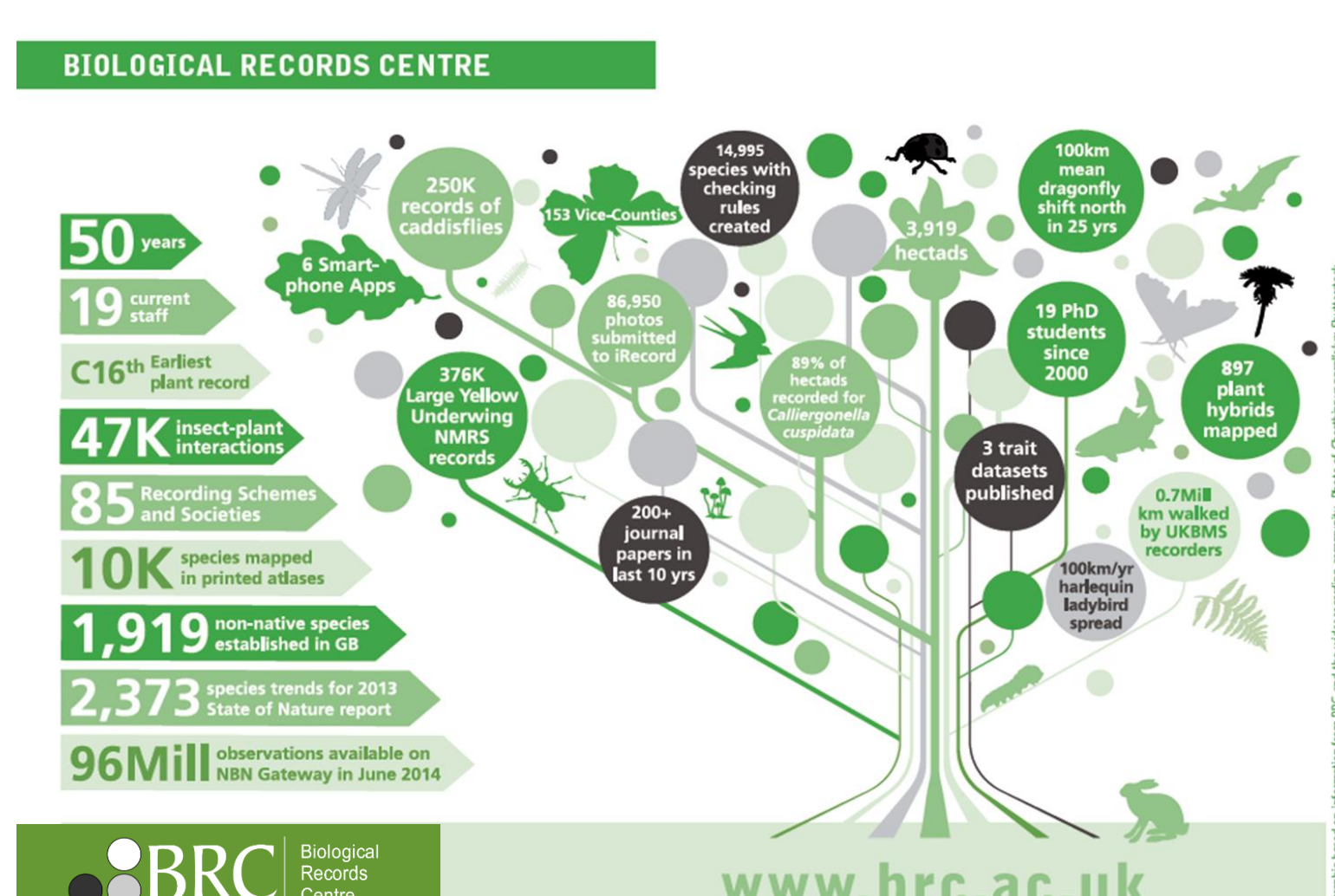


Markus Wagner (Plant Ecologist) with colleagues

Lucy Hulmes (Field Ecologist)

Working with recording schemes and societies

- Being part of CEH, the Biological Records Centre (BRC) works with recording schemes and societies to support the collection of species distribution data
- BRC also mobilises data for the environmental science community, and analyses data to investigate basic ecology and environmental change, and interprets results for science and policy



Oli Pescott (Botanist and Plant Ecologist)

