



37th Annual General Meeting

Agenda

The AGM will be held at 17:15 on Wednesday 13 December 2017 in the Jan Van Eyckzaal Room, International Convention Centre, Van Rysselbergheedreef 2, 9000 Gent, Belgium.

The agenda for the 37th Annual General Meeting of the British Ecological Society is as follows:

1. Minutes of the past AGM

Acceptance of the minutes of the 36th AGM held on Tuesday 13 December 2015 in the Hall 1, Area and Convention Centre Liverpool, Monarchs Quay, Liverpool, Merseyside L3 4FP (as published in the *Bulletin* Vol 48:1 pp24 – 25).

2. Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 (as published in the *Bulletin* Vol 48:3 pp 65-90)

3. The reports of the Treasurer and the Auditors

4. The report of the Council Secretary

5. Articles of Association

The members are requested to resolve by special resolution that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society be replaced in their entirety by the Articles of Association attached to this notice

6. Trustee terms of office

The terms of office of our two Vice Presidents, Rosie Hails and Andrew Pullin, are both due to expire at the close of the AGM. In order to restore the usual rotation cycle provided for by the Articles of Association of the Society and to ensure that the Society does not have to replace both Vice Presidents at the same time, the trustees resolve to exercise the power at Article 9.7 of the new Articles of Association to extend the term of office of Rosie Hails for one year until the end of the AGM held in 2018.

7. To elect Officers of Council of the Society

<u>Present Officers</u>		<u>Retiring Date</u>	<u>Council Nominees</u>
President:	S.Hartley	2017	R. Bardgett
Past President		2018	S. Hartley
Vice President:	R. Hails	2018	
Vice President:	A. Pullin	2017	D. Hodgson
Council Secretary:	A. Vanbergen	2018	
Honorary Treasurer:	T. Ezard	2019	

<u>Honorary Chairpersons of Committees</u>		<u>Retiring Date</u>	<u>Council Nominees</u>
Meetings:	Z. Davies	2018	
Policy:	J. Vickery	2019	
Publications:	J. Hill	2019	
Education & Careers:	W. Gosling	2017	W. Gosling

8. To elect Ordinary Members of Council

<u>Present Members</u>	<u>Retiring Date</u>	<u>Nominees for election</u>
D. Gilbert	2017	Early Career
I. Stott (Early Career Rep.)	2017	Representative: L. Bartlett
M. Eichhorn	2017	A. Birkett
D. Scott	2017	L. Graham
L. Turnbull	2017	R. Hale
Y. Buckley	2017	R. Robertson
P. Brotherton	2018	J. Walker
N. Hautekèete	2018	
C. Banks-Leite	2019	
H. Roy	2019	
P. Thomas	2019	

9. The appointment of the Auditors for 2017

10. Auditor's remuneration

11. Any other business

- To be tabled in writing to the Council Secretary at least three weeks before the AGM.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL



PRESIDENT

Richard Bardgett

University of Manchester, UK

Richard Bardgett is Professor of Ecology at The University of Manchester. He gained a degree in Soil Science from Newcastle University in 1987 and a PhD from Lancaster University in 1991, under the supervision of John Whittaker and the late Juliet Frankland. After a short spell with the Nature Conservancy Council, he worked at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, and the Universities of Manchester and Lancaster, before returning to Manchester in 2013.

The main goal of Richard's research is to understand how plant-soil interactions regulate ecosystem processes and their response to global change. He has published over 250 papers and is recognized as a Highly

Cited Researcher. He has also authored several books, including the *Biology of Soil* (2005) and his recent book *Earth Matters: How Soil Underpins Civilization* (2016). Richard is active in promoting soil security issues; to this end, he was a founder member of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, and contributed to the UN's *Status of the World's Soil Resources Report* (2015), the *UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report*, and the House of Commons *Soil Health Report* (2016).

Richard has been a BES member since 1987 and was elected Vice President 2011-2013. He has acted as a Senior Editor of the *Journal of Ecology* since 2006. He serves on several funding panels and advisory boards, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2006, the Royal Society of Biology in 2011, and a member of Academia Europaea in 2015.



PAST PRESIDENT

Sue Hartley

University of York, UK

Sue Hartley is a community ecologist recognised internationally for her work on the interactions between organisms, particularly plants and their herbivores. Currently, her research is focussed on using natural plant defences as a sustainable way to protect crops against pests. She did her first degree in biochemistry at the University of Oxford before applying her chemical knowledge to the study of plant defences against insect herbivores in a PhD at the University of York. She then moved to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology before joining the

University of Sussex in 2001, where her long-standing interest in the role of silicon as a plant defence began. She has studied plant-herbivore interactions from the sub-arctic to the tropical rainforest and has trained over 30 PhD students.

Sue has a long association with the BES, having served as a Council Member (1995-1998), the Vice-President (2004-2007) and Chair of Publications Committee (2006-2011) – she received the President's Medal in 2009 and the BES Award for exceptional service to the Society in 2012. In 2009 she delivered the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, becoming only the 4th woman to do since they were started by Sir Michael Faraday in 1825. In 2010 she moved back to the University of York to become Director of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, a new interdisciplinary research centre bringing

together leading environmental researchers from a broad range of disciplines to tackle key global challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and food security.



VICE PRESIDENT
Dave Hodgson
University of Exeter, UK

Dave Hodgson is a population ecologist, with key interests in ecological statistics, life history evolution, empirical modelling of population dynamics, and the application of ecological concepts to conservation biology and pest management. He is Professor of Ecology at the University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus, and Director of the Centre for Ecology and Conservation. He has published research on a wide range of organisms and systems, including life history variation among plants, mathematical tools for population modelling, phenotypic diversity in baculoviruses, evolution of diversity in bacterial microcosms, plant-herbivore interactions, transient population dynamics, consequences of feminisation in wild fish, the evolutionary ecology of lizards, host-pathogen evolutionary dynamics, growth and dispersal dynamics in aphids, migration decisions in wildfowl, epidemiology of bovine tuberculosis in badgers, and sexual conflict. Professor Hodgson lectures undergraduate and postgraduate modules on UK Natural History, Critical Thinking, Statistical Modelling, and leads a Conservation Science and Policy field trip to Kenya every January. He was a Member of Council of the British Ecological Society 2008-2010, and Honorary Secretary of the BES from 2010-2015. He is an Associate Editor for Ecology Letters and for Methods in Ecology and Evolution. Professor Hodgson also engages in media work for television and radio. In his spare time Dr Hodgson hosts three parasites (two human and one canine), is a failed rock star, coaches youth football teams, makes jam, and enjoys stomping across the Cornish landscape and coastline.



CHAIR, EDUCATION & CAREERS COMMITTEE
Will Gosling
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

I am currently Head of the Department of Ecosystem & Landscape Dynamics (University of Amsterdam). Prior to moving to the Netherlands in 2014 I was at The Open University, and Florida Institute of Technology. I studied at the Universities of Hull (BSc) and Cambridge (MPhil), and then researched modern pollen-vegetation relationships in the Neotropics for my PhD (University of Leicester). My research focuses upon trying to place observations of current ecosystems in a long-term (>50 year) context through examination of the fossil record. My research is mainly located in the tropics (Andes, Amazon and West Africa) and on timescales ranging from annual to multi-millennial. I seek to examine multiple lines of evidence to reconstruct the ecology of the past.

My role within the BES has varied over the last 11 years: (i) Secretary of the Tropical Ecology Special Interest Group (2006-2009), (ii) Ordinary Member of Council (2010-2014), and (ii) Chair of Education & Careers Committee (ECC) (2015-2017). In this time I have helped to establish early career meetings, contributed to Meetings, Grants, and Management & Finance Committees, and championed the expansion of the societies involvement with public engagement. I am seeking re-election to ECC

because I am excited by our recent successes in delivering Summer Schools, grant writing events, and mentoring programs and would like to help to expand this work further. In addition, I believe that my base in Amsterdam means that I can provide a distinct perspective for a society that is looking to strengthen links across Europe.



ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Lewis Bartlett
University of Exeter, UK

I'm a final year PhD researcher with the University of Exeter and a visiting researcher at UC Berkeley, who has enthusiastically involved myself with broad range of BES initiatives. I've sat on the Early Careers Working Group for over 2 years, contributing to timely BES responses on topics like TEF and Brexit. I've acted as a BES Ambassador delivering schools outreach, have twice mentored the BES undergraduate field course, and am a founding committee member of

the new Learning and Teaching SIG. Bulletin and BES-blog contributions about these activities might make my name familiar to some, as might the early career teaching workshop I'm leading in Ghent this December. The rewards of investing in these activities is one of my favourite aspects of academic ecology.

Outside of the BES I've been employed by, studied at, or affiliated with five universities (3 UK, 2 USA) – giving me the necessary perspective to act as an empathetic and informed early career representative. I've engaged with equality and diversity improvement in both the UK and USA since undergraduate, including sitting on multiple student representation committees, encompassing unionised representation, intra- and inter- departmental working groups. I've extended this equality and diversity engagement to other professional societies – including as a spokesperson and campaigner for better diversity measures in the Ecological Society of America. These efforts led to my invitation to participate in the Entomological Society of America's recent diversity initiatives.

Overall I would bring breadth of perspective, a values-driven conviction, and a principled outspoken voice to representing early career ecologists on council. I honestly believe the BES to be a world leader in what it does; I would be honoured to contribute to guiding its future growth, and to share in the responsibility of ensuring the BES continues to best serve its current and future members.



ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Ali Birkett
University of Lancaster, UK

I am still as fascinated by ecology now as when I was 14, and a lot of that continued enthusiasm is thanks to the inspiring ecologists that I've met along the way! This is particularly through the welcoming nature of our society, so now I feel it's time to give something back! In my research, I am interested in species' interactions in the face of environmental change, which I have followed in my PhD (awarded 2015),

technician and Postdoc roles. I also believe strongly in the importance of interactions within science: be that across borders, across scientific disciplines, with the public, or between the scientific community and stakeholders. I am therefore very keen to contribute to the Society's work in these areas - especially after the honour of receiving a Public Engagement Award during the 2016 Annual Meeting in Liverpool. In my current role as Research Coordinator for Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University I have also experienced first-hand the need for Early Career scientists to feel supported and valued within the research community in these pressured and uncertain times. I'm passionate about ensuring this atmosphere remains integral throughout our Society. With previous experience of being a trustee elsewhere (for a thriving local community centre) and active participation in various departmental committees throughout my time at Lancaster, I offer my services to the Society and I hope that as a vocal member of Council I can therefore make a valuable contribution to our continued success!



ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Laura Graham

University of Southampton, UK

I am a landscape ecologist interested in using statistical and computational methods to understand how anthropogenic changes affect global ecosystems, and how this in turn affects human well-being. I have been a member of the BES since I began my PhD in 2011 and I am committed to contributing to and ensuring the delivery of the society's strategic vision. I have experience of working in both the UK and the US, across academic disciplines (mathematics, geography and ecology) and in the private sector. As BES Early Career Representative, I would draw on this broad experience as well as my

experience on the BES Quantitative Ecology SIG committee and as ECR rep on my department's research committee to develop strategies to aid early career ecologists and ensure their voices are heard. I am currently a postdoc at the University of Southampton. My current research focus is on finding general scaling rules for ecosystem service mapping to understand how land use and policy changes may affect ecosystem services.

Through my position on the Quantitative Ecology SIG and my membership in the Macroecology SIG – both groups with high proportions of ECR members – as well as my sustained relationships and collaborations with PhDs and postdocs from former lab groups, I have strong links to the ECR ecology community. If I were to be elected BES Early Career Representative, I would build upon the work of those before me to ensure the needs of early career ecologists are considered by the Society. For instance, continuing to provide ECR opportunities to meet established academics at the Annual Meeting, strengthening the links with INNGE, and continuing the development of the mentoring schemes.



ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE

Rachel Hale

University of Southampton, UK

In all my actions I try to create an environment, both for ECRs and for all, that I would like to be a part of. As the ECR representative on the BES council while my priority would be putting ECR views and the creation of opportunities for ECRs first I would also be involved in shaping the Society as a whole.

As Ocean and Earth Science ECR representative at my own institution (the University of Southampton) I try to create a collegial and supportive atmosphere, running regular networking and information events. I would hope to be able to contribute to such efforts already in place through BES as ECR representative and expand and support new ventures when needed.

I am currently Secretary for the International Network of Next generation Ecologists (INNGE), who have been working with BES and INTECOL to ensure support and creation of opportunities for ECRs globally. As such I have experience of designing and running large ECR targeted events, and am linked to ECRs both within my own institution, nationally and internationally. I am therefore able to call upon the expertise of and represent a diverse community of ECRs.

With the Chair of INNGE, I am leading the effort for INNGE to become a charity registered in the UK, writing the governing documents and making sure we abide by the rules of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. I have experience of what is required from a Trustee with regard to integrity and accountability. I am also prepared for the amount of time needed to properly represent myself and other ECRs for the role and will accept responsibility for decisions made.



ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE
Rebecca Robertson
University of Leeds, UK

I'm a PhD candidate at the University of Leeds looking into urban green space interventions and their impacts on biodiversity and human health and well-being. I'm interested in ecology and social science, which is why I'm in the process of applying for a Special Interest Group for this area. This will support members, particularly early career members, interested in exploring social dimensions of ecological topics through training.

I'm an active and committed member of the BES and gained extensive insight into the work of the organisation through a policy internship and participating in the public engagement programme. I have attended and presented at BES committee meetings.

As part of my previous role, I helped organise the Early Career Group in the David Attenborough Building which gave me the opportunity to talk with ecologists from multiple departments of the university, various NGOs and practitioners (all of whom I encouraged to join BES).

Alongside ecology, my interests include communications, equality and diversity, policy and public engagement. I helped organise and run the #EarthOptimism day at the University of Cambridge and have taken part in two science festivals which required me to dedicate time to working group meetings, prepare materials and to think creatively about how to communicate the wonder of ecology and science to the public, with restricted resources. I also learnt about engaging well-known brands for sponsorship. I was ready to speak my mind which ensured the involvement of the BES in the day.

I have experienced the various stages of an early career ecologist; student, graduate, volunteer, working as a research assistant and applying for jobs and PhDs. The opportunity to meet other early career ecologists and discuss their ideas is genuinely exciting. I would like to use their feedback to build on the already fantastic BES careers program.



**ORDINARY MEMBER OF COUNCIL, EARLY CAREER
REPRESENTATIVE**

**Josephine Walker
University of Bristol, UK**

I am an infectious disease ecologist currently working in my first post-doc at the University of Bristol. I started my PhD in 2012, and joined BES a year later. Since then I have served on the Early Career Working Group and the Public Engagement Working Group, and travelled to Green Man festival as a BES roadie to share ecology with the public. As part of the Early Career Working Group I led the proposal, development, and presentation of a fellowship/grant writing workshop for early career ecologists. We're currently planning the next iteration of this workshop based on feedback from last year. I've also

contributed to plans for the environmental audit that BES is conducting. This is one issue I'm particularly passionate about, and I think BES can set an example as a scientific organisation that is working to minimise its environmental impact.

For me, feeling part of the community of ecologists at BES is one of the most enjoyable parts of being a scientist. In addition, the support and resources that come from the group can be a great benefit for early career ecologists as we consider the next steps in our career paths. I am keen to continue to work to promote the needs and concerns of early career ecologists within BES and will bring creativity, experience, and enthusiasm to the role.