



Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity

The Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity is a new resource centre for anyone with an interest in UK natural history. It aims to nurture, inspire, excite and support naturalists of all ages and levels of interest.

Situated on lower ground floor of the new Darwin Centre, the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity plays a key role in facilitating and supporting the wide network of groups, partnerships and organisations that work in the field of natural history across the UK. Much of the Museum's UK collections are available for amateur naturalists to study, amounting to over ten thousand drawers of plants and animals and including over four thousand drawers of butterflies and moths from the Rothschild Cockayne Kettlewell collection and over six thousand drawers of British flowering plants.

Every year, the Museum receives about 10,000 public enquiries and the Centre for UK Biodiversity is the home for the Identification and Advisory Service, covering all areas of natural history including fossils and minerals. Visitors are encouraged to bring in their finds and meet the Centre's dedicated enquiries staff. Naturalists with questions have the opportunity to book appointments and answer their own enquiries by using the new reference and synoptic collections.

One of the most important roles the Centre plays is to respond to people's concerns about UK biodiversity by taking a lead in the national citizen science debate. By actively leading partnership projects such as the already successful Riverfly Partnership, the Centre for UK Biodiversity is the place for keen natural historians to participate in these important national projects. Visitors to the Centre can access extensive UK collections and 120 metres of books from the library of the London Natural History Society as well as the Identification and Advisory Service.

The Natural History Museum has been generating and sharing knowledge about the natural world for more than 250 years. We are a world leader on research into the burning issues facing humans and the natural world. Through the collections we look after and the scientific expertise of our staff, we work with many organisations to inspire an understanding of the natural world and to help conserve its extraordinary richness and diversity through groundbreaking projects in 68 countries.

The Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity will inspire a new generation of nature lovers and increase their environmental awareness as they gain real hands on experience of the UK's biodiversity.

Ends



Notes for editors

- The Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity is supported by Professor Anthony and Mrs Angela Marmont to allow the Natural History Museum to open a dialogue with the public on the importance of biodiversity and what we can all do as individuals to change our lifestyle and make a difference.
- The Open Air Laboratories Network (OPAL) is located within the new Centre.
- The Riverfly Partnership aims to encourage anglers to work with scientists and environmental organisations to increase our knowledge, understanding and conservation efforts for riverfly populations in the UK.

**For more information and images, please contact the Natural History Museum Press Office:
Tel: 020 7942 5654 email: press@nhm.ac.uk (not for publication)**