

BMS Recording Network News

February 2016

<p>To: BMS Recording Network Contacts cc: BMS Field Mycology & Conservation Committee members From: David Harries, BMS Recording Network Coordinator</p>
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Please circulate the contents of this note within your respective groups

1. Foraging and collecting

FMCC is providing feedback to a PlantLink (Plantlife) on their draft of a position statement setting out responsible collection principles for foraging (including plants, fungi and seaweed).

It was noted that the BMS has now published updated versions of its “Conservation Policy” and “Code of Conduct for Responsible Collecting of Fungi for Research and Educational Purposes” (follow links to Field Mycology, then Conservation).

2. Foray report

Peter Smith has briefed FMCC on the 2016 field event programme (details available on the BMS website). Peter has forwarded a copy of his 2015 report for circulation (e-mailed separately from this note due to large file size).

3. FRDBI

Development and testing of the new FRD is nearing completion.

A deadline has been set for submission of records for processing and upload to the existing FRD: all records should be submitted to Paul Kirk before the end of May 2016.

Additionally, it will be helpful if recorders could check the FRD and resend any datasets previously submitted but not yet showing. This may involve some duplication of effort, but will ensure that no datasets get missed in this final update of the current system.

Following this there will be a transition period during which an historic FRD will be maintained whilst all new records will be loaded into the new FRD, either by direct entry via the web or by manual batch upload from a spreadsheet.

Once the new FRD is running smoothly, work will progress on processing and transferring records from the old FRD.

Stuart Skeates and the team working on the development and launch of the new system will provide further details as the roll out progresses.

4. Microscopy

Malcolm Storey advises that he is working on a series of articles on microscopy. Some are likely to be featured as stand-alone features in Field Mycology with the full set of chapters made available on the BMS website.

5. Group Leaders' Meeting - Northern College, 24th to 26th June 2016

Places are filling rapidly: please contact me if your group is planning to send a representative but has not yet reserved a place.

6. Atlantic cedar blight

The Forestry Commission advises that during the last two years a severe shoot blight and defoliation of Atlantic cedar has been reported from a range of locations in Britain. The fungus *Sirococcus tsugae* has been identified as being consistently associated with these symptoms.

In the spring, affected trees develop dead needles on the shoots, dead shoots, cankers and gum exudation. Dead needles are very distinctive as they turn '**pink**' in colour. Later they become brown as the season progresses. This pink colour of the needles is very characteristic on affected Atlas cedars.

Observations of this fungus should be reported to the Forestry Commission through their Tree Alert webpage: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert>

DJH. February 2016
BMS Recording Network Coordinator