

Making a Difference: Showing the Positive Impact of Natural History Collections

AGM & Conference 8th & 9th May 2025 in partnership with The Manchester Museum



Thursday 8th May

10.00 – 10.20 Registration and coffee

10.25 – 10.30 Introduction & housekeeping

10.30 – 10.40 Welcome by Esme Ward and George Young, Manchester Museum, University of Manchester

First Session

10.40 – 11.20 **Lightning talks** (5 minutes each)

Chair:

1. **Opening the doors: presenting natural history collections to the public.** Grace Flanagan: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
2. **Engaging for impact: how the digitisation team is reaching stakeholders in the margins.** Glory Turnbull: Natural History Museum, London
3. **Balancing resources and responsibilities: strategies for curator-led public engagement.** Beatriz Vieite: University of Aveiro, Portugal
4. **Cue the Kew internship.** Clare Drinkell: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
5. **Making an exhibition of ourselves: displaying and not displaying human remains in the Grant Museum.** Hannah Cornish: Grant Museum of Zoology, University College London
6. **Bringing digital collections to the social media masses: 80 million specimens, with at least as many stories.** Skye Neal: Natural History Museum, London
7. **Utilising plant traits from herbarium collections and species descriptions to enhance conservation efforts in southeast Asia's biodiversity hotspots.** Alison Moore: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
8. **A time capsule of extinction: Scottish wildlife in taxidermy.** Caitlin Jamison: Montrose Museum, Scotland

11.20 – 11.40 Coffee break, trade stands, & posters

Posters:

Anything but boring: a case study in the use of drill core at the British Geological Survey (Keyworth, Nottingham) for palaeontological research.

Meghan Jenkinson (presenter)^{1,3}, Crispin Little¹, Michael Howe^{2,3}, Simon Harris^{2,3}, Alex Dunhill¹: ¹The University of Leeds; ²The British Geological Survey; ³The Geological Collections Group

Discovering microplastics in the deep ocean: using a private natural history collection to bring science to life in the classroom. Andrew Taylor: Andrew Taylor Natural History Collection

Second Session **Education & Accessibility**

Chair:

11.40 – 12.00 Addressing accessibility: ideas for inclusive natural history displays. Anna Massignan: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

12.00 – 12.20 Nature needs everyone's help, and the Real World Science network are working together to help it thrive! Fareeda Atwan: Natural History Museum, London

12.20 – 12.40 A new museum display for the blind: does it make a difference? Claire Smith, Amanda Callaghan, Caitlin Walton, and Emma Dunford: Cole Museum of Zoology, University of Reading

12.40 – 13.30 Lunch & trade stands

13.30 – 14.05 NatSCA AGM

Chair: Jen Gallichan & Isla Gladstone

Reports on the running of NatSCA and elections to the Committee.

14.05 – 14.15 Short break

Third Session **Colonial legacies**

Chair:

14.15 – 14.35 The colonial legacies of natural history collections: specimens from the Caribbean as a case study. Patricia Torres-Pineda: Museo de Historia Natural "Eugenio de Jesús Marcano" & University of Michigan Museum of Zoology

14.35 – 14.55 Hidden hands in colonial natural histories: lessons from four case studies at McGill. Anna Winterbottom & Victoria Dickenson: McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

14.55 – 15.15 Altering the face of nature: connecting Liverpool's natural history heritage and institutions. Deana Heath: University of Liverpool

15.15 – 15.35 A visitor intrudes and decolonises natural history: a not so scientific perspective? Su Liu: University of Sheffield

15.35 – 15.55 Coffee break & trade stands

Fourth Session [Discussion panel](#)

Chair:

15.55 – 16.55 **Making a difference**

Networking and dinner

17.00 – 18.45

Informal get-together (location TBC) or freshening-up break

19.00

Conference dinner: Join us at Zouk, an Indian and Pakistani restaurant for dinner. **(Additional advance booking required)**

Friday 9th May

10.00 – 10.15 Registration & coffee

10.15 – 10.25 Welcome & housekeeping

First Session [Collaboration, Digitisation, & Sustainability](#)

Chair:

10.25 – 10.45 **Ways to skin a (large) cat: re-establishing relationships between live and dead collections.** Emma Murphy: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

10.45 – 11.05 **The hosted portal of the Arctic University Museum of Norway, an example of how to provide open access to natural history collections.** Vanessa Pitusi & Andreas Altenburger: The Arctic University Museum of Norway

11.05 – 11.25 **DiSSCo UK – unlocking impact from the UK's natural science collections.** Helen Hardy (NHM), Vincent Smith (NHM), Laurence Livermore (NHM), Sally Jennings (NHM), Tao Tao Chang (AHRC), & David Selway (AHRC): The Natural History Museum London and the Arts & Humanities Research Council

11.25 – 11.45 **KISS* at the Dead Zoo [*keep it simple & sustainable].** Paolo Viscardi & Aoife Hurley: National Museum of Ireland – Natural History

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee break & trade Stands

Second Session [Repatriation](#)

Chair:

12.00 – 12.20 **Kākāpō, Kiwi and Tūi fly home: Colchester Museums' repatriation of culturally significant bird specimens to Aotearoa New Zealand.** Sophie Stevens & Ricky-Lee Erickson: Colchester Museums and Tāmaki Paenga Hira, Auckland War Memorial Museum

12.20 – 12.40 **A restitutive commitment to community and to the natural environment through storying with natural history collections.** Pauline Rutter: Independent Academic & Archival Artist

12.40 – 13.00 **Natural history repatriations: how and why to do it.** Mike G. Rutherford: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

13.00 – 13.45 Lunch & trade stands

Third Session [Stories our collections tell](#)

Chair:

13.45 – 14.05 **Women of the Riverflies: researching under-represented female naturalists and collectors in the NHMUK's Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera collections: enriching party data in the museum's collection management system and increasing women's public profiles by creating Wikipedia biographies.** Louise Berridge: Natural History Museum, London

14.05 - 14.25 **Nature's memory: how natural history collections help save the world.** Jack Ashby: University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

14.25 – 14.45 **Reimagining the collections of Thomas Pennant at the Natural History Museum.** Stephanie Holt: Natural History Museum (Curious Travellers Project), London

14.45 – 15.00 – Summary, closing chat and thank you

15.10 – 16.45 Gallery Tours (Booking details to follow)