

programme

9.00-10.00	Coffee & registration
10.00-10.05	Welcome <i>Dr Bob Brown, Chair of Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group</i>
10.05-10.15	Opening address <i>Arlene Foster, Environment Minister</i>
10.15-11.30	<p><i>Theme 1 - Landscape Scale Research Chairperson Susanna Allen, Assistant Director, EHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking between the scales: what we need to know & why. <i>Dr Andrew Stott, Head of Biodiversity & Landscape, Defra</i> • Adaption, science & practice: a close shave with Occam's Razor! <i>Dr Roger Catchpole, Senior Specialist - Spatial Ecology, Natural England</i> • Filling the Northern Ireland gap on sea level change for UKCIP08: looking back to see forward. <i>Professor Julian Orford, Queen's University Belfast (Co-author Professor David Smith)</i>
11.30-12.00	Coffee & tea
12.00-13.15	<p><i>Theme 2 - Protected Site Research Chairperson Professor Howard Platt, Assistant Director, EHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing techniques for site monitoring in Northern Ireland. <i>Paul Corbett, Head of Habitat Survey Team, EHS</i> • Northern Ireland's hidden underwater landscapes. <i>Joe Breen, Head of Aquatic Sciences Team, EHS</i> • Lough Neagh diving duck: where have they gone? <i>Ian Enlander, Head of Ornithology & Geology Team, EHS</i>
13.15-14.15	Lunch & poster sessions
14.15-15.15	<p><i>Theme 3 - Species Research Chairperson Dr Michael Meharg, Assistant Director, EHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland buzzing: bee biodiversity across the island. <i>Dr Rob Paxton, Queen's University Belfast (Co-authors: Dr Úna Fitzpatrick, Dr Tomás Murray, Dr Mark Brown)</i> • Rathlin Island: a sponge biodiversity hotspot. <i>Dr Claire Goodwin, Marine Biologist, National Museums Northern Ireland</i> • Invertebrate Monitoring: finds & falls, a year of discovery. <i>Dave Allen, Allen & Mellon Environmental Ltd.</i>
15.15-15.45	Coffee & tea
15.45-16.40	<p><i>Theme 3 - Species research (continued) Chairperson Dr Michael Meharg, Assistant Director, EHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting awareness & recording of cetaceans in Northern Irish waters. <i>Gary Burrows, Coastal & Marine Communications Officer, EHS</i> • Splitting hares: advances in ecology & genetics of the Irish Hare. <i>Professor Ian Montgomery, Queen's University Belfast</i>
16.40-16.50	What happens next? <i>Mark Wright, Head of Research & Development Team, EHS</i>
16.50-17.00	Closing remarks <i>Dr Bob Brown, Chair of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group</i>