

Jersey Biodiversity Centre – 50@50 Report

The Jersey Biodiversity Centre was excited to receive funding as part of the AJC's 50@50 campaign. The primary role of the JBC is to manage a database of wildlife records and to assist and support recorders in correctly identifying different species. With COVID restrictions the ability to hold events and workshops were severely limited with mainly online events being held. This meant that members of the public and surveyors have not received the level of face to face support we would usually like to provide. With the AJC funding the JBC will be providing these courses again, and also be able to bring specific species experts over to Jersey to deliver these talks. So far, we have a bumblebees and pollinators weekend arranged, a ladybird identification session and are waiting to hear back from those representing plants, birds and other taxonomic groups.

The pollinators and bumblebees course has been run previously and was very successful (see attached photos from the event from two years ago), but we have never run any detailed courses on other insects. Ladybirds are very striking and popular but remarkably tricky to identify correctly, meaning the records for this group are quite low considering how often they are seen. They therefore represent an ideal group to focus on.

These courses are designed to increase the confidence of people to identify these important species and subsequently lead to more records. This then helps create a more representative picture of where they are found in Jersey and if their populations are healthy or fluctuating due to factors such as climate change and land use changes. By encouraging more people to submit their sightings of what they see, we can help protect our local species for years to come.

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