



**Matt Sutton** started teaching himself to identify birds and plants at the age of ten, in the woods and downlands of the Chiltern hills. As a teenager, voluntary conservation work on numerous RSPB reserves around Britain gave him experience of many different habitats and their conservation. After graduating from Sheffield University (with a first class degree in Natural Environmental Science and the AJ Boswell memorial prize in botany), he was employed by the RSPB on seasonal contracts in the Norfolk Broads and Breckland. He then spent a winter with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust designing a wetland creation project, which now holds breeding bitterns and marsh harriers.

He moved to Wales in 1996 to work for the Countryside Council for Wales, where he was an employee for fifteen years. In his four years as a vegetation surveyor he carried out Phase I and Phase II survey in a range of grassland, heath and fen sites. He authored CCW's Phase I survey of Ceredigion, and numerous individual site reports for the Phase II Lowland Grassland Project. He then became Senior Conservation Officer, Pembrokeshire, where he was responsible for supervising and leading on conservation work within the team. He initiated a number of innovative and successful projects, winning the Wales Biodiversity Award and leading farmers to success in conservation awards including the Royal Welsh Agri-Environment and UK Silver Lapwing Awards. He took voluntary redundancy in 2011.

His natural history expertise has been developing steadily over the years. He has made numerous interesting discoveries, including new Welsh or county records of birds, flowering plants, trees, liverworts, fungi, snails, beetles, moths and flies.



**Vicky Swann** spent much of her childhood on a smallholding in the Cotswolds and it was here that her love of the countryside and its wildlife grew. Graduating with a 2:1 honours in Geography she then spent time in Australia working for various National Parks on the east coast. This included research on marine and freshwater turtles.

On returning to the UK, she moved to north Wales where she took up a position with the North Wales Wildlife Trust working on their nature reserves, carrying out both practical management work and species monitoring. She became involved with the Snowdonia Mammal Group and the development of their atlas. This led on to researching the distribution and population densities of the brown hare throughout the region. Moving to Pembrokeshire she developed her multi-programme GIS expertise and appreciation of natural history whilst working for the local records centre.