

**Mr. Nigel Birch,**

**University Interface Manager,  
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, UK**



Following graduation Nigel spent three and a half years in Zambia as a Tsetse Control Biologist. Returning to the UK he joined the Science and Engineering Research Council as a committee secretary. With the reorganisation of the research council structure by the UK Government in 1994 he transferred to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

In the 24 years he has been with the Research Council he has been involved in research administration and management for a wide variety of scientific disciplines ranging from the biological sciences and biotechnology, through engineering to information technology. These responsibilities have included not only looking after normal grant activity but also developing and managing a number of special programmes including some in collaboration with other agencies. He has also run and taken part in various workshops and conferences. He has been involved with the EPSRC's international activities particularly in developing interactions with Asia and representing UK interests with the European Science Foundation.

His current post is in the Programme Operations Directorate where he is the University Interface Manager for the East of England and part of the team responsible for grants processing for mathematics, physics and chemistry. In addition, he is Project Officer for the Research Councils UK grant review benchmarking activity. He manages the contract for the provision of transferable skills training for postgraduate students on behalf of all the Research Councils. He also administers EPSRC's new International Doctoral Scholarships programme and he has been coordinating the development of the training programme for the Japanese Programme Officers in the UK Research Councils.

In his spare time he is a keen birdwatcher and is current chairman of the North Cotswold Ornithological Society a local organisation carrying out survey activity. He is also Secretary to the Foundation for Endangered Languages, a UK-based charity supporting research into the support and protection of endangered languages (see: [www.ogmios.org](http://www.ogmios.org)). He also plays bass guitar in various settings.