As a result of long-term changes in the research priorities within the Nematode Interactions Unit at Rothamsted Research, the Rothamsted Nematode Collection (RNC) has been transferred to the Nematology Team, Plant Health Group, at the Central Science Laboratory (CSL). This historic collection, which includes thousands of type specimens of national and international importance, will be re-housed by CSL as part of its invertebrate collection and eventually listed on the Internet. The database will also include those slides that are part of the current CSL collection and any other slide material that nematologists wish to deposit with CSL in the future. CSL wish to retain the function of the RNC as the premier UK depository for slide material of all newly described species. In its new accommodation, it is expected that the RNC will form the focus of research collaborations, especially for nematologists involved in linking classical and molecular taxonomic research. The move of the RNC builds on collaborations between the nematologists in both Centres and will ensure the long-term security of this important scientific resource and its availability to the scientific community.

Whilst CSL will endeavour to provide an on-line listing as soon as possible, the rate of progress of developing the collection for the Nematology community will depend on the funds we attract for its curation, so we welcome any suggestions for collaboration to make this unique collection more accessible. We believe the future for the RNC will be as exciting as in the past, making full use of the currently available technology to display nematode images and videos and accredited molecular data. All nematologists are encouraged to visit CSL.

We would like to call on anyone who has borrowed material from the collection and not yet returned it to please notify Dr Sue Hockland at CSL.

Future enquiries about loans/research on the RNC collection should be sent to: Sue Hockland, Plant Health Group, Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LZ, England, UK. (e-mail: s.hockland@sl.gov.uk)