

Creating thriving places for nature and people

Thursday, 24th – Friday, 25th February 2022

Participant Biographies



Richard Aylard CVO

Richard joined Thames Water in 2002 as Corporate Responsibility Director and led the company's engagement with external stakeholders, including Councils, MPs, community groups and environmental organisations from 2005 to 2019. As Sustainability Director, Richard now focuses on the key issues of the environment, corporate responsibility and response to climate change, working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and local groups.

Richard has a degree in biological science from Reading University and served in the Royal Navy for 16 years. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management and Chair of the Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor charity.



Jyoti Banerjee

Jyoti is a tech entrepreneur and impact investor who is currently focused on accelerating systemic change, across our human-social-economic systems. He is a co-founder of North Star Transition which seeks to catalyse and facilitate tipping change that has exponential impacts across the planet.

North Star Transition's modus operandi is to create Transition Labs, which connect disconnected system participants and enable them to re-imagine the system they operate in. It has created a Wales Transition Lab to reconnect food, health and nature at nation-scale. North Star Transition also runs the Finance Transition Lab, bringing together over fifty participants from across global financial institutions to help catalyse a regenerative business system.



Ruth Barden

Ruth has worked in the water industry for over 20 years, starting as a scientist managing wastewater treatment works before working at Ofwat for a year and then moving to Wessex Water. Within Wessex, she has always focussed on the environmental delivery of their capital enhancement programme, from undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments to working with regulators to define the investment plan.

Within her current role, her focus is ensuring that the company delivers for the environment and their customers, balancing an improved water environment with ecological and climate emergencies and affordability. Ruth is responsible for the environmental function within Wessex Water from strategy to day to day delivery with a team of 70 but working across the company to achieve its environmental outcomes.



Patrick Begg

Patrick is Outdoors and Natural Resources Director at the National Trust. This means he leads for all strategy on climate change, environmental quality (including water and waste) and broader business sustainability. He is also the organisation's national lead on access to and management of the countryside including new national ambitions around providing much bigger and better access to nature for people in urban areas. As part of his role, he has led two significant national delivery programmes: Riverlands, which is restoring the natural function of significant river catchments in the Trust's ownership, with partners and by engaging local communities; and a drive to convert 50% of the Trust's energy supply to renewables.

He has recently taken up strategic leadership of the Trust's Future Parks Accelerator programme, a partnership with the National Lottery Heritage Fund which is working with local authorities and other local community partners in 10 pioneer cities to explore new ways to restore and then resource the long term provision and management for people of high quality urban parks. In previous roles, Patrick has also led the Trust's national policy work; strategy on farming and land use; European affairs; and corporate planning.



Craig Bennett

Craig started as Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts in April 2020, with the ambition of putting a third of the UK's land and sea into nature recovery by 2030.

He has been described as "one of the country's top environmental campaigners", by The Guardian as "the very model of a modern eco-general" and has been listed as one of the UK's top "social media CEOs".

Craig was previously CEO of Friends of the Earth where he refocused the organisation on its unique role of empowering communities to take action to tackle the climate and ecological crisis. This resulted in a step-change in the scale and impact of the movement with over 200 new Friends of the Earth community groups set up during his tenure. Craig led Friends of the Earth to numerous campaign victories including on bees, fracking and against the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

Earlier in his career, Craig was Deputy Director at The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and Director of The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change (from 2007 to 2010). Before that, he campaigned on corporate accountability, trade, and wildlife issues at Friends of the Earth and on international wildlife crime at the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA).

Craig has twenty years' experience of designing and contributing to executive education and leadership programmes at numerous universities and business schools, including the Judge Business School, London Business School, and Duke CE. He is Honorary Professor of Sustainability and Innovation at Alliance Manchester Business School.

He has a BSc (Hons) in Human and Physical Geography from The University of Reading and an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation from University College London, and an Honorary Doctoral degree from University College of Estate Management (UCEM).



Lucy Butt

Lucy works as a Geospatial Analyst within Atkins. Her area of expertise is in capturing, processing and analysing spatial data. Her current interests lie in how we can use spatial data to investigate and solve issues around Net-Zero



Dr Richard Byrne

Richard has been a Senior Lecturer in Land Management at Harper Adams University for over 20 years and specialises in agricultural and land management policy with a particular focus on the interactions between food security and conservation of natural resources. He is currently working on several studies relating to delivering Net Zero in agricultural environments with a particular focus on blending production agriculture with natural capital enhancement. He has advised Government, private, and third sector organisations on agriculture and agri-environmental issues both in the UK and overseas.



Amanda Campbell

Driven by impact, Amanda has progressed from Circular Economy start-ups, onto mentoring entrepreneurs, then corporate sustainability consulting, before managing innovation for the largest global waste company and developing their UK commercial sustainability & innovation strategy. Amanda specialised in implementing corporate Net Zero strategies during her late MSc and is applying her academic, professional and practical experience to the Space Sector, as she believes the sector has the capabilities to enable a just and prosperous transition to Net Zero.

Amanda is Head of Net Zero for the Satellite Applications Catapult, whose purpose is to accelerate the growth of UK space and satellite applications sector by helping bridge the gap between business, academia, and government to support the exploitation of innovation potential and drive economic growth. Amanda is responsible for driving commercial solutions for climate change by utilising space technology capabilities and sits on boards and environmental task groups across the UK for delivering Net Zero commitments.



Geoff Carss

Geoff is a co-founder of Ethos Wilder, which is focussed on increasing the pace and scale of nature based recovery. His first career was a Geologist then a software engineer. Following an MBA, he spent 15 years in Management Consulting with EY and IBM. Passionate about our environment since being a semi-feral child in Northumberland - ex-Trustee of the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust.



Tim Christophersen

Tim Christophersen is Head of the 'Nature for Climate' Branch at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and leads a growing global movement backed by all UN Member States and around 100 partner organizations to 'prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide': the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.

He holds a degree in Forestry and Forest Conservation Engineering from Dresden University of Technology. He previously worked for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), where he led the portfolio on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. From 2017-2019, he was elected Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

From 2002-2007 he was Regional Programme Coordinate for Europe, the Caucasus and the Commonwealth of Independent States at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He also worked for the Danish Ministry of the Environment, and for the European Commission.



James Clare

James is the Director of Climate Change and Sustainability (Dir CC&S) in the UK MOD responsible for the delivery of the Department's CC&S Strategic Approach as well the activity to ensure that Defence has adapted and is resilient to the impact of climate change, mitigated its environmental impact and enhanced its sustainability policy. Additionally, James is also responsible for climate security policy and looking at the direct and indirect impact that climate is having both on Defence force structure as well as the causes of instability across the globe.

Since joining the MOD in 2003 he has worked across the Department in DE&S, Air Command and Head Office. He has deployed to Afghanistan as the Policy Advisor to Commander Task Force Helmand, on Herrick 10, spent two years as Private Secretary to the Chief of the Air Staff and undertaken a secondment to Lloyds Bank where he developed and supported their approach to governing agile transformation programmes.

James' first Senior Civil Servant role was as the Programme Director of the Single Vetting Provider working across Whitehall to stabilise the operations of the various providers, during a time of significant change, prior to the transition to a single vetting organisation; UK Security Vetting. More recently, James reformed and oversaw the UK MOD's management of its Estate as well as securing significant additional investment through the recent Spending Reviews as Deputy Director Finance Military Capability (Infrastructure). In this role, James was also responsible for the Department's Sustainability Strategy and supported Lt Gen Richard Nugee's Review of CC&S activity, turning the Review's recommendations into the acclaimed CC&S Strategic Approach.

At home James tries to find time to sea kayak and read (his two passions) whilst juggling two small children and trying to finish doing up the family house.



Jane Davidson

Jane Davidson is the author of #futuregen: Lessons from a Small Country and passionate about living lightly. She is Pro Vice-Chancellor Emeritus at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Patron of the UK Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. From 2000 - 2011, she was Cabinet Minister for Education, then Environment and Sustainability in Wales where she proposed legislation to make sustainability the central organising principle of government: the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into law in 2015. She is an RSA Fellow and guest faculty on the Executive Education for Sustainability Leadership programme at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



John Davies

Home for John is a family farm in the hills of Mid Wales where he farms in partnership with his wife, son and father. John and his family farm beef, sheep and are also involved in tourism. He has been President of NFU Cymru for the last 4 years and he is passionate about combining the production of food with the environment to improve nature and biodiversity whilst producing the most climate friendly food in the world. John has been closely involved in the NFU net zero work. He is passionate about people and rural communities and determined to provide a sustainable future for our young people.



Anwen Davis

Anwen is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst at Atkins, working on a variety of infrastructure consultancy projects. Prior to joining, Anwen completed a Master's in Human Geography where she developed a particular interest in exploring how critical human geography theories can be applied and used alongside GIS to pursue social justice and help create inclusive sustainable solutions.



Ivan de Klee

After a decade in international nature conservation Ivan now works in the UK for both the Knepp Estate and Nattergal Ltd. At Knepp, he leads on Natural Capital assessments and nature-based solutions; answering how carbon sequestration markets can be developed for process-led systems, how to make biodiversity uplift credits and net gain work for rewilding and unpacking the future of ELMs. As a consultant for landowners and land managers Ivan helps them visualize, plan and fund their change in land use to regenerative systems.

Landscape Recovery: Ivan is leading on the creation of the Weald to Waves nature corridor from Ashdown Forest to Littlehampton, building a nature recovery system across Sussex in practice rather than theory. He is the facilitator for a farmer group of over 40 farmers across the Adur catchment, running events that help them learn about and move towards environmentally farmed systems.

At Nattergal, Ivan coordinates the ecological direction of their portfolio, Natural Capital baselines and commodifying their natural capital assets alongside community engagement and project design.



Kat Deeney

Kat has worked within the environment field for over 18 years.

Currently her portfolio includes strategic leadership for environmental planning, green and blue space enhancement and responding to the climate emergency within Plymouth City Council. This includes, transformation of the Council's Green Estate, including nature based solution delivery, solar farm development and activating spaces for people. Development of the UK's first National Marine Park, delivery of a new Community Forest and the development of innovative environmental funding models.

In all work there is a fundamental focus on how people and nature can work together to achieve benefits for all.



Adrian Dolby

Adrian is Head of Agriculture at Buccleuch and a member of the Executive Committee with responsibility for strategy and investment across a diverse land holding extending to some 80,000 hectares situated in Southern Scotland and the East Midlands. Based in the Scottish Borders he advises the Estates in agriculture and environment policy alongside wider tenant engagement and chairs Buccleuch's Natural Capital Steering Group.

Adrian is an advisor to Astanor Ventures, a European based private equity fund, focusing on the food and agri-tech sector. He also holds an external advisory role with the Goodwood Estate, situated in the South Downs National Park.

Adrian studied at the Royal Agricultural College, is a Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Management and a trustee of Tweed Forum promoting integrated land and water management throughout the River Tweed catchment.



Mark Drewell

Building large-scale nature-based food agrifood business creating nutrient-dense, affordable food profitably while sequestering carbon.

Director of the South West Mutual creating member-owned regional bank.

Author: Changing The World We Create and The Rise of the Meaningful Economy.

West-country raised, PPE at Oxford, corporate career mostly in South Africa.

Created prototype of Peace Committees, which managed end of Apartheid in South Africa.

Co-founded global coalition of bschools/business for responsible business leadership.

Helped Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and Aspen Institute set up in Africa. Served on business school boards (UK, South Africa and Switzerland).

Chaired stuff including Southern Africa's largest environmental NGO, world's largest initiative on children's rights and innovative UK school introducing ground-breaking A-level replacement.



Richard Dunne

Richard is Founder and Director of The Harmony Project. In his previous role as Headteacher of an Ofsted graded Outstanding School, he developed a curriculum of learning, inspired by Nature's principles of Harmony. These principles inform the way a Harmony curriculum works, providing a coherent framework through which learning objectives and sustainability practices can be delivered.

Richard is sharing this new way of learning across the education sector in the UK and around the world in partnership with Eden Project International, helping teachers and students alike to see the importance of putting Harmony principles and sustainability practices at the heart of all learning.

Richard believes passionately that the best way for students to be motivated in their education is when it makes sense to them, and they have a key role to play. By applying subject skills and knowledge to purposeful project-based enquiries, students develop their own vision of how they want their world to be and what they can do to make it happen.

In response to the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change draft strategy, Richard is now leading a national campaign to introduce a Nature Premium into schools to provide funding for students to have regular access to nature-based learning.



David Eccles

David left the Army as a brigadier and for 10 years was Head of Stakeholder Engagement for the Hinkley Point C new nuclear power station project in Somerset. He now works as an independent consultant acting as a facilitator for conference type events and for Bristol Airport as the lead of the South West Hydrogen Ecosystem Partnership.



Professor Steve Evans

Professor Steve Evans joined academia in 1988 after 12 years in various industries. Steve is Director of the Centre for Industrial Sustainability at the University of Cambridge, and leads research across many aspects of the transformation toward a sustainable industrial system; he is also a visiting Professor at the Royal College of Art.

Steve has founded various cleantech start-ups, has been Special Adviser to the House of Lords, as well as holding many policy informing roles in the UK and globally. In 2019, Steve was recognised by his peers for academic excellence by his election as Member of Academia Europaea. He is a father of two and a black belt at judo.



Ellie Ewart

Ellie is a graphic designer, environmental education developer and outdoor instructor from Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Training as a graphic designer helped Ellie find her passion for positive behaviour change campaigns and the power of creative thinking. She has worked for Surfers Against Sewage and Trash Free Trails creating education programmes and campaigns. The programmes she has written, delivered and developed have focussed on eliminating single-use plastics in schools, grounding yourself in nature and building self-esteem.



Dr Pete Falloon

Dr Pete Falloon is the Met Office Science Directorate's Change Manager, and leads the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme's Climate Service for Defra on Food, Farming and Natural Environment. Pete has over 25 years of experience in modelling environmental systems, particularly the impacts of climate and land use change on agriculture, water, and soils.

Pete has been at the Met Office Hadley Centre since 2004 and led the Climate Impacts Modelling team from 2009-2019. He is a contributing author to the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and a member of the Global Food Security Programme's Programme Coordination Group board. Pete is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and the Royal Meteorological Society.



Dr David Gasca

Dr David Gasca is an environmental hydrologist with over 20 years of experience in the management and nature recovery of aquatic ecosystems. David works across all stages of environmental project delivery, from the development of strategies and plans, to modelling, design and project management. He is an experienced environmental negotiator through stakeholder and landowner liaison. He also regularly supervises citizen scientists, BSc, MSc and PhD students researching the ecosystem services delivered by aquatic ecosystems in the broader landscape.



Ben Hart

Ben is a natural capital and carbon specialist, with 13 years' experience supporting public and private organisations on their net-zero carbon reduction journeys. Ben currently leads on natural capital at Bunloit Rewilding Ltd, across two estates in the Scottish Highlands, where he is managing the development of advanced Natural Capital mapping and monitoring solutions. A Chartered Energy Manager for 7 years, prior to joining the Bunloit team, Ben worked for a market leading carbon consultancy where he led a team responsible for delivering over 15,000 tonnes CO₂ and £3.5 million of energy cost savings to clients annually.



Jon Hollis

Jon is an experienced Programme Manager working for the Environment Agency. Originally a cartographer, he moved into programme management in 2007. Most recently, Jon led the £15 million Natural Flood Management (NFM) Programme and learnt more about NFM measures to support others to make more use of them. He is passionate about sharing that knowledge to encourage and enable others to do more. Jon has an international network, and is developing tools to make information about NFM more accessible to all.

Jon grew up in the fens and loves the outdoors. Out of work, he presents a weekly show on a community radio station and enjoys walking and amateur photography.



Dr Matthew Howard

Matthew is international lead for healthcare data science at AWS, focused on how cloud computing, analytics, machine learning and AI can transform health systems and improve patient outcomes. Recent customers include the UK National Health Service and the World Health Organisation.

Matthew has a track record in the design and delivery of advanced analytics and machine learning technologies at local and national level, including working with international governments on the application of AI and other emerging technologies for policy development and provision of public services. Prior roles to AWS include Director of Artificial Intelligence at Deloitte UK and European Lead for Watson Health at IBM, and he has been a member of the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence.

Matthew's background includes healthcare analytics, strategic consulting, pharmaceutical development and start-up. He holds a PhD in Biological Sciences from Imperial College London.



Marcus Huband

Marcus Huband is a fluvial geomorphologist with Atkins. He has over 25 years' experience in environmental consultancy. He specialises in catchment management with a focus on nature-based solutions, flood risk and river restoration. He is chartered with both CIWEM and the Royal Geographical Society.



Dr Simon Jackman

Simon Jackman is a Senior Innovation Fellow working across the University of Oxford with the space and environmental sectors in collaboration with the Satellite Applications Catapult, developing innovative programmes and partnerships. His original background in pharmaceutical and environmental biotechnology research led to a patent and 3 spin-out companies and leadership of a national academic/business innovation network tackling pollution. More recently, he was Head of Innovation at the Natural Environment Research Council before returning to Oxford seven years ago to develop programmes including an AI for Planet Earth Institute and a space initiative across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.



Graydon Jeal

Graydon is Practice Director for Advisory & Economics at Atkins. He is an economist and engineer, and has worked extensively in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East and UK preparing investment strategies and advising on regulation, transactions, financial sustainability and economic justification for energy, irrigation, sanitation, solid waste and water projects. In the UK, most of his experience is in strategic planning for investments, in the face of uncertainty- people, systems and climate.



Sarah Jennings

Sarah Jennings joined Natural Resources Wales in September 2020 from Hywel Dda University Health Board where she was their Director of Partnerships and Corporate Services. Prior to that, she was Head of Strategic Partnerships and Projects at Carmarthenshire County Council, working to integrate health and social care.

She previously worked for 12 years in the private sector as Managing Director (Europe) for a US Corporation and then for seven years as Head of Economic Development for Carmarthenshire County Council managing a £450m multi-agency regeneration programme including Community Development, Physical Regeneration, Business Support and Tourism.

Her priorities at NRW will focus on strengthening partnerships and building a compelling narrative around its mission to tackle the climate and environment emergencies. She will also provide strategic leadership to the future direction of relationships with new and existing stakeholders and lead the commercial income generation and procurement functions at NRW. Her responsibilities at NRW include ensuring that the procurement and commercial activities on the Welsh Government Woodland Estate and land meet the aims of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and contribute to dealing with the climate and environmental emergencies we are facing. Sarah is an innovator and wants to find new ways of delivering, which leave a real impact and bright future for the next generation and beyond in Wales.

Sarah is a Mum to Seren (8 years old) a Welsh and Spanish speaker and they spend all their spare time exploring the wonderful coasts, castles and countryside of West Wales in their campervan Gloria. Sarah's passion for Wales, its culture, nature and language means she has her dream job working with NRW.



Dr Tony Juniper CBE

Tony is Chair of the official nature conservation agency Natural England and a Fellow with the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. He is a former Director of Friends of the Earth, Executive Director with WWF UK, President of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and environment advisor to HRH the Prince of Wales. Juniper is the author of many books; including the best-selling What has Nature ever done for us?



Dr Lucy Loveday

Dr Lucy Loveday: @drLucyLoveday (MRCGP, PG Cert Clinical Education) is founder of Movement & The Mind®; a pioneering multidisciplinary platform showcasing the latest research from leaders in the field for the benefits of physical activity for mental health & brain development & mindfulness for human performance. Lucy is particularly interested in the benefits of nature-based activity and nature experience, for mental health and wellbeing & is a real advocate for this as a way of life. Lucy lives on Dartmoor with her young family. As a keen fell runner and wild swimmer, Lucy enjoys living life off screen as much as possible and in 2019 embarked on a self-experiment to live for a year without a smart phone! Lucy enjoys connecting with people in conversation and in the real world. Ideally in green or blue spaces!

As a qualified GP & experienced medical educationalist, Lucy has a varied and full portfolio career. Lucy was Regional Director for The British Society of Lifestyle Medicine 2018-2021 & was recently an Associate Research Fellow at the University of Exeter. Lucy has recently been appointed Associate Dean; Faculty Development, Performance & Innovation (HEE: South West) having previously worked for many years as a GP Training Programme Director and prior to that an Education Fellow.

Lucy is relentlessly passionate about using education and training as vehicles for positive social and cultural change and continues to design & develop creative programmes that translate the research evidence into accessible and meaningful action. Whilst human health improves, it does so to the detriment of natural systems. This is unsustainable. Lucy hopes that by facilitating individuals to connect with nature, they begin to feel a sense of belonging and are empowered to become agents for their own health whilst also promoting sustainable behaviours for the health of the planet.



Katie- Jo Luxton

Katie-jo Luxton, became RSPB's Executive Director of Global Conservation in November 2021, leading the RSPB's mission to save species, protect habitats and restore landscapes to help end the nature and climate emergencies and inspire others to do the same. Prior to that, she was Director of RSPB Cymru for 12 years leading the delivery of the RSPB's strategy in Wales. She has a track record in developing ambitious partnerships to deliver landscape scale restoration and to engage new audiences in valuing nature. Recent projects she has led or been involved in are the Celtic Rainforest partnership, the Living Levels Landscape Partnership, Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff and Natur Am Byth partnership. She also has extensive experience in advocating for and developing policies for nature at both the Wales and UK level and in leading casework to protect important habitats and species.

Katie-jo spent her formative years in Gloucestershire and Radnorshire before studying Archaeology & Anthropology at Cambridge University. Prior to joining the RSPB in 1999, she has previously worked for the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Groundwork Trust. She is married with two daughters and lives in Cardiff. In her leisure time, she is a keen allotment gardener, enjoys exploring nature and the countryside, poetry, live music, politics and travel.



Henry Marriner

Henry has spent the last two and a half years in Vietnam with an international NGO leading multi-national teams in the removal of unexploded mines and bombs. His work in Asia has included deployed work cycles to Cambodia to consult on fledgling programmes and a large-scale project expansion. Henry has over eight years' experience in the military as a Navy Diver with multiple deployments to the Middle East and Baltic with direct accountability for the motivation and welfare of a deployed warship.



Manu Maunganidze

Manu is an educator, creative producer and diversity consultant focused on social and environmental issues. He founded NYCE, which provides opportunities for minoritised and economically disadvantaged youth to gain access to nature and to the environmental sector.

At the Global Goals Centre he facilitates the production of creative educational experiences aligned with the UNSDG's. His consultancy practice deals with inclusion and equity objectives in the environmental and cultural sectors. Manu also sits on the boards of Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Eastside Community Trust and on the advisory board to the South West region of the National Trust. His key skills are around effective and engaging facilitation of groups, creating practical strategy outcomes for organisations big and small, and using art as a medium to explore and communicate difficult issues.



Liam McAleese

Liam is a Director at the Esmée Fairbairn foundation, an independent funder aiming to improve our natural world, secure a fairer future and strengthen the bonds in communities in the UK. Before joining Esmée, Liam held senior roles at the Lake District National Park Authority and was a Non-Executive Director of National Park Partnerships LLP. Liam started his career in a range of roles in DEFRA and BEIS before establishing a successful marine planning and environmental consultancy business and taking on a non-executive director role in the Gardline Marine Science Group of companies.



Elsbeth McIntyre

Elsbeth is an innovative Senior Geospatial Consultant working with Atkins, with ten years of experience in the AEC industry in a variety of roles. Her work currently focuses on the complex multivariate area of net zero and sustainability, including equitable transport and building footprints, public realm experience and alternative energy. Leveraging the intersection of data analytics and visualisation, her primary role is to ensure complex methodologies and results can be usefully understood by decision makers. Elspeth is a member of the ICE Expert Panel for Geospatial Engineering and a member of the IEMA working group for Digital Impact Assessment.



Mark McKenna MBE

Mark is co-founder and CEO of Down to Earth; an award-winning group of social enterprises based in south Wales. Over the last 16 years, Down to Earth has developed and researched inclusive approaches to delivering health care and education through the medium of sustainable construction, sustainable land management and outdoor adventures.

With a long background in working with some of the most deprived and marginalised communities in Wales, Mark strongly believes that social inequality can only be tackled at the same time as tackling environmental challenges. This work was recognised with a MBE for Services to Young People and the Environment in 2020. In September 2021, Mark was appointed onto the board of Natural Resources Wales by Welsh Government.



Mike McNicholas

Mike is Managing Director of Atkins' Infrastructure Division, a diverse business operating across numerous markets including Aviation, Defence, Energy, Transportation, Cities & Development, Education and Water.

A Chartered Civil Engineer by profession, Mike joined Atkins following graduation from Imperial College, London, 1982. Mike has worked on most of Atkins recent flagship projects, from the 7 Star Burj al Arab Hotel in Dubai, to leading the company's efforts on the London 2012 Olympic Games. Mike leads a team of 3,000 professionals covering professional services in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Environmental and Earth sciences, Planning, Project Management, Building Physics, Structural Engineering and Applied Science. Mike's team is engaged on most of the UK's largest projects including HS2, Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station, Crossrail, Thames Tideway Tunnel, all the UK's Major Projects in the Defence Nuclear Sector.

Mike is passionate about helping young people forge careers in engineering, particularly at a time when the industry is adapting to the digital revolution.

Mike is a keen cyclist.



Zoe Metcalfe

Zoe is one of the driving forces behind 'Creating thriving places for nature and people.' She has created and led many transformational development projects and her focus is on delivering work with positive impacts at scale that benefit clients, society and the environment. Skilled in working collaboratively and the design management of large, multidisciplinary projects, she is Client Director for Local and Central Government in the UK for the multinational engineering and design firm Atkins, and is also a co-founder of Ethos Wilder, a venture established to help scale up the health and wellbeing benefits from nature and agricultural regeneration using credible data and innovative funding and finance models.



Andy Middleton

Andy is Founder and Chief Exploration Officer at TYF Adventure, a Founding UK B Corp and social enterprise who design experiential and workplace experiences for young people, teams and businesses. TYF help people fall in love with nature and grow unshakeable confidence in their ability to bend the arc of the future back to thriveability.

Andy is an experienced facilitator, speaker and advisor to business and government, equally comfortable as designer, chair, MC, keynote, and panellist at online or face to events, workshops, and conferences.

He is Chief Executive at Slipstream Impact, a Founding Partner of the Do Lectures, Partner at NOW Partners, mentor with the Unreasonable Group, B Corp Ambassador and Trustee at the One Planet Centre and Earth Protector Communities. With North Star Transition, he co-leads Wales Transition Lab, bringing multiple stakeholders together to develop country-scale wellbeing solutions that reconnect nature, food, health and education. He has 15 years' experience as a non-exec director on government and third sector environmental organisations including Natural Resources Wales and the Innovation Advisory Council for Wales.

Andy combines his knowledge of risk, choice, and governance to help clients and online audiences rethink their ambition for the tough choices ahead. One of his favourite questions for leaders is "acknowledging the evidence around you and scale of challenge ahead, what would you set out to do if you knew you couldn't fail?" He has been called many things, including 'a rare creative force - truly visionary and highly practical'.

Andy has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of IEMA. He works internationally and from his home city of St Davids Wales, UK, balancing desk time with surfing, sea kayaking, and land work.



Tara Moloney

Tara is a Project Coordinator with SNC-Lavalin Capital. After years of working on North American infrastructure business development and procurement pursuits, she has spent the last year exploring opportunities in the UK and Ireland. Tara believes people are the power behind delivering major programmes, and project psychologies are key to successful delivery. With four years of experience, Tara brings a fresh perspective.



Paul Morgalla

Paul is a Principal Consultant and Atkins UK Environment Digital Lead. His experience focuses on developing environmental data and GIS based solutions in the water, transportation, and energy sectors, with experience working with public sector, NGO and private organisations both in the UK and overseas in Africa, Asia and North America. He currently leads Pangea, a transformational programme to make Atkins environmental services fit for the digital age. Pangea aims to integrated environmental engagement earlier in the development of new infrastructure, to achieve better outcomes for both all stakeholders involved.



Dr Justin Morris

Justin is the Chief Executive of Bristol Zoological Society, a wildlife conservation charity. He is leading a strategy that will see the creation of a new world-class Bristol Zoo, harnessing the combined benefits of conservation fieldwork, research, education, animal husbandry and public engagement.

Justin has a lifelong passion for the natural world and hopes to lead a fundamental shift in the zoological community to recognise the combined importance of these different aspects of wildlife conservation and define what a modern zoological society should be.

Prior to joining the Society in 2018, Justin held senior positions at The British Museum and the Natural History Museum over a period of more than 20 years, during which he led a number of significant change programmes and capital projects.



Sarah Mukherjee MBE

Sarah is the CEO of IEMA. She was the BBC's Environment Correspondent for many years, presenting on national and international BBC radio and television news, working – and winning awards – across the world. Since leaving the Corporation, she has had leadership roles in utilities and agriculture. She was a panel member for the National Parks Review and sits on the National Food Strategy Advisory Panel and is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of the Environment Agency. Sarah was awarded an MBE for her services to agriculture and farmer well-being in 2021.

Sarah has been a Campaign for Real Ale beer judge and a rugby reporter in the past - two activities she still enjoys - and is a runner and yoga addict.



Professor Michael Obersteiner

His research experience stretches from biophysical modelling in the areas of ecosystems, forestry and agriculture to economics, finance and integrated assessment, and he works across ECI's research themes.

Professor Obersteiner joins the institute from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), where he was the Director of the Ecosystems Services and Management (ESM) Program. He joined the IIASA Forestry Program in 1993 and has been leading and developing the ESM Program, which is currently the largest research program at IIASA, since 2011.

Professor Obersteiner's background includes the fields of global terrestrial ecosystems and economics, having completed graduate studies both in Austria (BOKU University and Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna) and abroad (Columbia University, New York and Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk).

Under his leadership several national and international organizations, including inter alia the European Commission, WWF, OECD, and other national and international institutions have received science-based policy advice using quantitative modelling techniques. He is author of over 250 scientific papers and is a highly-cited researcher - ranking in the top 1% of citations in the Web of Science according to Clarivate research.



Jo O'Hara

Jo is a freelance consultant and coach, an experienced non-executive Director and was previously a Forestry Commissioner and Scotland's Chief Forester. She is a trustee and member of Council for the Institute of Chartered Foresters, is Vice-Chair of the low carbon charity Changeworks, and is a professional forester and accredited coach. Jo has deep and extensive knowledge and experience of the opportunities and challenges of managing land for multiple purposes. She is currently working on several international forest and land management projects with public, private and research organisations. For more info see www.futureark.com



Maddie Phillips

Maddie works for Atkins as a Graduate Geospatial Analyst following on from her MSc in Applied GIS and Remote Sensing at the University of Southampton. She is currently working on the Strategic Pipeline Alliance (SPA) spending most of her time producing figures for environmental statements and managing and updating data on the web GIS platform.



Richard Pullen

Since 2016, head of expanding the team responsible for domestic terrestrial biodiversity policy. Leading on taking forward Government ambitions for nature recovery under the 25 Year Environment Plan - habitats and species; creating framework for a national nature recovery network. He has led the biodiversity policy input into the Environment Bill/Act; shaping design of Environmental Land Management Scheme(s); policy on wildlife management, on tackling wildlife crime and non-native invasive species.

Richard has extensive senior civil service experience principally around environmental and land use agendas. His achievements include single use plastic bag charge; leading legislation team to give the public a 'right to roam' on mountain, moor, heath, down and common land; leading initiative to improve the quality of the built environment, including national urban design campaign; securing governance improvements to the International Whaling Commission; author of well-received review of national park authorities; legislating to ban domestic sales of ivory; and introducing 'catch quotas' to support sustainable management of fish stocks.



Archie Ruggles-Brise

Archie Ruggles-Brise runs a diversified farming estate near Finchingfield (Essex, UK), managing enterprises including farming, holiday cottages, wildlife photography, wild meat production, woodland management and environmental projects. He sits on the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, Country Land and Business Association national Policy Committee and is a Trustee of the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust. Archie designed and delivered the first natural flood management project involving beavers in East Anglia on the estate. A keen advocate for sustainable land management Archie works to implement farm-level Natural Capital appraisal and development of evidence-based ecosystem services contracts for private land holdings. The estate is one of only 9 English projects in the pilot of Biodiversity Net Gain Credits with Natural England.



Dr Katharine Scarfe-Beckett

An experienced writer and editor focusing on social sustainability, culture and the arts, Katharine followed her MA in English with a doctorate on Anglo-Saxon perceptions of the Islamic world (published CUP, 2000) and three years as staff writer at the Hashemite Court in Jordan before leading the English writing team at Forbes Associates Qatar (acquired 2018 by Portland Communications). Since 2000, she has reported high-level consultations at St George's House, Windsor Castle. Currently based in West London with her husband and step-daughter, Katharine continues to write and edit for corporate and private clients and pursue interests in calligraphy and illumination.



Lisa Sensier

Lisa Sensier is Development Manager at National Parks Partnerships, creating strategic national partnerships between the commercial sector and the UK National Parks. In this role she has supported the development of a major nature restoration initiative 'Revere'/'Net Zero With Nature' as well as partnerships with Estee Lauder Companies UK & Ireland, Forest Holidays and CLIF. Prior to this, she was Development Manager at Historic Royal Palaces, Royal Museums Greenwich and English National Ballet.



Liz Smart

Liz has worked as a registered nurse for over 18 years. She has spent seven years as a complex care commissioner leading a team of senior nurses. In addition to this, she helped to develop personal health budgets in line with the Long Term Plan for the NHS and became an expert in her field.

Liz currently works as an independent care consultant with southwest Integrated Personalised Care (SWIPC) and leads on personal health budgets. Personal health budgets (PHB's) are one component of Universal Personalised Care (UPC), providing people with choice and control over the way their care is planned and delivered based on what matters to them and their strengths, needs and preferences. She also works as a care consultant for the courts as an expert witness.



Dr Georgie Sowman

Georgie is a GP and Physical Activity Clinical Champion with the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities. She is an Associate and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, a Director for Greener Practice, RCGP Sustainability Champion NE England, and ICS NE Clinical Lead where she leads the Biodiversity, Green Space and Sustainable Clinical Care subgroups.



Dr Neil Strong

Neil studied forestry and ecology as an undergraduate (Edinburgh) and a post-graduate (Portsmouth). He is biodiversity strategy manager at Network Rail providing expertise and support on sustainable management of the lineside necessary to improve the safety and biodiversity of the rail network. He has previously worked on management of lineside assets including vegetation and boundary measures. His current focus is delivering guidance and tools to integrate the management of biodiversity on the rail network into existing practice. This work has to take account not only of environmental but also social obligations on an estate where trains pass at up to 200kph.



Frances Tippett

Frances works for NHS England and Improvement and heads the South West Integrated Personalised Care collaborative across the South West region. Personalised care focuses on improving on health and well-being, and includes social prescribing initiatives which can enable access to green spaces as an important part of physical and mental health. Frances has a background in commissioning and operational management of integrated services in the community. She has worked in the NHS, Local Authorities and the Voluntary and Community sector. Frances comes from Cornwall and lives there with her family.



Stan Townsend

Stan is an environmental policy advisor of several forms, currently a climate finance negotiator for the UK Government. Passionate about more holistic and intersectional efforts to address the 21st century's challenges, namely our relationship with nature and ourselves. Stan has a particular hope in the power of nature connection to shift perceptions and catalyse change. In addition to his role in policy, he is experimenting with ways to reimagine activities outside in order to stimulate personal and planetary health, namely working with a bike centre in SW England and NGOs in the space.

Experiences in nature continue to shape who he is, nature's wisdom is a constant source of inspiration and guidance.



John Vesey

John has worked in numerous roles supporting the public sector to harness the benefits of satellite technology. His current role focuses on developing sustainable services for the health and social care sectors, that are underpinned by digital transformations and shifting where care is delivered. John plays a pivotal role in the formal partnership formed with NHS Arden & GEM CSU that has already delivered a number of innovative projects harnessing the power of satellite technology within healthcare.



Dr Kate Vincent

Kate is an Associate Director at Atkins. She is an ecologist with 22 years' experience and is a Chartered Environmentalist. Kate has experience in supporting clients and policy makers in working towards delivering biodiversity net gain, combining this to utilise nature-based solutions to achieve a wider environmental net gain and ultimately a reduction in carbon emissions.

She has worked on projects involving the concept of biodiversity net gain and nature-based solutions since 2013, when she worked on HS2 Phase 1 'No Net Loss' approach. She is part of a team that provides strategic advice to National Highways on the topic of Biodiversity Net Gain and has worked with housing developer Redrow, since 2017, providing them with strategic and technical advice on how to take forward their vision of providing Biodiversity Net Gain, on all their new developments. She specialises in including nature-based solutions in any project to benefit biodiversity, people and the climate.



Victoria Vyvyan

Trelowarren, Victoria's home in Cornwall, is a diversified rural family business with a strong ecological focus. The business includes some tenanted and some in-hand agricultural land, a lowland heath restoration project, woodland managed in-hand for quality timber and for bio-mass production, a tourism business and off-site building projects.

Victoria has been actively involved in the CLA at Branch, Regional and National level. She chaired the CLA's Business and Rural Economy Committee and the Environment Committee. As Deputy President, Victoria chairs the Board and is actively involved in the Natural Capital Project and the Access Working Group.



Major General R J Walton-Knight CBE

As Director Strategy & Plans and the senior military officer in the DIO, Major General Bobby Walton-Knight plays a particular role in the relationship with the Front Line Commands and Head Office and in developing the DIO's ability to provide excellent advice. He also has specific responsibility for developing Defence's infrastructure asset management capabilities and for sustainability and climate change.

Bobby was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1991. Early service was spent in the UK and Germany, with deployments to the Falkland Islands, Angola, Bosnia and Kosovo, and overseas exercises in Canada, Poland, Belize, Australia and Cyprus.

As a major he commanded an armoured engineer squadron in Germany, deploying to Iraq; as a lieutenant colonel he commanded 21 Engineer Regiment in Ripon, deploying to Afghanistan; and as a brigadier he commanded 8 Engineer Brigade, where he led the interagency response to the 2014 floods in the south of England for which he was awarded the CBE.

On the staff, as a major, he was Military Assistant to Commander Regional Forces in Headquarters Land Forces. As a lieutenant colonel he was on the Directing Staff of the Joint Services Command and Staff College, and as a colonel he was responsible for change across the Logistics, Support & Equipment area of Army Headquarters. As a brigadier in Headquarters Field Army, he was responsible for manpower, equipment, sustainment and infrastructure, and then as Head Training in Army Headquarters he was responsible for transforming the Army's collective training. He took up his current appointment in July 2020.

He has a BSc in Human Biology and an MA in Military Studies. He has completed the Defence Technology Course, the Advanced Command and Staff Course, the Higher Command and Staff Course, and the Major Projects Leadership Academy.

Bobby is married to Sue, a modern languages teacher. They live in Wiltshire and have two daughters at university. His interests include running, hill walking, downhill skiing (for which he is an instructor), distance kayak and photography. He is making appallingly slow progress at learning French.



Claire Wansbury

Claire is an award-winning ecologist with thirty years' experience and a Fellow of CIEEM and the Linnean Society.

Claire is one of the UK's top experts on biodiversity net gain. She is also a leading expert in Natural Capital Approach. Over the last decade, Claire has been working with environmental economists and others to build a shared understanding of the value of benefits our natural world provides to people, our society and our economy. Claire also has particular knowledge of ecological mitigation and creating biodiversity opportunities in infrastructure development schemes. Prior to joining Atkins in 2005 Claire worked for five years for government nature conservation agencies, first the Countryside Council for Wales and then English Nature, and then for a specialist ecological consultancy for over seven years.



Faith Ward

Faith is currently Chief Responsible Investment Officer for Brunel Pension Partnership and Chair of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). These roles enable her to advocate for better appreciation of systemic risk as well as design solutions that embed such risks, like climate change, into the operations of finance and investment, an industry she has served for over 25 years.

Faith's other roles include member of the Ethics Investment Advisory Group for the Church of England National Investing Bodies; member of SASB's Investor Advisory Group; co-chair of the European and UK Working Group of SASB; and is a Climate Ambassador for the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Faith is a founder of the Transition Pathway Initiative and was formerly its co-chair. She was also the chair of the Reporting and Assessment Advisory Committee for the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).



Daniel Waterhouse

Daniel joined Balderton as a General Partner in 2013 and has led early-stage investments in the Revolut, Frontier Car Group (OLX), Infarm, Merama, Zoe, Simple Feast, Kbox, Vivenu and Workable. He also worked on Balderton's Liquidity Fund, leading investments Darktrace (IPO), Truecaller (IPO), Lendable and McMakler. Prior to Balderton, Daniel was a partner at Wellington Partners, working with Spotify (IPO), Hailo (part of FREE NOW), Qype (Yelp), Readmill (Dropbox), and Bookatable (Michelin). Before that he was a partner at 3i and spent six years at Yahoo! from 1999. He has a PhD and MA in applied mathematics from Oxford University.



Louise Wilson

Louise Wilson is a co-founder and joint MD of Abundance, the purpose-led FCA-regulated retail investment platform, that is increasing the accessibility of investment to individuals through a range of high impact investment opportunities that address climate emergency in a more just way. Our proprietary, low-cost, scalable digital platform accommodates investment minimums of £5.

Abundance has raised over £120m for sustainable businesses and now councils as a way to build networks of trust between councils and residents in support of council climate emergency plans.

Before Abundance, Louise was Head of Equity Capital Markets at UBS Investment Bank. Louise is on the Advisory Board of Imperial College's Centre for Climate Finance & Investment; of BrightBlue, an independent thinktank that has Clean Environment as one of its areas of interest; and of Stratiphy, a start-up that is focused on giving access to institutional investing tools to retail investors, with a sustainable objective. She has a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the University of Edinburgh.



Nick Wise

Nick is founder and CEO of OceanMind, a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting the world's oceans. Using satellites and artificial intelligence, OceanMind powers effective fisheries enforcement and enables more responsible seafood sourcing, increasing compliance and sustainability. Building on this success, OceanMind is now developing AI to detect modern slavery on the oceans, particularly in fisheries, and to detect the desecration of war graves through unauthorised undersea salvage.

Nick has been designing large scale, highly secure software solutions for over 20 years, using innovative techniques focused on market needs. Before joining the ranks of social entrepreneurship, Nick's journey saw him starting an Internet security business, as CTO of a mature SME, and managing product development in a billion-dollar multinational. As a DRK Entrepreneur, Nick now empowers people to solve global issues with technology.



Chris Woodfield

Chris Woodfield leads on TYF Adventure's regenerative business, sustainability and impact strategy for people and planet. TYF Adventure facilitate outdoor learning, environmental education and wild play on the western edge of Wales in St. David's, Pembrokeshire. Chris holds the MSc Sustainability and Adaptation from the Centre for Alternative Technology where he explored the relationship between nature connection, green health, wellbeing and pro-environmental behaviour. He is an Alumni of Forum for the Future's School of System Change and adopts a systems-thinking and living systems approach to solving challenges and tries to embrace uncertainty and complexity with compassion, curiosity and collaboration. He also works on the University of Plymouth's Low Carbon Devon project as the Knowledge Exchange Officer.



Rebecca Wrigley

Rebecca is a founder and Chief Executive of Rewilding Britain. Leading on strategy development, she creates and implements its vision, which is to see rewilding flourishing across Britain, reconnecting us with the natural world, sustaining communities and tackling the species extinction crisis and climate emergency.

She has worked in the voluntary and public sectors for 30 years, 20 years at senior management level including with WWF and Oxfam. Her particular expertise is systems thinking and engaging local communities in decision-making. Rebecca has developed and implemented conservation and community development programmes across the UK, Mexico, Uganda and New Zealand.