

FESTIVAL **OF** NATURE

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME



Professional Programme

Western Forest Roundtables

Hosted by The Natural History Consortium

ABOUT
WESTERN FOREST

Tuesday 10th June

Rosalind Franklin Room, We The Curious, Bristol

The Western Forest is a new transformative landscape recovery project, and England's first new national forest in 30 years. These sessions will bring partners together from across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and West of England.

For more information, please email savita@bnhc.org.uk



Green Skills

10–11.30am

A session to co-develop pilots around green skills, training, education and citizen science over the first three years of the Western Forest.

Conservation Volunteering

12–2pm, including lunch from 12–12.30pm

A session to explore new opportunities for more and more diverse volunteering across the Western Forest and other nature recovery projects, including new models for joined up corporate volunteering.

Cross-Boundary Health Programme

3–4.30pm

A session to co-develop a programme of cross-boundary health pilots for people to benefit from woodland spaces.

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Engaged Environmental Research (EER) Roundtable

Hosted by The Natural History Consortium

Tuesday 10 June, 12–2pm – including lunch from 12–12.30pm

Side room 2, We The Curious, Bristol

Join researchers and practitioners for a roundtable on the opportunities for collective Engaged Environmental Research (EER) and to explore a potential Community Research Hub (CRH) for Natural History Consortium partners and wider collaborators. Together we will consider potential collaboration themes raised by partners during The Natural History Consortium's 'Growing Shoots' programme (September 2024–March 2025) and agree potential collaborative funding bids for EER. For those interested but unable to attend we'll also be holding a follow up session online. Open to Natural History Consortium partners, please email rsvp@bnhc.org.uk to attend.



Student projects and conservation organisations: opportunities and challenges

Hosted by The Natural History Consortium

Tuesday 10 June, 2.30–4.30pm

Side room 2, We The Curious, Bristol

How can we better harness the capacity of student projects in the West of England to support conservation work? Natural History Consortium partners have a shared interest in enabling more frequent and productive collaborations for student projects – volunteer, research and/or work placements. Students are seen as a valuable but underused resource who want to make their work count, and conservation organisations can benefit from additional capacity such as provision of evidence to assist funding bids. What are the mechanisms and approaches that can make this work better for everyone?

If you would like to attend, please email rsvp@bnhc.org.uk

Nature & Health Practice Network Meeting

Hosted by Nature and Health Practice Network

Tuesday 10 June, 10am–1pm

Ham Green Outdoor Centre, Pill

Are you a practitioner working in Nature and Health? You may be part of the Green Social Prescribing community or working to bring nature into your practice as part of statutory health and social care services. The Nature and Health Practice Network (NHP) is a network to connect and support practitioners. NHP has been established for 4 years and we are now moving into the next phase of development. As always, there will time for catching up, networking, for discussions on collaborations and emerging opportunities and an update on special interest groups. Open to the public, aimed at practitioners working in the area of nature and health.

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Thriving Together: Creating Impactful Partnerships for Businesses, Nature and Community Health

Hosted by the West of England Nature Partnership

Tuesday 10 June, 9.30–11.30am

Side room 2, We The Curious, Bristol

The West of England is rapidly emerging as a national leader in community-led initiatives that connect people with nature, improving health, and fostering social cohesion. These nature-based programmes are transforming lives and tackling key issues like social isolation and health inequalities. By developing impactful, place-based partnerships with networks of community providers, businesses can not only help create thriving places but can enhance employee wellness, nature connectedness and sense of purpose.

Supported by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and building on [previous research and pilots](#), this workshop will explore how businesses can move beyond volunteering to developing thriving, impactful partnerships. We invite business leaders to join us in shaping this vision.

This session is for West of England business leaders, particularly social value leads and HR managers. If you would like to attend, please email helen.wood@wenp.org.uk

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Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy Co-Design Workshop

Hosted by Bristol City Council

Tuesday 10 June, 2.30–4.30pm

Side room 1, We The Curious, Bristol

Bristol's green spaces and waterways provide wide-ranging benefits for people and wildlife. Bristol City Council is considering how best to increase and improve our blue-green infrastructure; to better manage our rainwater, connect our green spaces, and enhance nature in the city. This session aims to bring together sector representatives to co-develop our priorities and actions, as we build on existing work for increased and more equitable access to nature and improved resilience to a changing climate. This event is open to The Natural History Consortium partners. Please contact rsp@bnhc.org.uk to attend, including the name of the event in your email.



Somer Valley nature-based social prescribing networking and taster morning

Hosted by Somer Valley Rediscovered

Tuesday 10 June, 9.15am–1pm

Various venues (see booking link for details)

A networking and taster opportunity to connect health services and nature based social prescribing in the Somer Valley and build strong referral networks. The morning will consist of talks and opportunities to experience a range of activities on offer. Please book online.

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CLIMATE ACTION BREAKFAST

Understanding and reducing your
organisation's impact on nature



In partnership with



Climate Action Breakfast

Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

Wednesday 11 June, 8–10.30am

West of England Combined Authority Offices, Rivergate House, 70 Redcliff St, Redcliffe, Bristol BS1 6AL

Is your organisation looking to understand and reduce its impact on nature? Have you started taking action but need help creating an effective plan?

Join Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership and Nature Positive to explore why supporting nature is important for organisations, how to begin your nature journey, and how to take meaningful action. You'll also hear from local organisations about their nature initiatives, from the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures to engaging employees through nature-based volunteering.

A light breakfast will be provided over networking. Tickets are free thanks to our Climate Action Programme supporters: Bristol City Centre BID, Redcliffe & Temple BID, Bristol City Council and NatWest.

Open to local organisations and businesses, but spaces are limited so please get in touch to book:

contact@bristolclimatenature.org

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Nature Health Hubs

Hosted by the West of England Nature Partnership

Wednesday 11th June, 1–2.30pm

Online

Discover how GP practices and health centres are transforming their outdoor spaces into vibrant, nature-filled gardens that support patient health and social connections. We'll showcase established and emerging GP gardens, hear about the value they are bringing to the surgeries and the link with nature connection and social prescribing. We'll share practical tips and advice for creating your own and funding opportunities. We hope you'll join this growing network of practices in the West of England and beyond.

Aimed at people working in GP practices and other healthcare settings in the West of England. Please register online.

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Join us for eight days of events this Festival of Nature, open to all

Saturday 7th–Sunday 15th June

The festival will once again be taking place across Bristol, Bath, surrounding areas, and online, with another week of talks, arts & crafts, activities, tours, walks, exhibitions, music, screenings and more.

Our theme for this year is **WATER** and together we'll be exploring the importance of water spaces and water journeys, big and small, in supporting nature, biodiversity and the natural world.

Find out more about what's on at this year's festival by scanning here:



The Natural History Consortium

**Join the conversation on LinkedIn,
or get in touch directly:**

festival@bnhc.org.uk
0117 325 2891

**Festival of Nature is produced by
The Natural History Consortium,
a charitable collaboration of 13 partners working
together to engage everyone with nature**



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Wildlife Trust

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