



Join the West of England Nature Partnership Conference

Conference Programme

9:15 - 10:00	Coffee, networking, registration
10:00 - 10:45	<p>Nature recovery in action: Celebrating progress and shaping what's next</p> <p>Join us as we unveil WENP's refreshed strategy and celebrate our achievements one year on from the publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We will then set our sights on the challenges and opportunities ahead.</p> <p>Hear from the West of England Mayor, Helen Godwin, and local partners, and help frame how we connect across delivery programmes and policy to accelerate delivery for nature.</p>
Nature and Infrastructure: Speaking the same language	
10:45 - 11:30	<p>How can ecology and engineering speak a shared language? This session explores how professional cultures shape the way nature is integrated into infrastructure – from design to delivery. Through expert insights and table discussions, we'll uncover where collaboration thrives and where communication gaps persist.</p> <p>With the West of England set to host the Infrastructure and Ecology Network Europe (IENE) conference in 2026, this is a timely opportunity to strengthen our regional narrative and identify stories to share on the international stage.</p> <p>Facilitator: Matthew Lipton (South Gloucestershire Council) Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Wansbury (Rebuilding Nature Alliance/AtkinsRéalis) • Matt Tooby (WSP)
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break



Bath Pavilion, Bath, BA2 4EU

Tuesday 4 November, 9:15 - 16:00

A Natural Health Service

12:00 - 12:45	<p>From strategic ambitions like BNSSG's Healthier Together 2040 to local community action, nature is increasingly part of how we support health, wellbeing and tackle inequalities. This session brings national, regional and grassroots voices together to explore what a truly "natural health service" could look like in the West of England, and how we get there.</p> <p>Facilitator: Helen Wood (West of England Nature Partnership)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gemma Self (Programme Director – Healthier Together 2040, Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire ICB) • Dom Higgins (Head of Health and Education, The Wildlife Trusts) • Ro Fry (Co Director, The Birch Collective CIC)
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12:45 - 13:45	<p>Lunch & Net-walking: Get some fresh air on a short mapped out walking route, taking in some interesting urban nature sites in Bath.</p>
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From projects to landscapes - collaborating for nature at scale

13:45 - 14:40	<p>To accelerate nature's recovery, we must move beyond stand-alone projects towards landscape-scale, co-designed programmes that attract investment and deliver for people, climate and nature. Hearing a national investment perspective and considering regional examples, this interactive session will explore how partners can combine skills, resources and ideas to overcome shared challenges. Together we'll raise ambition and strengthen collaboration, with insights taken forward by the WENP Board to embed new ways of working.</p> <p>Facilitator: Zoe Davies (West of England Nature Partnership)</p> <p>Guest speaker: Walid Al Saqqaf (Co-Founder, Rebalance Earth)</p>
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14:40 - 15:00	Coffee break
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State of Nature Monitoring

15:00 - 15:40	<p>Discover the latest insights from the West of England Wildlife Index and explore how we're tracking progress for nature across the region. This session will showcase emerging trends, invite ideas on strengthening our evidence base, and look ahead to a landmark State of Nature report that will guide future action.</p>
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15:40 - 16:00	<p>Closing plenary: Draw the day together with key messages from each session, celebrate shared achievements, and set out next steps for partners and the WENP Board.</p>
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