

**NottsBAG Annual Forum Event
Wednesday 10th March 2021
(online event).**

‘Rewilding and Landscape Scale Approaches to Biodiversity’

Morning

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- 10:00am Introduction
Paul Phillips, Chair of Notts BAG
- 10:05am Welcome to Nottingham Trent University
Julia Davies, Head of Environmental Sciences, Nottingham Trent University
- 10:10am Rewilding Britain - busting the myths and making it happen.
Prof Alastair Driver, Director, Rewilding Britain
- 10:50am Coming to terms with the wolf
Derek Gow, Ecological Consultant, Derek Gow Consultancy
- 11:30am Break
- 11:45am Wilder Idle Valley Nature Reserve – unleashing the power of animals.
Janice Bradley, Head of Nature Recovery (North), NWT
- 12:25am Clumber Park: restoring and reconnecting habitats across the historic landscape of Clumber.
Jago Moles, Countryside Manager & Gareth Jones, Lead Ranger, Clumber Park, National Trust
- 1:00pm Lunch

Afternoon

Participants are invited to attend two seminars during the afternoon session. The seminars seek to take a closer look at six areas in Nottinghamshire that have been identified as being of interest with regards to future conservation work. Each area has been identified as a ‘focal area’ as part of the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) process. These focal areas have existing biodiversity value that has the potential to be enhanced by both improving this biodiversity resource and creating better links between these areas. Further information about the seminars is provided on page 3. Please include your preferred three choices on your booking form and we will do our best to ensure that you can attend two of these. Seminars are dependent on numbers and your choice cannot be guaranteed.

- 2:00pm Introduction to Seminars
- 2:10pm Seminar Session 1
- 2:45pm Break
- 3:00pm Seminar Session 2
- 3:35pm Summary of the Day and Next Steps
- 3:45pm Finish

With thanks to Nottingham Trent University for supporting this event.

Morning Presentations

Prof Alastair Driver: Rewilding Britain - busting the myths and making it happen

Prof Alastair Driver is a well-known conservationist who is cited in 'Who's Who' for influence and distinction in the field of environmental conservation. He is an expert ecologist with 42 years' professional experience and hundreds of conservation projects under his belt. He became the first Conservation Officer for the Thames catchment in 1984 and went on to become the National Head of Conservation for the Environment Agency from 2002-16. Since Jan 2017, he has been the Director of Rewilding Britain and has had a key role in influencing government policy and establishing rewilding projects in England and Wales. Alastair will briefly explain the key principles of rewilding and how it has a key role to play in restoring biodiversity, and he will update us on the latest policy and practice in this fast-moving area of conservation.

Derek Gow: Coming to terms with the wolf

Derek is the Managing Director of a specialist wildlife consultancy - The Derek Gow Consultancy Ltd - which is principally focused on water vole mitigation and restoration projects. Derek was heavily involved in the creation of the water vole Conservation Handbook, second and third edition, and co-authored the Water Vole Mitigation Guidelines (Mammal Society, 2016). Derek is also a member of the European Beaver Working group. He has studied beaver project sites across Europe and has been involved with the import and quarantine of over 60 Eurasian beavers into the UK. As part of this event, Derek's will be discussing the use of species reintroductions and their rewilding impact on the landscape of the UK.

Janice Bradley: Wilder Idle Valley Nature Reserve - unleashing the power of animals

Working for the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust for nearly 20 years and previously for RJB Mining, the public sector, private consultancy, and in tropical forest restoration, Janice has a wide range of experience of undertaking extensive habitat restoration schemes across Nottinghamshire and the UK. Now working as the Head of Nature Recovery with NWT in the north of Nottinghamshire, Janice will share with us NWT's plans for a new approach to managing the Idle Valley Nature Reserve near Retford. The Idle Valley Nature Reserve is a beautiful SSSI covering 450 hectares of wetlands, grassland and scrub and which hosts a rich assemblage of wildlife, including some of the scarcest species in the County. NWT plan to use a wilder approach to conservation, to further increase the wildlife value of the Reserve.

Jago Moles & Gareth Jones - Clumber Park: Restoring and reconnecting habitats across the historic landscape of Clumber

Clumber Park, managed by the National Trust, is one of several large estates located on the western edge of Nottinghamshire. In 2018, the National Trust's tenant entered an agri-environment scheme that will lead to big changes across the park over the next 10 years and beyond. These changes will see the reversion of arable land to traditional habitats including Wood Pasture, Heathland, Acid grassland and enhanced areas of Wetlands. Jago and Gareth will discuss how these changes were planned, how they went about delivery, and how they will impact on Clumber Park in the long term. Located towards the northern edge of Sherwood Forest, consideration will be given to how these changes will benefit the wider landscape.



Afternoon Seminars

For the afternoon seminar sessions, you are invited to attend two of the following six seminar options:

Clipstone - Charleen Case (NWT)

Located in the heart of Sherwood, the substantial Clipstone Focal Area has huge potential for wildlife. The area includes Sherwood Pines Forest Park (the largest Forestry England woodland in the Midlands), several SSSI's, large tracts of post-industrial land undergoing restoration, golf courses and agricultural land, and supports some spectacular areas of heathland, acid grassland and oak-birch woodland. During this seminar, we will investigate what makes this area special and how future management, can help to improve habitat connectivity

Cotgrave Forest - Neil Pinder (RNCSIG)

Located in the heart of Rushcliffe, the Cotgrave Forest Focal Area consists of a landscape of fragmented woodland and grassland. These habitats still support a wide assemblage of species, including some notable plants and butterflies, such as Purple Emperor. Two key locations within this focal area include Cotgrave Forest, the largest block of woodland in South Nottinghamshire and Cotgrave Country Park. Neil will consider what makes this area so special and discuss ways that the existing biodiversity resource can be enhanced by increasing the habitat connectivity.

Erewash Catchment - Ben Driver (NWT)

Spanning the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire county boundary, the Erewash Focal Area forms a network of wetland and grassland habitats stretching from its source (close to Kirkby-in-Ashfield), down to Attenborough Nature Reserve, at its confluence with the River Trent. Along its length the floodplain supports some large blocks of contiguous habitat, that in turn support many interesting species. Learn more about this diverse and overlooked landscape and how we can look to improve it in the future.

Leen Catchment - Chris Jackson (Notts BAG)

The River Leen flows from north to south, from Annesley to Lenton (in Nottingham City) before discharging in the River Trent. The catchment is amazingly diverse, covering different geology, a range of habitat types and landscapes. This 'hidden gem' is one of Nottinghamshire's least known but most populated localities. This seminar will investigate the current diversity of species and habitats that are supported by this focal area and identify the current work that is being undertaken to manage this amazing resource. It will also seek to identify what is required to maintain and reconnect the landscape for the enjoyment of future generations.

Idle Valley - Mark Speck (NWT), Katie McNamara (EA)

The Idle Valley meanders across the northern part of Nottinghamshire. It is formed where its many tributaries, draining the Sherwood Forest area, join just to the south of Retford. From here it flows north and east until it discharges into the River Trent at Gainsborough. Following the course of the river and its floodplain, the focal area includes several SSSI wetlands, which are of particular importance for birds. Katie and Mark will investigate current efforts to manage the existing resource and future aspirations for this area.

Trent Valley: Langford and Besthorpe - Janice Bradley (NWT), Nick Crouch (NCC), Joe Harris (RSPB)

As with many other major river catchments, the Trent Valley has been exploited for its sands and gravels for hundreds of years. The resulting landscape has presented opportunities for wildlife, and in recent years a more proactive approach to restoration has been adopted. This seminar will investigate the current biodiversity resource in this part of the Trent Valley, and plans to enhance this resource in the future.