Hello everyone

Our regular **Thursday Nature Network** events kick off again on October 22nd. More info here.

Do join us each Thursday morning from 10.30 for refreshments (and pastries), and from 11 am a University (or visiting) researcher will share their research with us in a short, informal talk and discussion. We have two empty slots left for this term - 19th November and 3rd December. Let me know if you'd like to give a 25-minute talk about your research.

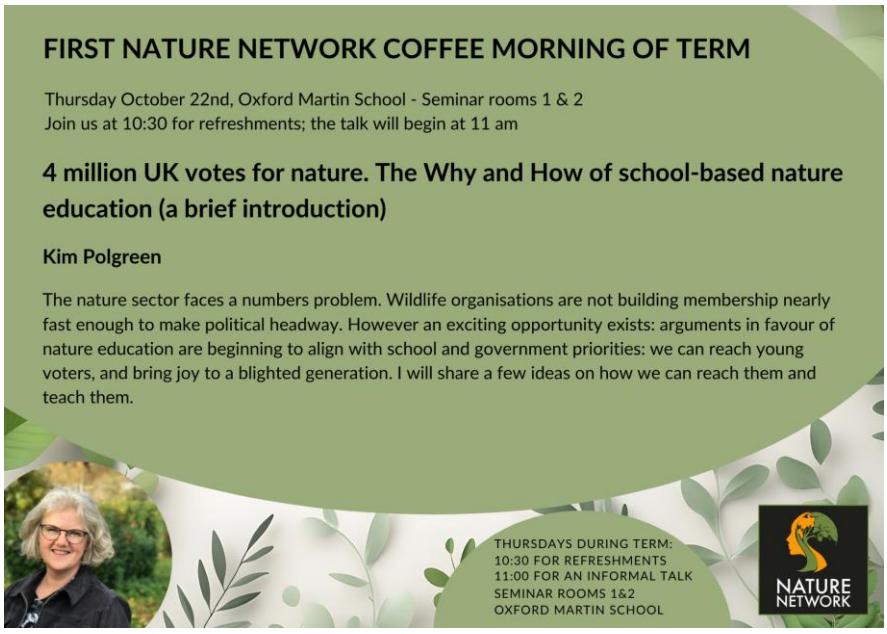
Our first talk will be from Kim Polgreen on October 22nd: **4 million UK votes for nature. The Why and How of school-based nature education (a brief introduction).** More info here

Our regular **Friday Nature Series** talks start on the 23rd October with a talk from Dr Deborah Brady on **the return of lynx to England**. More info here.

All of these talks are online and in person, followed by a drinks reception, and everyone is welcome. Booking is recommended. If you miss any, we upload them to our YouTube here

If you would like to be featured on the **Nature Network website** (and to find out more about the Network), please let me have a photo and your details here





I've compiled a list of Nature-related events happening across the University in the coming weeks (below)

Thursday, 08 October 2026, 15:00 Desert room, SoGE

Format: in person

Local Knowledge, Collective Action, and Rural Futures: Insights from Participatory Research in rural India. Dr. Somnath Ghosal, Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology at IIT Kharagpur.

Tuesday, 13 October 2026, 10:00am to 11:00am

Format: Online | Audience: Public

Sustainable Water Management in the Indus Basin: Implementing Nature-Based Solutions and Water Replenishment. How can nature-based solutions help address growing water challenges in climate-vulnerable regions? Speaker Amra Tahir

To register, please visit: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/f9330b92-be4c-43e7-87da-be8ef144963a@cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91?source=copyLinkLegacyShareEventDialog

Wednesday 14 October, 5:30–6:30pm, followed by a drinks reception. Life and Mind Building (South Parks Road) Seminar Room 6, and online via Teams Registration: Please register here

Launch of Oxford's Animals, Research, Policy and Practice (ARPP) network

Hosted by the Oxford Martin School, the network brings together colleagues from across the University with an interest in animals and their wellbeing, from anthropology and biology to ethics, economics, law, health, and the environment.

We are honoured to welcome **Professor Marian Stamp Dawkins** as our first speaker, with a talk on: **Animal Welfare in the Age of AI and Smart Farming: Aligning Welfare, Efficiency and Sustainability.** Professor Stamp Dawkins will explore how AI and smart farming may affect animal welfare, and the tensions between welfare, production efficiency and the environment.

Wednesday, 14 October 2026, 18.00 Location: Dept of Continuing Education in Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA

'Carbon colonialism and how rich countries export climate breakdown', a talk given by Dr Laurie Parsons from Royal Holloway, London University.

His talk explores the murky practices of outsourcing carbon reduction, when emissions and waste are exported from rich to poor countries. Dept of Continuing Education in Wellington Square. £5, or £3 for students. Booking essential, £5, £3 for students. For details and booking, click here: https://shorturl.at/CIKO5

Wednesday, 14 October 2026, 17.45pm to 19.45pm

Location: Convocation House, Bodleian Libraries, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG

Please RSVP by 6 Oct 2026 at: eventrsvp@unipressbooks.co.uk

Join Oxford alumnus, prominent conservationist and *New York Times* bestselling author TA Barron for a conversation on his latest book, *Naming Nature: A Cabinet of Natural Curiosities for Word Lovers*, a treasure chest of unusual names in nature, from the organ pipe coral to the vampire squid, and the rich stories behind them.

Thursday, 15 October 2026, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Format: Online | Audience: Public
Species coexistence in a changing world
An online Biology week talk about coexistence and environmental change.
Department: Biology (Department)
Speaker: Dr Chris Terry (Department of Biology, University of Oxford)

Tuesday, 20 October 2026, 1pm to 2pm

Format: Online | Audience: Public

Patterns and mechanisms of spatial and temporal variation in tropical forest structure and dynamics

Speaker: Helene Muller-Landau

Department: Environmental Change Institute (Unit)
Venue: Dyson Perrins Building - Desert room

Friday, 23 October 2026, 4.15pm to 5.30pm

Format: Hybrid | Audience: Other
The Missing Lynx Project: the return of lynx to England?
Talk by Dr Deborah Brady, Director of Nature Restoration, The Lifescape Project
Department: Environmental Change Institute (Unit)
Speaker: Dr Deborah Brady (The Lifescape Project)
Venue: Dyson Perrins Building - Lecture Theatre

More info and to register: https://bookwhen.com/oxfordbiodiversitynetwork

Monday, 26 October 2026, 12.30pm to 1.30pm

Format: Hybrid| Audience: Public

'Are healthier diets always better for the environment?' with Dr Yuanchao Hu | Oxford Martin School

This lecture is being delivered by Dr Yuanchao Hu, who is currently a visiting fellow with Dr Joseph Poore's HESTIA group based in Biology and the OMS.

Venue: Oxford Martin School

Friday, 30 October 2026, 4.15pm to 5.30pm

Format: Hybrid | Audience: Other
Ecosystems, governance and society in unstable times
Talk by Prof Phoebe Barnard, Affiliate full Professor, University of Washington
Department: Environmental Change Institute (Unit)
Speaker: Prof Phoebe Barnard (University of Washington)
Venue: Dyson Perrins Building - Main lecture theatre

More info and to register: https://bookwhen.com/oxfordbiodiversitynetwork

Friday, 6 November 2026, 1pm to 2pm

Format: Hybrid | Audience: Other
Gardens Count: Building the Evidence for Nature, Climate and Health
Talk by Clare Matterson, Alistair Griffiths and George Hudson, Royal Horticultural Society
Department: Environmental Change Institute (Unit)
Speaker(s): Clare Matterson CBE, Director General (Royal Horticultural Society), Alistair Griffiths, Director of Science and Collections (Royal Horticultural Society), George Hudson, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager Royal Horticultural Society (Royal Horticultural Society)
Venue: Oxford Martin School
Download to your calendar

Friday, 6 November 2026 Oxford Water Day. Saïd Business School.
With presentations, networking opportunities, and space for discussion, the Oxford Water Day brings together leading academics, early career researchers, students, and partners from government, industry, and utilities to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, focusing on building water security in today's complex and interconnected world.

The Oxford Water Day is an opportunity to:

- Network within and beyond the university
- Share research and impact news in a poster or presentation session
- Meet researchers from across the university and find out what others are working on

Call for abstracts

We invite proposals to share water-related research or impact news through a poster/presentation at this link (deadline 9th October): Call for abstracts - Oxford Water Day 2026 – Fill out form

If you are interested in attending, please do save the date in your calendar and register now at this link (deadline 21st October): Register to participate in Oxford Water Day 2026 – Fill out form

Other

Survey: how do environmental professionals use generative AI?

The EnviroLLM working group (University of Michigan, Pomona College and The Nature Conservancy) is surveying conservation, climate and environmental professionals and trainees on how they use and think about generative AI.

It takes about 15 minutes, it's anonymous, and there's an optional gift-card raffle. Closes 21 October. https://umich.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_em3TmmZ1mceSUBw?Source=LNCR

Call out for Museums' Late Night 'Material Culture'

To celebrate the Museum's latest exhibition **'34' Exploring the 34 critical raw materials essential to our high-tech, decarbonised futures, and some of the issues - and solutions - in providing enough of them with lower costs to communities and the environment',** we will be holding a large late night public event to engage our adult audience with the themes of '34'. Our Late Nights generally attract an audience of over 1,000 visitors for a relaxed and fun evening of pop-up talks, stalls, object handling, tours, crafts, music and, of course, wandering amongst the dinosaurs with a drink from our bar!

These events are a great way of sharing the excellent research happening across the University and sparking interesting discussions between people. As such, if you are a researcher, student or another member of the University whose work links to the essential resources we need to mine from our small planet (or even from extra-terrestrial bodies!), the issues and concerns around doing so, and would like to run an activity linking to the themes of our exhibition please get in touch with chris.jarvis@oum.ox.ac.uk

A brief descriptor of '34' can be found on the Museum's website @ https://www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk/34-critical-raw-materials-shaping-our-future

-but do make sure to pop in and enjoy it for yourself!

Wednesday, 17th February 2027

FREE Introduction to the News Media London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (Keppel St, London WC1E 7HT) from 1pm until 5pm followed by a networking/drinks reception until 6pm.

Introduction to the News Media is an event organised and run by the Science Media Centre. Its aim is to inform scientists and engineers about how the news media works and make the case for why experts should engage with journalists on their area of expertise. There will be:

· A talk from a press officer from the SMC, with clear examples of how researchers can engage with the media to improve the quality of science news reporting

· A talk from an LSHTM press officer to explain the role of an institutional press office and what support is available to experts when interacting with journalists

· A rare opportunity to listen to and question a panel of national news science journalists about the way they report science, what they need from you and how to engage with them to get the most accurate coverage

· A panel of scientists/engineers who have dipped their toe in the choppy media waters and lived to tell the tale - giving you the good, the bad and the ugly of their experiences

It's a hugely informative, entertaining and popular afternoon. **And it's FREE**.

Is it for you?

These free events are designed specifically for scientists and engineers with little or no media experience. They are fascinating in themselves, but the greatest benefit will be for experts who work on issues likely to be in the news but who might be media shy, feel negatively about engaging with journalists or downright scared about getting it wrong. We welcome scientists and engineers in academia or industry, postdoctoral level (or professional equivalent) and above, from any relevant institution.

Register your interest

If you wish to attend, please fill in the form here.

Places are limited and we're looking for scientists and engineers at least some way into their research careers, so we can't generally allocate places to students.

For any further queries, please email introduction@sciencemediacentre.org.