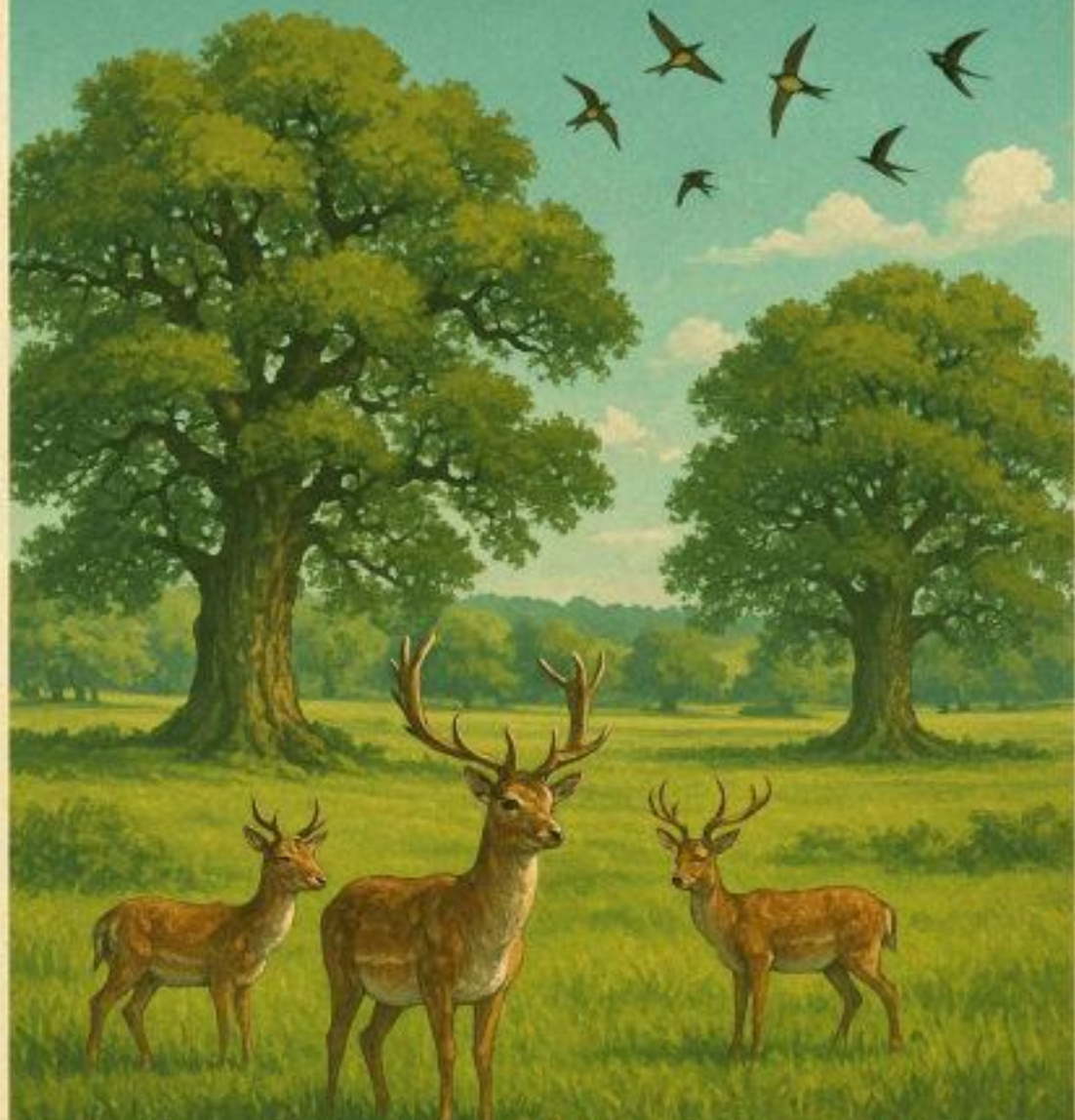


# HEREFORDSHIRE PARKLANDS

CONFERENCE & PARKLAND VISITS



1-3 JULY 2026

# HEREFORDSHIRE PARKLANDS CONFERENCE

1-3 JULY 2026



**Venue: New Model Institute of Technology and Engineering (NMITE), Skylon Campus, Canary Lane, Skylon Park, Hereford HR2 6RB, with afternoon visits by coach to major parklands across Herefordshire.**

This conference has been organised as part of the 175th anniversary celebrations of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, with their theme of 'Heritage and Future'. The Club is most grateful to NMITE for the excellent venue and practical help.

## CONFERENCE PURPOSE

The conference will unite landowners, land managers, the public, the scientific community, and those with expert knowledge of Herefordshire's parklands. Speakers from local and nationally leading organisations, as well as landowners, will address cultural and historical topics; challenges facing treescapes, such as climate change, tree diseases, and overgrazing; and explore strategies for restoring parkland habitats, enhancing resilience, and adapting to future threats. Many leading-edge insights will have widespread application, not only to the county's parklands but also to healthy landscapes and thriving biodiversity across the UK.

## CONFERENCE DEDICATION TO DAVID LOVELACE

This conference is dedicated to the memory of David Lovelace, resident in Herefordshire since the 1970s, an extraordinary polymath and expert in digital mapping, who died in May this year after a brave battle with acute leukaemia. Our growing concern about the increasing mortality of oak trees in Herefordshire parkland was brought into sharp relief in 2019, on my Presidential field trip to Moccas deer park, when the Club Oak, named in honour of the Woolhope Club by Sir George Cornwall in 1870, was found to have died. This collective shock led David and me to propose a conference on acute oak decline to Woolhope Club trustees. These plans were put on hold while Forest Research brought Moccas deer park into the BACSTOP project and were then revitalised last summer. It was David's excellent idea to expand the conference beyond oak trees to reflect the multidisciplinary scope and interests of the Woolhope Club and to more broadly celebrate Herefordshire parkland. He remained concerned and involved in the conference plans until his final days.



Rachel Jenkins OBE.

# HEREFORDSHIRE PARKLANDS CONFERENCE

1-3 JULY 2026



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

This guide sets out:

- The conference schedule (and exhibitions) for each of the three days (pp. 3-7)
- Biographical details of speakers (pp. 8-17) and chairpeople (pp. 18-22).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

### Landowners

The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club is most grateful to the Herefordshire landowners who have encouraged this conference, are participating so actively in it, and have granted access to their parklands for conference visits.

### Organisations, Experts, and Speakers

The Club is delighted by the support of organisations (both national and Herefordshire-based) and experts from historical, cultural, geological, scientific, biological, ecological, land management, and other disciplines. Their contributions as speakers, discussion panel members, and guides are very much appreciated.

### Chairpeople

We are most grateful to all those people - landowners, estate managers, people in public office, scientists, leaders of organisations engaged in conservation, and experts in the culture, history, and landscape of Herefordshire - who have been willing to take the chair and guide the conference through its varied sessions.

### Sponsorship and Grants (for further details, please see p.23)

The Club gratefully acknowledges sponsorship and grants from the Herefordshire Community Foundation, Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust, Hereford City Council, Howard Bulmer Charitable Trust, The Mumford Memorial Trust, and The Scottish Forestry Trust. Their support has made this conference possible.





## DAY ONE: 1 JULY 2026. HEREFORDSHIRE PARKLANDS: LANDSCAPE HISTORY, FEATURES AND CULTURE

| TIME                          | TOPIC                                                                                                                          | SPEAKER                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.15                         | Registration and coffee                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>FIRST MORNING SESSION</b>  |                                                                                                                                | <b>Chairperson: The Lord Lisvane KCB, DL, Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries</b>                                     |
| 08.45                         | Welcome and announcements for Day One                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                |
| 08.50                         | Introductory remarks                                                                                                           | Edward Harley CBE, <i>Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire</i>                                                                                                     |
| 08.55                         | Woolhope Club: 175th Anniversary                                                                                               | Prof. Keith Ray MBE, <i>Woolhope Nat' Field Club President</i>                                                                                                 |
| 09.00                         | Herefordshire parklands: a brief history                                                                                       | David Whitehead, <i>Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club</i>                                                                                                       |
| 09.20                         | Archaeology of the parklands                                                                                                   | Prof. Keith Ray, <i>Woolhope Club</i> and <i>Cardiff University</i><br>Tim Hoverd, <i>Herefordshire Archaeology</i>                                            |
| 09.40                         | Parkland art                                                                                                                   | Prof. Charles Watkins, <i>Professor of Rural Geography, University of Nottingham</i>                                                                           |
| 10.00                         | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                              | <b>Chairperson: Prof. Charles Watkins</b>                                                                                                                      |
| 10.20                         | COFFEE                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                |
|                               |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECOND MORNING SESSION</b> |                                                                                                                                | <b>Chairperson: Ian Grafton, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust</b>                                                                                                  |
| 10.50                         | Geology and geo-conservation of the parklands                                                                                  | Moir Jenkins, <i>Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club</i>                                                                                                          |
| 11.10                         | From glaciers to gardens: the evolution of freshwater habitats in Herefordshire's parklands                                    | Will Watson, <i>Ecologist and environmental consultant, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club</i>                                                                   |
| 11.30                         | Recognising the full extent of ancient woodland in England: National Inventory updates, wood pasture and parkland implications | Neil Ford, <i>Ancient Woodland Inventory, Natural England</i>                                                                                                  |
| 11.50                         | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                              | <b>Chairperson: James Marsden, former Chair of the Herefordshire Climate &amp; Nature Partnership Board</b>                                                    |
| 12.10                         | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                |
|                               |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AFTERNOON: SITE VISITS</b> |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12.45                         | Coaches depart for SITE VISITS to BRAMPTON BRYAN or GATLEY PARK, as pre-booked                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                |
| 14.00                         | BRAMPTON BRYAN                                                                                                                 | Edward and Victoria Harley will welcome the party and lead the visit to the parkland.                                                                          |
| 14.00                         | GATLEY PARK                                                                                                                    | Welcome and Introduction: The Right Hon. Philip Dunne. Experts from Natural England, Forest Research, the Ancient Tree Forum, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club |
| 16.00                         | TEA and CAKE                                                                                                                   | Brampton Bryan Village Hall or the Church at Gatley                                                                                                            |
| 17.00                         | Coaches return to NMITE                                                                                                        | Estimated arrival back at NMITE, Skylon Campus: 18.00                                                                                                          |

## DAY TWO: 2 JULY 2026. PROJECTS AND CHALLENGES FACING TREESCAPES

| TIME                          | TOPIC                                                                                                               | SPEAKER                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.15                         | Registration and coffee                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>FIRST MORNING SESSION</b>  |                                                                                                                     | <b>Chairperson: Peter Clay</b> , <i>Brockhampton and Perrystone Estates, founding member of Herefordshire Meadows</i>                                              |
| 08.45                         | Welcome and announcements for Day Two                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 08.50                         | Vegetation: the skin of the land                                                                                    | Stuart Hedley, <i>County Recorder for Herefordshire's vascular plants</i>                                                                                          |
| 09.10                         | Flower-rich parkland swards: semi-natural habitats in a designed landscape                                          | Caroline Hanks, <i>Director, Herefordshire Meadows</i>                                                                                                             |
| 09.30                         | Fungi in the life of trees                                                                                          | Prof. Lynne Boddy MBE, <i>Professor of Fungal Ecology at Cardiff University</i>                                                                                    |
| 09.50                         | Tree population sizes required to ensure veteran tree ecological continuity in wood pasture and parklands           | Nigel Pilling, <i>Wood Pasture and Parkland Senior Specialist, Trees and Woodlands Team, Natural England</i>                                                       |
| 10.10                         | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                   | <b>Chairperson: Victoria Heffer</b> , <i>CEO, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust</i>                                                                                       |
| 10.30                         | COFFEE                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>SECOND MORNING SESSION</b> |                                                                                                                     | <b>Chairperson: James Hervey-Bathurst CBE, DL</b> , <i>Eastnor</i>                                                                                                 |
| 11.00                         | Acute oak decline, associated bacteria, and the relationship with <i>Agrilus biguttatus</i> - a voyage of discovery | Dr Sandra Denman, <i>Principal Pathologist, Forest Research</i>                                                                                                    |
| 11.20                         | The changing nature of forest pests in Britain                                                                      | Dr Daegan Inward, <i>Senior Researcher, Forest Research</i>                                                                                                        |
| 11.40                         | Collapsing foundations: the ecology of the British oak, implications of its decline, and mitigation options         | Dr Ruth Mitchell, <i>Woodland Ecologist, Ecological Sciences Department at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen University</i>                                     |
| 12.00                         | Woodland creation and succession and soil health                                                                    | Dr Elena Vanguelova, <i>Senior Biogeochemist, Soil Sustainability Research, Forest Research</i>                                                                    |
| 12.20                         | <b>Panel questions and discussion</b>                                                                               | <b>Chairperson: Saul Herbert</b> , <i>CEO, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust</i>                                                                                        |
| 12.45                         | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>AFTERNOON SITE VISITS</b>  |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13.20                         | Coaches depart for SITE VISITS to MOCCAS or EASTNOR & BROMESBERROW, as pre-booked                                   |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 14.00                         | MOCCAS                                                                                                              | Welcome and Introduction: Francis Chester-Master<br>Experts: Tom Simpson, Natural England; Geraint Richards, Action Oak; Forest Research; Woolhope Nat' Field Club |

|       |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14.00 | EASTNOR & BROMESBERROW                                              | Welcome and introduction at Eastnor: James Hervey-Bathurst CBE DL<br>Experts: Natural England, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.<br>By kind permission of the landowner, the visit to Eastnor will be extended to take in the adjoining Bromesberrow Park |
| 16.00 | TEA and CAKE                                                        | Moccas Village Hall or Woodshed Café, Eastnor                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 16.45 | Coach from Moccas to NMITE                                          | Estimated arrival back at NMITE, Skylon Campus: 17.30                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16.30 | Coach from Woodshed café, Eastnor to Bromesberrow followed by visit | Introduction to Bromesberrow: The Hon. Gilbert Greenall CBE DL MD                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 17.45 | Coach from Bromesberrow to NMITE                                    | Estimated arrival back at NMITE, Skylon Campus: 18.30                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

### DAY THREE: 3 JULY 2026. MANAGEMENT PROSPECTS AND SOLUTIONS `

| TIME                          | TOPIC                                                                                                                                    | SPEAKER                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.15                         | Registration and coffee                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>FIRST MORNING SESSION</b>  |                                                                                                                                          | <b>Chairperson: David Daniels</b> , <i>Chair, Plantlife International</i>                                       |
| 08.45                         | Welcome and announcements for Day Three                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
| 08.50                         | Characterising and engineering the oak microbiome to suppress disease                                                                    | Prof. James McDonald, <i>Professor of Microbiology, Birmingham University</i>                                   |
| 09.10                         | The social dimensions of oak landscape management: Creating opportunities out of challenges                                              | Dr Mariella Marzano OBE, <i>Principal Social Scientist, Forest Research</i>                                     |
| 09.30                         | Soil rhizosphere and recommendations for naturalistic management strategies                                                              | Alice Dibley, <i>PhD Student, University of West of England, Bristol</i>                                        |
| 09.50                         | Monitoring oak health and the role of stakeholder scientists                                                                             | Dr Nathan Brown, <i>Forest Research</i>                                                                         |
| 10.10                         | <b>Discussion</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>Chairperson: Richard Powell OBE</b> , <i>Ancient Tree Forum Chair</i>                                        |
| 10.30                         | COFFEE                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>SECOND MORNING SESSION</b> |                                                                                                                                          | <b>Chairperson: Jesse Norman MP</b>                                                                             |
| 11.00                         | Tree declines through the lens of Regenerative Arboriculture: new perspectives, with a focus on restoring the health of declining trees. | Geoff Monck, <i>Treecosystems Ltd, Centre for Forest Protection and Birmingham Institute of Forest Research</i> |
| 11.20                         | Managing trees in parklands and heritage landscapes: experience from a practitioner                                                      | Reg Harris, <i>Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd</i>                                                         |
| 11.40                         | Averting loss. Recovering life. The restoration of Croome Park, 25 years on                                                              | Tom Oliver, <i>Chair, Council for Preservation of Rural England, Herefordshire</i>                              |

| SUMMARIES AND NEXT STEPS |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                          |                                                                                                                                              | <b>Chairperson: Andrew McRobb, CEO of Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Herefordshire (CPRE)</b>                                                                                          |
| 12.00                    | Summing up - key issues arising from the conference.                                                                                         | Dr Matthew Wainhouse, <i>Natural England</i>                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12.15                    | Branching out together: a future research agenda rooted in science and collective collaboration for the health and resilience of British oak | Dr Carrie Brady, <i>Senior Lecturer, Microbiology, Centre for Research in Biosciences, University of West England (UWE Bristol)</i><br>Dr Sandra Denman, <i>Principal Pathologist, Forest Research</i> |
| 12.30                    | A future action agenda: final discussion panel to discuss future action for treescapes                                                       | Sarah Cattell, <i>Natural England</i><br>Saul Herbert, <i>Herefordshire Wildlife Trust</i><br>Elissa Swinglehurst, <i>Herefordshire Council</i><br>Tom Oliver, <i>CPRE</i>                             |
| 12.45                    | <b>Final questions and discussion from audience</b>                                                                                          | <b>Chairperson: Annabel Narayan, CEO Action Oak</b>                                                                                                                                                    |
| 12.55                    | <b>Closing remarks</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>Prof. Keith Ray, President, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club</b><br><b>Prof. Rachel Jenkins, Vice President, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club</b>                                                   |
| 13.00                    | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| AFTERNOON SITE VISITS    |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 13.25                    | Coaches depart for SITE VISITS to KENTCHURCH or HOLME LACY, as pre-booked                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14.00                    | KENTCHURCH                                                                                                                                   | Welcome and Introduction: Joss Lucas-Scudamore and Tristan Gregory (Head Gardener).<br>Experts from the Ancient Tree Forum, Forest Research, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club                          |
| 14.00                    | HOLME LACY                                                                                                                                   | Welcome and Introduction: Alys Probert (Deputy Head, Holme Lacy College). Experts from the Ancient Tree Forum, Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club                                                        |
| 16.00                    | TEA and CAKE                                                                                                                                 | The Bridge Inn, Kentchurch<br>Holme Lacy                                                                                                                                                               |
| 17.00                    | Coaches to NMITE                                                                                                                             | Estimated arrival back at NMITE, Skylon Campus: 17.30 to 17.45                                                                                                                                         |

## EXHIBITIONS AVAILABLE ON ALL THREE DAYS

Displays and banners from specialist organisations, including:

- **Ancient Tree Forum**
- **Action Oak**
- **Forest Research**
- **Herefordshire Council**
- **Herefordshire Wildlife Trust**
- **Woodland Heritage**
- **Woodland Trust**

The **Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club** will show an exhibition about the geology, archaeology, history, and biodiversity of Herefordshire's parklands.

There will be a computer display by **Robin Lovelace** of David Lovelace's digital mapping and its potential.



## DETAILS OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

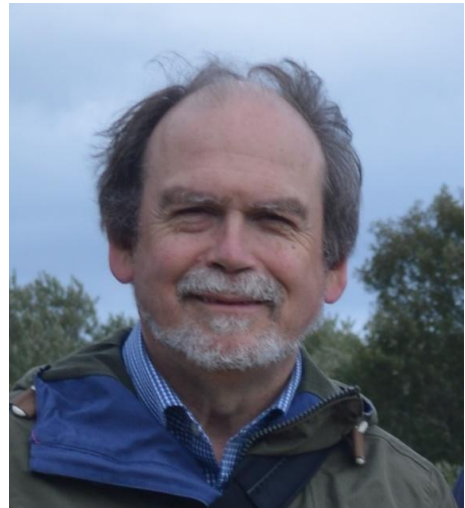


### EDWARD HARLEY CBE

Edward and his family have been based at Brampton Bryan for generations. After a career at Cazenove and Co., he was elected President of the Historic Houses Association, and he was subsequently Chairman of the Acceptance in Lieu Panel for 10 years. Edward is a trustee of several landed estates, including Burghley, and he has been Receiver General of the Duchy of Cornwall and on The Prince's Council for many years. He is a patron of a number of organisations in the county including the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Edward is His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire.

### PROF. KEITH RAY MBE

President of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club (March 2026-27), Keith is Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Archaeology at the School of History, Archaeology and Religion at Cardiff University. He holds degrees to doctoral level at Cambridge University. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a full Member of the Chartered Institute of Archaeology. In 2007, he was awarded an MBE for services to archaeology and local government in Herefordshire. Keith is a trustee of the Herefordshire Victoria County History Trust and a trustee and Director of Research of the Offa's Dyke Association. He has published widely on the history and archaeology of Herefordshire, the early medieval March of Wales, and Neolithic Britain. Books include: *The Archaeology of Herefordshire: an Exploration* (2015); *Offa's Dyke, Landscape and Hegemony in Early Medieval Britain* (2016, with Ian Bapty); and, with Julian Thomas, *Neolithic Britain, the Transformation of Social Worlds* (OUP, 2018 and 2020).



### TIM HOVERD

Tim attended Bournemouth and Sheffield Universities before working in commercial archaeology. He is currently the Archaeological Projects Manager at Herefordshire Council, where he manages a small, externally funded team, undertaking research and conservation projects within Herefordshire and neighbouring counties.



#### **DAVID WHITEHEAD MA FSA**

David moved to Hereford in 1970 to lecture in history at the Hereford College of Education. He subsequently became Head of Humanities at Hereford Sixth Form College. A member of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club since 1972, he has been President on three occasions and has published several articles on Herefordshire estates in the Club's *Transactions*. This work was extended and published as *A Survey of Herefordshire Parks and Gardens* in 2001, leading to several commissions for

individual surveys as part of the government's Countryside Stewardship Scheme. David has also written a number of articles on the parks and gardens of the West Midlands, most recently 'Shobdon Court and its Landscape', published in the *Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club* 71 (2023).

#### **PROF. CHARLES WATKINS**

Charles Watkins is Professor of Rural Geography at the University of Nottingham. He researches the history of land management, nature conservation, and the geography of trees and forestry. His books include *Trees Ancient and Modern* (2025); *Rediscovering Lost Landscapes: Topographical Art in north-west Italy, 1800-1920* (2021); *Trees in Art* (2018); *Trees, Woods and Forests* (2015); *Europe's Changing Woods and Forests* (2014); and *Uvedale Price: Decoding the Picturesque* (2012). He is Chair of the Victoria County History Trust for Herefordshire and Chair of the Society for Landscape Studies.



#### **MOIRA JENKINS**

Moira Jenkins is a geology graduate of Aberystwyth University. She worked in oil exploration for Geophysical Services International and then returned to Aberystwyth as Map Curator / Research Assistant. Moira has an interest in education, derived from teaching in a variety of junior and infant schools, followed by work at the National Library of Wales. After having children, more teaching, and a time in the court service, Moira returned to geology in 2002, working for Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust on geo-conservation projects, mainly in Herefordshire. These included exploring the county and writing trail guides to present its geology to the general public. She has surveyed sites, helped with the designation of some as Local Geological

Sites, and developed a Geodiversity Action Plan for Herefordshire. Moira has led many walks to show geological features to the public and, with her interest in education, has developed worksheets for schools. She is currently the Geology Recorder for the Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club.





### **WILL WATSON**

Will is an ecologist and environmental consultant specialising in freshwater ecology, with over 30 years of experience. He undertakes surveys covering the range of UK habitats. Recently, he has acted as Project Ecologist within the multi-disciplinary project on Ice Age Ponds in Herefordshire, supervised the restoration of Berrington Hall Pool for the National Trust, and drawn up the 'irreplaceable pond' definitions for DEFRA. Will is Ecological Advisor to the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board and a stock photographer with the Nature Picture Library. He has a passion for water

beetles and amphibians and, in 2008, found a water beetle new to science in Mozambique, which was named after him.

### **NEIL FORD**

Neil Ford is the Ancient Woodland Inventory Programme Manager at Natural England, leading the national update of the Ancient Woodland Inventory. This project was launched in 2019 and combines high-resolution LiDAR, historic map analysis, and ecological field surveys to identify all areas of ancient woodland over 0.25 ha across England. On completion, it will reveal the full extent of England's ancient woodland, including Ancient Wood Pasture and Parkland sites. His role also includes contributing to policy design and guidance relating to ancient woodland.

Neil previously worked as a Tree and Wooded Habitats Specialist for Natural England, providing national expertise on the ecology, conservation, creation and management of tree and woodland habitats, where he specialised in ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. Prior to this he worked in ancient woodland restoration and as an arboriculturalist. He is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association.



### **STUART HEDLEY**

Stuart is a freelance field botanist who has been fascinated by plants 'since meeting a field scabious at eye level when playing too far from home, aged six'. Although graduating in zoology, he has worked almost entirely in botany. A series of nature conservation jobs in the public sector has given him privileged access to much of the UK's finest wildlife habitat and the opportunity to benchmark natural and semi-natural ecosystems across Britain. A period in Spain, nominally working as an English teacher, then presented an opportunity to understand our plants and vegetation in their proper European context. He settled in south-west Herefordshire in 2013 and in 2019 took on the role of County Recorder for Herefordshire's vascular plants. He is a trustee of the charity Herefordshire Meadows, writes an annual botany report for the Woolhope Club, and is working towards a new *Flora* for the county, the last having been in 1889.



### **CAROLINE HANKS**

Caroline is a Meadows Adviser and Director of Herefordshire Meadows, an organisation that champions the wide range of environmental benefits of flower-rich grasslands in the landscape - for example, for wildlife, food production, drought and flood resilience, livestock health, and human wellbeing. Founded in 2016 as a discussion group, Herefordshire Meadows now has four meadow advisers and has supported 1000 acres of meadow restoration using native seed, sustainably sourced from local donor sites wherever possible. Herefordshire Meadows is an established

partner in numerous grassland conservation, restoration, and creation projects across Herefordshire and adjacent counties; it offers floodplain meadow re-creation, Local Wildlife Site assessments, grassland surveys for agri-environment schemes, community outreach, and a volunteer Meadow Monitor programme with regular events. As a Conservation Adviser for Herefordshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Caroline was involved in Historic Landscape Management planning at Moccas, Kentchurch, and Holme Lacy, in addition to providing farm-environment advice to estates, farms, and smallholdings across Herefordshire. Caroline manages her own productive garden and orchard and is part of a community grazing group, managing sheep and cattle on SSSI, SAM, and common land in Eaton Bishop.

### **PROF. LYNNE BODDY MBE**

Lynne is Professor of Fungal Ecology at Cardiff University and a past President of the British Mycological Society (2009-10). She has taught and researched into the ecology of fungi associated with trees and wood decomposition for over 45 years. Her research focuses on understanding how fungal mycelia behave in the natural world, climate-change effects on fungi, antagonistic interactions between fungi, and development of fungal communities in wood. She is currently studying the fascinating communities of fungi



and other organisms that rot the centres of old trees. Lynne is a prolific author, having co-authored *Fungal Decomposition of Wood* and *Fungi and Trees: their Complex Relationships* (2021), the DK children's books *Humongous Fungus* and *An Anthology of Fungi*, and DK's *Fungi*. She is an ardent communicator of the mysteries and importance of the amazing, hidden Kingdom of Fungi to the general public, including via TV, radio, popular talks, videos, articles, and exhibitions. She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2019 for Services to Mycology and Science Outreach.



### **NIGEL PILLING**

Nigel trained in conservation management and ecology and has spent just over two decades working in this field. His current role for Natural England is as the Wood Pasture and Parkland Senior Specialist in their Trees and Woodlands Team. He sees his role as pouring his enthusiasm for wood pasture and veteran trees into policy and practice. Recent work has included input into new protected site designation, English woodland and trees policy, agri-environment scheme design, regular habitat management and monitoring advice, and training for Natural England staff. Nigel is secretary to the UK Wood Pasture and Parkland Network, a group of experts aiming to promote wood pasture and parkland conservation and management in the UK.

### **DR SANDRA DENMAN**

Sandra, of Forest Research, is a Principal Pathologist with over 30 years' experience. She uses holistic, multidisciplinary research to investigate complex decline syndromes of oak and, over the past decade, has led several consortia working in this area. Her specific expertise is on host-pest-pathogen interactions and predisposition effects on host susceptibility, using traditional and molecular techniques to advance knowledge on this frontier and to help develop management guidance.



### **DR DAEGAN INWARD**

Dr Daegan Inward is a Senior Researcher at Forest Research (Forestry Commission), specialising in the ecology and impact of invasive forest pests and their interactions with key British tree species. His entomological career began at the Natural History Museum, London, where he explored the biogeography and evolution of dung beetles and termites. Since then, he has continued to develop a research programme that bridges controlled laboratory work with real-world forest environments. Daegan and his team focus particularly on the most damaging insect pests of trees, including bark-feeding beetles capable of killing their hosts.





#### **DR RUTH MITCHELL**

A plant and woodland ecologist within the Ecological Sciences Department at the James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Ruth leads the biodiversity topic for the Scottish Government's Rural Affairs, Food and Environment Strategic Research Programme. Her research focuses on pressures on biodiversity, above and below ground, and on habitat restoration. Recently, she has specialised in assessing the wider environmental impact of tree diseases. She led the first assessment of the biodiversity implications of a decline in ash trees, identifying which species are at most risk and assessing which other tree species might mitigate some of these impacts. She has since worked on the biodiversity found on oak, Scots Pine and Sitka Spruce, and has led two UKRI funded Treescapes projects. The first, DiversiTree,

studied how to increase resilience of current and future woodlands by working across a range of scales, from microbes to minds, to understand the methods to, and the impacts of, diversifying tree species composition. The second project, Tree of Knowledge, sought to better understand how species and genetic diversity and epigenetic effects might work together to increase the resilience of our woodlands, and when there might be trade-offs. Ruth's work is used by practitioners, policy makers, and government ministers. She was chair of the British Ecological Society's Scottish Policy group, and last year completed eight years on NatureScot's Science Advisory Group. Ruth is deputy chair of Defra's Trees and Woodlands Science Advisory Group.

#### **DR ELENA VANGUELOVA**

Elena is a senior biogeochemist and lead of Soil Sustainability Research in Forest Research. Her research over the past 20+ years covers the impacts of climate, atmospheric, and environmental changes; impacts and benefits of afforestation and forest management on forest soil functions; and soil health, with particular focus on forest and soil carbon and nutrient storage, stability and cycling as well as soil biodiversity. Recent research also includes the links between soil health and tree health. Elena is a nationally and internationally recognised expert in forest and soil biogeochemistry and has led and collaborated in numerous UK- and EU-based projects, initiatives, and research networks (e.g., BBSRC, BACStop, DEFRA FPPH projects, EU COST actions, CLEANFOREST, EU ICP forest monitoring network, EU BioSoil, DEFRA NCEA soil condition and health project, a number of DEFRA NCEA projects on soils under natural colonization, ground preparation impacts on soils, agroforestry and soil ecosystem services, etc.). Elena has



more than 80 peer-reviewed publications and more than 100 publications for the Forestry Commission and other Government Departments, EU reports, outreach and trade publications, contract reports, reports to industry and book chapters.



### **PROF. JAMES MCDONALD**

James is a microbial ecologist and a leading expert on the tree microbiome. His research team has studied the oak microbiome in health and disease for over 15 years and, with collaborators, has contributed new insights into the role of microorganisms in Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and a conceptual framework for establishing the role of polymicrobial complexes in disease and tree microbiomes. He developed and led the BBSRC-funded 'FUTURE OAK' project, which characterised the microbiome of oak trees across the UK and developed disease-suppressive microbial inoculants that can decrease pathogens in trees. His team also study the response of the oak microbiome to drought and other stressors, with the aim of identifying

plant-associated microorganisms that can be used as inoculants to promote stress tolerance in trees.

### **DR MARIELLA MARZANO OBE**

Mariella is a social anthropologist and Principal Social Scientist at Forest Research in the UK, with over 20 years of experience in agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. Mariella currently leads a number of interdisciplinary research programmes and projects related to the social dimensions of species management, tree and plant biosecurity, forest disturbances including windstorms and wildfire, risk management, and co-design and communication. Recent projects have covered the social dimensions of *Phytophthora* sp., *Xylella fastidiosa*, Dothistroma needle blight, Asian longhorn beetle, Oak processionary moth, Acute Oak decline, Ash dieback, Emerald ash borer, and grey squirrels/deer. Mariella leads the Forest Research Tree Health and Biosecurity Programme and the forest disturbance theme in her social science group. She also established the IUFRO Working Party on the 'Social Dimensions of Forest Health' and is currently coordinating the IUFRO Division 7 Forest Health Entomology Research Group. Mariella is an Honorary Fellow at the University of St Andrews.



### **ALICE DIBLEY**

A third year PhD student at the University of the West of England, Alice has a MSc degree in Conservation Ecology, and a BSc degree in Biological Sciences, both from Oxford Brookes University. She has worked for seven years as a teaching and research technician in various departments at the University of Reading, including Agriculture, Soil Science, and Microbiology. In 2025, Alice was awarded the 'Professor Pietro Luciano Young Scientist Prize' for the Best Poster at the 11th Meeting of the International Organisation for Biological Control: West Palearctic Regional Section (IOBC-WPRS) Working Group 'Integrated Protection in Oak Forests'. Her PhD research examines

the effects of soil decompaction and aeration on parkland oak (*Quercus robur* L.) showing symptoms of Acute Oak Decline (AOD). The research is supported by Forest Research (FR) and Woodland Heritage and is based in London. The project aims to determine if practical soil management techniques can improve the health of AOD affected oak trees, by measuring the effects on the physical health of the trees and

assessing changes in the microbial composition of the rhizosphere soil, following decompaction treatments. The data collected for this project will be used to support the management of oak trees through producing guidance for stakeholders.



#### **DR NATHAN BROWN**

Nathan works as an Environmental Modeller at Forest Research. He works on Tree Health issues within the physical environment group, investigating the linkages between woodland condition and the environment. He is currently using disease distribution data to reveal the role of environmental predisposition on pest and disease occurrence and conducting research to support volunteer reporting activities ([Forest Lab](#) and [Observatree](#)). Nathan returned to Forest Research in 2022, after spending 9 years working with the epidemiological modelling group at Rothamsted Research, where he was most recently involved in the [SMARTIES](#) project, which investigated multiple threats to ash trees (Ash Dieback and the potential introduction of Emerald Ash Borer) across Britain. Nathan

has a long-standing interest in monitoring woodland affected by Acute Oak Decline, which began in 2009 as a MSc project with Imperial College London and Forest Research. This has continued through a PhD program and has more recently formed a component of multiple interdisciplinary research projects including [BAC-STOP](#) and [Future Oak](#). Prior to this, he completed a Biology BSc, at the University of Sussex, and worked as a surveyor for an arboriculture and landscape design company.

#### **REG HARRIS**

Reg is an arborist and consultant who celebrates his 40th year in the arboricultural industry this year. Managing Director of Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd, the company he founded in 1992, for the last 25 years he has worked throughout the UK and occasionally in Europe and Scandinavia, where he specialises in veteran and ancient tree management and micro habitat creation work (a.k.a. veteranisation). Reg is currently the principal arboricultural contractor at Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, Hatfield Forest in Essex, Ickworth Park in Suffolk, and Blickling Hall in Norfolk, as well as several other key sites for ancient trees. He is an examiner for the VETcert qualification C and is a member of the Technical Advisory Panel for the Ancient Tree Forum.



#### **GEOFF MONCK**

Geoff is a VETcert qualified arboricultural consultant, with 20 years' experience, who specialises in ancient and veteran tree (AVT) survey and management, and has worked with several keystone AVT populations over the past 16 years. He also specializes in understanding and managing tree and soil health and is one of the pioneers in the field of applying informed and targeted remediation of the soil, and tree microbiome, to improve tree health, which he calls 'Regenerative Arboriculture'. He runs his own specialist



arboricultural consultancy business, Treecosystems Ltd, which specialises in AVT survey and management and Regenerative Arboriculture. Geoff has a MSc in Conservation and Forest Protection from Imperial College London in 2011, designing his own thesis project to evaluate the efficacy of different management interventions for AVTs. He is currently researching a PhD looking at complex decline of Yew (*Taxus baccata*) in England. This is a collaborative project between Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR), Forest Research, Myerscough University Centre and Treecosystems Ltd, funded by the Centre for Forest Protection.



#### **TOM OLIVER**

Tom led the planning and implementation of the restoration of Croome Park for the National Trust between 1997 and 2002. He went on to be responsible for the Council for National Parks' role in the creation of the New Forest and South Downs national parks. From there he took on the role of Head of Rural Policy at CPRE national office for six years, including being closely involved with the formation of PPS7 and PPS9, national planning policy on rural development and biodiversity. Subsequently, as a Director of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, he ran an All-Party Parliamentary Group dedicated to the linking of productive land with wildlife conservation and recovery. Tom now runs his own farm on the fringes of the Black Mountains, with the objective of restoring and

sustaining the historical and ecological interest of a traditional rural landscape. He is Chair of CPRE Herefordshire.

#### **DR MATTHEW WAINHOUSE**

Matt Wainhouse is Senior Specialist for Fungi at Natural England, and so is naturally drawn to wood pasture with its rich fungal communities. His work covers various aspects of fungal conservation including species recovery, protected sites, land management, and red-listing. Prior to this, his PhD at Cardiff University was on the conservation and ecology of heart-rot fungi. Matt is a Churchill Fellow for research on international approaches to fungal conservation.



#### **DR CARRIE BRADY**

Carrie is a bacterial taxonomist by training. Her research focuses on tree pathogens, particularly acute oak decline (AOD) and, more recently, bleeding cankers of other broadleaf hosts, including *Tilia*. She uses molecular methods to identify and classify the bacterial species responsible for causing disease on tree hosts, to develop novel screening techniques to detect common bacteria isolated from diseased plant tissue, and to examine possible synergistic relationships between the bacteria and routes of infection from possible reservoirs such as rhizosphere soil. Working closely with Forest Research and Westonbirt Arboretum, she has received funding from Woodland Heritage and Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum.





Carrie leads a research group focused on tree health, with projects on bacterial communication in AOD, management of AOD in parkland oak, novel identification techniques for bacteria associated with disease and determining the threat to *Tilia* health.



#### **SARAH CATTELL**

Sarah is an archaeologist and a Higher Officer within the team of Historic Environment advisers at Natural England. She is positioned in the National Operations team, which gives advice to colleagues on a range of schemes and projects to promote the integration of heritage protection and nature recovery across the country. Her current role focusses on giving advice and guidance for farmers and landowners in relation to agri-environment schemes, including parkland management plans. Prior to this, Sarah worked in local government and led the creation of the South

Yorkshire Local Heritage list, which seeks to identify, promote, and protect a range of non-designated heritage assets across Barnsley, Rotherham, Sheffield, and Doncaster. The majority of Sarah's career has been spent managing archaeological field projects for the University of Salford. Although much of this work has been done within larger institutions, it is her community archaeology work and enthusiasm to involve people from all backgrounds in their own heritage which has been her passion throughout.

#### **SAUL HERBERT**

Saul joined the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on 1 January 2026 as its new CEO and brings a wealth of experience from the conservation sector. His previous role was with the Woodland Trust, where he led the Conservation Outcomes team, shaping the organisation's conservation activity through advice, guidance and training, and supporting conservation projects across the UK. Prior to this, Saul worked more locally, managing Natural England's National Nature Reserves from the Wye Valley to the Wyre Forest, including the iconic Moccas Park National Nature Reserve in Herefordshire.



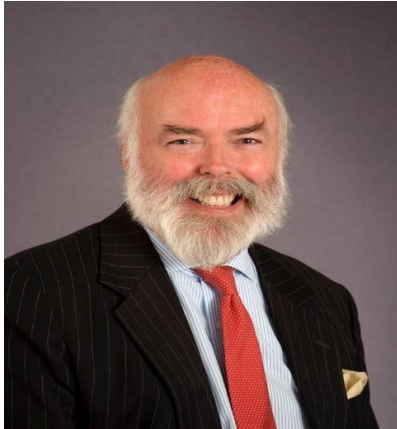
#### **ELISSA SWINGLEHURST**

Elissa is the Deputy Leader of Herefordshire Council and the Cabinet Member for Culture and the Environment. First elected in 2015, she has served in many different roles including chairing the River Wye Nutrient Management Board, which she has done since 2019. She has been Chair of Adult Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet Member for Children's Services (2018/19) and served on most of the council committees until being appointed to her current position in 2023. Her professional background covers a varied career from veterinary nursing to theatre production to antiquarian bookselling. She currently runs a holiday



accommodation business and smallholding in South Herefordshire.

## DETAILS OF CONFERENCE CHAIRPEOPLE



### **THE LORD LISVANE KCB DL FSA FLSW**

Robert Lisvane was educated at Tonbridge School (scholar) and Lincoln College, Oxford (scholar, Judd Exhibitioner and Rhodes Research scholar). He was appointed an Assistant Clerk in the House of Commons in 1972, and served in every office of the House, becoming Clerk of the House and Chief Executive in 2011. He was knighted the following year. Upon retirement he received a peerage, and sits in the Lords as a Crossbencher, specialising in constitutional, legal, governance and rural issues. He was joint author of several editions of the standard textbook, *How Parliament Works*, and has written two Parliamentary

Miscellanies: *Order! Order!* and *Who Goes Home?* He chairs Hereford Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee, is a former Deputy Lieutenant for Herefordshire, an Honorary Fellow of Lincoln College Oxford, an Honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and High Steward of the City of Hereford. He is a Past Master of the Skinners' Company.

### **PROF. CHARLES WATKINS**

Professor Watkins is a speaker as well as taking the chair. His biography is given on p.9 above.

### **IAN GRAFTON**

I started my career (a long time ago) as a gardener with Birmingham City Council and then went back to college to train as a Countryside Ranger, before having a very happy 11 years or so as a Ranger in Jersey, Sussex and Northamptonshire County Council. I joined the National Trust 26 years ago as Property Manager in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, and then 21 years ago came to Croft Castle. Over the last two decades I have managed all four of the Herefordshire Properties (Croft, Berrington, Weir and Brockhampton) as Operations Manager. My first love and passion is nature conservation, so to be able to work with such dedicated people at Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and in other like-minded organisations and communities who are committed to reversing the decline of habitats and species in Herefordshire is a real privilege.

I am delighted to be able to play my part. Out of work, I am a keen gardener, folk singer, model maker and football fan, having supported Birmingham City all my life.





### **JAMES MARSDEN**

James is a member of the Office for Environmental Protection 'College of Experts', a member of the RSPB Conservation Committee, and former Chair of Herefordshire Climate and Nature Partnership Board and the Wye Catchment Partnership. James was a Board member of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2016-2022), Specialist Advisor to UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee (2016-2017), and Trustee and Board member of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (2014-2017). Earlier in his career, James served as Director Land Management Strategy (2012-2014), Director Marine (2008-2012), and Director Policy (2006-2008) at Natural England; Area Manager (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire) for English Nature (1991-1998); and as the Nature Conservancy Council's Upland Ecologist for England and Wales (1988-1991)

### **PETER CLAY**

Peter runs the Brockhampton and Perrystone Estates. His focus is on sustainable farming and forestry practices. Although he read Agriculture at Harper Adams, Peter didn't return home to farm for nearly 20 years. His father's relative youth and desire to continue farming took Peter instead on a long and circular path. Having enjoyed a successful career in advertising, Peter founded the online gardening company, Crocus, in 2000. This fostered a teenage love of, and interest in, plants. It was also in 2000 that Peter began to create a meadow at Brockhampton on land that had been in permanent pasture, serving a beef enterprise. Following an article he wrote on the meadow in *Gardens Illustrated* in 2024, which charted the gradual establishment of 8 native orchid species, Kew asked to do a 3-year research study on the meadow's orchids and their mycorrhizal hosts. This started in 2025. Peter's interest in meadows led him and the estate to become founding members of Herefordshire Meadows. Since 2016, the estate has worked with Caroline Hanks and her team to establish 8 different areas of wildflower meadows. In 2019, Peter worked with Forestry England to produce the Resilience Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. The garden aimed to highlight the big climate and disease-based challenges facing our forests in the future. This won a Gold medal for designer Sarah Eberle and for Crocus and Peter who, in a career spanning 25 years, have won over 30 Gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. In 2027 Peter will be appointed His Majesty's High Sheriff for the county.







### **VICTORIA HEFFER**

Victoria Heffer is Chief Executive Officer of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and Chair of Beaver Trust. Prior to joining the world of nature restoration in early 2025, she worked in the investment management industry for 25 years. Her last role was Head of Institutional for Artemis Investment Management where she managed the firm's approach to institutions. Whilst she may not have a background in conservation, a passion for nature restoration has helped build knowledge, and life on a farm has provided some hands-on experience.

### **JAMES HERVEY-BATHURST CBE**

James Hervey-Bathurst was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, the College of Law, Guildford, and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. After a career in law, banking, and executive recruitment, he took over full-time management of the Eastnor estate in 2000. Eastnor Park is not only an important natural asset but is also used for both music and mountain bike festivals and for daily public pedestrian access. It is an SSSI, with semi-ancient woodland and many veteran oaks, some in poor health. The Estate has contributed to a research project to identify the causes of Acute Oak Decline and supported a project to reintroduce of the Pearl-Bordered Fritillary. James was President of the Historic Houses Association from 2004 to 2008, a Deputy Lieutenant for Herefordshire from 2008, and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire from 2022 to 2024. He is a trustee at Longleat and Cirencester Park, Chairman of the Trustees of the Queenswood Coronation Fund, Herefordshire, and President of the Road Locomotive Society for 2026.



### **SAUL HERBERT**

Saul is the new CEO of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust as from January 2026. He is a speaker as well as a chair at the conference, and his biography is given on p. 17.



### **DAVID DANIELS**

David is the Chair of Trustees for Plantlife International and a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. He has worked on humanitarian assistance and international development for over forty years, mainly in Africa and in South and South-East Asia. He has worked with NGOs, the UK government and the European Commission before setting up the MannionDaniels Group in 2008. David originally trained as a zoologist and has had a lifelong passion for natural history.



### **RICHARD POWELL OBE**

Richard was born in Great Yarmouth and has always lived in Norfolk whilst working across the four UK countries and Europe. He is an environmental and charity advisor, working on the climate change and sustainability agendas as well as charity business planning and governance. He previously spent 24 years as Regional Director of the RSPB in the East of England. During this time, he oversaw the acquisition and landscape creation of over 10,000 ha of new nature reserves. Managing project teams and creating landscapes is his passion. Richard has also been Chair of the Regional Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for 9 years, a member of the Broads Authority and Regional Forestry Advisory Committee, Chair of the Regional Sustainable

Development Round Table: Market Towns Forum, and Vice Chair of Northumberland Water's Customer Challenge Group. Richard currently is Chair of the Regional Flood and Coastal Communities Committee for Anglian (Eastern), Chair of the Ancient Tree Forum UK and Patron of the Papillion Project in Norfolk. Richard was awarded an OBE in June 2025 for his work in the environment and sustainability, is a Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Managers and Assessors and was awarded Chartered Environmentalist status by IEMA.

### **JESSE NORMAN**

Jesse Norman has been the MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire since 2010. He is currently Shadow Leader of the House of Commons and serves on the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. In government, among other posts Jesse served as Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 2019-21, where he was responsible for management of the Covid furlough scheme and set up the UK Infrastructure Bank. As a backbencher, he was a member of the Treasury Select Committee and Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee. He was made a Privy Counsellor in 2019. In Herefordshire, Jesse has led a campaign to clean up the River Wye since 2020, helped to set up and run the Stronger Towns Fund and now the Pride in Place initiative, and co-founded Herefordshire's new university project, NMITE, which he chairs. Jesse is also the author of *Edmund Burke: Philosopher, Politician, Prophet* (Wm. Collins, 2013), *Adam Smith: What He Thought, and Why It Matters* (Allen Lane, 2018), and a historical novel, *The Winding Stair*. He was educated at Oxford (MA, Classics) and UCL (MPhil, PhD, Philosophy), where he also taught philosophy. He has been an Honorary Fellow at UCL and St Andrews, and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



### **ANDREW MCROBB**

Andrew McRobb spent his informative years as a schoolboy in East Anglia close to Grimes Graves and with the entirety of Thetford Forest as his playground. His working life took him all over the world, working with luxury brands and merchandise. This included negotiating licences and distribution agreements and opening retail stores. He moved to Herefordshire about 15 years ago and has renovated an old fruit farm. Today the smallholding has a pedigree herd of Dexter cattle and Tamworth pigs, and he likens this to his memories of his youth in a rural community. A love of

landscape and its protection motivated him to join the Campaign to Protect Rural England and he is now the Director of CPRE Herefordshire, where he started the Citizen Science programme of water monitoring as well as Hedgerow Heroes, planting and restoring hedges throughout the county. In addition, he sits on the Wye Catchment Nutrient Management Board and is Chair of the Wye Catchment Partnership steering group. He acts as Vice Chair to the England Assembly of CPRE.



#### **ANNABEL NARAYAN**

Annabel is Director of Action Oak. She joined the team in June 2023 after living in Mumbai for two years. Previously Annabel was part of the Foundation and Friends of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where she led their events strategy and delivery for all donor events. She is passionate about native species and answering the question of how we can protect them from the varied threats they face to ensure their legacy for future generations.

#### **PROF. RACHEL JENKINS OBE**

Rachel Jenkins OBE, psychiatrist and epidemiologist, is Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, where she directed the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Mental Health from 1997 to 2012, focussing on policy support, research, and training in low- and middle-income countries. She is still active in international health development. She has published over 500 peer-reviewed papers and 20 books, and her "h" index is 108. She moved back to Herefordshire in 2011, since when she has had responsibility for a Pied Flycatcher monitoring project, started in the 1960s by her father, Peter McDougall, in Moccas deer park. The ringing data is reported every year to the British Trust for Ornithology. She was President of the Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club in 2019 and 2023 and is a life member of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and the Herefordshire Ornithological Club. Rachel is now a Vice President of the Club and the lead organiser of this conference on Herefordshire parklands.



#### **MESSAGE FROM DR ELLIE CHOWNS, MP FOR NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE**

Our precious Herefordshire landscapes and wildlife are cherished by all of us. I'm sorry I can't be with you for this conference but send my very best wishes for a successful event. It's wonderful to see the amazing range of speakers, all working in different ways to protect nature!



## GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club gratefully acknowledges sponsorship and grants from a range of organisations. Their support has made it possible to organise this conference and present the crucial topics that it will discuss to a wide audience. A multi-authored book will be produced based on the conference. We anticipate that this will appear in 2027.

Organisations who have provided funding and sponsorship are:

- Herefordshire Community Foundation
- Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust
- Hereford City Council
- Howard Bulmer Charitable Trust
- The Mumford Memorial Trust
- The Scottish Forestry Trust

