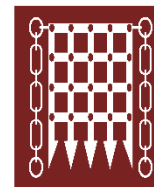


Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for biodiversity, conservation and restoration in England

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 12th February 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **'Assessment of progress towards environmental targets and the Environmental Improvement Plan'**
Professor Robbie McDonald, Chief Scientist and Chief Insights Officer, Office for Environmental Protection
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Proposed reforms to environmental regulation**
Senior representative, regulator
- 9.40 **Priorities for mitigating environmental impact of development**
reforms in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill and Regulation Action Plan / changes to environmental assessment and permitting / enforcement of nature and environmental regulations / nutrient neutrality and design of nutrient mitigation credits / catchment eligibility and trading boundaries / implications for project timetables, investment decisions and availability and pricing of off-site BNG units / applying the mitigation hierarchy / implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems / revisions to BNG for housing and NSIPs / regeneration of brownfield sites, alongside protection of greenbelt landscapes / applying the Polluter Pays Principle
Carolyn Cadman, Chief Sustainability and Natural Resources Officer, South West Water
Senior speaker confirmed from **Environment Bank**
Senior representative, nature recovery
Senior representative, legal
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- Balancing competing priorities:**
- 10.20 **The future for sustainable farming practices - next steps for Environmental Land Management Schemes**
Senior representative, agriculture
- 10.30 **Major landowners and scaling nature recovery in England**
Professor Rosie Hails, Nature and Science Director, National Trust
- 10.40 **Aligning land use policy and practice with environmental outcomes**
Senior representative, environment group
- 10.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.15 Break
- 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.30 **Designing and implementing Environmental Delivery Plans and priorities for stakeholder coordination**
Senior speaker confirmed from **Natural England**
- 11.45 **Priorities for governance, delivery and marine protection across biodiversity strategies**
key revisions to the Environmental Improvement Plan / assessing progress towards 30by30 and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for land and sea / UK Marine Strategy progress towards Good Environmental Status and expansion of marine protected areas / implications for coastal communities, offshore activity and port development / progress in delivery of LNRs and their role in directing investment / coordinating River Basin Management plans, new Regional Water Authorities and marine planning / alignment across national strategies, the Land Use Framework and regional plans across nature and climate / delivery metrics and monitoring progress / improving transparency and accountability / Environmental Principles Policy Statement implementation / the role of Natural England and public bodies, and signals to environmental markets / scaling nature credit schemes and emerging green finance standards / investor confidence and long-term governance for biodiversity delivery
Professor Joanne Preston, Marine Restoration Ecology, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth
Senior speaker confirmed from **The Woodland Trust**
Senior representative, LNRs
Senior representative, water
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in England**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum