



LANDSCAPES NI

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## One Health through Nature Rich Landscapes

11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh

The conference will focus in on two critical components of developing and managing nature recovery (including helping to deliver on 30 x 30) aligned with the need we have for nature connection that boosts our health systems.

### Programme:

#### 09.30 **Arrival, coffee / scones**

- 10.00 Welcome and introduction – Geoff Nuttall, Chair of Landscapes NI
- 10.10 Message from the Minister – Mr Andrew Muir MLA
- 10.15 The Strategic way forward – an update on our Manifesto and work with DAERA
- Mike McClure Landscapes NI
- 10.30 A word from our sponsors
- Simon Wightman – Esme Fairbairn Foundation
  - Lana Moore – Action Renewables
- 10.40 *“Collaboration and Connection in the Cairngorms”*  
Sydney Henderson, Cairngorms Connect Programme

#### 11.10 **Networking break**

- 11.40 *“The youth voice in our landscapes”*  
Jessica Micklem-Kolenić, EUROPARC Federation
- 12.00 *“Connecting with Nature for Health and Wellbeing”*  
Dr Catriona Carlin, University of Galway
- 12.20 *“Nature recovery – a species perspective”*  
Dr Daniel Hayhow, Species Recovery Partnership

#### 12.40 **Lunch and networking break**

- 14.00 A call to action – collaborative efforts and commitments (further details below).
- A series of workshops to explore how we can develop new opportunities for health and well-being of flora, fauna and people in our landscapes
- 15.30 Final plenary and further networking
- Tea and coffee
- 16.00 Close

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### **Workshop 1**

Species recovery - Daniel Hawhow (RSPB)

This workshop will share the data and species action planning from the collaborative work being undertaken as part of the Species recovery Partnership and delegates will be able to work collaboratively to consider which species can be focused on in their area. The Species Recovery Partnership is funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

### **Workshop 2**

Green finance - Rebecca Hunt (National Landscapes Association)

This workshop will look at the ethics behind green finance and will help participants understand what the private sector investors are looking for when it comes to nature recovery and their finances. Beccs will share learning and examples of business case development for projects.

### **Workshop 3**

Trees in the landscape – right species right place - Gregor Fulton (National Trust)

This workshop will allow delegates to consider how they can help to develop woodland cover in our designated and iconic landscapes in Northern Ireland. It will look at how tree cover can compliment other habitats. Delegates will have the opportunity to share knowledge and ideas for the development of woodland creation.

### **Workshop 4**

Social value of nature connection using Social Return of Investment (SROI) principles – Mike McClure

This workshop will provide insights into the principles of SROI from Social Value UK and how to develop proxies for showcasing value in economic terms.

### **Workshop 5**

Restoring Peatlands and monitoring opportunities – Dr Claire McVeigh (Ulster Wildlife).

This workshop will share knowledge and ideas on monitoring and measuring impacts but also will provide opportunities for delegates to share their experiences and develop new collaborative opportunities.

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## Biographies



**Sydney Henderson** is the Communications and Involvement Manager and Interim Programme Manager for Cairngorms Connect, the UK's largest ecological restoration project.

She has worked in environmental communications and engagement within a variety of roles across Scotland and Northern England. Passionate about facilitating connections with nature, her work and interests have ways been underpinned by working for, and with, communities. She is interested in collaboration and working cross borders – both across physical lines on a map, and the interdisciplinary borders between art, culture and ecology.



**Jessica Micklem-Kolenić** currently works on youth, outdoor sports and communications at the EUROPARC Federation, Europe's largest network of Protected Areas. For the past 3 years she has been developing and coordinating EUROPARC's youth work which includes the Junior Ranger programme (known as young rangers in the UK), the Youth+ programme, and the Youth Council.

While she trained as a marine biologist, she spent many years volunteering in a variety of environmental spaces from aquariums to turtle hatching stations and spent years building up a European network of youth activists involved in representing young people in the 4 years of negotiations leading up to the CBD COP16 in Montreal with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. Jessica is passionate about nature conservation and creating opportunities for the next generation to step up and thrive.



**Dr Daniel Hayhow** currently works as the Northern Ireland Species Recovery Partnership Manager bringing together government, environmental NGOs and other key stakeholders to work collaboratively to unlock greater long-term action at scale for priority species.

Daniel has worked in conservation science across the UK & Europe for 20 years including coordinating national bird surveys, citizen science, urban greenspaces research and national biodiversity monitoring. He is passionate about developing the best possible evidence to inform conservation locally and nationally and seeks to do this through building meaningful relationships to establish truly collaborative projects across disciplines including specialists, communities, academics and governments.



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**Dr Catriona Carlin** is a lecturer in the School of Natural Sciences at the University of Galway. She has been involved in research into the inequalities and dynamics of Green and Blue Spaces for health and wellbeing outcomes in Ireland. Understanding the barriers and inequalities is essential as we seek to engage people with our landscapes for health and well being.



**Becs Hunt** is part of the Nature-based Solutions team at the National Landscapes Association, working on nature finance across the network. The team has been in post for two years now, and in that time they have developed a green finance strategy for the National Landscapes, developed ethical principles, a due diligence process and partnership policy for private sector funders, and published *Your Natural Partner*, the funding platform for the network. Becs is currently working on a pilot to understand Biodiversity Net Gain, and supports various NEIRF projects, unlocking blended finance and larger funding opportunities. As a Queen's graduate, coming back to Northern Ireland feels like going home, and she's thrilled to offer any help, advice, and project development support going forward.



**Dr Claire McVeigh** currently works as the Peatland Collaborative and Technical Network Officer with Ulster Wildlife. She has previously worked in the wider environmental sector, supporting both SMEs and large international organisations, by providing consultancy services around policy compliance and sustainability practices.

Her work in recent years has been focused on peatlands, with her PhD research investigating atmospheric carbon sequestration via weathering processes in blanket bogs. She has also worked on a number of peatland restoration projects across Ireland. Her current role involves bringing together organisations across NI who are involved in peatland restoration, encouraging collaboration, providing training and developing guidance to improve consistency in restoration and monitoring methods.

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*Gregor Fulton is the Trees & Woodland Adviser for the National Trust in Northern Ireland, with over 23 years' experience in woodland restoration, resilience, and creation. He has led landscape-scale projects across the Belfast Hills, Glens of Antrim, Faughan Valley, and Mourne, working with partners including NI Water, local councils, and the Loughs Agency. Since joining the Trust in 2023, Gregor has developed its Northern Ireland tree nursery and delivered woodland projects focused on "Right Species, Right Place." He is currently leading the Trust's largest tree and woodland initiative at Divis & Black Mountain, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services on this key site within the Belfast landscape.*

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## Day 2 – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Site visit to An Carn and Drumnaph Nature Reserve

Carntogher Community Association was established in 1992 to address the effects of economic, social and geographical marginalisation, agricultural intensification and rural decline.

Drumnaph is a joint venture between the Woodland Trust and the Community Association. An initial area of 80 acres were purchased in 1999 and a further 130 acres in 2012. Ancient woodland, bogland, fen and river habitats combined with new woodland planting, low intensity grazing and a network of trails has resulted in an amazingly rich habitat that provides great opportunities for wildlife to flourish and people to enjoy the tranquillity and vibrancy of nature.

This is a great opportunity to see what can be achieved through community drive and partnership working.

You can find out more about the area from [a podcast here](#)

### Timescales:

- 09.00 Leave Silverbirch hotel for those staying in Omagh
- 10.30 An Carn coffee and scones
- 11.00 Site visit Drumnaff Nature Reserve
- 12.30 Return to An Carn – lunch
- 13.30 Trail development and community wellbeing
- 14.30 Q & A – networking
- 15.00 Depart

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