

CIEEM 2026 Spring Conference

Championing Nature-Positive Development

Wednesday 11 March 2026, Millennium Point, Birmingham

08:45	Registration & Tea / Coffee
SESSION 1. Working With Growth: Unlocking Nature-Positive and Social Benefits Through Ecology Chair:	
09:25	Welcome and Introduction
09:30	Keynote Address: Build baby build ... but let's make sure we also plant baby plant James Scott, Group Director of Strategy and Planning, Urban&Civic
09:55	Where do we go from here? - how we need to redeploy our expertise to build a nature positive future in a changing policy environment - Jon Davies BSc MSc CEnv CEcol FCIEEM, Director, RSK Wilding and Dr Tim Graham MCIEEM, Associate Director, RSK Wilding
10.10	Multipurpose ecology mitigation as a driver for wider societal value Harriet Webb CEcol CEnv FCIEEM, Technical Director Ecology at Arcadis and Vice President (Wales) CIEEM
10:25	Natural England's evolving role in nature positive development Dan Janota MRTPI, Principal Officer (Sustainable Development), Natural England
10:45	Panel Q&A with Session 1 speakers
11:00	Break
SESSION 2. Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain in Practice Chair:	
11:25	Strategic delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain - Lisa Bulmer BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM, Partner, Natural Capital, Bidwells LLP
11:50	Implementation of BNG on large scale brownfield sites (case study using of BNG Rule 4) - Steph Davies MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist and Sian Jones MSc MCIEEM, Technical Director – Ecology, Arcadis

12.15	Net Benefit for Biodiversity in Wales: translating evolving policy into effective practice - Jessica Christie, Senior Biodiversity Net Gain Specialist - Ecology – Nature, AECOM and Craig Llewellyn CECOL MCIEEM CSJK, Associate Ecologist and Biodiversity Policy Specialist, Atkins Realis
12:35	Lunch
SESSION 3. Nature-Led Development: From Vision to Place	
Chair:	
13:35	Nevendon Washland nature reserve – from species mitigation to Biodiversity Net Gain - Jonathan Cranfield MCIEEM, Director/Principal Ecologist, Herpetologic Ltd
13:55	Nature-led development: the value of early collaboration in habitat success - Richard Thomas, Group ESG Director at Trustgreen
14:20	Connecting places naturally: Cockcrow heathland bridge - Victoria Gilbey CEnv MCIEEM, Associate Director (Ecology), AtkinsRealis and Will Bond MCIEEM, MRICS, MI Soil Sci, Director, Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd
14:45	Implications of the Planning and Infrastructure Act for ecologists - Penny Simpson, Partner, Freeths LLP
15:10	Break
SESSION 4. Strengthening Outcomes: Resilience, Evidence & the Ecologist's Role	
Chair:	
15:35	Resilient by nature: a process to integrate climate resilience into Biodiversity Net Gain - Dr Julia Baker CEnv MCIEEM, Technical Director, Nature Services, Mott MacDonald and Dylan Pritchard C.WEM CIWEM, Senior Consultant, Climate Resilience, Mott MacDonald
16:00	The Green Thread: holding ecological intent through the life of development - Mike Oxford FCIEEM, Professional Practice Manager, CIEEM
16:20	Being a better ecologist - Natalie Walker CEnv MCIEEM, Development Officer Ecology, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
16:45	Summary and Close