



**Wednesday 8 July 2026, 9:00am to 4:00pm**  
**University of Gloucestershire, City Campus**  
**30-44 Northgate Street**  
**Gloucester GL1 1SQ**



**[greenskills@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:greenskills@gloucestershire.gov.uk)**

# Welcome to the Green Skills Conference 2026

We are delighted to welcome you to the Green Skills Conference 2026, hosted at the newly retrofitted University of Gloucestershire City Campus.

Gloucestershire stands at a pivotal juncture. The transition to a Net-Zero economy is no longer a distant aspiration; it is an immediate industrial challenge that requires a restructuring of our local labour market.

Our vision should be for Gloucestershire to become the national benchmark for green workforce development- a region where the transition to Net Zero drives inclusive economic growth. We define "Green Skills" not as specialist, niche roles but broad cross-cutting themes spread across the two strategic pillars of:

- Clean Energy Skills: The technical capabilities required to decarbonise the built environment, transport, and energy generation sectors.
- Nature-Based Skills: The environmental and land management expertise required to sequester carbon, enhance biodiversity, and ensure climate adaptation and nature recovery in a rural county.

With a packed agenda of expert keynote speakers, interactive workshops and networking opportunities, the conference promises to be an inspiring and practical resource for professionals across the industry. Whether you're here to learn, share or connect, we hope you'll leave with fresh ideas and actionable insights.

The conference is proudly delivered by Gloucestershire County Council.

**Cllr Linda Cohen, cabinet member for education and skills:** *"We want every young person and adult in Gloucestershire to be able to access the training they need to succeed in a changing jobs market. The Clean Energy and Green Skills Conference is a great chance to share ideas and learn from others, and I'm looking forward to speaking about the important role education can play in supporting the move to Net Zero."*



**Cllr Julian Tooke, cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure:** *"Gloucestershire is well placed to play a leading role in the shift to a greener economy. By bringing partners together at this conference, we can make sure our skills and training offer matches the needs of employers. That will help attract investment, create good jobs and strengthen our local economy for the future."*

Thank you for joining us, and here's to a productive and inspiring conference!

Please tag us in your social media posts: [@Gloucestershire County Council](#)  
[#GlosGreenSkills26](#)

# Agenda



## Gloucestershire Green Skills

CONFERENCE 2026

\*Please note may be subject to change

| Time            | Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 - Hosted by Bean Beanland                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00am          | Registration and Networking (Refreshments)                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 09:30am         | <b>Welcome: Cllr Linda Cohen</b> - Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills<br><b>Professor Katerina Kantartzis</b> - Deputy Head of School of Education, Health and Science - University of Gloucestershire   |
| 09:45am         | <b>Introducing the City Campus:</b> A retrofit case study: <b>University of Gloucestershire &amp; ADP Architects</b>                                                                                                                          |
| 10:00am         | <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> The UK's Clean Energy Superpower Mission and Gloucestershire's Role: Skills England - <b>Dr Tanya Lawes</b> - Head of Clean Energy, Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care, and Protective Services at Skills England |
| 10:30am         | <b>Official Launch:</b> The Gloucestershire Green Skills Strategy (2026 – 2030) - <b>Cllr Linda Cohen</b> - Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills                                                           |
| 10:45am         | Break (Refreshments)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11:00am         | <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> The Green Skills challenges and opportunities facing Gloucestershire - <b>Professor Matt Reed</b> - Head of Research (Strategy and Environment) - University of Gloucestershire                                       |
| 11:30am         | <b>Panel Discussion:</b> The "Green Skills Faculty" - Creating a Collaborative Ecosystem - representatives from the Faculty partners                                                                                                          |
| 12:15pm         | <b>Keynote Speaker: Dr Rachel J. Wilde</b> - University College London - Associate Professor Education, Practice and Society                                                                                                                  |
| 12:45pm         | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1:30pm - 3:15pm | <b>Two 45-minute breakout sessions:</b> For each session choose one from the following: Clean Energy, Retrofit, Nature Recovery & Biodiversity, Agri-Tech or Regenerative Farming                                                             |
| 3:15pm          | Break (Refreshments)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.30pm          | <b>Closing Session:</b> Next Steps                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4:00pm          | Close                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Many thanks to our speakers, panellists, breakout hosts and exhibitors for supporting the Green Skills Conference 2026



Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# Speakers

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## Cllr Linda Cohen

Linda Cohen is the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at Gloucestershire County Council. She is the founder of Read With Me which provides volunteers to hear children read in Gloucestershire's Primary and Secondary Schools. She previously owned a comms agency specialising in tech start ups, after a career in consumer electronics handling retail partnerships for international brands including LG Electronics and a decade in publishing and event management in the marketing and broadcast sectors.



## Bean Beanland (Event Compere)



A graduate of Imperial College, and an Associate of the Royal College of Science with over 17-years' experience, including eight years with an installation contractor, in energy and carbon mitigation strategy and in conceptual technology selection, procurement and the installation of mechanical services and renewable technologies. Over this time, Bean has overseen the technology positioning, specification and delivery of a variety of heat pump systems, many of which supply heat and potable hot water to Listed and period buildings, and to schools, rural estates and commercial buildings.

Since 2016, Bean has concentrated on heat pump sector representation, the advancement of the industry, supporting the development of government electrification policy, VAT & PDR revision, future funding & affordability, consumer protection, installer training and standards, and preparation of the future workforce.

Following the successful merger of the three heat pump trade bodies, he now consults to multiple industry organisations, and is responsible for an outreach programme providing CPD-style engagement to community groups and to other built environment industry professionals, which included co-hosting the highly successful Happy Heat Pump Podcast. He has also been a contributor on heat pump topics on both the BBC and Times Radio.

# Speakers

## Dr Katerina Kantartzis



Dr Katerina Kantartzis is an Associate Professor of Health and Wellbeing, and Deputy Head of the School of Education, Health and Science at the University of Gloucestershire, where she provides strategic leadership across a broad portfolio of disciplines. A developmental psychologist by background, her research focuses on body image, eating disorder prevention, and the implementation of evidence-based interventions in community and educational settings.

Katerina is the founder of The Body Project Gloucestershire and has worked extensively with health, education and third-sector partners to translate research into practice. She is passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration, prevention, and creative approaches to improving health and wellbeing. Alongside her academic work, she leads institutional initiatives focused on leadership, curriculum innovation, and community engagement.

## ADP

ADP designs for a better every day. Our international team of architects and designers combines deep regional knowledge with sector expertise. We specialise in spaces that shape daily life, enriching the ways people live, work, learn and connect. With over 60 years of experience, we work collaboratively to deliver buildings that make a real difference – in communities, in workplaces, in education, and in the world we live in.



Our seven studios are built on a foundation of shared values and complementary strengths. As a certified B Corp and employee-owned practice, we're committed to purposeful design that rewards the every day.

# Speakers

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## Dr Tanya Lawes

Head of Clean Energy, Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care, and Protective Services at Skills England.

Dr. Tanya Lawes is a prominent figure in the field of vocational education and apprenticeship development in the UK. Her role involves overseeing the growth and quality of apprenticeships. She regularly supports careers events in schools and colleges ensuring young people understand the range of options and learning pathways available to them. Tanya completed her doctorate in 2020 with research focusing on the experience of apprentices and their views on quality.



## Professor Matt Reed

Before taking up doctoral studies, Matt had various roles but mostly worked in the hospitality industry, working in events and beginning to take his wine exams. He wrote his PhD thesis on how the organic food and farming movement developed, which was published as a book in 2010. Matt's first role in professional research was working with farming families at the heart of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001. This research extended into a report on suicide amongst farmers and broader questions of well-being.



After this research, Matt returned to investigating the social, economic, and linguistic footprints of organic farming and food through a series of projects for Defra and eventually the ESRC.

Matt joined the CCRI in 2009. Since joining the CCRI, Matt has led a wide range of projects on food marketing, commercial fishing, market towns, renewable energy, urban food, smartphone apps, and forestry projects, to name a few. In 2021, Matt was appointed the Director of the CCRI, in 2024, he became the Head of Research for the University, and in 2025 was awarded his Professorship focusing on emerging climate citizenships.

# Speakers

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## Dr Rachel J Wilde

Dr Rachel J Wilde is a Social Anthropologist and Associate Professor at UCL who researches employability and transitions into work. She works in an interdisciplinary way, drawing on insights from anthropology, sociology, education and workplace learning. Her research has a strong policy focus and her most recent projects explore pathways to green jobs in coastal communities, and policy levers that support businesses to transition to green products and services.



# Panellists

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## Andy Bates



Andy Bates is Chief Financial Officer at Gloucestershire College, one of the largest further education providers in the South West, supporting thousands of learners each year across multiple campuses and a broad range of provision. Andy leads on strategy, investment and partnerships to support workforce development across the region. He plays a key role in driving the college's focus on green skills and sustainable growth, ensuring learners are equipped for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

He works closely with employers, local authorities and national partners to align education provision with emerging industry needs, including in clean energy, construction and digital sectors.

## David Owen



David is Director of Economy and Environment at Gloucestershire County Council and was formerly Chief Executive of GFirst LEP, one of the most successful Local Enterprise Partnerships in the UK. He is also, Chair of The Summerfield Charitable Trust and a non-exec director for a number of businesses.

He was previously a member of the International Advisory Committee of the International Economic Development Council; a member of the Government's Future Flight Advisory Board; a former President of the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce and former Chairman of the South West UK Business Advisory Group. He has a BA (Hons) in business studies and an MA in leading change.

# Panellists

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## Gavin Murray



Gavin Murray is Deputy Principal at South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, leading educational strategy and ensuring high standards in teaching, learning and assessment across all provision types. With 25 years' experience in further education, he has held a range of senior academic and corporate leadership roles prior to his appointment as Deputy Principal in 2022.

He also holds Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status and has a background in Law and Economics, complemented by postgraduate qualifications in Legal Practice and in Coaching and Development. Deeply committed to inclusion and equality of opportunity,

Gavin has contributed to national and international assessment practice and the improvement of qualification standards. Gavin has also served as a school governor, championing strong relationships, constructive challenge and a shared commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences for all.

## Jackie Jobes

Jackie Jobes is the Director of Sustainability at Hartpury University and Hartpury College.

Hartpury University and College is among the UK's leading specialist education providers, with strengths in agriculture, animal science, equine studies, sport, business and veterinary nursing. Based on a rural campus of some 360 hectares in Gloucestershire, it combines state-of-the-art academic facilities with practical, industry-linked training.



# Panellists

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## Dr Jane Fern

Dr Jane Fern is Head of Strategic Portfolios at Cirencester College, where she leads a broad range of strategic initiatives that support the college's long-term development and sustainability goals. She also chairs the College Sustainability Group, helping to drive environmental responsibility and embed sustainable practices across the organisation.

Dr Fern has an academic background in Earth Science, with specialist experience in ocean research, bringing a strong scientific perspective to her work on sustainability, innovation and strategic planning. Her career combines academic expertise with practical leadership, enabling her to champion initiatives that support both environmental stewardship and organisational resilience.



## Dr Karen Rial Lovera

Dr Karen Rial-Lovera is Co-Dean for Agricultural Science & Practice and Associate Professor in Agriculture at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU). She also serves as Head of International Partnerships, leading the University's transnational education initiatives across the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe.

Karen's research focuses on soil-crop interactions and the application of agroecological practices to build more resilient and sustainable farming systems. She has led research projects across Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa and currently leads interdisciplinary projects on resilient UK agrifood systems and sustainable nutrient management, funded by BBSRC, Innovate UK and Defra.

Alongside her research and leadership roles, Karen is a passionate advocate for equity, inclusion and student engagement in agricultural education. As the RAU's Student Voice Champion, she works to strengthen student representation and inspire a more diverse range of people to pursue careers in agriculture.



# Panellists

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## Kenny Lynch

Kenny Lynch is Professor of Development & Community at the University where he researches and teaches on global challenges such as poverty, conflict and responses such as peacebuilding, humanitarian aid and development. He works to match geography students with local public, private and third sector organisations for part-time internships because he is a great believer in the mutual benefits of engaging students and communities.

At the international level he has recently provided research advice to the Polish National Science Centre and the South African National Research Foundation on environmental and geographical research quality and impact. Locally, he has served as school governor and academy trustee, and is a member of the Advisory Group of the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership.



## Luke Halsey

Luke Halsey is a Gloucestershire native and Director of Commercial Innovation at the Royal Agricultural University. He has spent his career working at the intersection of land use, agriculture, climate, and innovation, including roles with leading foundations and as a Partner at AiiM Partners in California. Throughout his career, Luke has helped build innovation ecosystems that connect research, entrepreneurs, and investment to accelerate sustainable land use.

He has a particular interest in creating quality jobs, exploring how innovation can generate resilient, high-value employment in emerging climate-focused industries while strengthening regional economies, particularly in underserved communities. Today, he focuses on translating research into commercial impact and positioning Gloucestershire as a leader in sustainable land use innovation.



# Panellists

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## Natalie King

Natalie King is the Managing Director and Principal of AccXel, the UK's first industry-led construction school; a pioneering initiative borne and built with her sister, Nicola Bird. Conceived as a bold response to the construction industry's deepening skills crisis, AccXel is not just a training provider, but a movement redefining how the sector attracts, trains, and retains talent.

A qualified Barrister, Natalie also holds a postgraduate diploma in Town Planning and an MBA, providing different perspectives on the intersecting challenges of industry, infrastructure, and education.

AccXel's vision is clear: to revolutionise construction education by closing the gap between training and industry needs. AccXel's curriculum is shaped by real-time employer feedback and emerging sector trends, ensuring learners graduate with skills that are not only relevant but future-proof. Since its launch, AccXel has formed high-impact collaborations with global industry partners and governmental bodies, rapidly earning a reputation for excellence and innovation.

The AccXel mission is simple, but powerful: 'To Support People to Construct The Future.'



# Breakout Sessions

| TIME  | WORKSHOP                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:30 | <b>Historical Buildings Retrofit</b><br>Hosted by: Marianne Shur,<br>Chartered Building Surveyor<br><br>Location: Room F1-129 | <b>Agritech</b><br>Hosted by:<br>Neave Anderson,<br>Head of Agri-tech and Innovation,<br>Hartpury University<br><br>Location: Room F1-135                | <b>Clean Energy</b><br>Hosted by Afriqnmun Lovejoy - Climate Leadership Gloucestershire with panellists from:<br>Eden GeoThermal<br>EcoMirage<br>BritWind<br>Ecotricity<br><br>Location: Lecture Theatre | <b>Nature Recovery, Biodiversity and Ecology</b><br>Hosted by<br>Chris Uttley, Climate, Economy and Flood Risk Manager and Rebecca Charley, Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery at Stroud District Council and Dr Geoff Hilton, Head of Conservation Evidence at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust<br><br>Location: Room F1-134 |
| 14:30 | <b>Contemporary Buildings Retrofit</b><br>Hosted by:<br>Jenny Ford,<br>Materials in Mind<br><br>Location: Room F1-129         | <b>Regenerative Agriculture</b><br>Hosted by:<br>Neave Anderson<br>Head of Agri-tech and Innovation,<br>Hartpury University<br><br>Location: Room F1-135 | <b>Clean Energy</b><br>Hosted by Afriqnmun Lovejoy - Climate Leadership Gloucestershire with panellists from:<br>Eden GeoThermal<br>EcoMirage<br>BritWind<br>Ecotricity<br><br>Location: Lecture Theatre | <b>Nature Recovery, Biodiversity and Ecology</b><br>Hosted by<br>Chris Uttley, Climate, Economy and Flood Risk Manager and Rebecca Charley, Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery at Stroud District Council and Dr Geoff Hilton, Head of Conservation Evidence at Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust<br><br>Location: Room F1-134 |

Breakout sessions are 45 minutes each and will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor next to the Lecture Theatre.

Due to room capacities, please kindly check with the Event Team should you wish to change workshops.

# Breakout Hosts

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## Neave Anderson

Neave Anderson is Head of Agri-Tech & Innovation at Hartpury University and Hartpury College, where she leads initiatives that connect cutting-edge technology with the future of sustainable agriculture. With a background in agricultural business management and extensive experience in agri-tech innovation, research and industry engagement, Neave works closely with farmers, businesses, researchers and education providers to drive the adoption of digital technologies across the land-based sector.

Through Hartpury's Digital Innovation Farm and Agri-Tech Centre, she champions collaboration, skills development and knowledge exchange, helping to ensure that agriculture remains productive, resilient and environmentally sustainable in an increasingly technology-driven world.



## Marianne Suhr MRICS, SPAB Lethaby Scholar

Marianne is a Chartered Building Surveyor, writer and broadcaster specialising in the repair and retrofit of historic buildings. She co-presented three series of BBC2's 'Restoration' programme and more recently Channel 4's 'Restoration of the Year' with Kevin McCloud. She has repaired and adapted four houses of her own, and used the experience gained to set up 'The Old House Consultancy' which focuses on the repair and retrofit of domestic buildings, especially historic timber frames. Marianne lectures extensively on a wide range of subjects and has a special interest in historic windows. She is a part time senior lecturer at the Cultural Heritage Institute where she teaches practical building conservation on their MSc course. She is the co-founder of the Building Conservation Summer School which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. She was co-author of the 'Old House Handbook' and 'Old House Eco Handbook'.



# Breakout Hosts

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## Geoff Hilton

Geoff Hilton is the Head of Conservation Evidence at WWT, the Wetland Charity. His conservation career began as a WWT volunteer back in 1992. After brief stints working in wetlands in New Zealand and Venezuela, he completed a PhD and a postdoc at Glasgow University. He worked for 10 years in the International Research Team at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; including a three-year secondment to BirdLife in Portugal. He (re-)joined WWT in 2009, establishing a Species Research Unit, which has evolved into the Wetland Evidence Department (currently 25 staff and 12 PhD students).



He oversees WWT's multidisciplinary science work, and is part of the Senior Leadership Team of the organisation. He is an Honorary Professor of Conservation Science at the Manchester Metropolitan University, a member of the (Ramsar) Convention on Wetlands Scientific & Technical Review Panel, and a co-author of the Convention's 2025 [Global Wetland Outlook](#). He is a member of the England Species Reintroduction Task Force, the Technical Assistance Group of the global Freshwater Challenge, and the Strategic Advisory Group of the Global Wetland Center at the University of Copenhagen

## Chris Uttley

Chris Uttley is Climate, Economy and Flood Risk Manager at Stroud District Council. His background is within marine and freshwater conservation and lately, delivery and management of the Stroud Valleys Natural Flood Management scheme, which has installed over 1200 interventions across the Stroud Frome catchment and restored over 40km of stream and spring habitat and created over 30Ha of new wet woodland and floodplain reconnection.



## Rebecca Charley

Rebecca Charley is the Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity at Stroud District Council. In her role, Rebecca works with landowners, developers, and local communities to support nature recovery and enhance biodiversity across the district. She provides strategic advice and guidance on balancing environmental priorities with development and land management, drawing on a wide range of skills in partnership working, stakeholder engagement, and ecological planning to help deliver positive outcomes for nature and people.

# Breakout Hosts

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## Afriqnmun Lovejoy

Afriqnmun Lovejoy, is a climate change and clean energy professional, working for Climate Leadership Gloucestershire to coordinate the public sector response to strategic climate risk and energy transition needs.

Previously having undertaken a number of senior climate and clean energy roles in the public and civil service she brings together a panel of clean energy experts to answer your questions on the clean energy sector and the talent that will be needed to facilitate growth for Gloucestershire.



## Jenny Ford

Jenny Ford is a circular and regenerative built environment strategist, designer and convenor, working across retrofit, skills, supply chains and low-carbon construction. Through Materials in Mind, she supports organisations and regional partnerships to embed circular and low-carbon practice through strategy, training, workshops and project development.

Jenny has recently worked as Skills Consultant for SevernNet and regional colleges, focusing on decarbonisation, green skills and workforce pathways across Portbury, Avonmouth and Severnside. She is also developing FactoryX, a collaborative platform and network for retrofit, circular materials and practical skills exchange across the built environment.



# Breakout Session Summary

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## **Agri-Tech in Practice: Opportunities, Challenges and Skills for the Future - Hosted by Neave Anderson**

Technology is transforming agriculture, but successful adoption is about more than simply buying new equipment. Drawing on experiences from Hartpury University's Digital Innovation Farm, this session explores how technologies such as precision farming, livestock monitoring, drones and environmental tools are being used in practice.

The session will examine the opportunities and challenges of agri-tech adoption, the growing importance of data-driven decision-making, and the skills needed to support the future agricultural workforce. Particular focus will be given to the opportunities and challenges of upskilling, training and education within Gloucestershire, exploring how employers, educators and industry partners can work together to address skills gaps, support technology adoption and ensure the county's workforce is equipped for the future of farming.

Attendees will gain practical insights into how technology, education and skills development can help build a productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural sector.

## **Contemporary Buildings Retrofit - Hosted by Jenny Ford**

Retrofit Skills in Practice: People, Places, Materials and Delivery will explore what retrofit means in practice across the region's domestic, commercial, public sector and high street environments, and examine the skills, partnerships and delivery models needed to support a fair and effective transition.

Bringing together employers, educators, local authorities, housing providers, community organisations, manufacturers, consultants and retrofit practitioners, the round table will map existing expertise and identify where gaps remain across areas such as domestic retrofit, commercial and public buildings, high streets, heritage properties, community-led projects, retrofit coordination and practical installation.

Participants will discuss and prioritise the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector, including workforce development, quality standards, supply chain capacity and consumer confidence, while also exploring the role of emerging technologies such as AI, digital twins, heat-loss surveys, building performance monitoring and smart energy systems.

The session will also consider how stronger links between education and industry can support workforce development through initiatives such as industry placements, employer-led teaching, curriculum co-design and teacher-industry exchange. The discussion will conclude by identifying shared priorities, opportunities for collaboration and practical actions that can help strengthen retrofit skills and delivery across the region.

# Breakout Session Summary

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## Historical Buildings Retrofit - Hosted by Marianne Shur

With the push for net zero, and approximately 20% of our housing stock built before 1919, getting the detail right on retrofit is crucial. Yet the failure rate for wall insulation on solid walls is shockingly high, leaving many poorly retrofitted buildings with damp and mould.

Listed properties with single glazed windows desperately need solutions that retain heritage significance yet at the same time improve thermal efficiency.

The knowledge, materials and techniques are available for all these things, yet dissemination of skills seems to be a constant issue when balancing heritage buildings with climate change challenge. This session examines some of the main issues and explores some potential solutions.

## Nature Recovery, Biodiversity and Ecology - Hosted by Chris Uttley, Rebecca Charley and Dr Geoff Hilton

The Ecological or Nature Emergency is as great a risk to society as the climate emergency and there has never been a more urgent need to restore degraded ecosystems and habitats, restore natural processes or protect and reintroduce species that were once a common part of our landscape. Whilst the call for additional green skills usually refers to the urgent needs for retrofitting houses, electrification of energy systems and installation of renewable technologies, the skills and experience needed for nature recovery have not received as much attention.

This breakout session will explore the types of roles associated with nature recovery and we will hear from three speakers talking about the types of skills and knowledge needed for three broad areas within nature recovery. Dr. Geoff Hilton, Head of Conservation Evidence at WWT, will talk about the skills and opportunities within conservation evidence, science and research, deriving the knowledge to underpin recovery. Rebecca Charley, Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity at Stroud District Council will focus on roles and the skills involved in giving advice to landowners, developers and communities on nature recovery. Chris Uttley, Climate, Economy and Flood Risk Manager at Stroud District Council, will talk about the types of roles, skills and knowledge required for the physical implementation of nature recovery and nature based solutions projects on the ground.

# Breakout Session Summary

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## Regenerative Agriculture - Hosted by Neave Anderson

### Skills for Regenerative Farming: Turning Ambition into Action

Regenerative farming is gaining momentum, but one of the biggest barriers to adoption isn't the farming practices themselves, it's ensuring people have the skills, confidence and support to make informed decisions. This session explores the opportunities and challenges of upskilling the current and future workforce, from technical and digital skills to business resilience and knowledge exchange. Through practical examples, we'll discuss how education, training and collaboration can help build the confidence needed to support the transition to regenerative agriculture.

## Clean Energy - Hosted by Afrignmun Lovejoy

The Clean Energy session will bring together leading organisations, industry experts and stakeholders from across Gloucestershire to explore the opportunities shaping the future of the energy sector.

As the transition to a low-carbon economy accelerates, driven by growing energy security concerns, technological innovation and the Government's Clean Power 2030 ambitions, there has never been a more important time to engage with the sector.

This session will provide valuable insights into Gloucestershire's clean energy landscape, highlighting emerging opportunities for investment, innovation, skills development and business growth. Attendees will hear from sector leaders, learn about the latest developments in renewable and low-carbon technologies, and discuss how collaboration can help unlock economic growth and create high-quality jobs across the county.

We encourage exhibitors to attend this session to gain a deeper understanding of the sector, connect with key partners and explore opportunities to support Gloucestershire's journey towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

# Event Information

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## Exhibitor passes

If you have registered and received your E-Tickets through Eventbrite, please bring these with you to the event on your smartphone so we can register you when you arrive.

If you have not yet registered or received your E-Tickets, please sign up via:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-energy-green-skills-conference-2026-tickets-1976730667639?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clean-energy-green-skills-conference-2026-tickets-1976730667639?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true)

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# Media Information

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## Webpage:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/green-skills-conference-2026/>

## Press Releases:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/business-property-and-economy/business-news/business-news-june-2026/gloucestershire-county-council-leading-the-way-on-green-skills-at-landmark-2026-conference/>

## Social Media:

Please tag us on our LinkedIn handles before, during and after the event - we would love to see your photos, we are using **#GlosGreenSkills26**

[@Gloucestershire County Council](#)

## Photo Consent Form:

We will be recording video and taking photographs at the event. If you are happy to be in any footage, please can you complete the photo consent form for all individuals attending within your business. If you do not wish to have your photograph take/used, please can you inform [chloe.warden@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.warden@gloucestershire.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

[Photo/video consent form | Photo / video details – Gloucestershire Forms](#)

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# Location and Travel

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**University of Gloucestershire, City Campus**  
**30-44 Northgate Street**  
**Gloucester GL1 1SQ**



## Ground Floor



## Second Floor



# Location and Travel

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## **University of Gloucestershire, City Campus** **30-44 Northgate Street** **Gloucester GL1 1SQ**

The University of Gloucestershire's City Campus is centrally located on Northgate Street, one of Gloucester's primary pedestrianised high streets. The venue sits within a restored historic building in the heart of the city centre and is well connected by road, rail and public transport.

Entrance to the campus is located at the front of King Square.

### **By Car**

A number of public car parks are available within a short walking distance of the campus:

- Eastgate Shopping Centre Car Park (GL1 1PX) – approximately 3–4 minutes' walk
- Ladybellegate Street Car Park (GL1 2HN) – approximately 3–4 minutes' walk
- North Warehouse Car Park (GL1 2EP) – approximately 5 minutes' walk
- Bruton Way Car Park (GL1 1DG) – approximately 6–7 minutes' walk

Eastgate Shopping Centre and Bruton Way car parks are recommended due to their capacity and ease of access to the city centre.

### **On Foot**

The campus is within close proximity of key transport hubs and landmarks:

- Gloucester Cross (city centre) – approximately 2 minutes' walk
- Gloucester Bus Station – approximately 5–7 minutes' walk
- Gloucester Railway Station – approximately 15–20 minutes' walk, or a short taxi journey

### **Cycling**

Cycle parking is available within the city centre, with established cycling routes providing access into Gloucester.

### **Accessibility**

City Campus benefits from step-free access at street level via Northgate Street. Nearby car parks include accessible parking bays.

The building is fully air-conditioned.

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# Contact Details

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## Before the event:

If you have any questions ahead of the event, please contact:

Email: [greenskills@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:greenskills@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01452 583657

## On the day:

Should you need to contact one of the Event Team when on site or in the event of an emergency, please contact:

**Chloe Warden**

Tel: 07813855498 (personal mobile)

**Jon Hickman:**

Tel: 07733307021

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# Gloucestershire Green Skills

CONFERENCE 2026



# gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

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