Call for partners, support & participants

WILDER VISIONS

Re-constructing Nature for the 21st Century –
An international programme of events & activities on transforming nature, landscapes, & economies.

When: A 2-day conference in May 2020; with a further field visit and series of events in 2020/21 and major conference in 2021.
Where: Sheffield, UK; the Ancholme Valley and various locations to be announced.

The Vision:
With a focus on wilder, more connected futures to halt declines of species and environmental quality, yet recognising the cultural nature & heritage value of many landscapes; this programme emerges from 30+ years of seminars and conferences organised by our team and partners. We bring together a unique group of experts, academics, researchers, the public, and practitioners to debate issues arising from major challenges of future climate change, biodiversity, land-use, heritage, economy and community.
Our concept & vision take the ideas behind the innovative NIA (2015-2018) projects to the next level: bigger, better and more joined-up, becoming larger, bolder, more interconnected, and longer-term. Through recognition and support for existing sites and projects, and by identifying critical areas to create and connect key habitats as landscape-level necklaces, this new vision develops ecological stepping stones and critical environmental nodes in the landscape through which ecological, environmental and economic gains can be delivered.

Some emerging themes:
1. Wilding & culture
2. Considering the past, to understand the present and inform the future
3. Landscape characterisation
4. The need for cross-disciplinary approaches
5. The potential for re-wetting landscapes such as peatlands
6. Mopping up water & holding carbon
7. Re-constructing new nature sites
8. New nature networks - re-connecting nature
9. Recombinant ecologies & future feral
10. Managing the uplands
11. Sustaining biodiversity
12. Growing resilience
13. Mitigating climate change
14. Pop-up or flat-pack wilding with pick & mix ecologies
15. Transforming landscapes & farming
16. Regional economic impacts
17. Growing tourism & leisure & wildlife spectacles
18. Growing the skills base
19. Engaging local people
20. Engaging wider stakeholders
21. Working with the media
22. Educating the educators
23. Transforming rural economies
24. Delivering ecosystem services
25. The need for demonstration projects
26. Wilding the city

2019: A 2-day conference ‘Opportunities & Issues in Re-wilding’ held in Sheffield with partners including the University of Bangor and the Wilder Europe project; launch of the ‘Re-discovering & Re-wilding the Ancholme Valley’ project - supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

2020: A 2 day conference & field visit ‘Rewilding 2020 - Re-wilding the Mind’ 11/12 & 13 May and a full programme of events in the Ancholme Valley and at other locations.

2021: Further events, workshops and seminars planned around future resilience and sustainability; trees, woodlands and wood-pasture; a 2-day conference ‘Medieval Parks & Wood-pasture: landscapes in context’ with field visit; and Ancholme Valley project.

Outputs from these events will form a valuable resource of best practice guidance, conference volumes, and a major book.

Professor Ian D. Rotherham, December 2019.

Contact us for more details: info@hallamec.plus.com or i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk
also see www.ukeconet.org for more information and regular updates


Already 100+ key players from universities, agencies, NGOs, and local authorities etc.