Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery

YEAR 4

Annual Report from the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery

1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026

Leverhulme Centre
for Nature Recovery

Our year at a glance 2025-2026

Research outputs

65 publications/journal articles

14 preprints

12 research reports

6 responses to consultations

4 briefing notes

Podcast

9,800 downloads in total

5,124 downloads in year 4

16 episodes published last year

Community building

Nature seminar series

5,000+ views online

2,500+ attendees

31 talks

Symposium

250 delegates

For 2-day symposium:
Nature, farming and food:
How we value our land

1 outdoor conference

Reimagining Nature Finance

Researcher training events

30 attendees

At story telling workshop

40 attendees

At a writing for the general public workshop

Nature connection events

55 attendees at 2 events

Cultural engagement

300 visitors

How to Save the Amazon exhibition

Social media

11,000+
active users

7,700+
Bluesky followers

3,400+
LinkedIn followers

875
YouTube subscribers

Contents

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Centre Director update

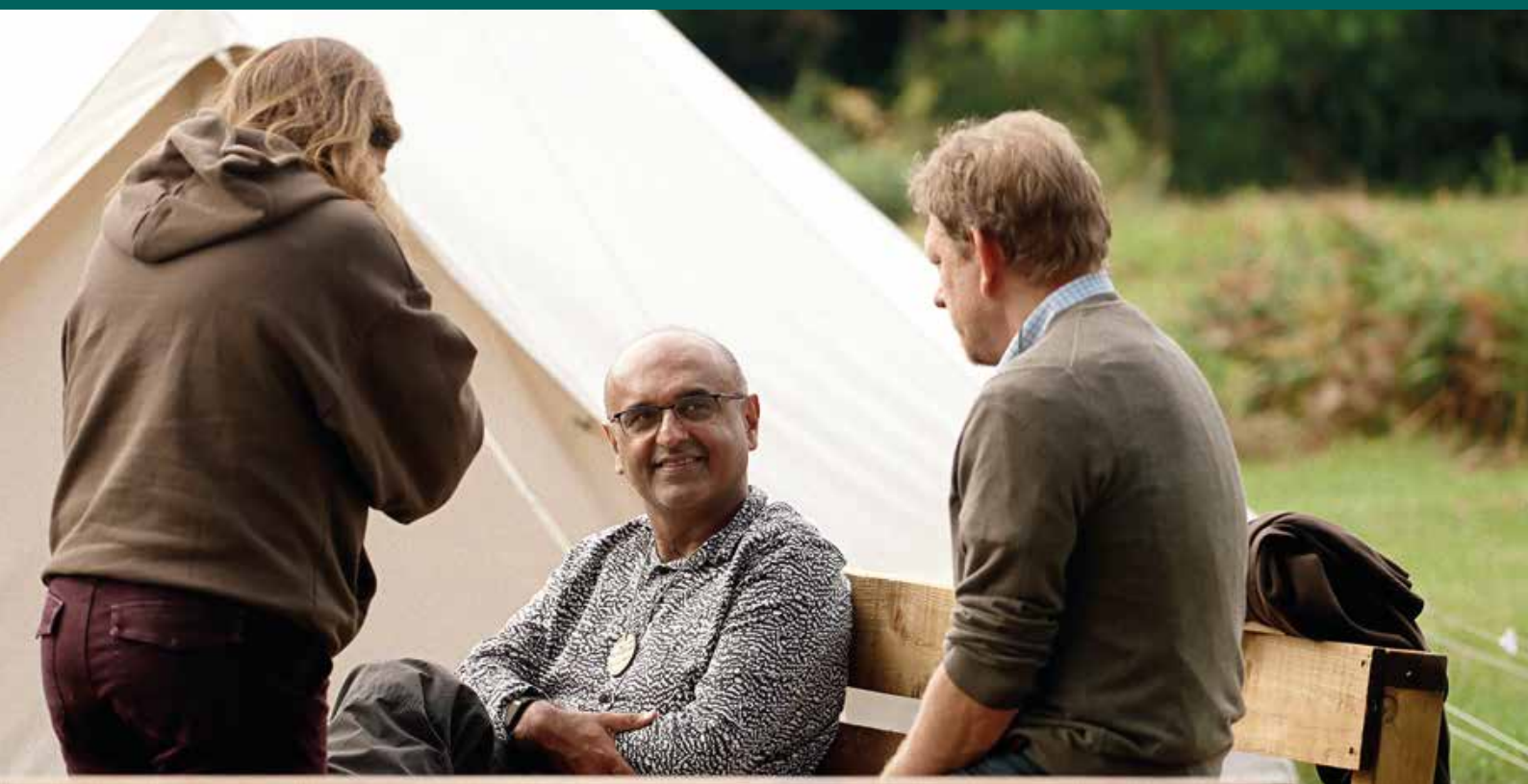
“It has been an exciting year of growth for the Centre, alongside a period of deep reflection and consultation. We are delighted to see many of our researchers move into influential international roles. In a competitive academic landscape, this is a strong indicator of the quality of our community and of the opportunities created through the Trust’s support. At the same time, we have welcomed new colleagues whose perspectives on nature recovery are already strengthening our work in Oxford.

Over the past year, we have increasingly focused not only on restoring ecosystems, but on understanding the deeper economic, political and social systems driving both environmental decline and recovery. This has led us through a process of reflection that is refining how we organise and collaborate, with greater emphasis on a small number of cross-cutting questions where we believe we can make the greatest contribution.

As we enter our fifth year, the Centre’s reputation is now well established among key national and international partners. Our research is increasingly informing policy and practice, and our ability to convene researchers, policymakers and practitioners continues to create new opportunities for collaboration and impact.

We build on this position with confidence and a clear sense of direction: to deepen our research, strengthen connections across disciplines and partners, and deliver more ambitious and focused work, informed by the experience and partnerships we have built to date.”

Yadvinder Malhi, Director



Research and activities

In our fourth year, the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery has continued to translate interdisciplinary research into actionable impact. Building on our established momentum, this year's outputs demonstrate a Centre increasingly shaping debates and systems at local, national and global scales.

Ecology

Our ecological research continues to provide critical evidence on how ecosystems respond to both natural and human-induced pressures, informing better conservation strategies worldwide. Working closely with partners, we are developing new understandings of what ecological recovery means in a rapidly changing, human-shaped world.

Featured publications

- A place-based assessment of biodiversity intactness in sub-Saharan Africa. Bridging the gap between global goals and local realities, this study maps biodiversity across sub-Saharan Africa to ensure international frameworks are informed by precise, on-the-ground data.
- Nature Energy flows reveal declining ecosystem functions by animals across Africa. By mapping energy flows, the research highlights declining animal-driven ecosystem functions across the African continent, providing vital evidence for international conservation and climate policy.

Scale and technology

As AI embeds itself deeper into society, we have focused efforts on the use of technologies for ecological monitoring. From remote sensing to camera trap analysis to our very own in-house worm chamber, where we are learning how sound can be used to detect subsoil organisms.

Our remote sensing work bridges the gap between vegetation structure and ecosystem resilience. In Ghana, our upcoming paper demonstrates that taller, more varied forest canopies actively buffer cocoa yields against climate warming and drying. Expanding this to a macro scale, our recent study in Ecology Letters (2026) establishes a breakthrough method using spectral and LiDAR remote sensing. By measuring plant functional traits (such as leaf thickness and nutrient capacity), we can now predict and quantify complex plant-pollinator networks across broad landscapes, moving conservation from simple tree-mapping to tracking active biotic interactions.

Ecoacoustics for monitoring soil health

Using passive acoustic sensors and AI analysis, the project explores whether sounds made by soil organisms such as earthworms can provide a scalable, low-cost way to assess ecosystem health and track the impacts of nature recovery and regenerative farming.

- Ecoacoustics – opportunities for monitoring soil health: Policy brief

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Society

Lasting environmental change requires deep community engagement and effective governance. We investigate how people interact with nature, both physically and digitally, and how governance structures can better empower local communities.

Funding models for farmers

The LCNR continues to deliver critical, policy-facing social science to support the rollout of England's Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMS). Through an ongoing 18-month collaboration with Defra led by Professor Jamie Lorimer, and a newly awarded British Academy Innovation Fellowship secured by Jennifer Dodsworth, we are using participatory, on-farm research to evaluate farmer experiences and innovative funding models. Together, these initiatives ensure that the design and governance of future agri-environment policies, particularly Landscape Recovery, are grounded in local social and cultural realities.

Featured society publications

- **Featured in People and Nature**: Digital nature in the AI era: How human and AI-generated representations shape future visions of rewilding. As AI-generated images flood the internet, this study explores how they alter public expectations of what "wild" nature should look like.

- **Featured in Geoforum**: Ghana's landscape approach to REDD+: Is it decentralising or recentralising power? An on-the-ground look at global climate policies in Ghana, evaluating whether current frameworks empower local communities or unintentionally strip them of control.

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Health and wellbeing

Nature recovery must benefit people as much as the planet. This year, the Centre pioneered research linking green spaces directly to public health, physical and psychological health outcomes, and social fairness, helping demonstrate that investment in nature is also an investment in human health.

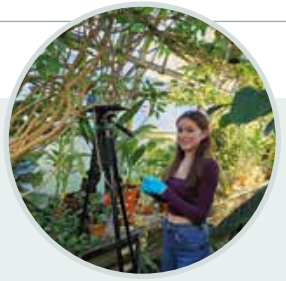
Featured in Nature Cities

Impacts of nature-inclusive urban development on well-being and fairness perceptions. This study shows how urban green spaces can be designed to improve public health while ensuring the benefits are shared fairly across communities.

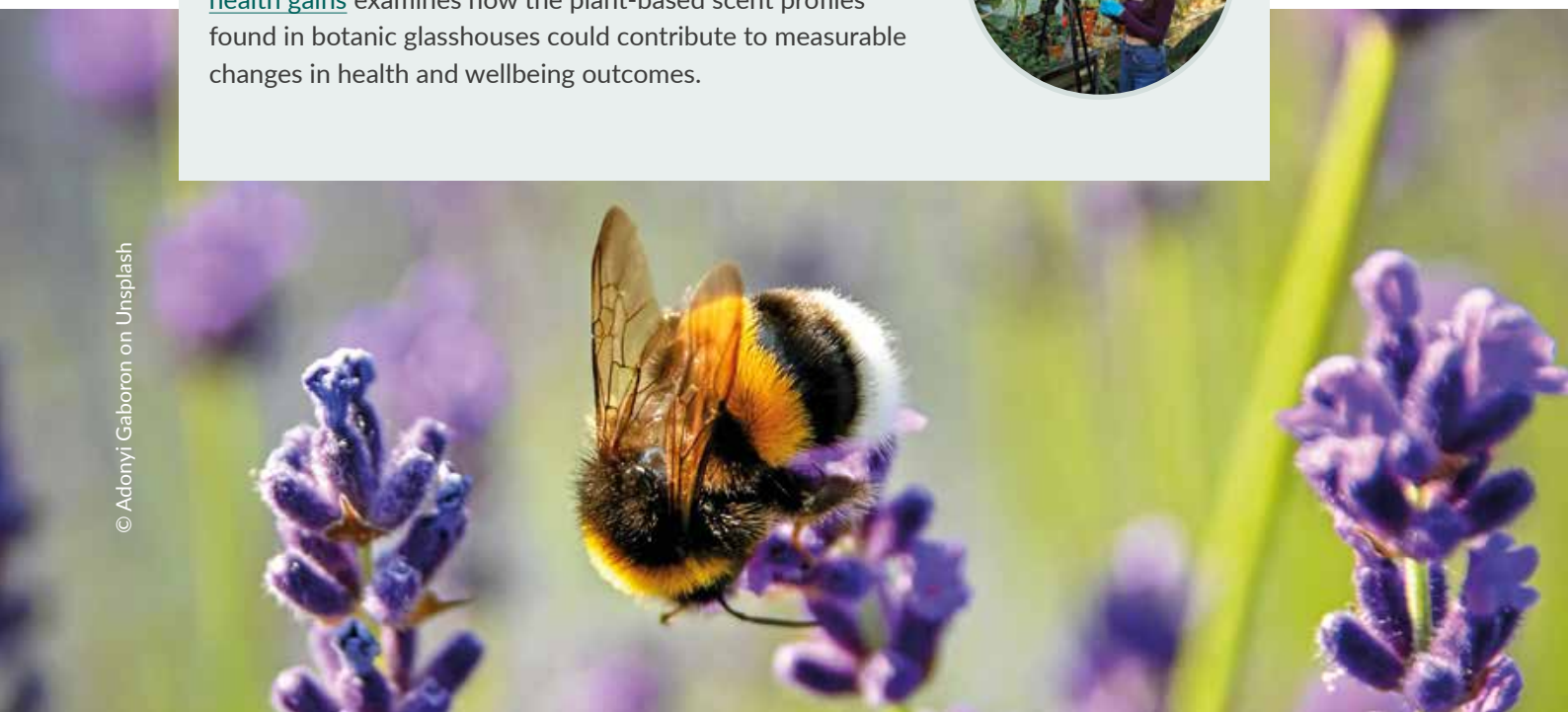
Featured in Plants People Planet

A walk in the park – identifying healthy greenspaces using scents. Different urban greenspaces have distinct "scentscapes", with some containing higher levels of beneficial plant-derived volatile compounds linked to improved mood, reduced stress and better health, while others contain more harmful pollution-related compounds. Measuring these airborne chemical signatures could help urban planners design greener, healthier cities.

Smelling wellness



Associations between botanic garden scenescapes and human health gains examines how the plant-based scent profiles found in botanic glasshouses could contribute to measurable changes in health and wellbeing outcomes.



Finance

For nature recovery to scale, it requires robust and transparent financial mechanisms that genuinely work for the environment. Our research critically examines emerging green markets and net-gain policies to ensure they deliver ecological value rather than becoming vehicles for greenwashing.

Featured in Nature Ecology & Evolution

Five rules for scientifically credible nature markets

A major paper setting out five evidence-based rules for creating scientifically credible nature markets, drawing on lessons from biodiversity and carbon markets around the world. The work highlights the risks of poorly designed nature finance schemes, while providing practical guidance for policymakers, investors and regulators on how to ensure markets genuinely deliver for biodiversity rather than simply shifting or masking environmental harm.

Mapping UK finance flows

LCNR researchers led pioneering work to map the UK's nature finance system, revealing where investment in nature recovery is flowing, where major gaps remain, and why existing funding mechanisms are struggling to deliver change at scale. By bringing together ecology, economics and finance, the project is helping shape national debates on biodiversity markets, green investment and the future of nature finance. The work provides vital evidence for policymakers and investors at a time when the UK faces a major funding gap for meeting biodiversity and climate goals, positioning LCNR at the forefront of efforts to redesign how nature recovery is financed.

Systems

Addressing biodiversity loss requires understanding how ecological, economic and political systems interact across scales. We research how different environmental, social and economic systems shape one another so policymakers can make more informed and holistic decisions.

Featured in Business Strategy and the Environment

Biodiversity credits: an overview of the current state, future opportunities and potential pitfalls. A critical evaluation of the emerging biodiversity credit market. This paper examines the interactions between ecology, business and policy, providing a roadmap to ensure these complex tools genuinely support nature recovery.

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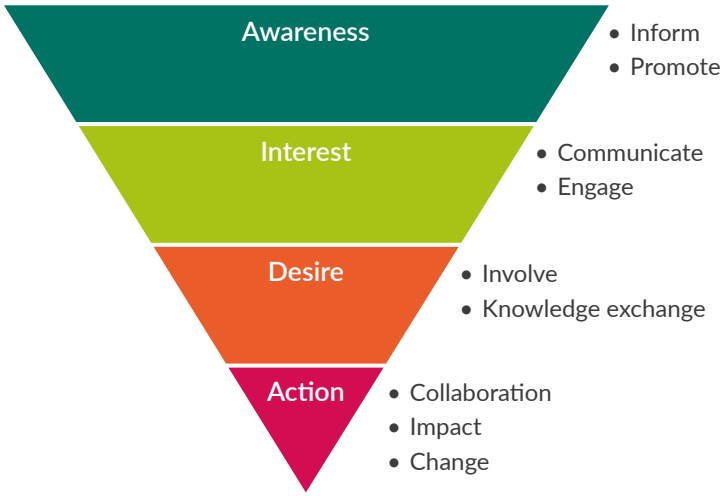
Knowledge exchange and impact

Our engagement and impact work is based on the Awareness-Interest-Desire-Action (AIDA) approach (see illustration). The Centre works to increase awareness of its work with selected audiences, to work with those who show interest and to develop a stronger and mutually beneficial relationship that will lead to positive nature outcomes. Typically, it may take months or even years to evolve, and the example below looks at the LCNR's engagement on Biodiversity Net Gain policy in England, as it played out over two years, and is still developing.

Awareness-Interest-Desire-Action (AIDA) approach to engagement and impact (adapted from the CREDS AIDA triangle)



Biodiversity Net Gain – LCNR's role in curating and promoting policy-related evidence

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is the Government's flagship policy for protecting nature on land earmarked for development in England. LCNR hosts a creative core of academics with expertise in BNG, and curates on online hub to bring together our evidence and commentary.

To open up debate on the challenges of implementing BNG to a non-expert audience, Natalie Duffus, one of the Centre's expert researchers, produced a briefing note, and a podcast which is still LCNR's most-listened-to output with over 450 downloads and rising.

The Centre has taken its evidence to the heart of policy with its responses to calls for evidence on BNG policy: BNG small sites consultation and Consultation response: a biodiversity metric for Scotland's planning system.

The Centre's growing influence was demonstrated when Natalie Duffus' paper on BNG outcomes is cited by the Office for Environmental Protection in its evidence to the Secretary of State for Environment, and is then referenced in a 2026 Government consultation on brownfield exemptions for BNG.

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Since late 2024, the Centre has been working with Defra's Landscape Recovery team, bringing together officials and researchers to share knowledge, experience and questions, and working together to find solutions to live policy challenges. Moving beyond our initial workshops, we are pleased to see researchers and officials develop their own strong working links and the Centre has co-developed a research project funded by Defra on Landscape Recovery. Researchers are involved in active engagement on financing nature recovery, via a British Academy Fellowship, on innovative agri-environmental policy for a sustainable future.

Global

We continue contributing to the development of a new global Nature Relationship Index, in partnership with UNDP, aimed at broadening the definition of human development to include flourishing with nature, and capturing how people and nature thrive together. Two workshops were held this year to develop the Index, one in Hangzhou, China in Februrary 2026 and another in Oxford in April 2026.

This index is due to be published in the 2026 UN Human Development Report, with the intention that the UNHDR will provide annual updates on every country's rating on the metric.

Alongside this, we have been exploring new approaches to measure the degradation and repair of the natural world. These approaches focus more on ecological function rather than species composition, using principles of ecological energetics.

Our Centre convened a workshop to explore how the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment can be translated into practical action for biodiversity recovery and social justice. The workshop brought together international researchers, policymakers and practitioners to examine the structural drivers of biodiversity loss, identify opportunities for transformative change, and develop new interdisciplinary research agendas. The event generated a set of priority research themes and questions that will inform future LCNR activity, including work on environmental histories, equitable governance, alternative economic models, and the social conditions needed for large-scale transformation. This is important because it positions LCNR at the forefront of international efforts to move beyond incremental conservation approaches and develop evidence-based pathways for systemic change that can support both nature recovery and human wellbeing.

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National

In June we partnered with the British Ecological Society to bring the Nature, Farming and Food: How we value our land symposium to Oxford. This high-profile, two-day event tackled critical evidence-based debates around the environmental impacts of food production, bringing together scientists, farmers, and policymakers.

The programme was organised across four interdisciplinary thematic sessions: Valuing Farming, Valuing Biodiversity, Valuing Food and Valuing Knowledge. Each theme included an invited keynote, paper presentations and posters. Submissions ranged from ecological evidence regarding agroforestry's impact on pollinators in England to ethnographic reflections on potato production in the Himalayas. Despite the breadth of the subjects and perspectives, key themes emerged throughout the symposium which are brought together in a summary document.

We strengthened our UK policy outreach this year. We are now deeply embedded in a long-term partnership with Defra's flagship Landscape Recovery Scheme and have responded to multiple consultations on nature recovery, planning and biodiversity policy.

LCNR has provided input into six calls for evidence this year. These include:

- Biodiversity Net Gain – small sites consultation
- Consultation on the implementation of the UK government's principles for voluntary carbon and nature market integrity
- National Planning Policy Framework – draft for consultation
- House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) inquiry into the environmental impact of data centres, as part of a multi-disciplinary response from the University of Oxford

The Centre also produced a series of stakeholder-facing notes aimed at wider audiences working in nature recovery.

- Building for nature: the promises and pitfalls of Biodiversity Net Gain
- Ecoacoustics – opportunities for monitoring soil health
- Using life cycle assessment as part of robust biodiversity strategy design
- Developing a high-integrity nature-based carbon sequestration strategy for Oxfordshire
- Theatre games for environmental researchers – an activity pack for interdisciplinary mindsets
- Aligning the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with the Land Use Framework (LUF)

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Policy report

Can we trust BNG for woodland? A highly practical report assessing whether current Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) regulations can be trusted to protect and restore woodland habitats, helping ensure green finance mechanisms are held to robust ecological standards.

Policy engagement

LCNR launched the Policy Catalyst to turn the Centre's growing policy engagement into a more coordinated, strategic and influential programme of work. Building on the extensive policy activity already underway across LCNR, the initiative is creating the space and infrastructure needed to connect researchers, policymakers and emerging opportunities more effectively. The appointment of Alison Smith as Senior Researcher, Nature Recovery Policy, marks an important step in building this capacity. The aim is to enable and support researchers to translate evidence into action by providing more joined-up responses and curation to make the most of our collective strengths. The initiative has already received significant interest and aims to position LCNR as a leading hub for evidence-informed nature policy during a critical period for the environment and environmental governance.

Local

LCNR is helping shape Oxfordshire's response to the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises, supporting both the development of Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and innovative work on high-integrity local carbon sequestration. By combining ecological science, mapping tools and policy engagement, the work is helping guide where nature recovery action and investment can have the greatest impact across the county.

This year we also convened and planned The Nature Festival which brings together organisations across the city to connect research, practitioners communities in a celebration of nature.

Events and community

Key events in Year 4

Immersive workshop

In September we convened the pioneering Reimagining Nature Finance gathering, in conjunction with Ostara and the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance. This was an immersive, fully outdoor conference in Wytham Woods that brought together senior leaders from finance, academia, conservation and systems change to rethink how financial systems could better support the living world. Through discussion, experimentation and collaboration in nature itself, the event created space for more ambitious thinking beyond conventional market approaches, helping position LCNR as a distinctive voice in emerging debates on the future of nature finance and economic transformation.

Since the event, several seeds planted during the gathering are developing into new approaches to nature finance. From rethinking fiduciary duty to regenerative investment models, the community emerging from this event is exploring how more ambitious ideas can move into mainstream financial systems. This type of work is difficult but essential if environmental systems are to move onto a more nature-positive trajectory. You can watch a clip of the event on our YouTube channel.

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Regular events and community building

This year we explored new event formats and trialled offering training events to our researchers.

Nature series seminars

Our Friday afternoon series of lectures continue to be popular with members of the University as well as the local Oxfordshire community. This year we offered 31 talks, with in-person attendance of over 2500 visitors. With the speaker's permission, we upload the recordings of these lectures to our YouTube channel and last year they received over 5000 views. Speakers often feature on our nature recovery podcast which has over 9,800 downloads across 32 episodes

We cover a vast range of topics; from saving rhinos to the natural capital of wasps, discussing deadly nightshades, and harnessing the local climate benefits of tropical forests. We hosted speakers both well-known locally, as well as those with international acclaim. Oxford-based campaigner and author, Hugh Warwick gave a popular talk, attracting many local people, on one of the most controversial questions in modern conservation: can killing ever be justified in the name of saving nature? One of our more well-attended talks was given by David Abram, an ecologist and philosopher best known for his work bridging the philosophical tradition of phenomenology, environmental and ecological issues. Rosa Vásquez Espinoza, a Peruvian scientist and conservationist who founded Amazon Research Internacional, gave a fascinating talk exploring the Amazon through the lens of nature recovery, conservation, biodiversity, environmental economics, and the deep interconnection between people and place – with over 2000 online views, it has been our most watched recording this year.

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Cultural events

On Earth Day this year we partnered with the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, NGO Global Canopy, and Publisher Ithaka Press to host a day-long event at the museum entitled: How to save the Amazon.

Fernando Bastos, Head of Climate, Energy and Nature at the Embassy of Brazil, joined the widow, families and friends of British journalist Dom Phillips, who was tragically killed in the Amazon alongside Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira in June 2022. They took part in events celebrating the launch of the book the two men were researching at the time of their deaths.

The event was a hopeful story of nature recovery, including a mix of academic presentations and discussions, alongside demonstrations, film screenings, songs, recitals, music and art exhibitions. 300 members of the general public, policy makers, NGOs and academics took part.

Training events for researchers

This year we developed ways in which to support our researchers to communicate their vital work. We invited Jules Pretty, an award-winning author, writing about nature, climate and people, to help our team to create stories about their research that lead to action and change.

We also hosted editors from Aeon magazine, a successful platform with a focus on philosophy, science, psychology, society and culture, to lead a workshop, designed to guide researchers through the process of communicating their research through writing long-form articles for the general public.

Nature connection events for Centre researchers

Taking time to connect with the nature that our team is working so hard to protect is essential, amongst all the pressures of publishing, teaching and fieldwork. This year we created two sessions which aimed to take our researchers away from their desks, and to reconnect with nature: to take a breath, and to see the world through fresh eyes. These two events were led by David Abram, cultural ecologist. The events were designed to deepen their relationship with the more-than-human natural world, learn how to replenish their capacity for joy, while renewing solidarity with the living land. These were events which, in today's challenging climate rekindled researchers' joy and wonder of the world around them.

Web presence

Our social media presence continues to gather momentum, with a 20% increase in followers across our various platforms this year. Our website has seen 11,000 new visitors, with researchers reporting that they are being discovered by policymakers, conference organisers and new collaborators though their profiles and featured research.

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Future strategy

As LCNR enters the second half of its ten-year programme, the Centre has begun a substantial strategic redesign intended to move beyond traditional disciplinary silos and develop a more integrated approach to the complex challenges of nature recovery.

Through an intensive process involving researchers, policymakers, international advisors and partners, LCNR is reframing its future research agenda around a small number of major interdisciplinary questions.

This work reflects a growing recognition that nature recovery cannot be addressed through isolated ecological or policy interventions alone, but requires new forms of collaboration across ecology, economics, technology, health, governance and the humanities.

Our full strategy will be presented to the Leverhulme Trust in Autumn 2026.

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Budget narrative

We continue to be grateful to the Trust for its flexibility and support of a Centre operating within rigid university financial systems. The flexible research fund enabled us to support a number of researchers reaching the end of their contracts, and we have had strong success in helping our early hires progress into prestigious positions around the world.

This success, alongside a number of external funding wins, means the budget surplus can now be reinvested into our more targeted future strategy. We plan to retain around one-third of our future research budget in a flexible and responsive form, allowing the Centre to support emerging opportunities, sustain critical expertise, and respond rapidly to fast-moving environmental and policy challenges.

Co-funding secured

Funding amount	Source
£2.58 million (3 million Euros)	**ERC Consolidator grant** awarded to Jesus Augirre Guiterrez
£794,373	**NERC Pushing the frontiers of environmental research award** for Kathy Willis and Health team for Scenescapes: What do healthy ecosystems smell like?
£250,000	**Natural Resources Wales (Agile) grant** awarded to Mark Hirons and Caitlin Hafferty – How can we deliver effective and equitable place-based environmental governance?
£140,000	WWF UK Research Partner Grant for Systems Team. Piloting and developing the approach for NATURE Impacts: prioritising national action for nature recovery
£93,105	**Defra award for WILDLAND Weaving Insights** from Leverhulme & Defra through Landscape Analysis of Nature and Data
£82,410	**Land-use for Net Zero Hub (LUNZ) grant** awarded to Alison Smith
£80,000	Jennifer Dodsworth awarded a **British Academy Innovation Fellowship** in partnership with Defra to critically examine the design and delivery of Environmental Land Management schemes, specifically focusing on Landscape Recovery within upland farming communities.
£46,140	**Agile Initiative sprint** awarded to Alison Smith Environment and National Security
£33,390	**Defra Fellowship** – Emily Warner
£29,279	**Agile Science to Policy Grant** awarded to Alice Stuart – Understanding the contribution of water industry environmental spending to financing nature in the UK

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Funding amount	Source
£22,790	**South Oxfordshire District Council grant** awarded to Alison Smith – A joint carbon-nature strategy for Oxfordshire
£14,630	**Natural capital assessment in protected landscapes grant** awarded to Alison Smith
£9,995	**John Fell Fund grant** awarded to Ella Browning – To test the suitability of passive acoustic monitoring to rapidly assess Caledonian pinewood biodiversity
£63,052	**LEON** grant awarded to Samira Barzin
~£120,000	**Clarendon Scholarship** awarded to Momica Groth
~£300,000	**2x DTP Scholarships** awarded to Aryaman Gupta and Rranay Arorah
£8,900	**John Fell Fund grant** awarded to Maganizo Nyasulu for project on Verifiable environmental regulation through in-situ technology for agricultural solutions

Total co-funding for Year 4is £4,668,064 which brings our total co-funding for years 1-4 to £7,643,957.

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Nurturing talent and celebrating success

The Leverhulme Centre has played a pivotal role in helping a number of talented researchers develop their careers. While this has mean leaving Oxford for some, we continue to keep close relationships and ongoing research collaboration with the Centre. Here are a few highlights.

- **Dr. Jonathan Turnbull** was made an assistant professor at the University of Durham but continues to publish and engage closely with the centre.
- **Dr. Eric Mensah Kumeh** is a now an Assistant Professor in Forest Resources Management and the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia.
- **Dr Jesus Aguirre Gutierrez** was appointed an Associate Professor and NERC IRF based at Imperial College London but retains a dual role with the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery and the University of Oxford.
- **Dr. Wenjing Zhang** will be leaving to take up a position as senior lecturer in environmental planning at the University of Waikato, New Zealand but will continue to collaborate.
- **Dr. Aoife Bennet** who worked on several key projects for the Centre is now a Director of Research at Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología.
- **Dr. Emily Warner** was awarded a Defra Research and Development Fellowship.

Many other researchers have been awarded policy secondments or taken on prestigious roles with other research centres in Oxford. The generosity and flexibility of the Leverhulme Trust is not only enabling great research but allowing great careers to flourish and developing the future leaders in the field of nature recovery

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Appendix: Publications and outputs

Book chapter

Chapters from Kirby, KJ. 2026. Wytham Woods: How a landscape works. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780197610602

From the past to the future

Leimu-Brown N; Fisher N; Kirby KJ. In: Wytham Woods: How a landscape works. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780197610602.003.0014

Stocks and flows across the landscape

Malhi, Y. In: Wytham Woods: How a landscape works. doi: 10.1093/oso/9780197610602.003.0013

Wytham's place in the wider landscape

Pallett DW; Schäfer SM; Kirby KJ; Sheldon BC; Malhi, Y. In: Wytham Woods: How a landscape works. doi; 10.1093/oso/9780197610602.003.0012

Conference abstract

Trait–climate mediation, not herbivory avoidance, shapes leaf emergence strategies in global dry tropics

Zeng X; Wang J; Hughes AC; Zohner CM; Wigneron J-P; Ciais P; Detto M; Song G; Guo Z; Feng Y. Copernicus Meetings. doi: 10.5194/egusphere-egu26-11811

Decoding insect song: A multitask semisupervised orthoptera bioacoustic classifier

Isupova O; Kuzin D; Browning E; Mills T; Reece S. ICML 2026 Workshop on machine learning for audio.

Dataset

Oxfordshire parish nature recovery survey data

Crockatt M.

Dissertation

Mobilising private capital for biodiversity: establishing requirements for effective biodiversity credits and voluntary biodiversity markets informed by carbon market experiences

Pelka LM.

Journal article

A framework to identify and value ecosystem services and disservices with supply and demand

Sidemo-Holm W; Kristensen JA. *Environmental Challenges*. doi: 10.1016/j.envc.2025.101306

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A place-based assessment of biodiversity intactness in sub-Saharan Africa

Clements HS; Biggs R; De Vos A; Do Linh San E; Hempson GP; Linden B; Maritz B; Monadjem A; Reynolds C; Siebert F; Stevens N et al. *Nature*. doi: 10.1038/s41586-025-09781-7

A test of ecophysiological theories on tropical forest functional traits along a VPD gradient

Zhang-Zheng H; Malhi Y; Ziemińska K; Gvozdevaite A; Peprah T; Boakye M; Adu-Bredu S; Aguirre-Gutiérrez J; Moore S; Sandoval D; Tang M; Prentice IC; Menor IO. *Communications Biology*. doi: 10.1038/s42003-025-08420-1

A walk in the park—Identifying healthy greenspaces using scents

Kay WT; Battle AL; Humberstone M; Tucker M; Storer KE; Kite G; Willis K. *Plants, People, Planet*. doi: 10.1002/ppp3.70191

An aspirational approach to planetary futures

Ellis E; Malhi Y; Ritchie H; Montana J; Diaz S; Obura D; Clayton S; Leach M; Pereira L; Marris E; Muthukrishna M; Fu B; Frankopan P; Grace MK; Barzin S; Watene K; Depsky N; Pasanen J; Conceição P. *Nature*. doi: 10.1038/s41586-025-09080-1

Assessing potential data sources for landscape-scale terrestrial biodiversity indicators

Bradfer-Lawrence T; Harrison M; Ashton-Butt A; Bennett S; Boyd RJ; Browning E; Buchanan G; Fraser A; Green SE; Hawkes R. *Environmental Management*. doi: 10.1007/s00267-026-02477-2

Assessing recovery and conservation of Australian freshwater fishes with the IUCN Green Status of Species and structured expert elicitation

Lutz ML; Chapple DG; Grace MK; Beheregaray LB; Brauer CJ; Ellis I; Kerezsy A; Koehn JD; Lintermans M; Lyon JP et al. *Conservation Biology*. doi: 10.1111/cobi.70160

Assessing the past and future impact of a long-term island restoration program

Young RE; Hudson MA; Cole NC; Cottrill C; Henshaw S; Jones CG; Moorhouse-Gann R; Ruhomaun K; Seeneevassin P; Tatayah V; Grace MG. *Conservation Science and Practice*. doi: 10.1111/csp2.70109

Automated rhinoceros detection in satellite imagery using deep learning

Duporge I; Lin X; Palnitkar A; Suresh A; Isupova O; Rubenstein D; Aloimonos JY. *Scientific Reports*. doi: 10.1038/s41598-025-24178-2

Auxin-producing pseudomonas recruited by root flavonoids increases rice rhizosheath formation through the bacterial histidine kinase under soil drying

Xu F; Wang Y; Yang J; Zhang X; Wang K; Ding F; Pang J; Tong L; Bai C; Chen S; Zhang-Zheng H et al. *Advanced Science*. doi: 10.1002/advs.202500607

Beavers in Paradise: prefiguring London's urban wilds

Turnbull J; Tom F; Lorimer J. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. doi: 10.1177/25148486261447678

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Balancing food and nature: complex trade-offs between sustainable UK farming and global biodiversity loss

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Connecting Pollinator Corridors Using evidence and monitoring to deliver a Nature-Positive grid

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Vegetation structure and spectral complexity predict plant-pollinator networks in tropical woodland savannas

Jefferys K.

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Detecting and recognising cricket and grasshopper calls to gain insights into biodiversity
Isupova O.

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About LCNR

The ongoing loss and degradation of nature is one of the greatest challenges of our time. To halt and reverse this global biodiversity decline, the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery was created as a hub for innovative research on nature recovery nationally and worldwide. It brings together experts from disciplines across the University of Oxford, including geography, ecology, social science, finance, economics, psychiatry, anthropology, artificial intelligence, statistics and earth observation. Our team collaborates on a range of projects, working with national and international partners.

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