IENE 30 YEARS

Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe

Harmonizing Transportation and Nature



PROGRAMME BOOK

IENE 2026 IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH:

rebuilding nature

IENE2026.INFO

IENE 30 YEARS
Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe
Harmonizing Transportation and Nature

PROGRAMME BOOK

IENE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
21–26 SEPTEMBER 2026
UWE BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM

THE VALUE OF NATURE IN RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

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NATURAL ENGLAND

BE PART OF SOMETHING...

Support IENE 2026/27 and help shape the future of ecological connectivity, biodiversity conservation and sustainable infrastructure.

The International Conference on Ecology and Transportation Networks (IENE) brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, infrastructure managers, consultants and environmental organisations from across Europe and beyond. At a time of increasing pressure on biodiversity, climate resilience and landscape connectivity, IENE provides a unique platform for sharing knowledge, showcasing innovation and building the partnerships needed to deliver meaningful change.

By supporting IENE 2026/27, you will be helping to foster international collaboration, champion evidence-based solutions and promote best practice in the planning, design, operation and management of transport infrastructure. Your support enables diverse voices to be heard, facilitates participation from across the globe, and contributes to a vibrant programme of presentations, workshops, field visits and networking opportunities.

Whether you are looking to raise your organisation's profile, launch new initiatives, engage with leading experts, or demonstrate your commitment to nature-positive infrastructure, partnering with IENE offers a valuable opportunity to connect with an influential and highly engaged audience.

<u>Get Involved</u>
We welcome support from organisations whose values align with the aims of IENE and who are committed to creating a more connected future for people and nature.

Become a sponsor, partner or supporter of IENE 2026/27 and help us deliver an inspiring, impactful and internationally recognised conference.

To discuss sponsorship and partnership opportunities, please contact:
📧 contact@iene2026.info
🌐 www.iene2026.info

Together, we can build the knowledge, networks and momentum needed to reconnect landscapes and restore nature at scale.

WELCOME

Dear colleagues and friends,

I cannot believe the time has come. I have only been involved with IENE for just over 2 years after attending my first IENE conference in Prague 2024. I was quite shocked by the length of the conference... 5 days! But after attending I understood why spending this time together after 2 years apart is so important, to get the most from the range of expertise and experience in the room. But also, to make new connections, to catch up with old friends and to share challenges. This community feels really big when you attend these events, but can be quite a lonely space when you are the only person in your country pushing for these types of changes. So, I urge you to embrace this time and make the most of our 5 days together!

This year marks a special milestone, the 30th anniversary of IENE, and we are honoured to celebrate it in Bristol, a city internationally recognised for environmental leadership, innovation and community- driven sustainability.

Our theme "The Value of Nature in Resilient Infrastructure" reflects a growing global recognition that infrastructure systems must evolve. As climate pressures intensify, infrastructure must not only minimise harm but actively contribute to ecological recovery, connectivity and resilience. This year's programme brings together leading practitioners, researchers, policymakers and industry partners to explore new approaches, share evidence and strengthen the cross-sector partnerships essential for delivery.

The Organising Committee would like to thank our conference partner Rebuilding Nature for their unwavering dedication bringing this conference to life. We are deeply grateful to our Organising Committee members for their commitment and leadership in bringing IENE to the UK and our host UWE Bristol.

With delegates from more than 30 countries, IENE 2026 promises to be a vibrant, inspiring and impactful event. We hope you enjoy your time in Bristol, reconnect with colleagues, forge new partnerships, and leave energised for the work ahead.

Louise McGowan
Chair, IENE 2026 Organising Committee
Natural England

ABOUT IENE

IENE is a network of experts working with various aspects of transportation, linear infrastructure and ecology. The network was initiated in 1996 to provide an independent, international and interdisciplinary arena for the exchange and development of expert knowledge, and with the aim to promote a safe and ecologically sustainable pan-European transport infrastructure.

Every two years, IENE hosts an international conference bringing together scientists, engineers, planners, policymakers, NGOs and industry leaders. The conference provides a platform for sharing best practice, presenting new research, strengthening partnerships and advancing solutions to habitat fragmentation, wildlife mortality, ecological connectivity and nature-positive infrastructure.



THE TEAM BEHIND IENE 2026

Organisers

Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe (IENE)
Rebuilding Nature
Natural England
University of the West of England
National Highways
Network Rail
West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA)
South Gloucestershire Council

Organising Committee Members

Louise McGowan – Natural England (Chair)
Ben Hewlett – National Highways (Co-Chair)
Radu Mott - Zarand NGO & IENE
Neil Strong – Network Rail
Matthew Lipton – South Gloucestershire Council
Mark Steer – University of the West of England
Xavier Brice – SLR Consulting
Sarah Billing – WECA
Mia Ridler – WECA
Claire Wansbury – Atkins Realis
Tom Clancy – National Highways
Nikki Robinson – The Wildlife Trusts
Steve Béga – Eco Support

Programme Committee Members

Louise McGowan – Natural England (Chair)
Katie Carr – Rebuilding Nature
Sarah Brownlie – Rebuilding Nature
Julie Maillard - Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL)
Manisha Bhardwaj - University of Freiburg
Paola Reason - RSK Biocensus
Andreas Seiler - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Carme Rosell – MINUARTIA
Denis François - Université Gustave Eiffel
Sarah Perkins – Cardiff University
Richard Ferris – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Stephanie Murphy – Sylvan Limited
Rodney Van der Ree - WSP

Abstract Reviewers

Tom Lancashire – DEFRA
Angeliki Kourmouli – DEFRA
Marguerite Trocmé - Federal road office Switzerland
Yun Wang - China Academy of Transportation Sciences
Vincent O'Malley - Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Eric Guinard - International Expert for the Ministry for the Ecological Transition
Wendy Collinson - Southern African Wildlife College
Edgar van der Grift – Wageningen University & Research
Iris Frederiks - Rijkswaterstaat
Paola Reason - RSK Biocensus
Thabo Hlatshwayo - Endangered Wildlife Trust
Mattias Olsson – EnviroPlanning AB
Sara Santos - University of Evora
Clara Grilo - BIOPOLIS-CIBIO
Ivo Dostál - Transport Research Centre, CDV
Martin Strnad - Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Field Trip Team

Samantha Wallace -Natural England
Dean Gallen – Natural England
Ben Hewlett – National Highways

GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Venue
Enterprise 1 / EP1 - University of the West of England
Location: 51°30'04.2"N 2°33'16.0"W
The What3Words for the building are: ///moods.vibes.tries

Address
Enterprise 1 / EP1
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1QY

The conference takes place in EP1 on the Frenchay Campus of the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol). The campus is around 15 minutes by bus or Metrobus from Bristol city centre, situated in the north of the city in a green, well-connected setting.

The modern campus brings together a wide range of services and facilities in one place, including multiple faculty buildings with lecture theatres and teaching spaces;, quiet rooms for calls; cafés, restaurants and bars; and on-site parking. The main conference venue is located within UWE's conference and events facilities, with all key locations within a short walk of one another across the campus.



ABOUT BRISTOL

The largest city in South West England, Bristol is a vibrant and creative destination with plenty to see and do during your visit. From the lively Harbourside and the Georgian elegance of Clifton Village to the iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol offers a unique blend of history, culture and innovation.



Bristol is the only UK city to have been awarded European Green Capital status (2015) and was named the UK's greenest city in 2019. It was also the UK's first Cycling City and is one of only two UK cities to be recognised as a Gold Sustainable Food City.

Just 12 miles away lies Bath, the only city in the UK designated in its entirety as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Renowned for its natural hot springs, Bath has been a centre of relaxation and wellbeing for over 2,000 years and has also been recognised as part of the Great Spa Towns of Europe. Today, the city combines world-class heritage with attractions such as the Roman Baths and Pump Room.



Bristol is also considered the UK's hot air ballooning capital and hosts the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta each August, one of Europe's largest ballooning events.

Nicknamed the "Green Hollywood", Bristol produces a significant proportion of the world's natural history programming, including acclaimed productions such as Blue Planet and Tiny World, and has been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Film.

Bus

First West of England is the largest operator to run bus services throughout Bristol and the wider West of England region. You can purchase digital tickets and track buses in live time using the First Bus app.

There are 8 services to Frenchay Campus bus numbers: 19, 46, 70 (24/7 service between City Centre & UWE Frenchay), 72, 73 and metrobuses - M1, M3, M4.

The metrobus services are a great way to get to UWE, with buses up to every 10 minutes (Monday - Friday daytime). These are 'buy before you board' and 'Tap On, Tap Off' only, so you will need a ticket or contactless card or device before you board the bus. First Bus Tickets are valid on all metrobus services. Single and day tickets can be bought from the metrobus iPoint, located next to the metrobus stops.

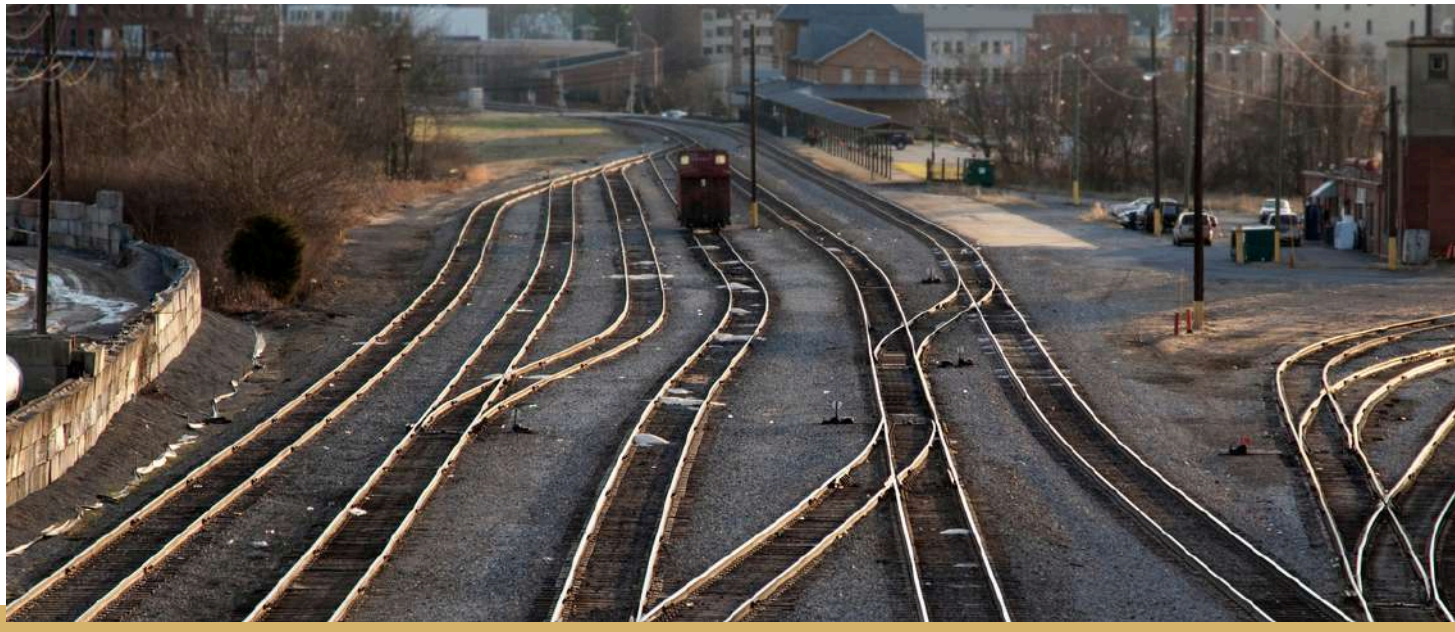
Rail - Getting from Bristol Parkway to UWE Frenchay Campus

Bristol Parkway is the nearest railway station to the conference venue. From the station, delegates can reach the campus by:

- Taxi: approximately 10 minutes
- Bus: regular local bus services connect Bristol Parkway with UWE Frenchay Campus
- Walking: approximately 35–40 minutes

For most visitors arriving by train, Bristol Parkway will be the most convenient station for accessing the conference venue.

Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway are the city's two main railway stations, both well connected to the national rail network. Bristol Parkway is the closer of the two to UWE's Frenchay Campus.



Telephone

Country code: +44

Important telephone numbers:

- Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 999 or 112
- Non-emergency police: 101
- Non-emergency medical advice (NHS): 111

Medical care service

The closest pharmacies to Frenchay Campus are Stapleton Pharmacy and Day Lewis Pharmacy. For urgent medical care outside pharmacy hours, Bristol Royal Infirmary's Emergency Department on Upper Maudlin Street is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Contact the Registration desk if you have any non-urgent queries.

Bank and currency exchange

The currency is the pound sterling (£/GBP). Banknotes are in denominations of £50, £20, £10 and £5. Coins are in denominations of £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p. The UK is a largely card-based economy, and international credit and debit cards are accepted in almost all shops, restaurants and hotels, as well as for contactless payment on buses and Metrobus. Currency exchange is available at Bristol Airport, in the city centre, and at some bank branches. Credit and debit cards can also be used to withdraw cash from ATMs.

Insurance

The organisers of the Conference recommend that participants arrange their own insurance for health, travel and property. The organisers will not accept any liability for personal injury or for loss of, or damage to, property.

Internet Access

WiFi will be available to all IENE 2026 delegates within the EP1 building. Details will be provided on registration from Monday 21st September 2026.

Food and Drink

Lunch will be served in the restaurant to the rear of EP1 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please ensure you have let us know your dietary requirements prior to arriving.
Wednesday Field Trips

Box lunches will be given to all registered participants for individual field trips on Wednesday 23rd September. Participants with dietary requirements will receive a box lunch according to the requirement specified during registration.

Refreshment Breaks

There will be 2two breaks on the Tuesday and Thursday conference days and one1 on the Friday. Coffee and an array of teas will be served.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Reception Desk
Located in the entrance of the conference building - EP1. Open daily throughout the conference for assistance, information, and on-site bookings for social events and field trips (subject to availability).

Plenary Sessions
Held in EP1. Keynotes will feature international experts across ecology, engineering, climate resilience, transport planning and nature-positive infrastructure.

Parallel Sessions
Hosted across multiple rooms in the Enterprise 1/ EP1 building. Sessions themes:

- The Value of Nature
- Resilience through Nature
- Creating Actionable Knowledge
- Pace over Perfection

Poster Exhibition
Located in the central atrium of the conference building. Posters will be displayed throughout the week, with dedicated poster sessions for discussion and networking.

Exhibitors
A curated exhibition of organisations showcasing tools, technologies, research and innovations in ecological infrastructure with dedicated coffee networking sessions on each of the conference days.

Social Events
1.Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception - Monday evening at EP1
2.Campus Social Evening - People, Planet, Pint
3.Conference Dinner & IENE Awards Ceremony - Thursday evening, Aerospace Bristol



GUEST SPEAKERS



Tony Juniper CBE
Chair, Natural England



Steve Elderkin OBE
Director of Environmental Sustainability, National Highways
Co-Founder Rebuilding Nature



Johan Rydlöv
President, IENE



Manuela Panzacchi
Senior Researcher, NINA



Erik Gomez-Baggethun
Professor of Environmental Governance (NMBU) and Senior Research Associate (Oxford)



Edgar van der Grift
Senior Research Ecologist Wageningen Environmental Research - Department of Animal Ecology



Sara Santos
Researcher at the University of Évora (MED & CHANGE)



Jo Bradley
Director of Operations UK, Stormwater Shepherds



Oliver Harmer
Chief Officer, Natural England



Kunle Barke
Property Expert, Broadcaster and Sustainability Advocate



Jonathan Hess
French Ministry for Ecological Transition

CONFERENCE EVENTS

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception
IENE president Johan Rydlöv - looking back on 30 years of IENE
Louise McGowan, Chair, Organising Committee

Keynotes
Tony Juniper CBE, Chair Natural England
Stephen Elderkin, Director Environmental Sustainability, National Highways, Co-Founder Rebuilding Nature

IENE 2026 Awards
The IENE Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to reducing infrastructure impacts on biodiversity, in two categories: the Personal Award for individual engagement, and the Project Award for outstanding initiatives or projects.
Welcome by Johan Rydlöv and presented by Elke Hahn, Radu Mot & Vincent O'Malley.

Celebrating 30 Years of IENE — Underneath Concorde at Aerospace Bristol
To mark IENE's 30th anniversary, the Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony will be held at Aerospace Bristol, home to Concorde Alpha Foxtrot, the last of the iconic supersonic passenger jets ever to fly.

Date: Thursday 24th September 2026
Time: 7:00pm – Midnight
Location: Aerospace Bristol
Hayes Way, Patchway, Bristol, BS34 5BZ
Transfer: No transfer will be provided – public transport or Uber/ Taxi will be required

The Photo Competition
The winners will be announced during the conference and awards presented at the gala dinner.

Traditional Pub Quiz
An optional extra! A quiz run by Quiz Master Andy at The Famous Royal Navy Volunteer Pub!
Date: Wednesday 23rd September 2026
Time: 7pm - 9pm


Roadside verge | Credit: ©National Highways


Steam Train Stroud | Credit: ©South Glos Council


Common Sandpiper | Credit: ©Allan Drewitt


A21 Lamberhurst | Credit: ©National Highways

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS: FOUR STRATGIC THEMES

The conference programme is built around four themes designed to spark genuinely cross disciplinary conversation:

THE VALUE OF NATURE

Placing ecological and social value at the heart of infrastructure decision-making, and critically assessing investment, valuation and nature-based approaches.

RESILIENCE THROUGH NATURE

Strengthening climate resilience by working with ecosystem processes, while recognising ecological limits and the risks of maladaptation.

PACE OVER PERFECTION

Scaling proven solutions to reduce fragmentation and severance at landscape and network scales, balancing urgency with ecological integrity.

CREATING ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE

Turning foundational knowledge into action on ecological severance, supporting connected habitats and informed restoration planning.

PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT

IENE 2026 - Quick Programme Overview

Time	Monday 21st Sept	Tuesday 22nd Sept	Wednesday 23rd Sept	Thursday 24th Sept	Friday 25th Sept
8:30-9:00		Day ticket registration	Field trips	Day ticket registration	Day ticket registration
9:00-9:30		Opening & x2 Plenary talks		Opening & x2 Plenary talk	Opening & Plenary talk
9:30-10:00					Parallel Sessions
10:00-10:30					
10:30-11:00		Coffee break posters & exhibitors		Coffee break posters & exhibitors	Coffee break posters & exhibitors
11:00-11:30	Registration Opens & Exhibitor set up	Parallel Sessions		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions
11:30-12:00					
12:00-12:30					Lunch & networking
12:30-13:00					
13:00-13:30		Lunch & networking		Lunch & networking	Workshops
13:30-14:00					
14:00-14:30		Parallel Sessions		Workshops	Closing keynote
14:30-15:00					
15:00-15:30					
15:30-16:00					
16:00-16:30		Coffee break, **lightening talks**, posters & exhibitors		Coffee break posters & exhibitors	
16:30-17:00	Opening Ceremony			Workshops	
17:00-17:30		Closing keynote			
17:30-18:00	Event Introduction & Keynotes				
18:00-18:30					
18:30-19:00					
19:00-20:00	Welcome Drinks Reception			IENE 2026 Award Gala Dinner	
20:00-21:00					
21:00-22:00					
22:00-23:00					

PROGRAMME NOTICE

Please note: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this programme at the time of publication, details may be subject to change as final arrangements are confirmed.

For the most up-to-date information on session timings, rooms, speakers and presentation formats, please refer to the live online programme, which will be updated throughout the conference period.

View the latest programme online:



2026 Conference Programme

DAY ONE

Monday 21st September

DAY ONE

Monday 21 September 2026

10:00

10:00 - 12:00 EP1 University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY

IENE: SEC & GB meeting

11:00

11:00 - 16:30

Registration Opens & Exhibitor Set Up

13:00

13:00 - 15:00 EP1 University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY

IENE: Handbook WG meeting

15:00

15:00 - 17:00 EP1 University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol, BS16 1QY

IENE: Railway WG

16:30

16:30 - 17:00

Welcome drink and networking

17:00

17:00 - 17:30 Queen Square (Ground floor)

IENE 2026 Opening Ceremony Speech with Johan Rydlöv - Celebrating 30 years of IENE

Presentation type: Keynote & Plenary

17:30

17:30 - 17:45 Queen Square (Ground floor)

A Mayoral Welcome

Presentation type: Keynote & Plenary

17:45

17:45 - 18:00 Queen Square (Ground floor)

Welcome and programme introductions

18:00

18:00 - 19:00 Queen Square (Ground floor)

Opening keynotes with Tony Juniper CBE and Steve Elderkin OBE

Presentation type: Keynote & Plenary

19:00

19:00 - 21:00 The Atrium

IENE Drinks and Canapé Reception

No more sessions on Monday 21 September 2026



2026 Conference Programme

DAY TWO

Tuesday 22nd September

AtkinsRéalis

IENE 2026 Conference Programme

WELLBEING

Tuesday 22nd - Friday 25th September

At IENE 2026, we want everyone to feel welcome, supported and able to participate fully in the conference experience.

Throughout the week, delegates will have access to a dedicated Wellbeing Room* and a range of optional activities designed to support rest, reflection, connection and wellbeing.

Whether you need a quiet space to recharge, a moment to process new ideas, or simply an opportunity to step away from the pace of the conference, the space is available for you.

We recognise that everyone engages, learns and recharges differently.

Our aim is to create an environment where everybody feels they belong and can make the most of their time at IENE.

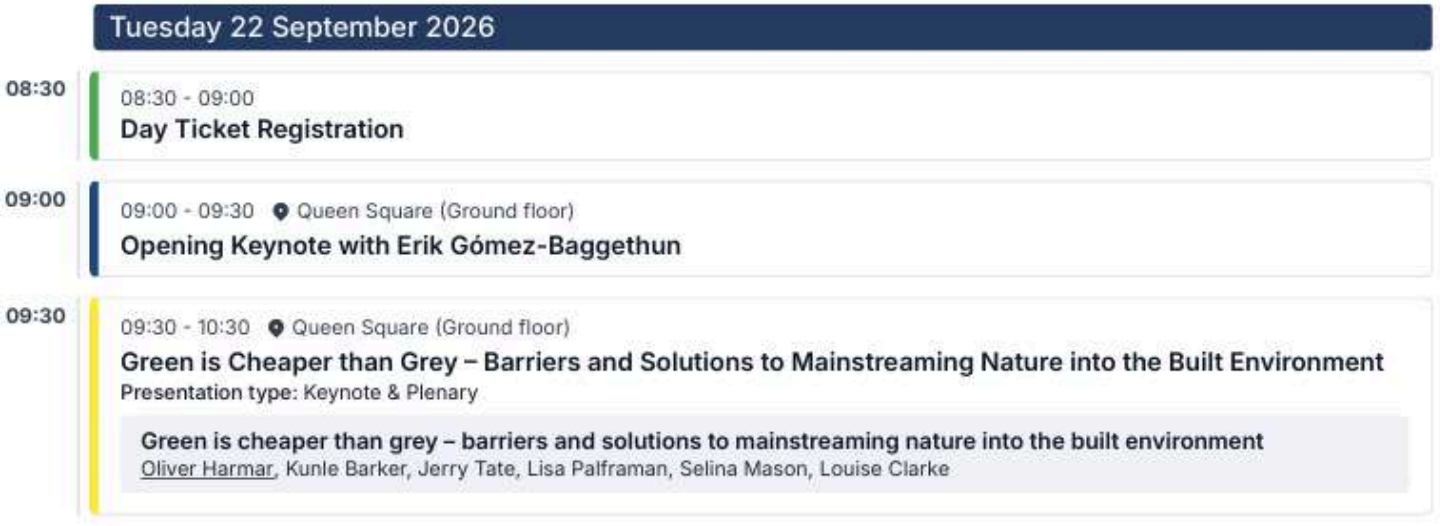
*Wellbeing Room is located on the Ground Floor and will be open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.







DAY TWO - MORNING



Opening Keynote 9.00 - 10.30am

Erik Gomez-Baggethun introducing first full day - The Value of Nature - Morning: Why nature matters, Late morning: How we value it, Afternoon: How resilience is built

Green is cheaper than grey – barriers and solutions to mainstreaming nature into the built environment

Chair: Oliver Harmer

Panellists: Kunle Barker, Jerry Tate, Lisa Palframan, Selina Mason, Louise Clarke

This session will hear a 10 minute opening address from Natural England on the barriers and potential solutions these pioneering roundtable discussions have found, followed by a 30-45 minute panel discussion with Natural England, developers, architects and other government agencies. This discussion will be about exploring solutions and what we need to do in terms of system change (planning system, development and evaluation, viability system, and legislation), as well as what lessons can be learned from outside the UK and inspirational examples from around the world. It will also be interactive, inviting the audience for reflections and questions to the panel on how the same or different challenges have been addressed elsewhere in the world.

Coffee break, poster & exhibitors 10:30 - 11:00am

10:30 - 11:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

11:00

11:00 - 13:00 Castle Park B (Ground Floor)

A1 - Connecting Technical Disciplines for Nature-Positive Infrastructure

Presentation type: Workshop

Connecting Technical Disciplines for Nature-Positive Infrastructure
Kate Newman, Rodney Van der Ree, Basma Hahn, Elke Hahn, Tremaine Gregory

11:00 - 13:00 Eastville Park (Ground floor)

B1 - Embedding Nature into Infrastructure Planning

Presentation type: Oral

Transforming linear infrastructure through nature-positive policy: Colombia's Green Road Infrastructure Guidelines
Mario Orlando Lopez Castro, Magda Contanza Buitrago Rios, Ximena Barrera Rey, Rodrigo Botero, Maryi Adriana Serrano, Beltsy Barrera, Tremaine Gregory, Daniela Nieto Lopez, Kate Newman

Nature as Enabler: Embedding Natural Value in London's Transport Infrastructure
Christoph Brintrup

Mapping Priority Areas for Canopy Bridge Installation within Road Infrastructure to Enhance Habitat Connectivity for Arboreal Mammals in the Brazilian Amazon
FERNANDA ABRA, Luan Goebel, Artur Lupinetti-Cunha, Tremaine Gregory, Alfonso Alonso

Does connectivity count? Valuing the role of habitat connectivity in infrastructure planning
Helen Dunn, Robert Spencer, Dean Kerwick-Chrisp, Rhona Lochhead

Designing and constructing the UK's first heathland green bridge.
Victoria Victoria Gilbey

Integrating expert knowledge to reveal nature-based value of roadside ecosystems
Ziadany MAYORAL SOLIS, Brunelle MARCHE, Brice CORRIGEUX, Mauricio CAMARGO

11:00 - 13:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

C1 - Making the Economic Case for Nature

Presentation type: Oral

How taking into account biodiversity in the value chain as a company
Cora Cremezi-Charlet, Marie Hochberg

Evaluating the Socio-Economic Impacts of Animal–Vehicle Collisions
Aina Winsvold, Andreas Seiler, Mattias Olsson, Svein Morten Eilertsen, Jon-Kristian Ryan Hovland, Eirik Nøren Stenersen, Maria Svege Iglebæk

Economic evaluation of ecosystem services across the lifecycle of sustainable railway infrastructures
Carlo Prislei, Alessandra Altobello, Francesco Valerio Catania, Chiara Ravagnan, Martina Busti, Gloria Dajelli, Flavia Demarinis, Luca Colacillo

Accelerating nature-positive action: overcoming gaps by implementing a proportionate TNFD approach
Jonathan Nichols, Stephanie Hime, Annabelle Workman

Circular Thinking to Unlock Nature Outcomes and Create Value for a UK Ports Authority
Valerie Robertson, Richard Jones

Developing a Biodiversity Metric for Linear Infrastructure: The Transport Infrastructure Ireland Approach
Tom Butterworth, Hannah Sheridan, Sarah-Jane Phelan, Vincent O'Malley, Colin Murphy, Christian Nea

DAY TWO - MORNING / AFTERNOON

IENE 30 YEARS
Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe
Harmonizing Transportation and Nature

11:00 - 13:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)

D1 - Integrating Biodiversity into Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Insights from the EU SYMBIOSIS Project

Presentation type: Workshop

Integrating Biodiversity into Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Insights from the EU SYMBIOSIS Project
Fruzsina Csala, Savina Carluccio, Gemma Cowan, Lorenzo Franzoni, Pınar Yılmazer, Carme Rosell, Luis M. Fernández, Reto Schmucki, Jeff Ollerton, Matina Loukea, Lazaros Georgiadis

11:00 - 13:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

E1 - Assessing Ecological Risk in Infrastructure Planning

Presentation type: Oral

Using local knowledge surveys to inform the impact assessment of a mine access road for primates in West Africa
Fraser Wilkinson

A decision-oriented method for improving wildfire prioritization along road networks
Aly KOUNTA, Mauricio CAMARGO, Manon ENJOLRAS, Brunelle MARCHE

From Expertise to Deployment: A Capacity-Building Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Transport Sector of the Danube Region
Ivo Dostál, Radu Moț, Lazaros Georgiadis, Ketino Popiashvili, Emma Gileva, Peter Mederly, Ioanna Ismail, Imrich Jakab, Jana Nozdrovická, Zoltan D. Szabó, Daniela Toneva, Niki Voumvoulaki, Antonios Mazaris, Hildegard Meyer, Anna Tišlerová, Jan Szturc

Staying Connected: protecting our critical infrastructure in the South West using nature based solutions
Tim Youngs, Colin Taylor, Dave Slater

13:00

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 - 14:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

14:00

14:00 - 16:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

A2 - Designing Resilient Landscapes: Evidence, Tools and Approaches for Nature-Positive Infrastructure

Presentation type: Oral

Identifying Climate-Smart Ecological Corridors at Landscape Scale: Digital Twins and Integrated Tools for Resilient Infrastructure Planning
Cristian-Remus Papp, Gabriel Retez, Cristian Malos, Nada Tosheva, Tanya Schnell, Zoltán Szabó

OptiBioNum - Optimising the biodiversity capacity of infrastructure related buidlings through the use of standardised ecological indicators incorporated into digital models.
Sylvain Moulherat, Lina Mhiri, Sylvestre Toure, Nicolas Delrieu, Stéphane Gaffie

Landscape-scale restoration – improving the habitat connectivity on the strategic road network whilst achieving good design
Andrew Linfoot

Natural Asset Platform piloted on regional infrastructure network - making nature metrics accessible for evidence-based decisions
Harry Catharell-Hargreaves, Sally Fraser, Eliza Eakin, Kirsteen Allan, Jonathan Nichols, Abigail Urquhart, Richard Jones, Steven Bosher, Justin Clowes, Matt Grove, Katie Born, Kylie Jones, Calum Crockart

Fish migration - mapping of barriers as a mean to support the National Strategy for River Restoration 2021–2030 by strengthening the evidence base for restoring longitudinal connectivity, improving targeting of investments, and facilitating cross-agency learning on effective fish-passage solutions.
NIna Mari Jørgensen, Frank Jørgensen, Lene Jacobsen, Kay Roger Haugen, Frode Kroglund, Jo Hallvard Halleraker

Publication of green crossings by the Austrian Federal Highway Administration
Brigitte Sladek

DAY TWO - AFTERNOON

14:00 - 16:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

B2 - Nature Based Solutions

Presentation type: Oral

Nature-based Solutions for Transport Resilience: Emerging Insights for Practical Application
Carys Lloyd, Katie Born, Daniel Mounsdon

From design to post-construction evaluation : multi-taxa outcomes of ecological integration in the reconstruction of the Charmaix Viaduct (French Alps)
Hippolyte Pouchelle, Fréderi Mazan, Olivier Bernet

NaturQuartier - The success story of an ecological compensation area.
Brigitte Sladek

Beyond Mitigation: Integrating Ecological Functionality into Civil Infrastructure Systems
samia sediri, Hélène Leriche, Nathalie Frascaria-Lacoste

Thrift shopping biodiversity? Translocating biodiverse topsoil from a road construction site to an urban area
Martine Alexandra Andersen Hennig, Bente Jessen Graae, Susanne Eich-Greatorex, Marie Digre, Katrin Knoth, Rolf André Bohne, Martijn Lodewijk Vandegehuchte

Unlocking the potential of transport corridors to support regional ecological connectivity
Nick Cork, Neil Strong, Emma Ferranti, Daniel Donaldson, Rachel Fisher, Andrew Quinn

14:00 - 16:00 Eastville Park (Ground floor)

C2 - Bridging the Canopy Gap

Presentation type: Oral

Bridging the Canopy Gap: Research and Mitigation for Arboreal Mammals
Tremaine Gregory, Fernanda Abra, Steve Bega, Pascal Peterman, Edgar van der Grift, Lucie Yrles, Alfonso Alonso, Hugh Jansman, Nina Villing, Margareet Laar, Maëlle Kermabon, Cyril Assenat, Ian White, Hazel Ryan, Fernanda Teixeira, Birthe Linden, Kylie Soanes, Anna Nekaris, Ines Azofeifa Rojas, Farah Carrasco Rueda, Gabriella da Costa Pereira, Pamela Cunneyworth, Thais Queiroz Morcatti

Reconnecting the Canopies: Protecting Endangered Primates in the Brazilian Amazon Arc of Deforestation
FERNANDA ABRA, Luan Goebel, Maelle Freitas, Tremaine Gregory, Alfonso Alonso

14:00 - 16:00 Castle Park B (Ground Floor)

D2 - Designing Infrastructure for Ecological Connectivity

Presentation type: Oral

Road Infrastructure and Traffic Are Barriers to Wildlife Movement Across Highways
Lorna Haworth, Benjamin Hodgson, Fraser Shilling

Assessing multifunctionality of drainage culverts as biological passages for medium-sized mammals in Sweden
Rune Sørås, Jan-Olof Helldin

What is the optimal length for wildlife fencing?
Michele Deis, Johanna Heeres, Falko Brieger

From mitigation to nature-led infrastructure: lessons from HS2's Colne Valley Western Slopes
Matthew Hobbs, Chris Cantle

Pioneering Wildlife Impact Mitigation on a Federal Highway in the Pantanal, Brazil
FERNANDA ABRA, Luan Goebel, Arnaud Desbiez, Debora Yogui, Yuri Ribeiro, Miria Costa, Rudi Laps, Fernando Ascensão, Luiz Guilherme Rodrigues de Mello, João Felipe Lemos Cunha, Paula Guazi, Elidio Del Pino, Silvio Ascenção, Antonio Nogueira, Jean Carlos de Oliveira, Daniel Barros, Euro Varanis, Tremaine Gregory, Alfonso Alonso, Paula Prist

Landscape connectivity for rare mammals - Pine marten underpass and culvert use in the New Forest National Park.
Katiana Saleiko, Marcus Ward

DAY TWO - AFTERNOON

14:00 - 16:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)

E2 - Cumulative Impact Assessment in pairing Transport Infrastructure - SYMBIOSIS Project workshop

Presentation type: Oral

Towards defining biodiversity challenges and solutions in cumulative impact assessment in pairing linear transportation infrastructure in the framework of the EU-Rail SYMBIOSIS Project
LAZAROS GEORGIADIS, Matina Loukea, Almona Tani, Martina Busti, Carlo Prislei, Eduardo Prieto, Manuel Luis Campos Molina, Lorenzo Franzoni, Jeff Ollerton

Coffee break, poster & exhibitors 4-4:30pm

16:00 - 17:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

Lightening Talks

Presentation type: Lightning Talk

From edge to hedge: boundary establishment techniques and the Hadley Wood hedge trials
Jon Stokes, Jackie Shallcross

Predicting Priority Areas for Wildlife Crossings: A Connectivity Modeling Approach for Railway Infrastructure
Leonardo Rodrigues, Jéssica Souza, Isadora Oliveira

Monitoring serval use of drainage underpass culverts and estimating population abundance in two serval roadkill hotspot areas along the N3 Toll Route, South Africa
Thabo Innocent Hlatshwayo, Erin Adams, Lourens Leeuwner, Wendy Collinson-Jonker, Colleen Downs

Hedgerow suitability assessment to define survey effort for bats and linear infrastructure schemes
Sarah Proctor, David Chatterton

Towards a Comprehensive Assessment of Wildlife–Vehicle Collisions: Integrating Police and Hunting Data
Falko Brieger, Johanna Heeres

Using traffic-flow theory to guide fencing decisions by identifying critical thresholds for unsuccessful road crossings
Johanna Heeres, Michele Deis, Falko Brieger

16:00 - 17:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

16:15

16:15 - 17:00 Queen Square (Ground floor)

Natural capital is critical infrastructure

Natural capital is critical infrastructure: evidence, implications and actions
Jonathan Nichols, Oliver Seville

DAY TWO - AFTERNOON

16:00 - 17:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)
Wellbeing Breakout Session

16:15

16:15 - 17:00 Queen Square (Ground floor)
Natural capital is critical infrastructure

Natural capital is critical infrastructure: evidence, implications and actions
Jonathan Nichols, Oliver Seville

17:00

17:00 - 17:30 Queen Square (Ground floor)
Closing Keynote with Sara Santos

Closing Keynote: 5-5:30pm

Sara Santos will be closing the first day - Today we've explored why nature matters, how we value it, and how resilience is built. Tomorrow, we turn our attention to turning knowledge into action and delivering nature-positive change at scale.

Sara Santos is an Invited Researcher at the University of Évora (MED & CHANGE). With 16 years of expertise in conservation biology and road ecology, her research explores how infrastructure impacts wildlife movement and functional connectivity. She investigates the barrier effects of roads on population persistence and the role of roadside management as a provider of ecosystem services. Recently, she expanded into disease ecology, focusing on pathogen transmission at the wildlife-domestic interface. Her work translates long-term ecological data into actionable knowledge, promoting nature-based solutions for resilient infrastructure and sustainable development at the intersection of transport and biodiversity.

rebuilding nature

Nature is Infrastructure.

Why don't we plan nature with the same ambition as roads, railways and energy? *Nature needs networks too.*

The Strategic Nature Network is a national framework for reconnecting nature and restoring ecological infrastructure at scale to help:

- Improve ecological connectivity
- Reduce flood and drought risk
- Increase climate resilience
- Support species recovery
- Unlock investment through Nature Investment Zones



Join Us at IENE

Interactive workshop 24th September | 14:30
Stephen Elderkin OBE, Co-Founder of Rebuilding Nature

Exploring evidence, governance, finance and partnerships for nature as infrastructure.

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2026 Conference Programme

DAY THREE

Wednesday 23rd September

FIELD TRIPS 2026

All excursions will take place on Wednesday 23 September 2026. When registering for the conference, please note that it is only possible to attend one excursion. Field trips may change in response to circumstances, operational needs or weather conditions.

Participation is at attendees' own risk, and the organisers cannot accept responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage incurred during the trip.

Field trip 1: Engineering with Nature — Oxford–Cotswolds					
Meeting time: 8:00am at UWE	Duration: approx. 8:00am–6:15pm	Route: A417 Missing Link (landscape-led highways scheme), Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, Gloucester Services	Walking level: Low-activity; short walks at each site	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided (collect before boarding coach)	Cost: £65
Field trip 2: Restoring Nature: Wetlands & Energy-Legacy Landscapes					
Meeting time:		Route: Avonmouth & Severnside flood defence/ecology mitigation, Hallen Marshes, Oldbury Nuclear Power Station	Walking level: Moderate-activity; short walks at each site	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided (collect before boarding coach)	Cost: £25
Field trip 3: Bristol Harbour: Engineering Icons & Eco-Innovation					
Meeting time: 10:00am at UWE	Duration: approx. 10:00am–3:00pm (return to harbour; own way to accommodation after)	Route: Boat trip through Bristol Harbour (Clifton Suspension Bridge, SS Great Britain, Temple Meads, Floating Ecosystems)	Walking level: Low-activity; all activity on board the boat	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided at UWE (collect before boarding bus)	Cost: £45

Field trip 4: Rewilding & Peatlands: Nature Recovery and BNG in Action					
Meeting time: 9:00am, departing from UWE	Duration: approx. 9:00am–5:30pm	Route: Belmont Estate, Avalon Marshes Nature Reserve	Walking level: Moderate-activity; walking at both sites	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided (collect before boarding coach)	Cost: £25
Field trip 5: From Prehistory to Peat Scrapes: Stonehenge & Chalk Grassland Restoration FULLY BOOKED					
Meeting time: 8:00am, departing from UWE	Duration: approx. 8:00am–6:00pm	Route: Stonehenge World Heritage Site, RSPB Winterbourne Downs	Walking level: Moderate-activity; walking at both sites	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided (collect before boarding coach)	Cost: £50
Field trip 6: Bristol to Bath Cycle Ride					
Meeting time: @Samantha Wallace have we confirmed times with Matt?	Duration: approx. 10:00am–3:00pm (return to harbour; own way to accommodation after)	Route: Bristol and Bath Railway Path (14-mile off-road path), led by Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, includes a picnic stop. Capacity: Limited to 24	All bicycles provided (including accessible/e-assist options), return to Bristol via public transport or cycle.	Food and beverages: Packed lunch provided	Cost: £100
Bonus trip: UWE Campus Walk — Pollinators & Mobility Innovation					
Meeting time: 10:00am at UWE	Duration: approx. 1.5–2 hours (return by midday; second afternoon tour possible if demand is high)	Route: Pollinator/nature-enhancement projects across UWE campus, WESTbusStop+ Mobility Hub	Walking level: Low-activity		Cost: Free

Field trip places are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
We encourage you to reserve your preferred field trip when booking your conference ticket. If you have not yet done so, you can purchase field trips and other add ons via your dashboard on Oxford Abstracts. By Selecting 'Buy add-ons'. You should have received an email with a link to your dashboard from (no-reply@oxfordabstracts.com)

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national highways

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2026 Conference Programme

DAY FOUR

Thursday 24th September



Opening Keynote & Plenary: Introduction to Day Four 9.00 - 10.30am

Creating Actionable Knowledge

Jo Bradley is one of the UK's leading specialists in highway runoff pollution, sustainable drainage (SuDS), and stormwater management. She is the Director of Operations (UK) at Stormwater Shepherds UK, an environmental charity focused on achieving zero pollution from urban runoff and improving the health of rivers, streams and coastal waters.

Before joining Stormwater Shepherds in 2020, Jo spent 28 years at the Environment Agency, where she worked across a broad range of pollution prevention and water quality issues.

Plenary: Manuela Panzacchi is one of Europe's leading researchers in landscape connectivity, movement ecology and ecological networks, and is widely recognised within the IENE community. She is a Senior Research Scientist at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) in Trondheim, Norway, where she and her team developed methods and decision-support tools to understand how the cumulative impact of infrastructure and other human activities, including climate changes, affect wildlife movement and habitat connectivity, and to concretely guide sustainable land planning.

The tools allow to perform scenario analyses to simulate the effect of new infrastructure, mitigation or restoration mitigation measures, and sensitivity analyses to identify vulnerable key areas and corridors to be prioritized for conservation or for restoration.

Coffee break, poster & exhibitors 10:30 - 11:00am

10:30 - 11:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

11:00

11:00 - 13:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

A3 - Planning Connected Landscapes

Presentation type: Oral

The Revised Austrian Directive on Wildlife Habitat Connectivity – General public interest as the driving force for habitat connectivity until 2040
Roland Grillmayer, Elke Hahn, Florian Danzinger, Theresa Walter

Ecological network modelling: a method to identify structures that support improvements in ecological connectivity. The case study of the Nantes–Le Mans railway line, France.
Laura Clevenot, Emma Drancourt, Hippolyte Pouchelle

Restoring ecological continuities on regional transportation infrastructures in France : Complementarity between the Cerema's GIS expertise, the transportation networks operators knowledge and the Government priority given to biodiversity.
Laurence THUILLIER, Romain COMPIGNE, Victoria PLATINI, Clotilde LUQUIAU

Motorway fringes under ecological transition policies: integration into spatial planning
Manon Espinasse

From Fragmentation to Function: Mobilising Evidence to Retrofit Transport Networks for Landscape-Scale Wildlife Connectivity.
Matthew Lipton

11:00 - 13:00 Eastville Park (Ground floor)

B3 - Monitoring, Mapping & Predicting Wildlife Risk

Presentation type: Oral

Wildlife Step Counters: Accuracy and Limits of Dead Reckoning in Simulated Ungulate Movement Near Transportation Infrastructure
Richard Andrášik, Michal Bil

From silent roads to risk maps: A predictive screening framework for wildlife-vehicle interactions in Romania
Silvia Borlea, Marius Nistorescu, Alexandra Doba, Radu Mot

Estimating Annual Large Mammal Roadkill at Large Extents
Lorna Haworth, Alice Michel, Benjamin Hodgson, Fraser Shilling

Bridging the Gap: Four Years of Spatial-Temporal Roadkill Data Guiding Infrastructure Mitigation in Southern Brazil
Thaís Nicia Azevedo Vieira, Larissa Masseli, Amadeus Portela, Lucas Godoy, Beatriz Amaro, Paula Prist, Artur Lupinetti, Jonathan Wilson de Almeida, FERNANDA ABRA

Operationalising biodiversity monitoring on railway networks through passive acoustics, earth observation and integrated data workflows
Reto Schmucki, Job Aben, Fernando Ascensão, Joana Colomer, Luis M. Fernández, Melanie Freeman, Pierre Jehel, Jeff Ollerton, Adriana Principe, Richard Pywell, Issy Russ, Andreas Seiler, Josep Serra Gallego, Neil Strong, Aoife C. Tetsche Sweeney

Global effects of roadkill on carnivore persistence over the next 50 Years
Clara Grilo, Tomé Neves, Filipa Coutinho Soares, Jennifer Bates, Pablo Medrano-Vizcaíno, Aliza le Roux, Inês Silva, Yun Wang, Kylie Soanes

DAY FOUR - MORNING

11:00 - 13:00 Castle Park B (Ground Floor)

C3 - Evaluating Ecological Impacts of Infrastructure

Presentation type: Oral

Lack of a statistically significant effect of a new road and bridge on woodland birds
Rodney van der Ree

Development of an indicator for plant biodiversity monitoring under powerlines
Mélanie Thierry, Christophe Andalo, Lisa Garnier, Laura Gorge, Gabrielle Martin

A decade of applied research and knowledge transfer on bird-power line interactions through a successful TSO-Academia partnership in Portugal
Ricardo Martins, Joana Bernardino, Margarida Almeida, João Lopes

Monitoring wildlife in airport environments through bioacoustics: a case study at Barcelona Airport
Rosell Carme, Albert Cama, Ferran Navàs, Joana Colomer

From solar farms to transport infrastructure: how BIODIVoltaïque bridges the gap between private data and national biodiversity monitoring.
Nicolas Hette-Tronquart, Evan Coulet, Cheyenne Ziadi, Julie Fraix, Thomas Eglin, Jérémie Schuhmann, Hervé Lelièvre

Promoting biodiversity on traffic verges – from research to action
Pia Bartels, Andreas Sundermeier, Lars Symmank

11:00 - 13:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

D3 - Preventing Wildlife Collisions: From Prediction to Practice

Presentation type: Oral

From Habitat Suitability to Operational Rail-Risk Forecasting: Multitemporal AI Models for Predicting Wild Boar Collisions on the French Railway Network
Adrian F. Meyer, Theo Reibel, Stefan Pretali, Kevin Morelle, Mathias Kneubühler, Denis Jordan

Safe Tracks: a scalable acoustic deterrent to reduce wildlife-train collisions without increasing barrier effects
Tatiane Bressan Moreira, Luana Gobbo Mamede, Juliana Razani de Luca, Isabella Alves Costa, Fernanda Delborgo Abra, Raul Augusto Figueiredo Pereira

Acoustic stimuli vs blue light: Which one is efficient to deter wild ungulates?
Anna Terrade, Patryk Dec, Yannick Matillon, Anne Petit, Yann Locatelli, David Reby

Reducing wildlife–train collisions in France: First results from trackside and onboard acoustic deterrent devices
Anna Terrade, Patryk Dec, Yannick Matillon, Anne Petit

Deterrent Sounds on Maintenance Trains to Reduce Collisions with Domestic Reindeer and Wildlife and train: An Ongoing Experiment
Svein Morten Eilertsen, Aina Winswold, Robin Støckert, Andreas Seiler, Mattias Olsson, Sandra Kvelland

11:00 - 13:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)

E3 - From Grey to Blue and Green Infrastructure: Upscaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Railway Networks SYMBIOSIS

Presentation type: Oral

From Grey to Blue and Green Infrastructure: Upscaling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Railway Networks
Luis M. Fernández, Carme Rosell, Joan Marull, Reto Schmucki, Neil Strong, Jeff Ollerton, Lorenzo Franzoni, Pinar Yilmazer

DAY FOUR - MORNING/ AFTERNOON

13:00

13:00 - 14:00
LUNCH BREAK

13:00 - 14:00 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)
Wellbeing Breakout Session

14:00

14:00 - 16:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)
A4 - Towards defining Key Performance Indicators for mainstreaming biodiversity in Corporate Sustainability Reporting in the framework of the EU-Rail SYMBIOSIS Project
Presentation type: Workshop

Towards defining Key Performance Indicators for mainstreaming biodiversity in Corporate Sustainability Reporting in the framework of the EU-Rail SYMBIOSIS Project
LAZAROS GEORGIADIS, Matina Loukea, Almona Tani, Martina Busti, Carlo Prislei, Eduardo Prieto, Manuel Luis Campos Molina, Lorenzo Franzoni

14:00 - 16:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)
B4 - Connecting Technical Disciplines for Nature-Positive Infrastructure (part 2)
Presentation type: Workshop

Connecting Technical Disciplines for Nature-Positive Infrastructure
Kate Newman, Rodney Van der Ree, Basma Hahn, Elke Hahn, Tremaine Gregory

14:00 - 16:00 Castle Park B (Ground Floor)
C4 - Applying Ecosystem Services to Linear Infrastructure: Overcoming Common Challenges.
Presentation type: Workshop

Applying Ecosystem Services to Linear Infrastructure: Using the Ecosystem Valuation for Railways (ECOV4R) Framework.
Michael Image, Marie-Claire Jalaguier, Claire Wansbury, Lorenzo Franzoni, Ian Dickie, Natalya Kharadi, Neil Strong, Thomas Schuh

14:00 - 16:00 Castle Park A (Ground floor)
D4 - From roadkill counts to population risk: a framework to assess the demographic impact of roadkill
Presentation type: Workshop

From roadkill counts to population risk: a framework to assess the demographic impact of roadkill
Clara Grilo, Tomé Neves

DAY FOUR - MORNING/ AFTERNOON

14:00 - 16:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

E4 - Powering Nature Recovery: Reducing Biodiversity Impacts of Energy Infrastructure

Presentation type: Oral

How to prevent Dangerous Liaisons: how habitat and pylon characteristics drive the use of pylons by nesting white storks
Anne-Sophie Bonnet-Lebrun, Nicolas Gendre, Hubert Dugué, Jeremy Dupuy, Lisa Garnier, Christophe Barbraud

Detecting High-Risk Bird and Bat Flight Crossings Using Structural Landscape Features
Michal Bíl, Vojtěch Cícha, Richard Andrášik, Karel Kotoul, Tomáš Bartonička

Video-based monitoring to assess bird crossings and collision risk at transmission power lines: Advantages and challenges of a novel technology
Joana Bernardino, Ricardo C. Martins, Rui Morgado, Ingrid Marchand, Nicolas Croize, Cyprien Delaplanche, Francisco Moreira

Joint Efforts for Safer Power Lines: Protecting Birds along the Danube River
Marek Gális

Evidence-Based Mitigation of Bird Collision and Wildlife Electrocution along Power Line Infrastructure
Badis Boulhouchet, Oksana Shaforost

Strategies for Mitigating Wildlife Mortality on Power Lines while Improving Grid Reliability
Oksana Shaforost, Ruchi Dassanayake

Coffee break, poster & exhibitors 4-4:30pm

16:00 - 16:30 Wellbeing Room (Ground Floor)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

16:30

16:30 - 17:15 Queen Square (Ground floor)

A5 - Biodiversity Net Gain in Practice

Presentation type: Workshop

Biodiversity Net Gain in Practice: Regulator, Landowner, Consultant and Engineer Perspectives on England's Evolving Framework
Eric Heath, Nick White, Richard Gowing, Victoria Newlove

16:30 - 17:15 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

B5 – Rebuilding Nature through a Strategic Nature Network, and essential counterpart to our road, rail and energy networks – for health, prosperity and resilience.

Presentation type: Workshop

16:30 - 17:30 Castle Park A (Ground floor)

F4 - Using social media and blogs to share your research and case studies to the widest possible audience

Presentation type: Workshop

Using social media and blogs to share your research and case studies to the widest possible audience
Rodney van der Ree, Steve Bega

19:00

19:00 - 23:00 Aerospace Bristol Hayes Way, Patchway, Bristol, BS34 5BZ

IENE 2026 Awards - Gala Dinner

Presentation type: Activity



2026 Conference Programme

DAY FIVE

Friday 25th September



Friday Opening Keynote & Plenary: Introduction to Day Five 9:00 - 9:30am

From Ambition to Action – Transforming Infrastructure for Nature

Today, we focus on delivery. The challenges facing nature and infrastructure are urgent, and progress cannot always wait for perfect data, perfect solutions, or perfect consensus. Instead, today's discussions will explore how organisations are taking practical steps to deliver nature-positive outcomes through leadership, collaboration, innovation and continuous learning. As we move from ambition to implementation, our focus is on scaling what works, learning from what doesn't, and accelerating action for people, nature and infrastructure.

Jonathan Hess, French Ministry for Ecological Transition.
Jonathan Hess is a biodiversity, transport and energy project officer at the French Ministry for an ecological transition. In particular, he is in charge of the French research programme on transport and energy infrastructure, territories, ecosystems and landscapes - ITTECOP (Infrastructures, territoires, transports, énergies, écosystèmes et paysages). This research programme, created in 2008, contributes to a strong reflection on the integration of ecosystem and landscape issues in the development and implementation of infrastructure projects or the adaptation of existing facilities. The core of the programme is based on funding research projects through calls for proposals.
Jonathan Hess is also the French representative within the governing board of IENE.

09:30

09:30 - 10:30 Eastville Park (Ground floor)

A6 - Scaling Nature-Positive Action

Presentation type: Oral

Twenty-five years of moving the needle: how a long-term cooperative taskforce is accelerating habitat defragmentation across Spain's transport network
MANUEL OÑORBE, CARME ROSELL, LUIS M. FERNÁNDEZ

Durable ecological maintenance of linear transport infrastructure rights-of-way through the creation of local partnerships with training institutes for nature-related professions
Claire Etrillard, Denis François, Tifenn Pedron

New activities addressing bird protection on power lines in the Czech Republic
Václav Hlaváč, Martin Strnad

09:30 - 10:30 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

B6 - From Policy to Practice

Presentation type: Oral

Nature-Positive Procurement: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Transport Infrastructure Procurement
Ronja Bechauf

Introducing practical tools for assessing and developing WVC mitigation options
Tahlia Townsend, Rodney Van der Ree

Rethinking traffic thresholds in wildlife-vehicle collision risk
Johanna Heeres, Falko Brieger, Manisha Bhardwaj

09:30 - 10:30 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

C6 - Digital Innovation for Faster Decisions

Presentation type: Oral

Combined Wildlife Detection & AI Analysis. Combining wildlife detection with integrated data analysis options.
Gert Hamberg

A new tool for effective planning of more landscape adapted solutions promoting a nature-neutral future
Oskar Kindvall, Johan Rydlöv

Artificial Intelligence for Smarter Wildlife–Vehicle Collision Mitigation Planning
Laura Díaz López, Roberto Rodríguez Díaz, Encarna Pérez Aguilera, Margarita Rodríguez Pajares, Julio González Arias, Elena Chinarro Meléndez, María Jóse Blanco Villegas, Víctor Javier Colino Rabanal

09:30 - 10:30 Castle Park A (Ground floor)

D6 - Learning from Practice

Presentation type: Oral

Motorway Fencing: Effectiveness, Displacement, and the Spatiotemporal "Leakage" Effect
Jiří Sedoník, Richard Andrášik, Sandra MacDougall, Michal Bíl

APPR Motorways - Evaluating the effectiveness of wildlife overpasses at network scale : early results from one of Europe's largest faunal monitoring programmes
Hippolyte Pouchelle, François Pich, Emmanuel Millet-Delpech, Ivan Beltran

AIoT *VS* traditionnal camera trap monitoring system to assess fauna passages' efficiency : a GHG perspective.
Sylvain Moulherat, Léa Pautrel, Ivan Beltran, Mélodie Kunegel-Lion

DAY FIVE - MORNING

09:30 - 10:30 Ashton Court (Level 1)

E6 - Wildlife Connectivity Across Linear Infrastructure

Presentation type: Oral

Rail networks and ecological corridors: Between conflicts and opportunities for crossing.
Tess Heydorff-Decaux, Céline Clauzel, Laura Clévenot, Anne Petit

Developing Guidance for Wildlife-Friendly Linear Infrastructure: Lessons from Asian Elephant and Snow Leopard Landscapes
Tremaine Gregory, Rodney van der Ree, Hamza Butt, Nilanga Jayasinghe, Kate Newman

Mapping microhabitat refuges along railway verges using connectivity, microclimate and vegetation structure
Adriana Principe, Josep Serra Gallego, Reto Schmucki, Jeff Ollerton, Fernando Ascensão

Coffee break, poster & exhibitors 10:30 - 11:00am

10:30 - 11:00 Snuff Mills (Level 1)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

11:00

11:00 - 12:00 Eastville Park (Ground floor)

A6 - Scaling Nature-Positive Action

Infrastructure for people, wildlife and the planet: Award winning community engagement for biodiversity.
Jon Stokes, Ian Turner

Protecting a Rewilding Landscape Through Infrastructure Planning: Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Ecological Connectivity in the Filiasi–Caransebes Corridor
Marius Costin Nistorescu, Oana Mondoc, Silvia Borlea, Alexandra Doba, Robert Dobre

Towards a Responsibility Framework for Sufficiency-Oriented Transport Infrastructure
Andreas Seiler, Manisha Bhardwaj, Lazaros Georgiadis, Denis Francois, Nicolas Hette-Tronquart, Eric Guinard, Yun Wang, Edgar van der Grift, Wendy Collinson, Carme Rosell, Cristian-Remus Papp

11:00 - 12:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

B6 - From Policy to Practice

Advancing Sustainable Transport in the Tropics: Brazil's National Guidelines for Wildlife Mitigation on Federal Highways
FERNANDA ABRA, Paula Prist, João Felipe Cunha, Luiz Guilherme Mello

Liability for Wildlife–Vehicle Collisions in Europe: What Legal Responsibility Means for Reporting and Management
Michal Bíl

Seasonal peaks in water deer roadkill associated with reproductive cycles: implications for mitigation strategies
Kihyun Kim, Sehee Kim

11:00 - 12:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

C6 - Digital Innovation for Faster Decisions

Preserving Permeability Through Machine Learning – Connectivity and Suitability Through the Eyes of a Bat
Matthew Lam, Sam Smith

Roads with digitalBio - A Biodiversity Management Platform
Pedro Moreira, Peixoto Mafalda, Morais Filipe, Carreira Eliana, Teixeira Nuno

Maintaining Integrity at Speed: Using AI-Powered Satellite Mapping and Scenario Modelling to Reduce Habitat Fragmentation at the Pace of Infrastructure Delivery
Dave Kilbey, Eleanor Thomson

11:00 - 12:00 Castle Park A (Ground floor)

D6 - Learning from Practice

What makes wildlife crossing structures work? Structural and environmental determinants of mammal use at overpasses across South Korea
JIYUN KIM

Assessing Landscape Fragmentation Dynamics using IDFK method: Time series 1990 – 2033 for the Czech Republic
Ivo Dostál, Petr Anděl, Zdeněk Hejkal, Anna Tišlerová

Low-cost escape channels reduce turtle entrapment in railways: evidence from a large-scale BACI assessment in Brazil
Luana Mamede, TATIANE BRESSAN MOREIRA, Juliana de Luca, Isabella Alves Costa, Fernanda Delborgo Abra, Raul Augusto Figueiredo

12:00

12:00 - 13:00

LUNCH BREAK

12:00 - 13:00 Snuff Mills (Level 1)

Wellbeing Breakout Session

13:00

13:00 - 14:00 Castle Park A (Ground floor)

A7 - Interactive platform for collaborating on nature connectivity with various partners

Presentation type: Oral

Interactive platform for collaborating on nature connectivity with various partners.
Thomas Impens, Jan Mampaey, Sara Maes, Robin Van Den Broeck

13:00 - 14:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)

B7 - Translating Knowledge into Practice: Identifying skills gaps, delivery modes, opportunities and challenges

Presentation type: Oral

Translating Knowledge into Practice: Identifying skills gaps, delivery modes, opportunities and challenges
Heather Rumble, Danielle Sinnett

DAY FIVE - AFTERNOON

13:00 - 14:00 Ashton Court (Level 1)

B7 - Translating Knowledge into Practice: Identifying skills gaps, delivery modes, opportunities and challenges

Presentation type: Oral

Translating Knowledge into Practice: Identifying skills gaps, delivery modes, opportunities and challenges
Heather Rumble, Danielle Sinnett

13:00 - 14:00 Greville Smyth Park (Ground floor)

C5 – Scaling up action for the climate and ecological emergencies in the West of England

Presentation type: Oral

Scaling up action for the climate and ecological emergencies in the West of England
Mia Ridler, Charlie McGuin, Louise Clancy

13:00 - 14:00 Victoria Park (Ground floor)

C7 - Planning with Nature: Decision-Support Tools and Approaches for Sustainable Infrastructure

Presentation type: Oral

Planning with Nature: Decision-Support Tools and Approaches for Sustainable Infrastructure
Hamza Butt

14:00

14:00 - 14:30 Queen Square (Ground floor)

Closing Ceremony

Closing Ceremony: 2:00 - 2:30pm

A6 – Closing Plenary: From Pace over Perfection to Long-Term Transformation
What do we need to see in the next 30 years to maximise the value of nature in resilient infrastructure?

Opening reflection - Johan Rydlöv
As IENE 2026 draws to a close, this plenary looks beyond today's challenges and asks what it will take to deliver truly nature-positive infrastructure over the coming decades. Reflecting on the themes, ideas and lessons shared throughout the conference, the session will explore how we can move from evidence and ambition to sustained, long-term transformation.

The session will open with a reflection on the conference journey and the legacy of IENE, before a closing keynote examines what three decades of connectivity research and practice can teach us about the future of ecological networks, landscape resilience and infrastructure planning.

2026 Conference Programme

POSTERS

Resilience Through Nature

14, Wildlife passages as anthropogenic habitats
119, Predicting long-term estuarine habitat change with limited data: an example from the southwest coast
129, What drives wildlife underpass use in tropical railways? Insights from two long-term monitoring programmes in Brazil

Creating Actionable Knowledge

11, Structural integrity governs fence effectiveness: how fence discontinuities determine wildlife–vehicle collision risk
13, Increased human visitation causes habituation in endangered Amami rabbits on Amami-Oshima Island, Japan
17, Do animals read the railway time table?
23, From Fragments to Frameworks: Mapping Power Line Impacts on Nature
24, Train drivers' insights and experiences with wildlife-train collisions
25, Spatial and temporal patterns of wildlife–train collisions in Czechia
36, Evaluating combined deterrents for safer wildlife road crossings
37, Road infrastructure factors associated with wildlife incidents on the State Road Network in Spain
38, Lineside vegetation management is biodiversity management: getting practical to enhance trackside biodiversity in the UK
56, Immediate Changes in Vehicle Operating Speeds from Road-Surface Markings and Their Effectiveness as a Roadkill Mitigation Measure
61, What about the impact of underground utilities on wetlands ?
71, Evaluating Brown Bear (Ursus arctos) Habitat Availability and Infrastructure Permeability in the Pre-Construction Phase of the Sibiu–Făgăraș Motorway
80, What drives ungulate-train collisions in Sweden: large-scale spatial patterns
81, Responses of wildlife to acoustic stimuli at railways - implications for wildlife warning systems
84, "Innovative Thermal Imaging used to Field Test how Barbastelle Bats Cross Roads to Inform Cost Effective Proportionate Mitigation"
88, Advancing Wildlife–Infrastructure Risk Assessment Through Long-Term Collision Data: Evidence of Climate-Driven Shifts in Ungulate Behaviour
91, Using a wildlife warning system to avert ungulates from a level-crossing prior train arrival
128, The Rapidly Evolving World of Fish and Wildlife Crossings: Case Studies of Successful Ecological Connectivity
132, The West of England Wildlife Index
106, Reconstructing Volunteer Footprints as Survey Effort: A Time-Geographic Approach to Data Quality in Opportunistic Roadkill Citizen Science
153, Learning to Connect: Living Labs and Challenge-Based Education for Resilient Landscapes

Creating Actionable Knowledge (continued...)

55, Driver Awareness Approach to Reducing Sika Deer–Vehicle Collisions
69, Integrated assessment of wildlife permeability, functional connectivity, and collision risk along the A-1 motorway in northern Madrid
87, A new type of narrow green bridge for Geoffroy's bats (Myotis emarginatus)
95, Overview of a method to map the ecological permeability of linear transport infrastructures (LTIs) at national scale in France.
148, Multifunctional green bridges as a measure to increase landscape permeability and support strategic landscape restoration within the context of European legislation and policy

Pace over Perfection

18, Offsetting Nature – what does a good trade-off look like?

2026 Conference Programme

THANK YOU

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The success of IENE 2026 has been made possible through the dedication, expertise and generosity of many individuals and organisations.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the IENE Executive Committee, Programme Committee, reviewers, session chairs, moderators, keynote speakers, workshop facilitators, exhibitors, sponsors and delegates whose contributions have shaped an inspiring and diverse conference programme.

Special thanks are due to our conference partners, sponsors and supporting organisations for their commitment to advancing ecological connectivity, biodiversity conservation and nature-positive infrastructure.

We are particularly grateful to the many authors who submitted abstracts, posters and workshops, sharing innovative research, practical experience and lessons learned from across Europe and beyond. Your willingness to share knowledge and engage in open discussion is what makes IENE such a valuable and collaborative community.

Thank you to the teams at UWE Bristol, our venue and technical partners, field trip hosts, volunteers and support staff who have worked behind the scenes to help deliver the event.

Finally, thank you to all delegates. Your participation, ideas, questions and conversations are what bring IENE to life and help ensure that the network continues to grow, evolve and inspire action.

Together, we are building the knowledge, partnerships and momentum needed to create a more connected and resilient future for people, nature and infrastructure.

The IENE 2026 Organising Committee
Bristol, September 2026

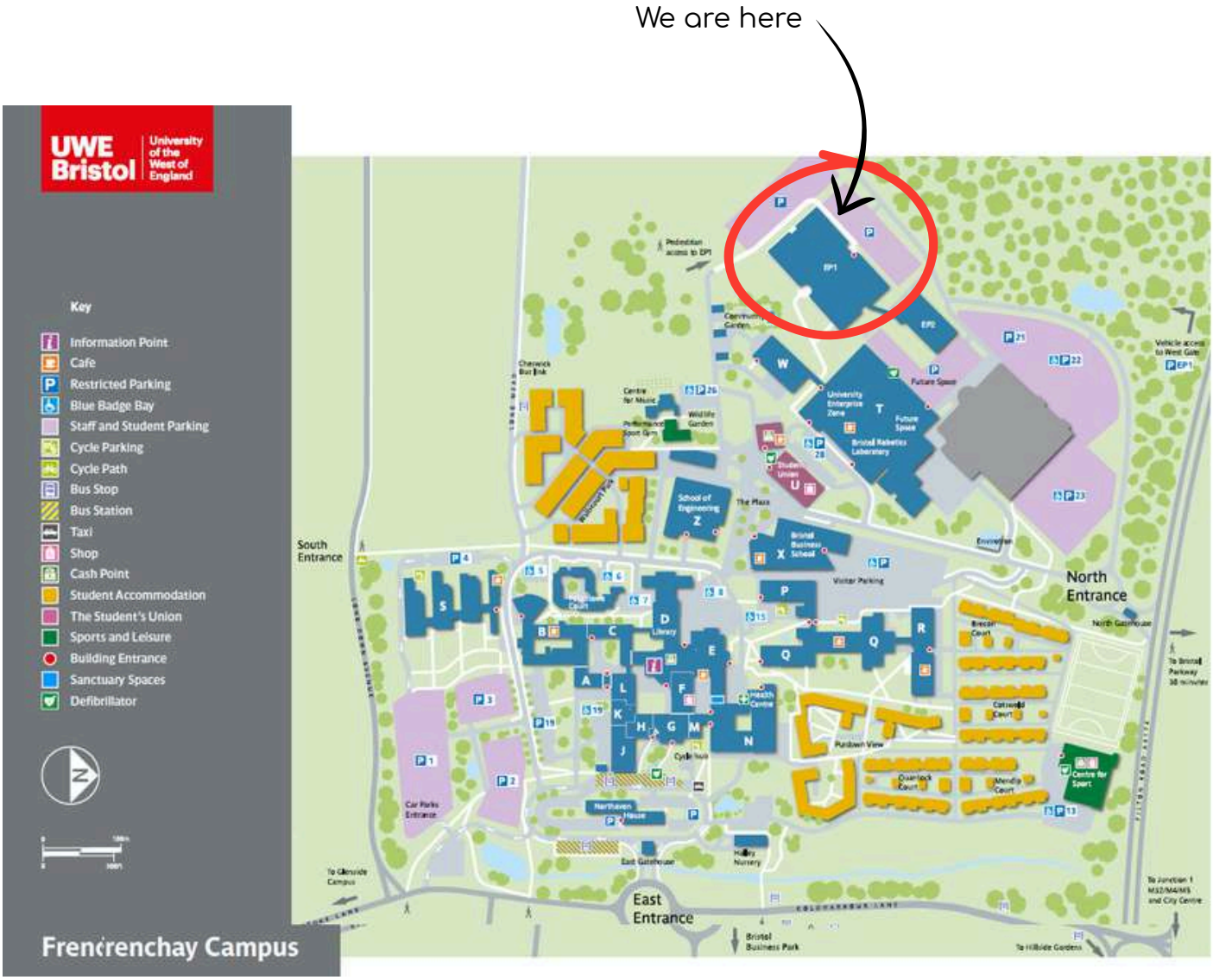


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UWE MAP

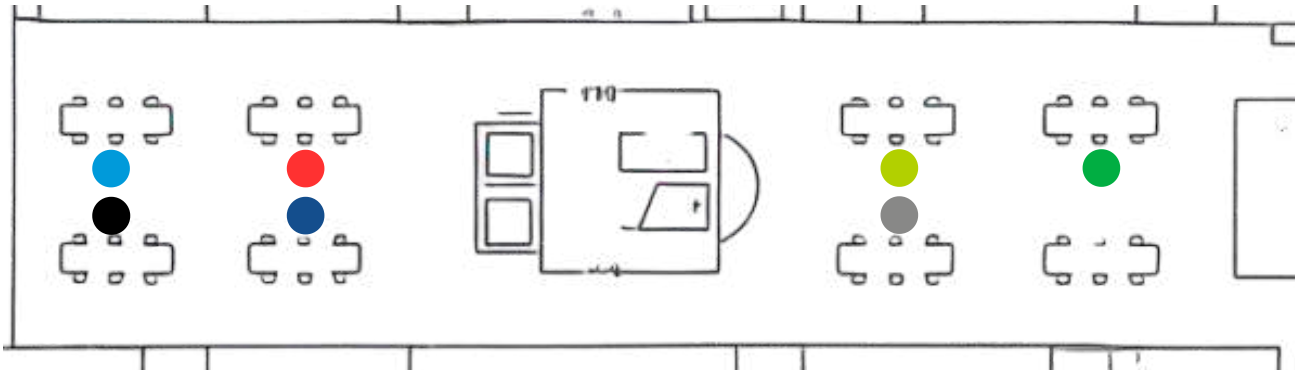

We are here
UWE Bristol
University of the West of England
Key
Information Point
Cafe
Restricted Parking
Blue Badge Bay
Staff and Student Parking
Cycle Parking
Cycle Path
Bus Stop
Bus Station
Taxi
Shop
Cash Point
Student Accommodation
The Student's Union
Sports and Leisure
Building Entrance
Sanctuary Spaces
Defibrillator
Frenchay Campus
South Entrance
North Entrance
East Entrance

ROOM MAP - UWE

Ground floor



Our Exhibitors



PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

IENE 30 YEARS
Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe
Harmonizing Transportation and Nature

EVENT SCHEDULE

21 MON

10AM - 12PM	IENE Board Meeting
11AM-4PM	Registration Opens & Exhibitor Set Up
2PM - 5PM	IENE Working Groups / SEC Meeting
4:30-5PM	IENE 2026 Opening Ceremony
5-7PM	Event Introduction & Keynotes
7-9PM	Welcome Drinks Reception

22 TUES

8:30-9AM	Day Ticket Registration
9-10:30AM	Opening & x2 Plenary talks
10:30-11AM	Coffee break, Posters & Exhibitors
11AM-1PM	Parallel Sessions
1-2PM	Lunch & networking
2-4PM	Parallel / interactive sessions
4-4:15PM	Coffee break, Posters & Exhibitors
4-5PM	Lightening Talks
4:15-5:30PM	Plenary & Keynote
5.30-7.30PM	IENE GA meeting

23 WED

9AM-4PM	Field excursions
7-9PM	Informal social evening

24 THURS

8:30-9AM	Day Ticket Registration
9:00-10:30AM	Opening Keynote & Plenary
10:30-11AM	Coffee break, Posters & Exhibitors
11AM-1PM	Parallel Sessions
1-2PM	Lunch & networking
2-4PM	Workshops
4-4.30PM	Coffee break, Posters & Exhibitors
4:30-5:10PM	Workshops
5:10-5:30PM	Closing Keynote
7-11PM	IENE 2026 Award Gala Dinner

25 FRI

8:30-9AM	Day Ticket Registration
9-9.30AM	Opening Keynote & Plenary
9.30-10:30AM	Parallel Sessions
10:30-11AM	Coffee break, Posters & Exhibitors
11AM-12PM	Parallell Sessions
12-1PM	Lunch & networking
1-2PM	Parallell Sessions
2-2.30PM	Closing Ceremony



IENE 30 YEARS

Infrastructure & Ecology Network Europe

Harmonizing Transportation and Nature



IENE 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

rebuilding nature

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