



FMP Conference 2021 - Biographies

Penny Anderson

Chair of the Board of [Penny Anderson Associates](#) and retired Managing Director.

Penny Anderson, BSc, MSc, CEcol, FCIEEM, retired in 2013 from running Penny Anderson Associates, a specialist ecological consultancy based in Buxton, Derbyshire, where she specialised in habitat creation and restoration amongst other things. She is a Fellow and Chartered Ecologist of CIEEM, sits on its Special Interest Group on Ecological Restoration and Habitat Creation, and its 2030 climate change group. As part of the latter, Penny reviewed research on Carbon and Ecosystems to better inform herself, members and others on habitat restoration and creation that could support carbon sequestration in the face of climate change and the push for tree planting everywhere (P. Anderson, 2021, Carbon and ecosystems: restoration and creation to capture carbon. Available at: <https://cieem.net/resource/carbon-and-ecosystems-restoration-and-creation-to-capture-carbon/> Her New Naturalist's volume on the Peak District is due to be published later this year. She seems to spend much of her time now working voluntarily for anyone needing botanical help in the Peak District!

Stephen Beal

Nature Conservation Adviser, South West. National Trust

Stephen is a Nature Conservation Adviser for the National Trust. He supports National Trust properties in the South West to deliver nature conservation work, including large-scale habitat restoration and creation projects. Stephen has a keen interest in botany and vegetation, and especially floodplain meadows. He is currently training as a regional Ambassador for the Floodplain Meadows Partnership.

Simon Barker

Nature Conservation Adviser, Midlands, National Trust

Simon has 30 years professional experience in ecology and nature conservation, much of it spent in advisory roles and based in the West Midlands. He now works as Nature Conservation Adviser for the Midlands Region, National Trust where he is also acting as an FMP Ambassador involved with promoting and delivering floodplain meadow restoration within the National Trust and beyond.

Catriona Bass

Catriona Bass has been farming Long Mead for twenty years, restoring and creating habitat, managing it for wildlife, monitoring changes, and running educational and therapeutic visits. Since 2009, she has been involved in habitat creation at other sites, using green hay from Long Mead Local Wildlife Site and propagating its seed by hand. She is also a writer and has been consultant for a number of NGOs.

[Thames Valley Wildflower Restoration Project \(TVWMRP\)](#)

Ellen Brown

Head of Policy - Local Nature Recovery, Defra

Ellen leads a policy team working on the future Environmental Land Management Schemes. She is a former lawyer who joined the civil service to work on environmental policy.

Trine Christiansen

Project Manager, European Environment Agency

Trine started her career with a PhD in Environmental Science at the University of Virginia in North America. She then took up a research post at the Danish Natural Research Institute, and since 2007 has worked with the European Environment Agency at the interface between policy and evidence in the natural environment. She is very interested in the floodplain environment across Europe and in 2019 wrote the report 'Floodplains: a natural system to preserve and restore', which she followed by commissioning a more technical assessment of floodplain status in Europe

Stewart Clarke

National specialist for freshwater and catchments. National Trust

Stewart is the national specialist for freshwater and catchments with the National Trust. He has a PhD in freshwater ecology and has previously worked as a national freshwater specialist for Natural England. Stewart also worked on Natural England's ecosystem service pilots and was seconded to the Natural Capital Committee Secretariat as a Scientific Advisor in 2013. He is a member of the Floodplain Meadows steering group and is currently a trustee of the British Ecological Society and the Ecological Continuity Trust.

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Sue Dancey

Sue Dancey has worked with the FMP since 2008 whilst she was working for the Field Studies Council at Preston Montford. She is now an active volunteer with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, the Shropshire Botanical Society, and People Need Nature. Her interests lie in training and education.

Gethin Davies Senior agricultural adviser, RSPB

Gethin Davies works for the RSPB, representing them on the Floodplain Meadows partnership. He also helps manage a livestock farm in mid Wales.

Jon Hollis Integrated Outcomes – Manager, Environment Agency

Jon is Chartered Water and Environmental Manager an experienced Programme Manager working for the Environment Agency. Originally a cartographer, he moved into programme management in 2007, and has developed, monitored and managed several programmes. He's had roles in business planning and allocations. The £15m Natural Flood Management (NFM) Programme Jon managed has learnt more about NFM measures to support others to make more use of them. The programme has enabled Jon to work with practitioners and ministers alike. He's passionate about sharing that knowledge to encourage and enable others to do more. He has an international network, and is developing tools to make information about NFM more accessible to all.



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-nature-based-solutions-to-reduce-flooding-in-your-area>

Matt Johnson Conservation Operations Manager Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust

Matt Johnson is Conservation Operations Manager for the Wildlife Trust in Northants. He has represented the Trust on the FMP steering group for the last 6 years and has been involved in a number of floodplain meadow monitoring projects on the River Nene through the Nene Valley NIA and Farming for the Future projects.

James Lock

NRN Delivery Partnership Lead Adviser, Natural England

James is a lead adviser within Natural England's Nature Recovery Network delivery partnership team since it was launched in November 2020, with an MSc in Conservation Science and Policy from Exeter University. Previous to this he was a bookshop manager for three years. He made the career switch having read 'Feral' by George Monbiot and became really excited by the possibility of restoring the landscapes around us.

Kevan Martin

Emeritus professor Kevan Martin has co-founded two interdisciplinary neuroscience institutes, one at Oxford University and the other a joint institute of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and the University of Zurich. Since returning to Oxford in 2018, he and Catriona Bass have initiated the [Thames Valley Wildflower Restoration Project \(TVWMRP\)](#) to restore and study floodplain meadows from Long Mead to Oxford and a Nature Recovery Network in the parishes around Long Mead at Swinford.

Alastair Pearson

GIS Analyst, South East Rivers Trust

Alastair is currently GIS Analyst at the South East Rivers Trust having previously worked as an academic at the University of Portsmouth where he continues his research as a visiting researcher. His recent research has concentrated on the application of GIS to the study of landscape evolution with a specific focus on the analysis of historical landscape change. He has a particular interest in using archival material to reconstruct past landscapes with a view to informing policy on landscape restoration projects. He has published and presented several papers on the application of GIS to the study of landscape change in the in the early modern period using a variety of modelling techniques

John Rodwell

John Rodwell was coordinator of the UK National Vegetation Classification and editor of *British Plant Communities*. He resigned his professorship at Lancaster University in 2004 and now works as an independent consultant providing research and expert advice for statutory agencies and environmental NGOs in this country and elsewhere in Europe. The character and value of grasslands, particularly traditionally-managed meadows and pastures, has been a career-long interest in contracts and collaborations with farmers, Natural England, Defra, NERC, BBSRC, Natural Resources Wales, the National Trust, the European Commission, the European Environment Agency and the Floodplain Meadows Project.



Felicity Roos

National Consultant – Soils. National Trust

Felicity has a degree in Land and Water Science (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security (Hons) from the Royal Agricultural University, and has spent the last 7 years working with farmers and land managers in Australia, Ghana and the UK on the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, and climate change adaptation and resiliency. Her work has focused on natural resource management focusing on the application of scientific principles to the understanding, management and conservation of soil and water resources. Specialising in soil - its management and role in delivering sustainable food systems, ecosystem services and climate change mitigation.



Her main interests are in the policy and practice of sustainable food systems; the role of agro-ecology and holistic land management in combating climate change and restoring the environment; and the range of economic, social and environmental goods that farming can produce.

Ann Skinner

Ann Skinner has worked in nature conservation for over 40 years, and is a member of the Floodplain Meadow Partnership's Steering Group. Amongst other things, she is also a River Restoration Centre Board member and sits on the National Trust's Natural Environment Advisory Group as a specialist advisor on catchment restoration, rivers, wetlands and natural flood management. She is a CIEEM Fellow, a Chartered Ecologist and a Chartered Environmentalist.

Katey Stephen

Senior Grassland Specialist, Natural England

Katey took up her role as Senior Grassland Specialist at Natural England in August 2020. She was previously a Lead Adviser with Natural England for many years in the West Midlands, responsible for grassland and woodland SSSIs in the counties of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. She led on the work to designate Lugg and Hampton Meadows SSSI, a series of large floodplain meadows on the edge of Hereford. She has a wide experience of grassland work over her career with an emphasis on botanical survey, habitat management and designation. She recently set up informal botanical groups in Hereford and Worcester to encourage less experienced botanists to feel confident to get involved and has received an enthusiastic uptake