

YOUR LAND

HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE PLANET



Keynote Speaker:

Dr Niall McCann

7.15pm Wednesday 8th June 2022

7.15pm - Welcome drink

7.30pm - Keynote speaker and Q&A

8.30pm - Interval

9.00pm - 'Ask the Experts'



#GAPFestival



Welcome

This evening will start with keynote speaker Dr Niall McCann.

Niall's presentation takes us on a journey into the jungles, deserts, rivers and savannahs on five continents. From researching some of the most endangered species on earth, to running anti-poaching operations in Africa, including capturing man-eating crocodiles, dodging drug gangs and pressuring politicians at home and abroad, the talk is packed with adventure and insights from 20 years of living and working on the conservation frontline. Illustrated with images and video clips from his work, "Protecting the Planet" is a celebration of the natural world and a rallying cry for people to fight for our shared natural heritage.

Afterwards, Niall will welcome questions and comments from the audience. This will be followed by an interval, before you have a chance to 'ask the experts'.

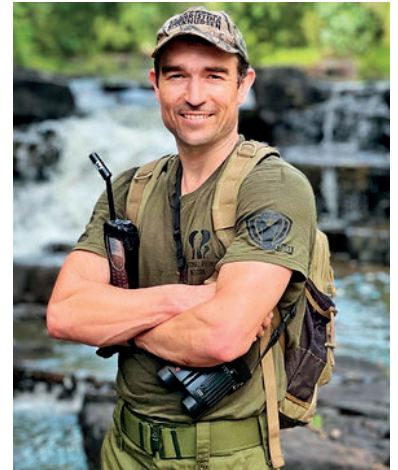
Dr Niall McCann - Keynote Speaker

Explorer, Adventurer, Conservationist, Zoologist & Wildlife TV Broadcaster

Niall McCann is a National Geographic Explorer, conservationist and broadcaster, with a particular interest in humankind's relationship with nature. He is the Conservation Director for National Park Rescue, a direct-action conservation organisation protecting some of the most threatened national parks and animals in Africa and is co-chair of the global End Pandemics Alliance. In addition to his day-to-day work in conservation, Niall is an award-winning wildlife TV presenter and is involved in multiple projects at the nexus between innovative finance and conservation.

Outside of work, Niall is a seasoned adventurer who has rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, skied across Greenland, cycled over the Himalayas, canoed the Yukon River and been on multiple rock climbing and mountaineering trips around the world. He is a Trustee of the Royal Geographical Society and the Wallacea Trust, an Ambassador for the British Inspiration Trust and Smash Life and is an active member of the Brecon Mountain Rescue team.

When Niall featured in Sir David Attenborough's 2021 series 'Perfect Planet, Humans', he was introduced by Sir David as one of the three world-leading authorities on conservation. Niall also presented the long-running TV nature series: Biggest & Baddest, Series 3, and has been affectionately described as a 'Real-life Indiana Jones'.



Dr John Barrett OBE, Goring

Senior Government Advisor, International Programmes on Environment and Climate Change

John Barrett has been an independent consultant advising on food security, agriculture, and climate change programmes for the last 8 years. He is also a Trustee with Hand in Hand International, an NGO which supports women in Afghanistan and eastern Africa to become micro-entrepreneurs, with promotion of regenerative agriculture. Previously he spent some 35 years in the Civil Service, mainly with the Department for International Development (DFID, now part of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office). Latterly he was a Chief Professional Officer with global responsibility for staff working on rural development, environment, and climate change. He has lived and worked in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Pakistan, managing research, policy and large-scale programmes funded by UKAID. He was awarded an OBE in 2007 for services to international development.



Alison Smith, Oxfordshire

Environmental Policy Analyst and Researcher in Land-use

Alison Smith worked for 17 years as an environmental policy analyst specialising in climate, energy, waste management and transport policy. Since 2014 she has been a senior researcher at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and more recently also with the University's Nature-based Solutions Initiative. Her main focus is on developing methods to help with balancing land-use trade-offs, so that we can use our precious land resources achieve multiple benefits for nature recovery, carbon storage, food production, recreation and climate change adaptation. As part of this, she works with local authorities, nature groups and government agencies to develop methods of mapping and assessing ecosystems and the benefits they provide for people in Oxfordshire and elsewhere. Alison's book, The Climate Bonus, provides a compelling vision and strategy for a path forward to carbon reduction by linking climate change to the immediate concerns of policy makers: human health, land management, resource security and economic stability [Douglas Crawford-Brown, Director of the Cambridge Centre for Climate Change Mitigation Research, University of Cambridge].



Julian Gold, Oxfordshire

Sustainable Farm Manager, Hendred Estate, Oxfordshire

Julian, a farmer's son, graduated from Harper Adams College with a HND in Agriculture and after a short spell on the family farm he has spent the last 34 years managing farms and estates involving all aspects of mainly arable farm management, from a very practical level through to strategic business planning. The Hendred Estate was part of the first tranche of AHDB (Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board) Monitor Farms from 2014-17 (a farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange programme). Julian's particular interests are agronomy, crop nutrition and soil health and he was awarded 'Soil Farmer of the Year in 2019'. His overall objective for the farm of around 2,000 acres he manages, is building resilient, sustainable, planet-friendly farming systems. As a FACTS* and BASIS* trained Farm Manager, he has a commitment to continuing to improve cropping performance but in a sustainable manner. The estate is currently in the final year of the ASSIST trial, a major government-funded trial to investigate integrated management systems as a way of delivering sustainable intensification.

*Following government announcements to phase out direct payments to farmers and replace them with ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes), BASIS has produced a series of programmes to support the agricultural industry through and beyond the transition. A FACTS farmer is a Qualified Advisor.



Neil Bucknell, Streatley

Ornithologist

Neil has lived in Streatley since 1987 and has been a keen amateur ornithologist since his teens. He was a co-organiser of two local bird atlas survey projects in Berkshire between 1987 - 1989 and 2007-2011, the results of which have been published in two editions of The Birds of Berkshire, and as part of the web-based Thames & Chilterns Bird Atlas. He has served as both Chair and President of the Berkshire Ornithological Club, and as Hon Secretary of both the British Ornithologists' Union and British Trust for Ornithology and was a vice-president of the former from 2015 to 2021. Neil has recently retired from practice as a solicitor and is now chair of the British Birds Charitable Trust and also chair of the Conservation Committee of the Berkshire Ornithological Club and hopes to establish a network of farm surveys to assist in monitoring the government's emerging ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes) and its impact.



Guy Hildred, Goring

Sustainable Farmer with Anaerobic Digester

Guy's family have been farming around Goring and Ipsden since the early 1950s. He has a degree in Engineering and came back to the farm in the late 1980s after working in industry. Since then, he has, with the help of two neighbours, set up a joint venture farming company that now farms over 5,000 acres locally. He is also part of the Icknield Farm Anaerobic Digester plant and supplies all the feedstock for it. Guy is BASIS and FACTS qualified and his two prime objectives are to produce as much food and energy from the land as possible and to ensure that the land is left in a better condition than when he started for the next generation to continue.



Dr Elaine King, Oxfordshire

CEO, Chilterns Conservation Board

Dr King has been Chief Executive of the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) since 2019 and is a Trustee of a number of organisations including Butterfly Conservation. Prior to joining the CCB she served as the Director of Wildlife and Countryside Link, a coalition of non-governmental organisations working across a number of areas, including animal welfare, landscape protection and nature conservation. With a scientific background and over 20 years' experience in charities and the public sector, Elaine has a passion for the natural environment has led to a career striving to make a difference for nature conservation, animal welfare and connecting people with the natural world. As its Chief Executive, Elaine is responsible for ensuring that the CCB fulfils its statutory purposes to: conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, increase understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities and to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.



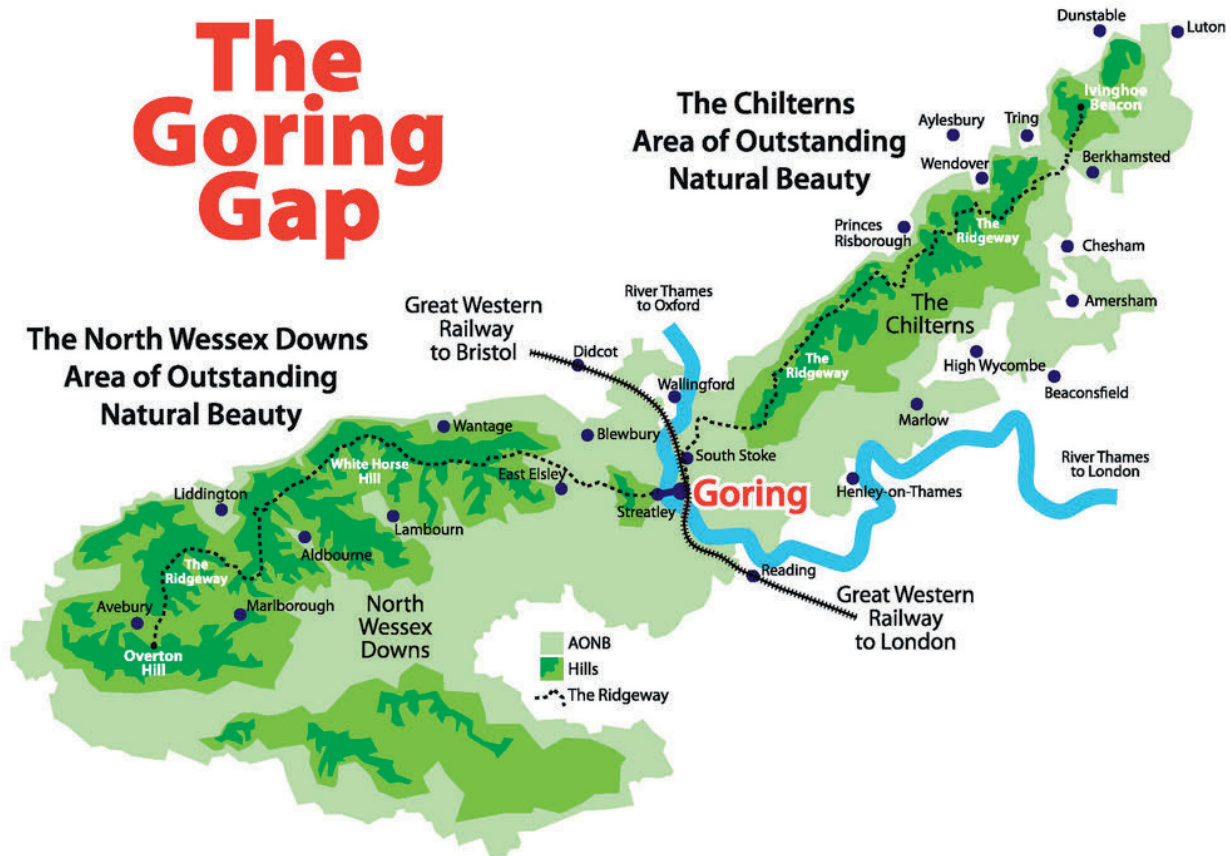
This event is proudly sponsored by

Goring Environmental Organization (GGEO), Green Gas Oxon & The Swan at Streatley.

The Goring Gap

The Goring Gap, the geological name given to the distinct valley area carved by the river Thames through chalk uplands, is midway between the source and the sea on the South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire border. The villages of Goring and Streatley face one another across the river here, with the gentle slopes of the Chilterns on the Goring (eastern) side and the steeper North Wessex Downs, with elevations of over 170m AOD in some places, on the Streatley (western) side. The river here is c. 42m AOD.

Goring is within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, whilst Streatley, with the county boundary along its river bank, falls within the North Wessex Downs AONB.



The landscape character of the area is complex, but could broadly be described as the chalk landscapes of the two AONBs, rising up from wet meadow along the relatively confined floodplain of the Thames. To the north of Goring and Streatley, the landscape is dominated by arable farmland, to the south and east are more extensive areas of woodland, including Ancient Woodland, on the slopes of the hills.

Both sides of the Goring Gap are rich in the biodiversity associated with thin soils over chalk. The area is considered to be particularly rich for vascular plants and is known for the presence of a number of very rare species including Monkey Orchid, Lady Orchid and Pasque Flower.

There are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in or close to the Gap, all of which have been designated wholly or in part, for their unimproved chalk grassland habitat. Along the narrow river floodplain, the wet habitats bring further diversity to the area's flora and fauna. Priority habitats in and around the Gap include Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fen, Reedbed, Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland and Deciduous Woodland. There is an area of Wood, pasture and parkland at Basildon Park (NT), where a more enclosed character is created by the Parkland landscape.



The GAP Festival continues until this Sunday 12th June.

Tickets still available for other Festival events at

thegapfestival.org

Main Festival Sponsor

