

UK Saltmarsh Day – exploring the Saltmarsh Carbon Code

Speaker's biographies – 15th November 2022



Chairing this event is Dr James Robinson, the Director of Conservation at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, based at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. James is also an elected member of the IUCN National Committee UK Executive and Chair of its Protected Areas Working Group. His previous roles include as the RSPB's Director for Eastern England, Head of Nature Policy, Director for Northern Ireland, and Conservation Manager for Northern Ireland, and at WWT, as Head of Wetland Biodiversity.

Richard Thompson is an environmental scientist with over 20 years' experience in the environmental sector. Currently Deputy Director for Water, Land and Biodiversity at the Environment Agency, he oversees a department leading the EA's water strategy, environmental planning and environmental monitoring portfolios, which includes the Restoring Meadows, Marsh and Reef Initiative (ReMeMaRe) and elements of the Environment Agency's work on Blue Carbon.



Rory Macfarlane is the Head of Ocean Climate Policy at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. His role as policy lead sits within a wider multi-disciplinary team, working alongside scientists and economists on critical marine habitats, including saltmarsh, and ocean health and resilience. His work has both an international and domestic focus and he sits on the board of the UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership.

Dr Martin Skov (MS) is a Reader in marine biology with Bangor University. He researches bio-physical processes that underpin the provisioning of coastal ecosystem services, including natural flood protection, climate regulation and human wellbeing. Martin's work helped set up the world's first 'blue-carbon' trading project: '*Mikoko Pamoja*' in Kenya (www.aces-org.co.uk). In the Code project, Martin led the systematic reviews on the blue carbon benefits from saltmarsh restoration.





Richard Fitton joined Finance Earth in 2019 and is responsible for managing its ongoing relationship and a diverse range of projects with the RSPB. He is also working on the co-design of the UK Nature Fund finance.earth/uknature and has been managing Finance Earth's work in Policy and Advocacy, including the delivery of the Financing UK Nature Recovery initiative financingnaturerecovery.uk.

Annette Burden leads blue carbon research for UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH). She leads the development of the UK Saltmarsh Carbon Code, is developing a pathway for the inclusion of saltmarshes into the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory and national monitoring networks to collect evidence grade data on carbon cycling.



Angus Garbutt is lead for research across the land-sea interface at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH). He is Co-Chair of UK Blue Carbon Forum: Habitats, Conservation and Restoration Working Group and Chair of the UK Saltmarsh Specialists Forum. Angus' work has taken him to all the major saltmarsh complexes in the UK and Europe giving a unique insight into their diversity and cultural setting.

Dr Jo Preston is a Reader in Marine Ecology and Evolution, [Institute of Marine Sciences](https://www.instituteofmarinesciences.ac.uk), University of Portsmouth and Co-Chair of UK Blue Carbon Forum: Habitats, Conservation and Restoration Working Group. Her research is focused on the interconnected restoration ecology of coastal habitats, particularly oyster reefs, seagrass and saltmarsh.



Dr Natalie Hicks is a benthic biogeochemist, and lecturer and course director for Biological Sciences in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Essex. Her research focuses on understanding the carbon dynamics (sediment burial and sequestration; carbon dioxide and methane emissions) of marine sediments, including 'blue carbon' habitats like salt marshes.

Dr Amanda Cavanagh is an expert in plant biology, photosynthesis and climate change at the University of Essex.



Graham Underwood is Professor of Marine and Freshwater Biology in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Essex. His research covers estuarine ecology and biogeochemistry; from microbial diversity and function, primary production and organic carbon fluxes, to whole estuary budgets and approaches to restoration. He holds a NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship; “Delivering Multifunctional Natural Capital Approaches for Future Coasts”.

Dr Hannah Mossman is a Senior Lecturer in Ecology at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her research focuses on the ecological development of restored saltmarshes, including investigating how to better replicate plant communities of natural marshes and quantifying how much blue carbon they store.

