

## Speaker Biographies



### KATIE COCKERILL

Katie Joined Severn Trent Water in January 2022 and became Project Manager for the Bomere Heath Supply Pipes Replacement project in September 2022. Having recently graduated from the Open University with a BA Hons in Environmental Studies Katie has a real passion for working on projects that help protect the environment. The current project she is working is part of a wider range of projects within the Green Recovery programme to deliver benefits and improvements to the environment and its communities



### CALLUM SPROULL

Callum joined Severn Trent in September 2016 as an Apprentice. Since then he has become a Lead Project Manager and Qualified Engineer, currently leading an ambitious mission to ensure Coventry and Shropshire have a lead-reduced future with over 7 years of experience in the utilities water industry. This includes work on multi-discipline engineering projects though time spent in Asset Management, Utilities Design, Capital Delivery, Network Operations and a passion for driving environmental initiatives.



### NIGEL ADAMS

Son of a farmer, Nigel spent the early part of his career working for the Nature Conservancy Council as a site warden on a National Nature reserve. He became Reserve Manager for English Nature and later moved to Dartmoor in the South West of England and was Head Warden for all National Trust properties in the area. He now lives in Oxfordshire and provides a range of countryside management services for land-owners and conservation organisations, specialising in hedgerow management. An expert hedgelay, he sits on 'Hedgeline' a steering group for national hedgerow policies. [www.nigeladamscountysidemanagement.co.uk](http://www.nigeladamscountysidemanagement.co.uk)



### RICHARD SMALL

Richard retired from lecturing at Liverpool John Moores University where he had been leader of the Wildlife Conservation degree course. His academic interests include ecology and its application to conservation of habitats and species. He has advised on management plans for conservation sites and specialises in conservation grazing. Sheep-keeping led to his involvement with the Rare Breed Survival Trust. He manages a 25 acre smallholding with hay meadow and hill grassland for both his flock and for its wildlife interest. Richard is Secretary of the Marches Meadow Group.



### JENNY JACKSON TATE

Jenny is Manager for the Wilder Marches Programme, hosted by Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust. Wilder Marches is a nature recovery programme aiming to create more spaces where people and nature thrive. It looks to build a network of farms, forests, nature reserves, commons and communities enabling nature's recovery at scale and supporting the implementation of nature-based solutions, as well as connecting people to environmental market opportunities.



### WILFRED DENGA

Wilfred Denga is Programme Delivery Lead within Severn Trent Water' Capital Delivery function – he has a background in mechanical engineering and has 15 years experience of working in both clean and waste water treatment environments. With a passion for technology, his focus is now on the open water environment and water quality improvement, scanning globally for ideas to bring wider societal benefits to Severn Trent customers.



### LEZLEY PICTON

Lezley was first elected to Shropshire Council in 2017 and served as Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications. In May 2021, she became Council Leader. Lezley has lived in Shropshire for the last 26 years and while loving Shropshire's rural appeal, she also wants to address the challenges that come with this. As leader of the Council, Lezley is eager to listen to the people and organisations across the county about the part they can play in building a healthy population, a healthy economy and a healthy environment in Shropshire. Key to this is a healthy council which is both modern and financially sustainable.



### DR ALAN HERBERT

Dr Alan Herbert is a hydrogeologist. He used to lecture in hydrogeology and earth sciences at the University of Birmingham. He now runs his own environmental consultancy – Leaton Hydrogeology Limited. He is a parish councillor for Leaton, and Deputy Chair of Bomere Heath and District Parish Council. In this capacity he has taken an active role in helping the Parish Council start to take action to address the Climate and Biodiversity Crises in our backyard, with the support and encouragement of Shropshire Council. He is an active member of the Marches Meadow Group



### CHARLIE BELL

Dr Charlie Bell is a nature conservationist currently working as Stepping Stones Project Officer. She has been based in Shropshire since 2015, working first at the Field Studies Council and Shropshire Wildlife Trust before joining the National Trust in 2020. She previously held roles at the University of Sheffield and Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. All of her jobs to date have combined conservation with working with local communities and engaging people with nature. Charlie loves the local area and feels extremely glad that, after a decade of moving around the country, fate led her to settle down in Shropshire!



### NICK ROWLES

Since studying for a master's degree in agroforestry in 1999 I have worked for a wide range of charities and NGOs in the UK and overseas. I have helped rural communities in Guatemala and Sri Lanka to design sustainable agroforestry and farming systems, before returning to the England to work for the wildlife trusts as an environmental educator. I now work for Shropshire Council as a Trees Outside Woods project officer, and hope the renewed interest in agroforestry in the UK will continue for many years to come and help transform our farming landscape.