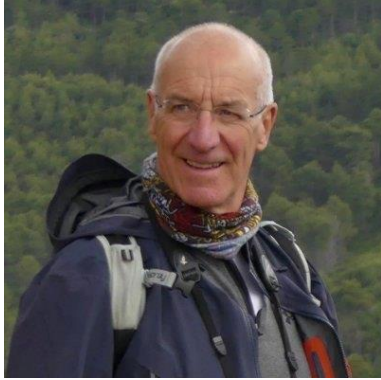


# England Species Reintroductions Taskforce members biographies

## **Dr Andy Clements - Chair, England Species Reintroduction Taskforce**



Andy trained as a scientist with a degree and PhD in Zoology from the University of Wales. He moved into a career in nature conservation, joining the Nature Conservancy Council as a field scientist in 1982. Following a range of roles, including a secondment to the government to oversee the regulation of keepers of birds of prey and to advise on the international trade in endangered species, Andy returned to English Nature at the start of the 1990s.

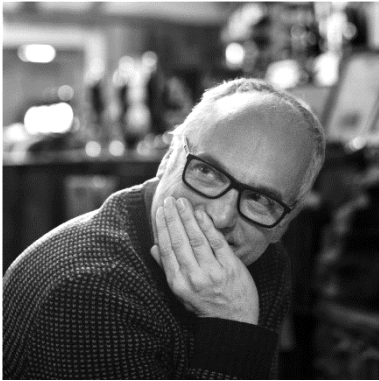
In 2000, Andy became the Director, protected areas for English Nature where he led the successful defence of Dibden Bay at public inquiry, a watershed moment in designated site protection. When Natural England was created, Andy was the first Director of Science, Evidence and Policy.

In 2007, he moved to become the Chief Executive of the British Trust for Ornithology, a post he held until retirement in 2020. He served on the Natural England Board from 2014 to 2023, where he chaired the Natural England Science Advisory Committee (NESAC). He also led the National Nature Reserve (NNR) Partnership, bringing together NGOs and land managers from across the sector to modernise and grow the NNR estate.

Andy was the inaugural Chair of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), and he volunteers for the National Trust as a member of their Natural Environment Advisory Group. Andy was awarded an OBE for services to conservation and policy in 2021.

## Members

### Ben McCarthy



Ben is an ecologist and Head of Nature Conservation and Restoration Ecology at the National Trust. Having held senior positions with statutory and non-statutory organisations, he now provides national leadership to realise the National Trust's ambition for nature and nature-based climate solutions.

He uses his over 20 years' experience of translating conservation science into practical delivery to restore nature and deliver nature-based climate solutions across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Sitting within the National Trust's Science and Nature Directorate, he contributes towards building their evidence and reputation as a leading UK nature conservation organisation.

### Delphine Pouget



Delphine Pouget is Principal Adviser in Natural England's Species Recovery and Reintroduction Team. Delphine provides strategic leadership for species conservation translocation in England, coordinating strategic vision and priorities across Natural England. She currently has the oversight of Natural England work on beaver reintroduction, implementing policies as they emerge and working with partners and stakeholders to plan and support the restoration of the beaver in England.

Her team provides a platform for advice based on the English Reintroduction Code and the International Union for Conservation of Nature guidelines for conservation translocation. She has a particular interest in better understanding and working with stakeholders to find

solutions to solve human wildlife conflicts. Delphine has been in Natural England for 10 years after starting her career as a field ecologist.

## **Dr Andrew Stringer**



Andrew is Head of Environment and the strategic lead for nature recovery at Forestry England, overseeing the approach to conservation translocations within the nation's forests. He has worked in a variety of roles in the public and charitable sectors, and has direct experience of beaver, pine marten, and black rhino reintroduction. He holds a PhD in nature restoration.

## **Dr Geoff Hilton**



Geoff is the Head of Conservation Evidence at the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, which he joined in 2009. Prior to that, he worked in the International Research Section of RSPB. His scientific specialism for over 20 years with these organisations has been the recovery of threatened species, in particular birds.

He has overseen the monitoring of recent translocations such as common crane in the Somerset Levels, black-tailed godwit in East Anglia, and curlew in Devon and the Severn Vale. He has also been involved in the head starting of spoon-billed sandpipers in far-eastern Russia and the reintroduction of Madagascar Pochard in northern Madagascar.

Geoff co-authored the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement's 'Waterbird Reintroduction Guidelines', was a science committee member for the British Ornithologists Union's 2021

conference on 'Restoring bird populations' and is a member of the Ramsar Treaty's Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

## **Dr Jenny MacPherson**



Jenny was based at Royal Holloway University of London for 10 years, conducting research on the ecology and behaviour of a range of mammal species, including pine marten, dormice, red squirrel, hedgehog, water vole and mink. Jenny has been involved with species reintroduction programmes in the UK and elsewhere since 1997. She joined the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT) as Principal Scientist at the beginning of 2011 and has led the VWT Pine Marten Recovery Project from 2014.

## **Professor John Ewen**



John Ewen is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London. His research focuses on conservation translocations and threatened species recovery, increasingly drawing on decision science to help groups with project planning. He is co-chair of New Zealand's Hii Recovery Group, Chair of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Sihek (Guam Kingfisher) Recovery Team and a member of British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums's Reintroduction Advisory Group. He is also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Conservation Translocation Specialist Group, where he has co-developed and delivers training on the application of the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations.

John is involved in several conservation translocation projects spanning many countries, including on reptiles, birds and mammals. He has also co-edited two books on the subject and has otherwise published widely.

## **Dr Julia Touza-Montero**



Julia is an environmental and natural resource economist whose research focuses on understanding how human behaviour and economic activity influence the natural environment and what this means in terms of crafting environmental policy and management.

Her recent research includes projects on ecosystem services and their influence on human health and wellbeing. She also conducts ecological-economic modelling of private and public strategies for the conservation of biodiversity, vulnerability and resilience to natural hazards, and the anthropogenic effects on the spread of plant pests and diseases, and invasive species.

She has worked in several countries, including Germany, Spain and UK. She is currently a Reader at the University of York, where she co-leads the Resilience Ecosystem theme at the York Environmental Institute.

## **Dr Sarah Dalrymple**



Sarah is a Reader in Conservation Ecology specialising in threatened plant conservation. Much of her research focuses on conservation translocations, including direct involvement in projects, a global review of plant reintroductions, the effects of climate change on past reintroductions and off-site conservation of threatened and extinct plants in the wild.



She co-authored the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations and the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations and contributed to the England Code for Conservation Translocations. Sarah also advises on several plant and animal reintroduction projects across England.

## **Jake Fiennes**



Jake is Director at Holkham National Nature Reserve and General Manager for Conservation across the Holkham Estate. He has 30 years' experience in land management on private landed estates. Holkham Estate covers 25,000 acres and is one of a handful of private landowners with approved body status to manage a National Nature Reserve.

Jake's other roles include Co-Chair of the National Nature Reserve Steering Group, member of the RSPB England advisory committee, member of the East Anglia National Farmers Union Environmental Forum and panel member on the Designated Landscapes Glover Review.

## **Martin Lines**



Martin is the Chief Executive Officer of the Nature Friendly Farming Network (UK). He is a farmer and contractor in South Cambridgeshire, growing mainly arable crops within a regenerative system across his family farm and rented land. He has a special interest in farm conservation management and has Countryside Stewardship (CS) schemes throughout his farm holding. He also supports the delivery of CS agreements for several other farm enterprises.

## Mike Shurmer



Mike is the Head of Species England for the RSPB and has worked for the organisation in a variety of roles since 2002, focusing on species recovery, habitat creation and land management advice. Mike has been in his current role since March 2021, leading on the delivery of the RSPB's species recovery strategy in England, supporting operational teams in taking an evidence-based approach to improving the conservation prospects of species, to move them through the species recovery curve.

He also leads on the RSPB's species policy work in England, working with colleagues across the RSPB and external partners and stakeholders on the practical application of science and policy. As well as a lifelong passion for ornithology, Mike has an MSc in Entomology, with a particular interest in micro-moths (Microlepidoptera) and true flies (Diptera).

## Professor George Holmes



George is a Professor of Conservation and Society at the University of Leeds. His research focuses on 2 related areas. Firstly, the conservation movement itself, how it is organised, and the different values and ideas within it. Secondly, how conservation projects such as national parks interact with their resident and neighbouring human populations.

This has included looking at landscape restoration and species translocation projects. He is interested on how they can bring both costs and benefits to local people, how local people shape the success or failure of conservation, and the values and relationships involved.

## Professor Karim Vahed



Karim is the England Manager for Buglife and Professor Emeritus of Entomology at the University of Derby. He is a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission 'Grasshopper' group, a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Entomological Society. Karim has had a long-standing interest in insects and other invertebrates.

After graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences at the University of Exeter, he completed his PhD on bush-cricket mating systems at the University of Nottingham. He then gained a lecturing post at the University of Derby, teaching a variety of subjects, including entomology, invertebrate biology, ecology and animal behaviour on BSc and MSc Zoology and Biology courses. His research has involved two key areas: sexual selection in insects and insect conservation, both focussed on the Orthoptera. In recognition of his research, Karim became Professor of Entomology in 2011.

Karim joined Buglife as England Manager in 2022, where his duties include managing a team of conservation officers and their projects, building external partnerships and developing new projects.

## Professor Michael Fay



Professor Michael Fay is Senior Research Leader, Conservation Genetics and Molecular Ecology, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where he has worked since 1986. His main area of research involves the collection of genetic data in support of conservation management of plants in the UK and elsewhere. As a long-standing member of the Lady's Slipper Orchid Committee, he has been involved in one of the most high-profile plant reintroduction projects in England.



In his early years at Kew, he oversaw the in vitro propagation facilities at Kew (where the lady's slipper seedlings for reintroduction have been produced since the early 1980s).

Following this, his research has explained the genetics of the remaining English plants of *Cypripedium calceolus*, and he has also investigated the mycorrhizal status of the plants following reintroduction. Other projects relate to the conservation of endemic whitebeam species (*Sorbus* spp.) and the genetic effect of fragmentation on species including pasque flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*).