



# FENS BIOSPHERE

## Fens Biosphere Conference Wednesday 13 January 2021 Programme

9.00am	Sign onto Conference platform and spend time familiarising self with site and visit the Networking Lounge and the Exhibition Hall
10.00am	Opening Address <i>Dame Fiona Reynolds, Fens Biosphere Ambassador</i>
10.10am	An Introduction to Biospheres <i>Martin Price, Chair, UK Man and the Biosphere (UK MAB) Committee</i>
10.25am	A short film from another UK Biosphere <i>Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere</i>
10.30am	A short film regarding the Fens Biosphere <i>Fens Biosphere Partnership</i>
10.45am	BREAK: Time to visit the Networking Lounge and the Exhibition Hall
11.15am	The Economic and Social Value of a Biosphere for this area <i>Paul Silcock, Cumulus Consultants</i>
11.35pm	Panel Discussion: A Fens Biosphere – what’s in it for us? <i>Panel of experts:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Roger Mitchell, Chair, Fens Biosphere Partnership</i></li><li>• <i>Martin Price, Chair, UK Man and the Biosphere (UK MAB) Committee</i></li><li>• <i>Paul Silcock, Cumulus Consultants</i></li><li>• <i>Ed Forrest, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere</i></li></ul>
12.15pm	LUNCH BREAK: Time to visit the Networking Lounge and the Exhibition Hall
1.30pm	Workshop Sessions: Delegates will choose one session to attend from four available: Water; Food and Farming; Wildlife and Green Space; Culture, Identity and the Visitor Economy  <i>See overleaf for workshop descriptions</i>
2.30pm	Final opportunity to visit the Networking Lounge and the Exhibition Hall
3.00pm	CLOSE





# FENS BIOSPHERE

## More Information on the Afternoon Workshop Sessions

<b>Workshop 1:</b> Water	<b>Drought or Deluge? New approaches in water management and how a Biosphere can help</b>  In this session, experts in water management will give you the facts behind the future of water supply and flood risk in the Fens. You will learn about the innovative plans for bringing communities, businesses and nature together to ensure we will have enough water in the future and will be resilient to the effects of climate change and rising sea levels.  Attendees will be able to ask questions and share ideas through online chat function and, at the presentations, time will be given for the experts to answer some questions over video.  Host: David Thomas, Chief Executive, Middle Level Commissioners Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robin Price, Managing Director, Water Resources East</li><li>• Paul Burrows, Flood &amp; Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area, Environment Agency</li></ul>
<b>Workshop 2:</b> Food and Farming	<b>Beyond conventional farming, what next? The role of a Biosphere in supporting innovation and investment in farming and food production</b>  In this session you will learn more about the challenges facing farming in the fens, how farmers are adapting to these and the new farming methods and crops being tested in our area. Charles Shropshire from G's Fresh will explain how his farming and food production is adjusting to the loss of peat, variable water supplies and the need to care for wildlife. Kate Carver from the Wildlife Trust will talk about their innovative wet farming project where new crops which "like their feet wet" are being trialled and their environmental impact assessed.  Host: Rob Wise, Environment Advisor, National Farmers Union Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charles Shropshire, Managing Director of G's Cambs Farms Growers Ltd</li><li>• Kate Carver, Great Fen Project Manager, Wildlife Trust BCN</li></ul>





# FENS BIOSPHERE

<p><b>Workshop 3:</b> Wildlife and Green Space</p>	<p><b>Connecting with Nature, Recovering Nature. How a Biosphere can support local action for a healthy natural environment and better quality of life</b></p> <p>In this session, Richard Astle from Natural Cambridgeshire will describe the aims of the Natural Cambridgeshire partnership including their ambition to “Double Nature” and what this might mean in the proposed Fens Biosphere area. Carly Leonard from PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) will then describe how they have been supporting local communities to protect and enhance their environments – improving wildlife and well-being. This session will also introduce the Local Nature Recovery Toolkit - which aims to be a starting point in taking local action; providing guidance, advice and support to help each area create their own nature recovery plans.</p> <p>Host: John Torlesse, Principal Advisor, Natural England</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richard Astle, Chair, Natural Cambridgeshire</li><li>• Carly Leonard, Chief Executive, PECT</li></ul>
<p><b>Workshop 4:</b> Culture, Identity and the Visitor Economy</p>	<p><b>Transforming the Perception of the Fens once and for all. How a Biosphere can connect the culture, identity and communities to create benefits for all</b></p> <p>The first part of this session will examine the idea that the Fens has an image problem and ideas for rectifying this will be explored. The practicalities of developing good cultural engagement and a strong sense of place will be discussed using recent, local examples.</p> <p>Host: tbc</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colin Stevens, Creative Agent, Creative People and Places Marketplace</li><li>• Stewart Howe, Chair, The Fenland Trust</li></ul>

