

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bristol Natural History Consortium to Launch 'Festival of Nature' at  
World Environment Day Conference**

Coventry, England (08 May 2017)

The Society for the Environment is delighted to announce that Bristol Natural History Consortium will be officially launching the 2017 'Festival of Nature' at the World Environment Day conference on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

[Festival of Nature](#) brings together over 200 organisations and 30,000 people for the UK's largest free celebration of the natural world from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017. A wide spectrum of events will be taking place between Bristol and Bath; from professional networking to educational school workshops, expert speakers to family fun activities.

Bristol Natural History Consortium formed in 2003, with six Bristol based organisations joining forces on flagship environmental communication projects. Since then, the charitable organisation has grown significantly in both size and influence, with their programmes now having national reach and impact.

Festival of Nature aligns with both the 2017 theme for the United Nations' global initiative World Environment Day – 'Connecting People to Nature', and the theme for the Society's World Environment Day Conference – 'Innovation, Partnership and the Value of Nature'. These events share aims to establish a greater interest in nature, inspire people to adopt sustainable practices, promote partnership working and champion environmental expertise across sectors.

Savita Custead, Chief Executive of Bristol Natural History Consortium, said "We're thrilled to be launching Festival of Nature at such an important national event for the sector. World Environment Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about all of the important issues facing our natural world, and more importantly, to create more alliances to work together."

Dr Emma Wilcox, Chief Executive of the Society for the Environment, commented "The Society sees World Environment Day as a critical part of ensuring everyone understands the important role of the environment in all our daily lives. We are delighted that Bristol Natural History Consortium will be launching Festival of Nature during this conference, which is a real example of this year's theme for World Environment Day, Connecting People to Nature."

The World Environment Day conference is a free event led by sector experts, who will be providing an afternoon of informative talks to provide insight into their respective fields, highlighting how their work is contributing to the underlying principles of World Environment Day. The event welcomes interested parties, volunteers, Chartered Environmentalists, Registered Environmental Technicians and aspiring environmental professionals alike. Register your attendance for free on the [Society for the Environment website](#).

**Event Details**

World Environment Day Conference

Date(s): Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Location: 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ (IMechE)

Cost: Free

Website: [www.socenv.org.uk/WED2017](http://www.socenv.org.uk/WED2017)

Hashtag: #EnvProfswED and #WorldEnvironmentDay

Festival of Nature

Date(s): Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Location: Various – between Bristol and Bath

Cost: Free

Website: [www.festivalofnature.org.uk](http://www.festivalofnature.org.uk)

**END**

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

**About the Society for the Environment**

The Society for the Environment, is comprised of 24 Licenced Bodies, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech) registration in the UK. There are now over 7,000 environmental professionals currently registered who share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at [www.socenv.org.uk](http://www.socenv.org.uk).

**About Dr Emma Wilcox**

Emma has been CEO of the Society since July 2015 and since joining the organisation has led the development of a new five-year strategy increasing registrations and profile for Chartered Environmentalists and Registered Environmental Technicians.

Her career has spanned a number of disciplines including scientific research, knowledge and technology transfer, skills and education, programme and business management and stakeholder and relationship management. Emma's strong academic background is supported by an in-depth knowledge of both public and private sector landscapes.

**The 24 Licensed Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:**

Arboricultural Association (AA)  
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)  
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)  
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)  
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)  
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)  
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)  
Energy Institute (EI)  
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)  
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)  
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)  
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)  
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)  
Institute of Water (IWater)

Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)  
Institution of Chemical Engineers (ICHEME)  
Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)  
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)  
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)  
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)  
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)  
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)

**About Bristol Natural History Consortium**

The Bristol Natural History Consortium started in 2003, when 6 organisations in Bristol joined forces on flagship environmental communication projects. From 2003-2008 they worked together under a memorandum of understanding, before gaining charitable status in May 2008.

The consortium currently has 14 members who work collaboratively within the BNHC charitable structure. The membership reflects Bristol's reputation as a leading centre for the understanding and appreciation of the natural world, although programmes have national reach and impact. Further information can be found at <http://www.bnhc.org.uk/>.