

Let It Bee

Nature Recovery in Practice



Thursday 12 March 2026

Old Trafford Football Stadium, Manchester



Programme

9.00 Registration and exhibition viewing

10:00 Session One - *The National Landscape*

Recovering Nature for Growth, Health and Security

- A closer look at Natural England's New Corporate Strategy and how parks and greenspace are key to delivering each outcome of the Natural England Strategy: Recovering Nature; Building Better Places; Improving Health and Wellbeing; Delivering Security through Nature

Oliver Harmer, Chief Officer of Strategy, Natural England

Environmental protection and improvement through effective governance

- The OEP's role - What this looks like via our monitoring of the government's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)
- Our conclusion on governments progress against their EIP
- Our deep dive reports: Complaints, interventions and investigations

Helen Venn, Chief Regulatory Officer, Office for Environmental Protection

The State of the Market in Parks and Greenspace 2026

- Outlining the findings of APSE's latest survey
- What are the priorities for local authority greenspace teams?
- Budgets, recruitment and retention

Matt Ellis, Principal Advisor, APSE

Audience question and answer session

11:10 Comfort break and exhibition viewing

11:40 Session Two - *Local Landscapes*

Growing Green and Resilient Urban Places for People and Nature to Thrive

- Exploring practical approaches to transforming neglected urban spaces into vibrant, nature-rich places
- A closer look at people-first planting designs that create attractive, resilient, and biodiverse urban landscapes

Helen McNally, Head of Commercial Landscapes, Pictorial Meadows (Sponsor)

Bringing Local Nature Recovery Strategies to Life – Greater Manchester's Nature Network

- What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- What do they mean for parks managers
- How can you use your Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Dr Rachel Morrison, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer - Environment, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Enhancing Dark Skies across Wales - A Model of Partnership Working Excellence

- Winner of the The Landscape Institute President's Award 2025
- A vital resource for those planning and designing landscapes with a sensitivity to the night sky – in Wales, and beyond
- Protecting wildlife and creating more people-friendly, cheaper lighting schemes.

David Shiel, Area Manager, Denbighshire County Council

In-house grounds maintenance: Investing in resilient local services

- Better value and accountability
- Environmental leadership in building skilled and locally rooted teams
- Resilience ahead of local government reorganisation

Mo Baines, APSE Chief Executive

Audience question and answer session

13.15 Lunch and exhibition viewing

14:15 Session Three - *Frontline Workshops*

Delegates will initially attend one of two workshops. After 55 minutes, they can move to the alternate workshop for the remainder of the seminar or remain in their initial workshop.

1. Urban Tree Health and Biosecurity

Facilitated by Caroline Gorton, Tree Health Pathologist, Forest Research; and Emma Aspin, Biosecurity Officer, Forestry Commission

A workshop exploring emerging pests and diseases, biosecurity risks, and practical approaches to protecting urban trees.

2. Nature-Rich Spaces: Grassland and Wildflower Solutions for Climate Action

Facilitated by Wayne Priestley, APSE Associate

A workshop to explore how local authorities can use wildflower meadows and species-rich grasslands to deliver tangible climate mitigation benefits, boost biodiversity, engage communities, and improve green space management.

15:10 - 15.15 Opportunity to switch workshop

16:10 Seminar close

About

About the Seminar

This one-day seminar brings together national leaders, local authorities and frontline practitioners to explore how we can deliver greener, healthier and more resilient places for people and nature. From national nature recovery ambitions and the future of forests, to practical local solutions for parks, urban landscapes and biodiversity, the programme blends big-picture policy with real-world delivery.

Featuring expert insights from Natural England, Forestry Commission, APSE and local councils, alongside hands-on workshops on urban tree health and nature-rich spaces, the event offers inspiration, practical tools and partnership learning to help local authorities meet climate, nature and community priorities.

Venue

Evolution Suite, E4 Entrance, North East Quadrant, Old Trafford, Sir Matt Busby Way, Trafford, M16 0RA

[Get directions with Google Maps](#)



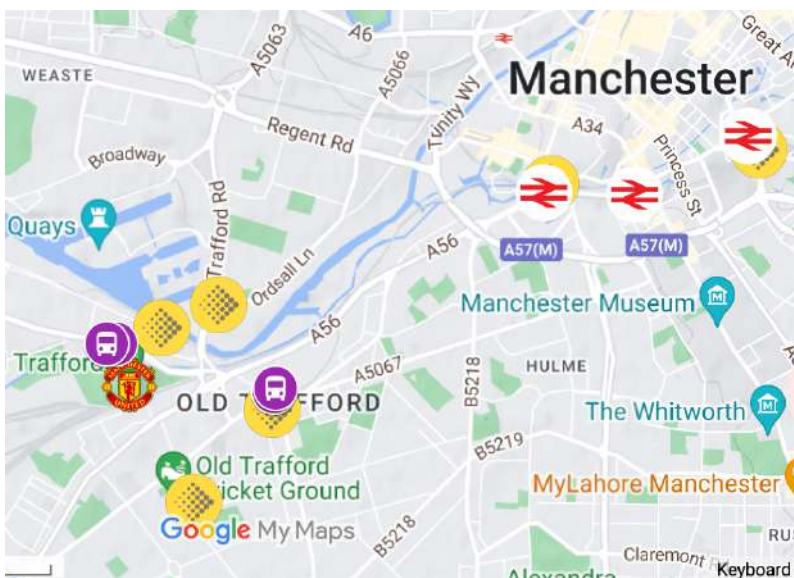
Public Transport

You can easily get to Old Trafford by bus, train or the Metrolink Service, please click on [this link](#) to plan your journey to the stadium

By Car

The car park to be used on the day is the E2 Car Park, accessed via Wharfside Way M16 0SZ.

The entrance to the suite is the E4 entrance, in the North East Quadrant, just a short walk from the car park.



Marketplace

Includes one of the largest trade exhibitions of its kind!

Our exhibition area contains a rich suite of market-leading products and services. It offers a unique opportunity to question suppliers about their latest products and pricing.

For more information about exhibition opportunities for your organisation, contact Matt Paton at Spacehouse on:

m.paton@spacehouse.co.uk



Booking

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments.

APSE member delegate fee: **£195 + VAT**

Non member delegates fee: **£290 + VAT**

Commercial delegates: **£420 + VAT**

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to mkeny@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.