

Catchment Leadership Network webinar series speaker biographies

Session 4: Regulatory processes underpinning investment in nature

Date/time: 27 October 4-5pm

Gemma Cranston

Director, Business and Nature team, CISL



Gemma is the Director of the Business and Nature team, collaborating with companies to identify strategic approaches to address their dependencies and impacts on nature. She is leading a team who are looking to amplify business support for ambitious global action on reversing nature loss, articulate a view on what business leadership looks like in the face of the ecological crisis and identify sustainable and scalable solutions.

Gemma has fifteen years of experience in sustainability working with researchers, business and governments. Through the Natural Capital Impact Group, she has worked closely with companies wishing to measure and reduce their impacts on soil, water and biodiversity in supply chains. Gemma developed the Catchment Management Declaration with a group of multi-sector actors with the ambition to tackle the collective challenges through catchment management. She has been involved in a collaborative project analysing the risks and strategies for companies to respond to pollination deficit for key commodities.

She has been a long-standing member of the Natural Capital Coalition Advisory Panel and was involved with the development and testing of the Natural Capital Protocol with over 50 businesses. Gemma has developed programmes around sustainable cotton, the future of the UK dairy sector, resilience in commercial forestry, and the food/water/energy/environment nexus.

Catherine Weller

*Programme Manager,
Business and Nature
Team, CISL*



Catherine is a Programme Manager in the Business and Nature team. She leads the Natural Capital Impact Group to assist businesses in sustaining and restoring the natural world and its resources through its strategies and operating practices and is CISL's representative on the Business for Nature coalition.

After a few years working at a law firm and specialising in environmental law, in 2011 Catherine moved to the environmental NGO ClientEarth. At ClientEarth, she led a number of litigation and advocacy workstreams ranging from revising the EU's sustainable public procurement rules to enforcing nature protection law in Polish forests, and for the last 3 years was Head of Programme for its work on ocean health and regulation of harmful chemicals.

Andrew Walker

*Catchment Strategy
Manager, Yorkshire
Water*



Andrew Walker has been at Yorkshire Water for nearly 30 years and has been the Company's expert on Upland and Lowland catchment management for the last 15 years. Andrew represents the water industry on two government stakeholder forums and has played a key role in influencing the debate on how upland peatland catchments can be managed for multiple benefits.

Andrew has worked with and is a keen advocate of Catchment Sensitive Farming and has worked with a number of Rivers' Trusts in Yorkshire to promote awareness of diffuse pollution from agriculture.

In addition, Andrew has worked with a range of academic and research partners to evaluate the success of catchment management activities and uses that to provide evidence and initiate change.

Chris Brown

*Senior Director
Sustainable Supply
Chain, ASDA*



Chris is Senior Director Sustainable Supply Chain for ASDA. His remit covers sourcing agricultural products as well as aquaculture and caught fisheries. He is a member of Walmart Sustainable Leadership group. He has previously worked for Marks and Spencer, farming levy bodies and government.

Ruth Barden

*Director of Catchment
and Environmental,
Wessex Water*



Ruth is Director of Catchment and Environmental within the Engineering and Sustainable Delivery directorate at Wessex Water. She has over 20 years' experience in the water industry, particularly focussed on environmental and wastewater aspects.

Ruth leads Wessex Water's environmental investigation programme, catchment delivery, partnership working and environmental policy. This involves elements of research, innovation, trialling new regulatory approaches and a high degree of collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders. The work programme informs Wessex Water's business plan to ensure that our environmental investment is based on sound science and good evidence.
