

Feeding the United Kingdom: Avoiding the Inevitable

Thursday 17th – Friday 18th October 2024

Participants' Biographies



Professor Tim Benton

Tim is Distinguished Fellow in the Environment and Society Programme at Chatham House, having served as Research Director and head of the Centre since 2019. He first joined Chatham House in 2016 as a visiting fellow, at which time he was also dean of strategic research initiatives at the University of Leeds. From 2011-2016 he was the 'champion' of the UK's Global Food Security programme which was a multi-agency partnership of the UK's public bodies (government departments, devolved governments and research councils) with an interest in the challenges around food.

As a leading advocate on food systems transformation, he has worked with UK governments, the EU, G20 and a range of other governments around the world, as well as leading businesses and civil society organisations. He has been a global agenda steward of the World Economic Forum, and was an author of the IPCC's Special Report on Food, Land and Climate (2019), and the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017, 2022).

He has published more than 200 academic papers, many tackling how systems respond to environmental change. His work on sustainability leadership has been recognised with an honorary fellowship of the UK's Society for the Environment, and a doctorate honoris causa from the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. He also remains a (part time) Research Professor at the University of Leeds.



Ms Sarah Bradbury

Sarah has more than 25 years' experience in retail, most recently as Group Quality Director at Tesco. She is responsible across the group for delivering high-quality safe products, sustainability, agriculture and regulatory compliance, as well as working collaboratively to influence and drive change across the entire supply chain. Prior to this, Sarah held senior commercial and marketing positions at both Tesco and Aldi.

Sarah has previously co-chaired IGD's Technical Leadership Forum, one of the organisation's critical working groups that is helping to drive change and mobilise the food and consumer goods industry as a force for good.



Miss Barbara Bray

Barbara is a Registered Nutritionist and food safety consultant.

Her work over the last 30 years focussed on delivering food safety in food supply chains and nutrition strategy for businesses, alongside leadership and educational roles in her public engagement activities.

She is currently researching diets to protect health of older adults at Queen's University Belfast under the BBSRC funded Doctoral Research Programme to train PhD researchers in food systems.

In 2017, Barbara was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship to study international food and farming systems.

In 2019, Barbara was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her 'Services to Food Nutrition'.



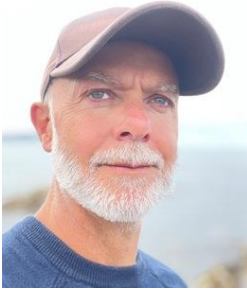
Professor Lisa Collins

Lisa is Professor of Animal Science and her expertise spans interdisciplinary research in food security, animal health and welfare and agricultural sustainability, with a particular focus on the development and application of smarter agricultural systems for healthy animals, people, and environment, through approaches including technology development, systems modelling and data analytics. Amongst a broad portfolio of research projects, Lisa led PIGSustain, a £2.06m Global Food Security programme grant and is currently leading a world-first field trial of Regenerative Agriculture practices as part of the FixOurFood project.

Lisa serves on national and international advisory, funding and academic society councils and strategy groups, including Defra Science Advisory Council, is chair of BBSRC's Strategic Advisory Panel for Biosciences for the Integrated Understanding of Health, a board member for the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre, ScotGov's Rural and Environmental Science and Analytical Services Division, and is on the Editorial Board for *The Conversation*. In 2014, she received the British Science Association Charles Darwin Award for excellence in science communication, and in 2010, the UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award. She is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, the Royal Society of Biology and Royal Statistical Society and was the British Science Association Section President for Agriculture and Food for 2020-2022.

Lisa recently moved to the University of Surrey where she has taken up the role of Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. Prior to this, Lisa was N8 Agrifood Chair in Agricultural Systems, Director of the National Pig Centre and Deputy Director of the Global Food and Environment Institute at the University of Leeds.

Mr ffinlo Costain



ffinlo is the Editor-in-Chief of 8point9.com and has worked in farming, land and food business policy for over 20 years. As Chief Executive of Farmwel (2016-2022) he gave evidence to UK parliamentary committees and advised ministers and the Committee on Climate Change on the role of agricultural climate gases. ffinlo founded the Food & Global Security Network in 2020 and published Soil Health: A security threat profile, prior to COP26. ffinlo has presented at the European Parliament and advised ministers and senior leadership teams in many European countries. His TEDx Talk, 'We can't solve the climate crisis without cows', has proved highly popular with regenerative farmers and innovators.

Mr Robert Craig



Robert is a passionate, progressive dairy farmer, holding several high-profile dairy industry positions.

Over the past 40 years, Robert has grown the small 40-cow family dairy farming business to its current scale farming on three sites totalling around 800 hectares and milking 1500 cows in Cumbria and Northumberland. Operating a predominantly spring calving, pasture-based system of milk production all the milk is supplied to First Milk on a constituent based contract, aligned to Nestle on two of the three farms. Away from the farms, Robert has served a full term of 6 years as a director and vice chairman of dairy cooperative First Milk. Robert also represented the coop at the trade association Dairy UK where he chaired the Farmer Forum. Robert is also a trustee of Stoneleigh based The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers and is currently acting as the charity's executive-chairman. Robert was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 2012 to study food chain sustainability and is still involved in various associated activities since his scholarship, most notably The Sustainable Food Trust. Robert is also a non-executive director at PFK, an Estate, Property and Land Agency operating locally in Cumbria. Robert is married to Jackie and they have four children all now grown up and finding their way in the world. Along with Jackie, Robert enjoys fell walking, cycling, Kayaking, running and Formula One.

Mr Tom Curtis



Tom is one of the three founding Directors of 3Keel, which is consistently listed by the Financial Times as one of the UK's top sustainability consultancies. Tom is also the originator of the Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) approach. Operating in multiple jurisdictions across Europe, LENs enables businesses to share the cost of securing the future of landscapes they depend on.

Tom's background is in forestry and mixed farming, and outside of 3keel he is Chair of Trustees at the Soil Association Land Trust, and on the organising committee for Food and Farming Consultations at St George's House.



Professor Bob Doherty

Bob is the founding Dean of the School for Business and Society at the University of York and leads a funded 5-year research programme called 'FixOurFood', from the UK Transforming Food Systems Strategic Priorities Fund. Previously, Bob led the interdisciplinary research programme on food resilience titled '*I Know Food*' (Global Food Security fund) funded in 2017. Bob was seconded in April 2019 for three years into the UK Government Department, DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) as a policy fellow to work on Food Systems policy development. Bob specializes in research on pro-social market mechanisms in the food system, including hybrid organizations and certification bodies.

He is a former trustee (6-years) on the board of the Fairtrade Foundation and a member of the Grow Yorkshire Board. Bob sits on the UKRI Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel in the BBSRC Research Council. He is Founding Editor Emeritus of the Social Enterprise Journal (published by Emerald publishers) after 10-years as Editor in Chief. Bob also prior to moving into academia spent 5-years as the Head of Sales and Marketing at the Fairtrade social enterprise pioneer Divine Chocolate Ltd and 8 years in the Global Animal Health Industry.



Dr Pete Falloon (FRMetS, FRSA)

Pete is the Met Office's Science Lead – Food Security, and leads the Met Office's Climate Service for Defra on Food, Farming and Natural Environment. Pete has over 25 years of experience in the impacts of climate and land use change on food systems and the environment. Pete has been at the Met Office Hadley Centre since 2004 and led the Climate Impacts Modelling team from 2009-2019. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and of the Royal Meteorological Society, a contributing author to the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) and a member of the Global Food Security Programme's Programme Coordination Group board. Pete is also Associate Professor in Climate Resilient Food Systems at the University of Bristol, Sustainability Director for Food Drink Devon CIC and an Honorary Associate at the Walker Institute.



Mr Mike Gooding

Mike is responsible for crop and livestock genetics and breeding, animal health & welfare and research at AHDB, and the development of a holistic approach to farming system development, food production and one health.

His professional career in agriculture includes the management of commercial farming operations, research and development, agricultural accountancy and finance, marketing and public relations. Experienced in the livestock sector and food processing, he has worked with some of the World's leading food brands.

He chairs RAFT Solutions, a veterinary research and training business that researches and develops new technologies in the animal health sector focused on animal breeding and fertility, and environmental impact. He chairs Smartbell, a Cambridge based start-up sensor and data management business helping to improve health and welfare in cattle.

Mike is a former Chairman of the Oxford Farming Conference, he has been a judge in the BBC Food and Farming Awards and is part of the organizing team for food and farming consultations at St George's House.



Mr Andrew Griffiths

Andy is Head of Sustainable Procurement at Diageo, a role he has held since February 2022.

As part of his role at Diageo, Andy is responsible for catalysing and enabling the sustainable transformation of Diageo's global, upstream supply footprint to support the transition to a climate, nature and people positive future. He is focussed on bringing together the procurement and engineering expertise, operational experience and environmental insights of Diageo, alongside action-orientated, collaborative partnerships, to develop and implement robust and effective sustainability solutions.

Andy has worked in the agrifood sector for over 25 years, originally in operational and engineering roles. Prior to joining Diageo, he worked as Head of Value Chain Sustainability (UK&I) at Nestlé. He is a chartered environmentalist and IEMA fellow, as well as a chartered engineer (IET).

Andy holds a number of external advisory roles, including Council Member of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and York Environmental Sustainability Institute, primarily focussed on accelerating the transformation of global food systems. He also co-developed the independent Landscape Enterprise Networks model (LENs) with 3Keel to enable effective, shared interest investment into the regeneration of multifunctional landscapes.



Mrs Shelagh Hancock

Shelagh has more than 30 years' experience in the food and agricultural supply sectors. Prior to joining First Milk as CEO in 2017 she held several senior executive positions in UK dairy food companies including at the farmer-owned co-operative Milk Link and Glanbia Foods and in a family-owned business, Medina Dairy. She originally trained as an animal nutritionist and worked for more than 10 years in the agricultural supply sector.



Ms Cathryn Higgs

Cathryn joined the Co-op in 1997 where she has held a variety of corporate policy, scientific and regulatory affairs roles and is now Head of Ethics Sustainability & Policy. Cathryn and her team develop strategy and deliver activity and campaigns that support the Co-op's responsible retailing agenda and solve for the impacts of the triple challenge of climate change, nature loss and healthy and sustainable diets. Areas of strategic responsibility include a range responsible sourcing, human rights and Fairtrade, agriculture, biodiversity, climate change, packaging, healthy and sustainable diets, food waste reduction and environmental standards etc. Cathryn has a first degree in biology and an LLM in Food Law.

Cathryn is passionate about finding real, workable solutions to food systems challenges that deliver tangible change for people and planet as well as ensuring a citizen centric approach to policy and decision making.



Professor Rowena Hill

Rowena is Professor of Resilience, Emergencies and Disaster Science at Nottingham Trent University. With over 20 years researching alongside the UK emergency and resilience structures. Her research broadly focuses on resilience, wellbeing and risk. She has successfully delivered previous projects with the National Fire Chiefs Council, the National Police Chiefs Council, and other organisations. She was the embedded scientist for the Covid 19 National Foresight Group (for which she was awarded an MBE). She has worked alongside national portfolio holders of civil contingencies for the past 10 years. She is the chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council Academic Collaboration, Evaluation and Research Group, sits on the NFCC Health and Wellbeing Board, the Academic Reference Group for HMICFRS, and is the National Honorary Research Lead for the Fire Fighters Charity. She has recently concluded a Policy Fellowship with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and is currently the embedded scientist for the cross government department, cross agency and cross sector Climate Security National Foresight Group.



Dr Susan Jebb

Susan is Professor of Diet and Population Health in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences at the University of Oxford and a Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College. Her research centres on how what we eat affects the health of people and the planet and how we might support a change towards healthier and more sustainable diets. To this end, her research team develop and test interventions that aim to change the behaviour of individuals, food businesses and policymakers – with a focus on avoiding overconsumption and limiting intake of meat.

Susan has worked extensively with governments in England to encourage dietary change. She was the science advisor for the Foresight obesity report and subsequently seconded (0.2FTE) to the Department of Health as a science advisor on obesity and food policy (2007-2015). She is currently Chair of the UK Food Standards Agency.



Dr Emma Keller

Emma is Head of Sustainability for Nestlé UK&I, focusing on delivering the ambitious net zero climate commitment and driving the business to be a force for good. Prior to joining Nestlé, Emma led a team at WWF on food system transformation and before that was in Unilever's sustainability team working on bringing the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan to life. She also holds a doctorate in supply chain sustainability.



Mr Martin Lines

Martin is an arable farmer and contractor in South Cambridgeshire with a special interest in farm conservation management. He currently runs ELS, HLS, and Countryside Stewardship schemes on the land he manages.

As Chair of the Nature Friendly Farming Network UK, Martin is dedicated to sharing best practices and demonstrating what can be achieved for nature and the environment while producing great produce. With the growing demands of climate change, reaching Net Zero is more important than ever, and Martin is passionate about championing how this can be achieved through nature-friendly farming while supporting and maintaining profitable farming businesses.



Professor Tom Oliver

Tom is the Research Dean for Environment at the University of Reading and a Professor of Applied Ecology. He was seconded to Defra in the UK government to set up a 'Systems Research Programme', and has advised the Cabinet Office on 'chronic risks' to complement the UK National Security Risk Assessment. He currently sits on the Food Standards Agency science council and expert college for the Office for Environmental Protection. Tom has led consortium projects developing methods to appraise systemic risks to food security, and is an inaugural member of the international ASRA network developing approaches to assess complex risks. He has published more than 100 scientific papers in world-leading interdisciplinary journals. He enjoys communicating science through popular writing (including a book called: 'The Self Delusion: The Surprising Science of Our Connection to Each Other and the Natural World') and speaking at public events.



Miss Elizabeth Passey

Elizabeth is a Trustee (past-Chairman) of the Wye & Usk Foundation, and a Trustee of The Rivers Trust, and Senior Adviser to J Stern & Company Private Investment Office. She is past Chairman of The Rural Payments Agency and past Chairman (Convener) of The University of Glasgow.

She is a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford – The Said Business School Centre for Corporate Reputation, and past Technical Advisor to WWF Global Futures Project. She is an ambassador for The 30% Club and Co-Chair of The 30% Club Higher Education Initiative. Elizabeth is a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company, and Member of the Company's Investment Committee.

She is a past Non-Executive Director of VPC Specialty Lending Investments PLC, past Member of the Board of the National Lottery Community Fund, past Chairman of the Committee of Scottish University Chairs, and executive committee (EXCO) member of The Committee of University Chairs, past Managing Director of Morgan Stanley, past Chairman of the Board of Morgan Stanley International Foundation and a past Managing Director of Investec Asset Management. She is a past consultant to Artemis Fund Management and EFG Harris Allday.

She is a former Vice President & Member of Council of The Zoological Society of London, and former Programme Committee member of WWF-UK. She was a founding Trustee of The Black Mountains College Project.

She graduated with a First Class MA Honours degree from The University of Glasgow. In 2015 she was named one of *The 100 Women to Watch* in Cranfield Business School's *Female FTSE Board Report*.



Mrs Nicola Riley

Nicola is Deputy Director for Agriculture and Land at the Environment Agency leading a team of experienced and dedicated professionals developing and delivering approaches for the regulation of agriculture and sustainable land management practices across the farming and land contamination sector.

Nicola has over 25 years' experience across positions in the public and civil service covering a range of issues including water and air quality, biodiversity, soils and agriculture. She has a track record of turning strategy into action and is passionate about developing policy approaches that deliver multiple outcomes for the environment and people. Nicola values diversity and inclusion to get the best from individuals, teams and those she works with.

Her home is in Cheshire where she lives with her husband and two outgoing and active teenage children.



Mr Robert Shepherd

Robert is a farmer, running an 800ha mixed farming partnership, rotating arable crops around pigs, cattle and sheep. The mission of the farm is to produce high quality crops and meat at the same time as protecting and enhancing the environment.

Robert has been course director of the IAgriM Leadership Development Programme since 2014, training delegates from UK and abroad at the forefront of the agricultural industry.

He is Chairman of the Environmental Farmers Group, a farmer owned co-operative set up in 2020 to secure financial reward for English farmers by trading natural capital.

Robert is Chairman of the Allenford Farmers Cluster group, the first farmer environmental cluster group to be set up in 2013, developing farmer-led conservation around the Martin Down Nature reserve in West Hampshire.

Robert previously served as an infantry officer in the Army. He has served on the AHDB Pork Board, the AHDB Pork Marketing Board, the NFU Mutual Regional Advisory board and the Wiltshire Grain board. Robert is a Fellow of The Royal Agricultural Society.



Mr Joe Stanley

Joe is a farmer, conservationist and Head of Sustainable Farming at the GWCT's Allerton Project, a research and demonstration farm on the Leicestershire/Rutland border which has been investigating sustainable farming and landscape management since 1992.

Joe is also active in the wider agricultural industry, acting as county chair of Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland National Farmers Union (NFU) and sitting on the NFU national Environment Forum. He is a regular columnist for *Farmers Weekly* and *Countryside* among other publications, and author of '*Farm to Fork: The Challenge of Sustainable Farming in 21st Century Britain*' released in 2021.

In 2020 he received the NFU's national 'Meurig Raymond Award' for his industry advocacy, followed by Associateship of the Royal Agricultural Societies in 2022.



Professor Alice Stanton

Alice is a clinician-scientist. Current roles include; Professor of Cardiovascular Therapeutics at the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Consultant for Healthy Sustainable Diets.

She served on the Committee developing "Ireland's Agri-food Strategy to 2030", and as an Assembly Member for the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission. She is a Member of the Irish Climate and Health Coalition, the World Action against Salt, Sugar, and Health (WASSH), Meat Technology Ireland, and the Scientific Council of the World Farmers Organisation.

She has authored in excess of 150 peer-reviewed published papers (Scopus h-index 60), and has delivered many lectures concerning evidence-based healthy diets from sustainable food systems. Recently, she authored an important perspective, published in *npj Science of Food*, which robustly questions the use of substandard metrics in policy decisions which mandate large reductions in animal-source foods.



Professor Jonathan Statham

Jonathan is Chief Executive at RAFT Solutions and Professor of Sustainable Livestock Health & Welfare at Harper and Keele Veterinary School, chairing the InSHAW research group there. He is a practicing independent farm veterinary surgeon, graduating from Cambridge University in 1996 and is a partner and chair of Bishopton Veterinary Group. Jonathan is a Fellow and Specialist of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; in 2015 he was awarded the UK Dairy Vet of the year. He is Past-President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA), has held a range of representative or policy linked roles and currently sits on the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) of the VMD, the steering group of the Ruminant Health & Welfare Group, the EU 'Q fever' one health panel, the animal science advisory board of the KTN and chair of the Defra Pathway Chairs Group. He is a Fellow of Askham Bryan College and chairs the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England at Defra. He has published widely in the field of sustainable food, herd health, precision livestock farming and breeding technologies



Mr Mark Southern

Mark previously worked for Barclays Plc for 35 years and was Managing Director & National Head of Agriculture focused on Farming, Landed Estates, Agri-Tech and Sustainability Energy & Environment and now has a portfolio of roles: -

- Chair and Trustee of Farming Community Network (FCN)
- Non-Executive member of the Rural Payments Agency Advisory Management Board and Audit & Risk Assurance Committee
- Non-Executive Director at the Environment Agency (sitting on the following boards – Environment & Business, Flood and Coastal Risk Management and Audit & Risk Assurance Committee)
- Member of DEFRA Farming Innovation Programme Strategy Group
- Commissioner for the UK Farm Assurance Review Commission (Red Tractor et al)
- Chair and external Advisor to FixOurFood - (University of York)
- Trustee for the Institute of Agricultural Management
- Lay-Canon and Vice Chair of the Chapter at Lincoln Cathedral
- Co-Chaired – Green Finance Institute – Finance for Farming Report
- Organiser – St Georges House Windsor Castle – Farming

Mark is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Fellow of IAGRM, Associate of Royal Agricultural Societies and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Mr David Walston

After working as a photographer and then magazine editor, David joined Thriplow Farms in 2011 as a junior tractor driver. After five years learning how the business worked, and undertaking a Nuffield Scholarship in 2015, he moved into a management role. Since that point Thriplow Farms became one of the first farms in the country to successfully and fully adopt regenerative farming practices such as no-till, cover cropping, and high density planned grazing. The farm is highly involved in environmental schemes, including both Mid and Higher tier Countryside Stewardship, and the Sustainable Farming Incentive. David has also spent four years on the AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds Sector Council.



Mr Hugh Ward

Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1986, Hugh has served in mechanised, light, air support and commando units on operations from warfighting, peace keeping to disaster relief. In 1992, Hugh was part of the successful British North Geomagnetic Pole Expedition. In 2002 he was awarded the MBE and completed his last 2 years of service as a Squadron Commander in Afghanistan, Iraq and Northern Ireland.

Joining Saab Technologies in 2004, Hugh delivered training solutions in Kenya, Belize, Oman, Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2011 he was part of a team that improved the detection of Improvised Explosive Devices which significantly reduced the number of casualties.

Moving beyond Saab in 2019, to help people to address their challenges in a coherent and effective way, Hugh worked with Professor Sir Muir Gray to improve Healthspan, designed programmes in Malawi to help Smallholders to move beyond Tobacco, designed a Commonwealth Vaccination Campaign Model, helped to develop an Autonomous System to disable the spread of disease and is now working with the Lynster Farmers Group to enable food, environmental and societal systems.

Happily married to Eve, since 1989, with 2 wonderful children: Ru and Jack.



Mr Graham Wilkinson

Graham is an experienced agriculturalist with a deep understanding of best-practice production methods – particularly across the dairy, beef, lamb, pork and poultry sectors. He has gained considerable practical knowledge from his time working on his family farm as well as for Tesco PLC, Arla Foods and now AHDB.

Prior to joining AHDB on 1 March 2024, Graham led the Global Agriculture team at Arla Foods, supporting over 8,500 cooperative farmer owners across seven markets and managing the delivery of innovative commercial milk concepts on farm. During his extensive career at Arla, he worked in both UK and global roles, helping to steer and develop a data-driven, on-farm sustainability agenda, both for specific commercial customers and the wider cooperative.

He has also spent time in the retail sector at Tesco PLC, joining the company in 2011 as Agriculture Manager. During this time, Graham was integral to the implementation of Tesco's Sustainable Farming Groups within its MFPE category before moving across to the dairy category. Working alongside Tesco's Sustainable Dairy Group members, he helped develop the company's agriculture policy and strategy for the dairy category while collaborating with the Commercial and Technical Teams. Graham also developed the 'Tesco Future Farmer Foundation', which was established to support new entrants and young farmers to launch their careers in agriculture.

In his role as CEO of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), Graham is looking forward to promoting and unleashing the full potential of British farmers and growers for the future and is absolute in the view that British agriculture is among the best in the world.



Mr Ian Wright

Ian has spent his entire career working at the intersection of business and politics. He was Communications Director of Boots The Chemist (1997-2000), Corporate Relations Director of Diageo plc (2000-14) and Chief Executive of the Food & Drink Federation (2015-22). His public service roles include conducting departmental effectiveness reviews for the Cabinet Office, Chair of the Food & Drink Sector Council and Chair of the Food & Drink Export Council (2022 to date). He is currently a partner at Acuti Associates and Chair of DeLux Blockchain plc. He writes a regular column on the politics of food for The Grocer and is a frequent - and sometimes contentious - speaker and podcaster. He was awarded the CBE for political and public service in 2015.