

WILD ESSEX IMAGINARIUM

University of Essex - 27 September 2025

This event will appeal to academics, art practitioners, heritage workers, activists and policy makers. The Wild Essex Imaginarium aims to re-energise/re-enchant the relationship between the arts and conservation practice in Essex over the next five years of this 'critical decade'.

We begin by asking how arts and cultural practice and engagement can influence environmental policy (local/regional/national) and support diverse participation. With the recent publication of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy, this has become an ever more important issue.

A CULTURAL ENGINE RESEARCH GROUP EVENT

Wild Essex Imaginarium
University of Essex Business School -
University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, CO4 3SQ
What3Words - ///saying.homes.atoms
27th September 2025 – 11am to 5pm

- Ken Worpole • Mona Arshi
• Karen McCarthy Woolf • Lora Aziz
• Justin Hopper • Jessica Pearce
• Essex Wildlife Trust
• The Minorities • Beth Chatto



Free Event –
Search
'Wild Essex Imaginarium'
to register



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Time	Session	Duration
11:00 -11.25	Welcome and intros – Tony Sampson, Tom Cameron (University of Essex) and Giles Tofield (Cultural Engine CIC)	25 mins
11:25-12:25	Ken Worpole: Brightening from the East: Experiments in Living and what we can learn for today's challenges – followed by interview with Tim Burrows author of The Invention of Essex	60 mins
12:25 -12:40	TEA AND COFFEE BREAK	
	Specially commissioned work from Alien – Aurally mapping our (wild) environment	15 mins
12:40 - 13:30	Nature Poetry from the Global Majority: Mona Arshi & Karen McCarthy Woolf	50 mins
13:30 -14:30	LUNCH	
	Music from Alien and Exhibition – Atrium as venue Poetry from Justin Hopper Optional Nature Walk around the grounds with Lora Aziz (20 min)	60 mins
14:30 -15:15	Lora Aziz: Creative methodologies and a reimagining of our relationship with the living world Jessica Pearce: Legendary Essex folklore, celebrated land and shared stories of place	45 mins
15:15 -15:30	TEA AND COFFEE BREAK	15 mins
	MUSIC AND EXHIBITION	
15:30 -16:30	Environmental and Nature-related Policy Influence and Change: Steve Waters (UEA) on Drama: New Spaces, New Audiences and Environmental Policy, Rich Yates (Essex Wildlife Trust), Emma Howe (The Minorities Gallery Colchester) & David Gates (Beth Chatto)	60 mins
16:30 -17:00	Tom Cameron - Final Discussion and Ideas Board	30 mins
17:00	Event ends	30 mins
17:30	Optional river walk into City Centre – Drinks in a pub somewhere	45 mins

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