

'Nature' References - Bob Clarke, WLP, 11 September 2023

We use the words '**Nature**' and '**Natural**' in so many contradictory ways that their meaning is obscure, and their use is obfuscatory! Words like '*Natural*' and '*Unnatural*' reveal our attitudes towards aspects of our world, but they are so ill-defined that it is best to avoid them when we need to make policy decisions, especially those relating to Ecological Sustainability, The Biosphere and Biodiversity.

References listed in order of surname of first author/contributor:

- Robert Boyle**, '*A Free Inquiry into the Vulgarly Received Notion of Nature*' (1686); eds: Edward B Davis & Michael Hunter, (Cambridge, 1996). [Robert Boyle: A Free Enquiry into the Vulgarly Received Notion of Nature \(cambridge.org\)](#). See also Michael Hunter: [The Making of Robert Boyle's "Free Enquiry into the Vulgarly Receiv'd Notion of Nature" \(1686\) on JSTOR](#)
- Melvyn Bragg & Guests**, '*Photosynthesis*', BBC R4 '*In our Time*': 14/5/20: [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Photosynthesis](#)
- Clifford D Connor**, '*A People's History of Science*', (New York, Nation Books).
- F Ducarme & D Couvet**, '*What does 'nature' mean?*', *Palgrave Communications*, vol 6: 14 (2020).
[What does 'nature' mean? | Humanities and Social Sciences Communications](#)
- F Ducarme**, '*What is nature?*' *Encyclopedia of the Environment*, (2021).
[What is nature? - Encyclopedia of the Environment \(encyclopedie-environnement.org\)](#)
- F Ducarme, F Flipo & D Couvet**, '*How the diversity of human concepts of nature affects conservation of biodiversity*', *Conservation Biology*, 35, Issue 3, June 2021, pp. 1019-1028. [The Society for Conservation Biology \(wiley.com\)](#)
- E Elchaham et al.**, '*Global human-made mass exceeds all living biomass*', *Nature* 588, 442-444 (2020).
[Global human-made mass exceeds all living biomass | Nature](#)
- Roderick Floud**, '*Dams, Radiators and The Shard: The Legacy of English Gardening*', Gresham College Lecture (2019).
[Dams, Radiators and The Shard: The Legacy of English Gardening \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#)
- Carl Folke et al.**, '*Our Future in the Anthropocene Biosphere*', *Ambio*, April 2021; 50(4): pp 834-869, online: [Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere \(nih.gov\)](#), see also [Nobel Prize Summit - NobelPrize.org](#)
- Peter Godfrey-Smith**, '*Other Minds: The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life*', (William Collins, 2017).
- Lynn Hunt**, '*Inventing Human Rights: A History*', (New York, W W Norton & Co, 2007)
- Steve Jones**: '*Is Man just another Animal*', Gresham College Lecture (2013):
[Is Man Just Another Animal? \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#).
- Elizabeth Kolbert**, '*The Sixth Extinction*', (London: Bloomsbury, 2014).
- Jacqueline McGlade**, '*Is Nature Good for your Health?*', Gresham College Lecture (2019).
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/reconnecting-with-nature>
- Jacqueline McGlade**, '*Connected Nature*', Gresham College Lecture (2019): [Connected Nature \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#).
- Carolyn Merchant**, '*The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*' (SF: Harper Collins, 1980).
- Alice Roberts**, '*Tamed – Ten Species that changed our World*', (London: Windmill Books, Penguin, 2017).
- Merlyn Sheldrake**, '*Entangled Life*', (Bodley Head, 2020).
- D Simberloff**, '*The "Balance of Nature" — Evolution of a Panchreston*', *PLoS Biol* 12(10), 2014: e1001963.
[The "Balance of Nature" — Evolution of a Panchreston | PLOS Biology](#)
- Tom Stoppard**, '*Arcadia*', (Faber & Faber, 1993, many reprints).
- D M Walsh**, '*Organisms, Agency, and Evolution*', (Cambridge, 2015).
- Elizabeth Whitney**, '*The "Mind Forg'd Manacles" of Blake's Poetry*', [The "Mind-forg'd Manacles" of Blake's Poetry \(uh.edu\)](#)
- Lynn White**, '*The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis*', *Science*, 155, 1967, pp 1203 – 1207.
- Tom Williamson**, '*How Natural is Natural*', Gresham College Lecture (2018).
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/professors-and-speakers/tom-williamson/>
- Peter Wohlleben**, '*The Hidden Life of Trees*', (William Collins, 2017).
- Peter Wohlleben**, '*The Inner Life of Animals*', (London: Vintage, 2018).

Weblinks:

Cities as National Parks: [English cities could be given national park status under new proposals | Conservation | The Guardian](#)

Goats in the Avon Gorge: [Conservation on the Bristol side of the Avon Gorge and the Downs](#)

Domestication changes the shape of animal faces: [Domestication Made Dogs' Facial Anatomy More Fetching to Humans - Scientific American](#). **Steven-Jay Gould** on the evolution of Mickey Mouse: [Mickey.pdf \(uca.edu\)](#)

The Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness (2012): [CambridgeDeclarationOnConsciousness.pdf \(fcmconference.org\)](#) - [FiRe 2015: The Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness - YouTube](#) - [Animals are conscious and should be treated as such | New Scientist](#)

Animal Rights: *Pro:* **Tom Regan:** [Tom Regan - Wikipedia](#), **Peter Singer:** [Peter Singer - Wikipedia](#)

Anti: **Roger Scruton:** [Roger Scruton - Wikipedia](#) see e.g. [Roger Scruton | Issue 27 | Philosophy Now](#)

River Rights: [Laws of nature: could UK rivers be given the same rights as people? | Rivers | The Guardian](#)

Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers: [Earth Law Center | Champions for the Rights of Nature](#) ...

[UDRR Nov+2020+Final.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Royal Swedish Academy of Science Report: **Carl Folke *et al.***, '*Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere*', *Ambio*, April 2021; 50(4): pp 834–869, [Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere \(nih.gov\)](#), see also [Nobel Prize Summit - NobelPrize.org](#).

Melvyn Bragg & Guests, '*Photosynthesis*', BBC R4 '*In our Time*': 14/5/20: [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Photosynthesis](#)

Natural History Museum, Yvonne Da Silva & Lisa Hendry, '*British Wildlife – How to grow a lawn that's better for wildlife*', [How to grow a lawn that's better for wildlife | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#).

Natural History Museum, Katie Pavid, '*Beekeeping in cities is harming other wildlife, study finds*', 30 Sept 2020.

[Beekeeping in cities is harming other wildlife, study finds | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)

Natural History Museum Urban Nature Project: [Urban Nature Project | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)

Water Voles: [Endangered water voles to be reintroduced to London | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)

Hedgehogs: [Britain's rural hedgehogs see dramatic population decline | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](#)

Nature and Us: BBC TV Series, 2021, with James Fox: [BBC iPlayer - Nature and Us: A History through Art - Series 1: Episode 1: Human Art and Nature](#).

Guardian:

'English cities could be given national park status under new proposals', Harry Taylor, Sat 21 Aug 2021 17.00 BST.

[English cities could be given national park status under new proposals | Conservation | The Guardian](#)

'Humans v nature: our long and destructive journey to the age of extinction', *The Guardian*, Fri 25 Nov 2022 10.00

GMT, [Humans v nature: our long and destructive journey to the age of extinction | Biodiversity | The Guardian](#)

'The Biodiversity Crisis in Numbers - A Visual Guide', *The Guardian*, Tue 6 Dec 2022, 12.48 GMT :

[The biodiversity crisis in numbers - a visual guide | Cop15 | The Guardian](#)

UN on COP15: '*COP15 ends with landmark biodiversity agreement*', 20 Dec 2022.

[COP15 ends with landmark biodiversity agreement \(unep.org\)](#)

Gresham College Lectures on 'Nature' – Online:

Roderick Floud, '*Dams, Radiators and The Shard: The Legacy of English Gardening*', Gresham College Lecture (2019). [Dams, Radiators and The Shard: The Legacy of English Gardening \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#).

Jacqueline McGlade, '*Is Nature Good for your Health?*', Gresham College Lecture (2019).

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/reconnecting-with-nature>.

Jacqueline McGlade, '*Connected Nature*', Gresham College Lecture (2019): [Connected Nature \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#).

Tom Williamson, '*How Natural is Natural*', Gresham College Lecture (2018):

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/professors-and-speakers/tom-williamson/>

Steve Jones: '*Is Man just another Animal*', Gresham College Lecture (2013):

[Is Man Just Another Animal? \(gresham.ac.uk\)](#)