UK Earth Observation Conference 2026

15–17 September, University of Warwick

WORKSHOPS

Workshops

TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

1.02 EO ‘for Dummies’ (Part A)

1.06 Panel: EO Gaps needs to Support UK Carbon Accounting and Forestry

1.09 Communications for Impact: World Café

Atrium ESA Drop-in Surgery

Atrium UKSA Drop-in Surgery

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

1.02 EO ‘for Dummies’ (Part B)

1.03 From Drones to Orbit: Creating a Virtuous Lidar Ecosystem in the UK

1.06 Bridging Space & Regulation: Unlocking EO for Environmental Governance

1.07 Getting Started with Cloud EO with Python (Part A + B)

1.08 Data Gaps for Terrestrial EO

1.09 Beyond the Horizon: Unlocking the Next Step in your Career

Tuesday
15 September

Catherine Fitzsimons

NCEO

EO ‘for Dummies’
Part A

1.02 Tuesday 15:30–17:30

The ‘dummies’ in the title of these two workshops are people who know (or think they know) nothing about Earth observation (EO) but do not need to understand how to access or work with numerical data. These people include children and young people at school or college, and what is usually referred to as 'the general public' whom we might encounter at a science festival.

In Part A we will examine our own assumptions about these audiences, think about how we can get more background information, and look at some existing presentations and resources. We will discuss which might be appropriate to use off the shelf in particular circumstances, and consider what adaptations might allow others to be used with a group of people that is different to that for which they were written.

You can attend part A even if you are not planning to attend part B.

Luke Smallman (chair)

NCEO / University of Edinburgh

Panel: EO Gaps Needs to Support UK Carbon Accounting and Forestry

1.06 Tuesday 15:30–17:30

In this session we aim to advance the discussion on how EO and EO-informed approaches can address challenges for the UK's carbon account and forestry.

The session will open with a 3–5 minute ‘pitch’ from each of our experts on what they see as the biggest gap we can address. We will then open panel to questions from the from the audience.

We wish to promote open discussion and identify opportunities for advancement and collaboration between academia, industry and policy stakeholders.

Our panellists are:

- Mathias Disney (NCEO / University College London)
- Heiko Batzler (NCEO / Leicester University)
- Amanda Thomson (UKCEH)
- Pedro Rodríguez-Veiga (Sylvera)
- Leon DeBell (UK woodland carbon code / Scottish Forestry)

Tara Thompson
Sally Stevens

NCEO
Space4Climate

Communications for Impact World Café

1.09 Tuesday 15:30–17:30

The Communications for Impact World Café is designed to strengthen communication and impact skills across the UK EO community. Led by Space4Climate and the National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO), with support from the Natural Environment Research Council and others, the session will bring together researchers, science communicators, industry professionals, policymakers, funders and impact specialists to explore how effective communication can increase the influence and uptake of Earth observation research and innovation.

The session will begin with a panel discussion featuring experts from academia, industry, funding organisations and policy, supported by real-world case studies. Following audience questions, participants will take part in a collaborative World Café exercise, where small groups will discuss communications challenges and opportunities. Each table will develop practical outputs, including recommended resources and a set of key “Dos and Don’ts” for impactful communication.

The workshop is designed to build confidence, knowledge and practical skills, particularly in evidencing and communicating impact. Participants will leave with new tools, trusted resources, professional connections and actionable insights. Outputs from the discussions will be compiled into an openly available resource, providing lasting value for the wider EO community and supporting more effective storytelling around the critical question: “So what?”

Bahaa Alhaddad

European Space Agency

ESA Drop-in Surgery

Atrium Tuesday 15:30–17:30

Use this time to meet with ESA representatives to discuss opportunities, questions around upcoming funding calls, missions or programmes.

Also learn how to access, analyse and visualise decades of satellite-derived climate data generated by the European Space Agency's Climate Change Initiative (ESA CCI).

Visit the ESA stand for a demonstration of the ESA-CCI Toolbox, a Python package for querying, subsetting and analysing Essential Climate Variables (ECVs). See it in action with Juypyter Notebooks demonstrating how it can help you explore climate trends and patterns for a suite of ECVs and understand why these datasets are essential for monitoring climate change.

Book an individual slot here https://tally.so/r/ODKybY and please bring your own laptop. For more information visit https://climate.esa.int/en/climate-change-initiative-training/

Beth Greenaway
Lauren Newell

UK Space Agency

UKSA Drop-in Surgery

Tuesday 15:30–17:30

Use this time to meet with UKSA representatives to discuss opportunities, questions around upcoming funding calls, missions or programmes.

Wednesday
16 September

Catherine Fitzsimons

NCEO

EO ‘for Dummies’
Part B

1.02 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

The ‘dummies’ in the title of these two workshops are people who know (or think they know) nothing about Earth observation (EO) but do not need to understand how to access or work with numerical data. These people include children and young people at school or college, and what is usually referred to as 'the general public' whom we might encounter at a science festival.

Lack of time or short notice means we often fall back on same presentations or activities or have an idea but are not sure how to make it work. Part B will provide a space to work with people from your own or other institutions to begin development of a new resource while being supported by at least one person with experience and expertise in this area.

You do not need to have attended Part A to come to this, nor do you necessarily need to have an idea of your own to start with.

Nicolas Leveque

CEOI

From Drones to Orbit - Creating a Virtuous Lidar Ecosystem in the UK

1.03 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

Spaceborne (and high-altitude platform-borne) LIDAR are among the very promising technologies for global observation of the Earth from satellites, with applications in vegetation monitoring for the carbon-credit market, atmospheric chemistry and dynamics, water quality, as well as national security and defence, to name but a few.

Currently, there are only a very few, large spaceborne lidar missions (such as Aeolus, EarthCARE, ICESat, GEDI), some already retired, and only a couple of new/replacement missions in the pipeline. Lidar data is sparse, primarily originates from UAV-mounted instruments with limited global coverage or systematic revisit. The lack of data available therefore prevents the adoption by end users, which discourages from technology development, and so on and so forth.

The purpose of this workshop is to gather the wider EO community (end users, scientists and technologists) to identify current capabilities and challenges, both upstream and downstream, and draw roadmaps through a series of cross-disciplinary brainstorming exercises.

Beyond the roadmaps, a key outcome of the workshop will be the active cross-disciplinary networking, centred of science and technology, sowing the seeds of future collaboration. We will also encourage long-term collaboration by encouraging small teams to write a cross-disciplinary proposal / summary offline, before the end of the year, for each of the concepts, and elaborate a first specific high-level roadmap.

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Rushanka Amrutkar

Environment Agency

Bridging Space & Regulation
Unlocking EO for Environmental Governance

1.06 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

This workshop brings together regulators, policymakers, space agencies, academics, and industry leaders to explore how Earth Observation (EO) data from satellites and aerial platforms can better support environmental regulation. It will focus on the practical monitoring challenges faced by regulators and examine how current and emerging EO capabilities can help with compliance checking, policy assurance and evidence-based decision making.

Discussion will include: the reliability and accuracy of EO data for regulatory use, readiness across different sectors, and common barriers such as data confidence, skills, and capability gaps. The workshop will also look ahead to future sensing technologies and consider effective models for partnership, data access, and data sharing. The event is designed to encourage open discussion and will aim to produce clear, actionable recommendations to strengthen the integration of EO into regulatory practice.

Dhritiraj Sengupta

GMV

Getting Started with Cloud EO With Python (Part A +B)

1.07 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

This workshop introduces participants and Earth Observation (EO) beginners to the Copernicus ecosystem, teaching participants how to leverage cloud-based satellite data for infrastructure monitoring using Python. The session focuses on practical, hands-on application through two real-world use cases: assessing and optimizing solar energy efficiency, and monitoring rail corridors to identify structural vulnerabilities and environmental risks. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a foundational understanding of how to navigate cloud OpenEO platform (https://openeo.cloud/about/) and apply Copernicus data to address modern infrastructure challenges.

Michael Cartwright

NCEO / University of Leicester

Identifying Earth Observation Gaps and Opportunities in Carbon Cycle and Earth System Science

1.08 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

Earth Observation is generating an ever-expanding range of datasets that have the potential to transform our understanding of the Earth system. However, many observational products remain underutilised, while important gaps continue to limit progress across environmental modelling and prediction.

This interactive workshop will discuss observational needs, emerging datasets, methodological challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. The scope is intentionally broad, with the terrestrial carbon cycle at the centre. It also encompasses auxiliary observations, atmospheric measurements, land surface and hydrological datasets, new satellite missions, machine learning, data assimilation, and other approaches that can strengthen our understanding of the carbon cycle, the wider Earth system, and related environmental research.

After an introduction, the workshop will move into a series of optional lightning talks (2–5 minutes) from volunteers, designed to introduce challenges, datasets (or gaps in existing observations), or ideas that stimulate discussion. The session will then be devoted to participant-led discussion and breakout groups, with themes guided by both the lightning talks and attendee interests. Participants are encouraged to suggest discussion topics in advance, although attendance does not require giving a presentation.

Researchers from all career stages and disciplines are warmly invited to participate. The aim is to identify common challenges, share knowledge of emerging observational capabilities, highlight gaps in existing EO datasets and opportunities for future development, and foster new collaborations across the EO community.

Emily Dowd (chair)

NCEO / University of Leeds

Beyond the Horizon
Unlocking the Next Step in your Career

1.09 Wednesday 15:30–17:00

Career journeys are rarely linear, and navigating the next step can bring both exciting opportunities and significant challenges. This session will provide a forum for scientists and practitioners from academia, industry, and the public sector to share experiences, insights, and practical approaches to career development at the early and mid-career stages.

The session will begin with a series of short lightning talks highlighting initiatives and programmes that support career progression. The lightning talks will be followed by an interactive panel discussion exploring key topics that shape career progression, including moving between academia and industry, balancing professional ambitions with caring responsibilities, neurodiversity and accessibility in the workplace, developing leadership skills, and building resilience in the face of challenges and setbacks.

This session aims to foster open discussion, encourage knowledge sharing, and provide attendees with practical insights and inspiration to help them navigate their own career journeys. We will also use the discussions and feedback from this session to draft concrete actions for continued career support and mentoring.

NCEO EDI Working Group