

GET INVOLVED IN THE UK'S FIRST DIGITAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL:

Digital Festival of Nature

Each year in June, Festival of Nature brings the UK's biggest celebration of the natural world to Bristol and Bath, with info stalls, exhibits, talks, hands-on activities and more.

This year we are creating the Digital Festival of Nature, the UK's first virtual science festival, and we're inviting you to get involved. We're working together with the University of Bath's Public Engagement Unit on this experiment to see how we might engage festival-goers with the natural world on an interactive digital platform.

Digital Festival of Nature is aimed primarily at an adult audience, including content appropriate for 14+ year olds, and will enable us to reach new audiences:

- from further afield, right across the UK
- those with accessibility challenges
- those who engage at a different time of day
- those with less time to engage

What will this digital engagement look like? That is partly up to you! Content might include:

- videos of live talks / panel discussions
- podcasts
- online chat with specialists
- info on actions people can engage with
- live streaming from wildlife sites, e.g. [Badgercam](#).
- instruction sheets or videos
- games or surveys, e.g. 'Which animal superpower would you choose?'

Types of content can link to each other, for example live chat with participants of a pre-recorded podcast. The University of Bath team have come up with some great ideas below to inspire you.

Want to find out more?

If you would like to find out more about the Digital Festival of Nature or have an idea you'd like to discuss with us please email digitalFON@bnhc.org.uk.

See next page for more content inspiration



MORE CONTENT INSPIRATION:

Ask Me Anything

Inspired by Ask Me Anything hosted on Reddit, the digital platform can host a chat space where festival-goers are invited to spend a couple of hours asking you questions about your field.

Live 'in-conversation'

Do you want to answer questions in person? Be part of a live hosted discussion where you answer questions submitted online from the festival audience. This hosted question and answer format between you and a host is a great way to enable festival-goers to feel at ease at asking questions about your work. See the Natural History Museum archive of their #NHM_Live Facebook Live events.

Video tours

Take festival-goers into your working environment to find out what goes on behind the scenes.

Panel discussion

Bring together your colleagues to discuss a topic inspired by the Festival of Nature, this could be pre-recorded ahead of the Festival and to engage festival-goers you could be available for an online chat with participants following up with the content discussed during the event.

From the Field

Want to enthuse festival-goers about your work in the field? How about live streaming from a field site illustrating your work?

Specimen Spotlight

Shine the spotlight on one specimen showcasing the natural history of that specimen, it could be anything, share what you know and what fascinates you about your work.

Photography exhibition

Make use of those photos in your folders or locked away on your phone by creating an exhibition of images about your work.

DIY Demonstrations

Do you have a demonstration or a technique you use that could be easily replicated at home for virtual festival-goers? It could be a 'how-to-guide' to simple and easy field studies techniques or a demonstration to illustrate some of the key concepts in your work. The Exploratorium at San Francisco have some great examples of guides and videos of demonstration such as Science Snacks and How to Build a Sun Viewer.

Video series

Creating short and engaging videos that demonstrate and illustrate your work are an excellent way to use the digital platform, using these as prompts you could host a live online Q+A with viewers to discover more about the content from the videos. Check out the videos created by the Okeanos Explorer team on their expedition exploring the deep sea in the Pacific Ocean or The Brain Scoop from Chicago's Field Museum.



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Wildlife Trust

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Somerset Council**

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