



Academic Research Group (ARG)

Welcome

Lee Newton

Head of Operations, Ordnance Survey

ORN Executive Committee Member

James Nevitt

Senior Public Access & Recreation Advisor, DIO/MOD

ORN Co-Chair

Agenda

Professor Kate Dashper

Professor & Director of Research Degrees, Carnegie School of Sport, Leeds Beckett University
Chair of the ORN Academic Research Group

From research insights to implementation: the role of nature in eldercare in the Netherlands

Dr Rutger de Graaf

Chairman, Gezond Natuur Wandelen

Discussion on ARG emerging research themes & priorities in outdoor recreation

A bit about me ...

Professor Kate Dashper

k.dashper@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-kate-dashper/>

- ✓ Responsible outdoor recreation
- ✓ Equality, diversity and inclusion in leisure and sport
- ✓ Human-animal-environment relationships



Responsible Outdoor Recreation Research Group (RORR)

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/RORR

- ✓ Based at the Carnegie School of Sport, Leeds Beckett University
- ✓ Focus on bridging the gap between recreation participants (and providers) and land managers
- ✓ Applied research drawing on behavioural science, sociology and social psychology
- ✓ A growing international network



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

LGAP



LEEDS GREEN ACTIVITY PROVIDERS NETWORK

NATURAL
ENGLAND



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The ARG: Who are we and how do we want to develop?

- ✓ A network for bringing together academic researchers, practitioners, policy makers and decision makers, national governing bodies, land managers, outdoor recreationalists
- ✓ An interdisciplinary forum – ecological and life sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities
- ✓ A forum for:
 - ✓ Sharing new academic research findings
 - ✓ Communicating research in accessible ways
 - ✓ Discussing shared problems, ideas and challenges
 - ✓ Facilitating two-way conversation between academia and practice
 - ✓ Exploring possibilities for collaboration – including funding opportunities

Outdoor recreation research: What are some of the 'hot topics'?

- ✓ Recreational pressures → responsible outdoor recreation
- ✓ Outdoor recreation, health and wellbeing
- ✓ Access and inclusivity
- ✓ Sustainability – environmental, economic and societal
- ✓ Land ownership, land use and public access
- ✓ Collaboration across

- ✓ ... what else?

ORN ARG survey results

Top 3 topics aligned to the ORN Action Plan themes:

1. Enhancing health and wellbeing
2. Protecting nature and responsible access
3. Improving access and accessibility

Suggested topics:

- Measuring the health and wellbeing benefits and making the case
- Pro-environmental behaviour as a driver for nature connection and as a result, wellbeing development
- Impact of greenspace access and use on healthcare outcomes
- Effective communication of responsible behaviour in Ireland & stakeholder engagement in nature conservation and outdoor recreation
- The role of online sources of info in influencing where people visit outdoors

Post event resources

Available first to ORN members

The screenshot shows a web browser at the URL outdoorrecreation.org.uk/past-events/. The page features the Outdoor Recreation Network logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Membership, News, Events, Resources, and a Members Login button. A filter section allows users to select 'See All Events' from a dropdown menu, and a search bar is provided for finding past events. The main content area displays a list of five events, each with an icon, title, date, location, and a right-pointing arrow for more details.

Event Title	Date	Location	Access
ARG Meeting	18 February 2026	Online Academic Research Group Meeting	
ORN Success Awards – and Reveal of the new ORN Co-Chair!	22 January 2026	Webinars	
Climate Resilience in Outdoor Recreation	06 November 2025	Webinars	Members Only
ARG Meeting: The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme – Building for a Resilient and Thriving Future	15 October 2025	Online Academic Research Group Meeting	
Connecting Health and Nature: Growing Green Social Prescribing	29 September 2025	Webinars	Members Only

Next ARG Meetings

Got something to share?

- **Tuesday 12th May 2026 – 12:30-13:30**
- **Tuesday 7th July 2026 – 12:30-13:30**
- **Tuesday 17th November 2026 – 12:30-13:30**
- **Tuesday 2nd March 2027 – 12:30-13:30**

You are invited to volunteer 15/20-minute presentations and updates on research projects and areas of interest.

Email: elizabeth@outdoorrecreation.org.uk

ORN Masterclass 'Responsible Recreation'

Save the date!

- **MOD Tidworth Garrison Theatre, Wiltshire (England)**
- **Monday 28th September**
 - 14:00 – 16:30 ORN Executive Committee Meeting
 - 19:00 – 22:00 Member Meeting & Networking Dinner
- **Tuesday 29th – Wednesday 30th September**
 - **2-Day Masterclass**

Upcoming ORN webinars

- Delivering the new Coast-to-Coast National Trail – Friday 24th April (11:00 – 12:30)
- Inclusive Outdoor Recreation - Tuesday 23rd June (11:00 – 12:30)
- Funding the Future - Thursday 15th October (11:00–12:30)
- Community Co-Design - Tuesday 19th January (11:00–12:30)
- Nature Recovery and Recreation - Tuesday 16 March (11:00–12:30)

Upcoming Events

			
 Tuesday - Tuesday 24 - 24 March 2026	 Tuesday - Tuesday 12 - 12 May 2026	 Tuesday - Tuesday 23 - 23 June 2026	 Tuesday - Tuesday 07 - 07 July 2026
ARG Meeting: The role of nature in eldercare & the future direction of ARG sessions	ARG Meeting: May session	ORN webinar: Inclusive Outdoor Recreation	ARG Meeting: July session
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
 Online Academic Research Group Meeting	 Online Academic Research Group Meeting	 Webinars	 Online Academic Research Group Meeting
			