# William and Kate visit new Natural History Museum gardens to promote urban biodiversity education



The Prince and Princess of Wales are set to visit the newly opened gardens at the Natural History Museum in London, where they will engage with children involved in educational programmes designed to foster a connection with nature and promote biodiversity. The gardens, opened to the public in 2024, feature diverse habitats including grassland, wetland, and woodland, functioning as a living laboratory for both visitors and scientists to observe and monitor urban wildlife.

Kate, the museum’s patron, has long advocated the importance of children spending time in the natural world. She previously helped create the family-friendly Back To Nature play garden showcased at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2019 and voiced her support for reconnecting with nature through a series of social media videos celebrating the seasons. During the upcoming visit, the couple will meet schoolchildren from Lewisham participating in pond dipping activities and students from Manchester involved in the National Education Nature Park initiative. This project, commissioned by the Department for Education and delivered in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society, has seen over 7,500 schools, colleges, and nurseries across the UK transform their grounds into nature-rich spaces, boosting biodiversity, green skills, and wellbeing.

The gardens span five acres around the museum's South Kensington site and include two key areas: the Evolution Garden and the Nature Discovery Garden. These spaces are not only designed to support urban nature and scientific research but also to educate visitors about the importance of nature conservation amidst escalating climate change challenges. Advanced technology plays a significant role in this initiative, with networks of sensors collecting environmental data that is paired with environmental DNA analysis to build comprehensive pictures of the biodiversity thriving in the gardens. Visitors and researchers alike can use this data to better understand and protect urban ecosystems.

The Princess of Wales has previously expressed strong support for the gardens and the Urban Nature Project during her patronage. Despite undergoing cancer treatment, she has spoken about the transformative power of nature in supporting physical, mental, and spiritual health. In a personal statement released by Kensington Palace, she highlighted the museum’s commitment to creating spaces that encourage people of all ages to reconnect with the natural world and learn how to protect it. The gardens, including new artistic features such as a bronze dinosaur sculpture, were hoped by her to inspire and positively affect the thousands of visitors expected each year.

This visit by William and Kate underscores a larger societal emphasis on the vital role of nature in urban settings. It also reflects wider educational efforts to instil appreciation and stewardship of the environment from a young age. The museum’s Urban Nature Project, which began redevelopment as early as 2021, aims to create an accessible, biologically diverse green space at the heart of London, supporting nature recovery while engaging the community in conservation efforts.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/william-and-kate-to-visit-natural-history-museums-gardens-66RC3KM6O5KBDJT73VUPRMPE3Q/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-william-and-kate-prince-princess-of-wales-b1245900.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/william-and-kate-to-visit-natural-history-museums-gardens-66RC3KM6O5KBDJT73VUPRMPE3Q/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-william-and-kate-prince-princess-of-wales-b1245900.html), [[5]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2021/june/duchess-of-cambridge-visits-the-museums-wildlife-garden.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/william-and-kate-to-visit-natural-history-museums-gardens-66RC3KM6O5KBDJT73VUPRMPE3Q/), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2024/07/18/princess-wales-power-nature-natural-history-museum/), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/natural-history-museum-princess-of-wales-wimbledon-london-south-kensington-b2582093.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-doug-gurr-princess-of-wales-singles-b1171556.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2024/07/18/princess-wales-power-nature-natural-history-museum/), [[4]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/natural-history-museum-princess-of-wales-wimbledon-london-south-kensington-b2582093.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-doug-gurr-princess-of-wales-singles-b1171556.html), [[7]](https://www.tumblr.com/world-of-wales/756349623066640384/18-july-2024-kensington-palace-released)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/william-and-kate-to-visit-natural-history-museums-gardens-66RC3KM6O5KBDJT73VUPRMPE3Q/), [[5]](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2021/june/duchess-of-cambridge-visits-the-museums-wildlife-garden.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/william-and-kate-to-visit-natural-history-museums-gardens-66RC3KM6O5KBDJT73VUPRMPE3Q/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-william-and-kate-prince-princess-of-wales-b1245900.html> - The Prince and Princess of Wales are set to visit the Natural History Museum's gardens, where they will engage with children participating in educational programmes aimed at fostering a connection with nature and enhancing biodiversity in central London. The gardens, which opened in 2024, feature grassland, wetland, and woodland habitats, serving as a living laboratory for visitors and scientists to monitor urban wildlife. During their visit, the royal couple will observe the use of advanced technology in the garden to support the museum's conservation and biodiversity research projects. They will also join schoolchildren from Lewisham in a pond dipping session and meet students from Manchester involved in creating new habitats through the National Education Nature Park initiative, a project that has engaged over 7,500 educational institutions in transforming their grounds into nature-rich spaces.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2024/07/18/princess-wales-power-nature-natural-history-museum/> - The Princess of Wales has expressed her support for the Natural History Museum's new gardens, highlighting the 'power of nature' in promoting physical, mental, and spiritual health. As patron of the museum, she visited the urban garden during its development three years ago. The project, featuring an Evolution Garden and a Nature Discovery Garden, opened to the public in July 2024. The gardens aim to encourage people of all ages to reconnect with nature and learn about protecting the natural world. The Princess hopes the gardens will be inspiring and transformative for the thousands of visitors expected.
4. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/natural-history-museum-princess-of-wales-wimbledon-london-south-kensington-b2582093.html> - The Princess of Wales has praised the opening of the Natural History Museum's new gardens, emphasizing the 'power of nature' in supporting physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Despite undergoing cancer treatment, she expressed hope that the gardens would be 'transformative' for visitors. The gardens, which opened to the public in July 2024, include the Nature Discovery Garden and the Evolution Garden, covering five acres around the museum's site in South Kensington. They aim to support urban nature, scientific research, and education, featuring a new bronze dinosaur sculpture and serving as a 'living laboratory' for nature recovery amid climate change.
5. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2021/june/duchess-of-cambridge-visits-the-museums-wildlife-garden.html> - In June 2021, the Duchess of Cambridge visited the Natural History Museum to meet local schoolchildren and learn about the Urban Nature Project, which aims to redevelop the museum's Wildlife Garden and collaborate with organizations across the UK to inspire the next generation to care for nature. During the visit, she participated in family activities and helped set up a remote monitoring device in the Wildlife Garden to monitor wildlife. The project plans to transform the museum's five-acre site into a welcoming, accessible, and biologically diverse green space in the heart of London.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/kate-natural-history-museum-doug-gurr-princess-of-wales-singles-b1171556.html> - The Princess of Wales has expressed her support for the opening of the Natural History Museum's new gardens, highlighting the 'power of nature' in promoting physical, mental, and spiritual health. Despite undergoing cancer treatment, she expressed hope that the gardens would be 'transformative' for visitors. The gardens, which opened to the public in July 2024, include the Nature Discovery Garden and the Evolution Garden, covering five acres around the museum's site in South Kensington. They aim to support urban nature, scientific research, and education, featuring a new bronze dinosaur sculpture and serving as a 'living laboratory' for nature recovery amid climate change.
7. <https://www.tumblr.com/world-of-wales/756349623066640384/18-july-2024-kensington-palace-released> - On 18 July 2024, Kensington Palace released a personal statement from the Princess of Wales in support of her patronage of the Natural History Museum on the launch of their new Urban Nature Project, which opened two new gardens for visitors—the Evolution Garden and the Nature Discovery Garden. The statement, accompanied by photographs from the Princess's 2021 visit to the museum, expressed her support for the museum's commitment to creating a special space that encourages people of all ages to reconnect with nature and learn more about protecting the natural world. She emphasized the power of nature in supporting development and well-being, both by bringing joy and helping to keep us physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy, and hoped the gardens would be inspiring and transformative for the thousands of people who visit.