# Rare Earth season five highlights insect decline and bold solutions to environmental crises



The fifth season of the acclaimed radio series Rare Earth premiered on 30 May, hosted by environmental journalist Tom Heap and physicist Helen Czerski. This engaging show, which airs weekly on BBC Radio 4 and is available for streaming on BBC Sounds, focuses on critical environmental issues and their implications for humanity and nature. Each episode aims to spotlight innovative solutions to these pressing challenges, encouraging listeners to reconsider their relationship with the planet.

The inaugural episode of this season tackles the alarming decline of insect populations. This topic is not merely a niche concern; the rapid decrease in insect numbers has been highlighted by numerous scientists, who warn of potential repercussions for entire ecosystems. Heap and Czerski delve into questions surrounding this crisis, exploring whether insects might provide innovative solutions to environmental degradation and considering the ramifications of entomophagy, or insect consumption, as a sustainable food source. Their discussion is enriched by insights from a panel of experts, offering a deeper understanding of the complexities embedded in insect life and its interconnectedness with broader ecological health.

Upcoming episodes promise to address an array of significant topics, including the challenges of reaching net-zero emissions, the intersection of data and artificial intelligence with environmental policies, the implications of a Green Revolution, the ethics of whaling, and reflections on the Hiroshima anniversary. Each of these themes is relevant not only within the context of environmental science but also in terms of public policy and consumer behaviour, urging audiences to engage with and reflect upon these critical issues.

Supporting the series, academic consultants from The Open University, including Dr Martin Braun and Dr Emma Dewberry, have provided valuable insights, indicating a collaborative approach to public discourse on environmental matters. Dr Braun noted, “It’s been a pleasure to be involved with the ‘Rare Earth’ programme from the very start. This new series offers an engaging mix of personally relevant themes and topics of wider interest, creating space for meaningful reflection and connection.” This sentiment resonates with the series' goal of spurring public engagement with environmental issues, compelling listeners not only to listen but to act.

In a world increasingly defined by environmental crises, the approach taken in Rare Earth is both timely and necessary. By marrying scientific inquiry with broad public interest, the series aims to energise audiences to think critically about their role in fostering a sustainable future. As it continues to unfold, Rare Earth promises to be a vital resource for anyone eager to deepen their understanding of environmental challenges and the innovative solutions that may indeed lead to a more sustainable world.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-the-new-season-of-radio-series-rare-earth/), [[7]](https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-new-ou-bbc-radio-series-rare-earth/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-the-new-season-of-radio-series-rare-earth/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2024/rare-earth-bbc-radio-four-new-environmental-series), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbt0)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001gwsv), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbsp), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0h582y3)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-the-new-season-of-radio-series-rare-earth/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbt0)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2024/rare-earth-bbc-radio-four-new-environmental-series), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbsp)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-the-new-season-of-radio-series-rare-earth/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001gwsv> - 'Rare Earth' is a trade-war thriller and family saga rooted in dark colonial secrets from Greenland’s past. The story revolves around the competition between the US and China to secure exclusive mining rights in Greenland, focusing on the impact of rare earth elements essential for modern technology. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001gwsv?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2024/rare-earth-bbc-radio-four-new-environmental-series> - 'Rare Earth' is a new weekly hour-long podcast and radio show from BBC Radio 4, presented by environmental journalist Tom Heap and physicist Helen Czerski. The series explores major environmental issues, aiming to shed light on humanity's relationship with the natural world and potential solutions to pressing challenges. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/mediacentre/2024/rare-earth-bbc-radio-four-new-environmental-series?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbsp> - In this episode of 'Rare Earth', Tom Heap and Helen Czerski delve into the question of how best to bring nature back from the brink. They discuss strategies such as rewilding and balancing land use to support biodiversity, featuring insights from experts like Cal Flyn and Rebecca Wrigley. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbsp?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbt0> - 'Rare Earth' is a new science documentary series for BBC Radio 4, exploring environmental issues and their impact on the planet. The series features episodes on topics like urban trees, waste reduction, and the health of rivers, aiming to inform and engage listeners on environmental challenges. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vbt0?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0h582y3> - In this episode of 'Rare Earth', Tom Heap and Helen Czerski unpack a burning environmental issue each week, discovering fresh ideas and new ways to approach our relationship with nature. The episode titled 'Welcome to the future' offers fresh perspectives on the challenges facing our planet. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0h582y3?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-new-ou-bbc-radio-series-rare-earth/> - The Open University and BBC have co-produced a new radio series, 'Rare Earth', which delves into major environmental issues facing our planet. Presented by Tom Heap and Helen Czerski, the series airs weekly on BBC Radio 4 and is available on BBC Sounds. ([open.ac.uk](https://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/news/science-mct/listen-to-new-ou-bbc-radio-series-rare-earth/?utm_source=openai))