

MB goes international - The Hooiland film a highlight of ecology conference in the UK

A donation from a conference in 2024 was used to create a version of the Hooiland documentary with [English subtitles](#), making the film accessible to an international audience. The international premier was a screening at the annual symposium of the British Ecological Society BES Symposium [“Nature, Farming and Food: How we value our land”](#) at the University of Oxford, UK in June. The film was screened at the end of a fascinating session on “Valuing biodiversity” that I chaired. It provided an oasis of peace at the end of a long programme with packed with interesting talks that largely focused on enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services on agricultural land. The silence in the lecture theatre was punctuated with gasps at the beautiful cinematography and an audible “shudder” at the moment when parasitic wasp larvae burst out of a caterpillar.

The Binnenveld provided a contrasting example of creating ‘new nature’ with fantastic habitat for all types of biodiversity. The uplifting story stimulated many questions about how the initiative came about and the roles of different actors, and the discussion continued into the ensuing poster session. Mooi Binnenveld was seen as a remarkable and inspirational example; several conference delegates indicated their wish to visit in the coming years. A credit to all for having the vision and foresight of what is possible, and for the hard work of all concerned in realising it.

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