

Hayes, Tracy ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6330-6520> (2021) Learning for/with Nature: The pedagogy and practice of teaching Natural History in England. In: TEAN Conference 2021, 5-6 May 2021, Online. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/6212/>

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

provided that

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
 - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.

Learning for/with Nature

The pedagogy and practice of teaching Natural History in England

Dr Tracy Ann Hayes

University of Cumbria, Carlisle, United Kingdom

tracy.hayes@cumbria.ac.uk



@hayes_tracy

Aims of this presentation

- To promote dialogue about *how* we may teach Natural History
- To invite your thoughts on this proposed new GCSE
- To consider what may mean for you and your work
- To encourage you to join in with this debate...

Why study Natural History?

Extract from OCR's proposed statement on the purpose of studying Natural History:

- Study of science, geography, history and the arts at key stages 3 and 4 provides a variety of complementary skills and knowledge which support the study of Natural history.
- This subject supports the development of unique skills and knowledge which give a sharper focus and depth to the complexities of the natural world.

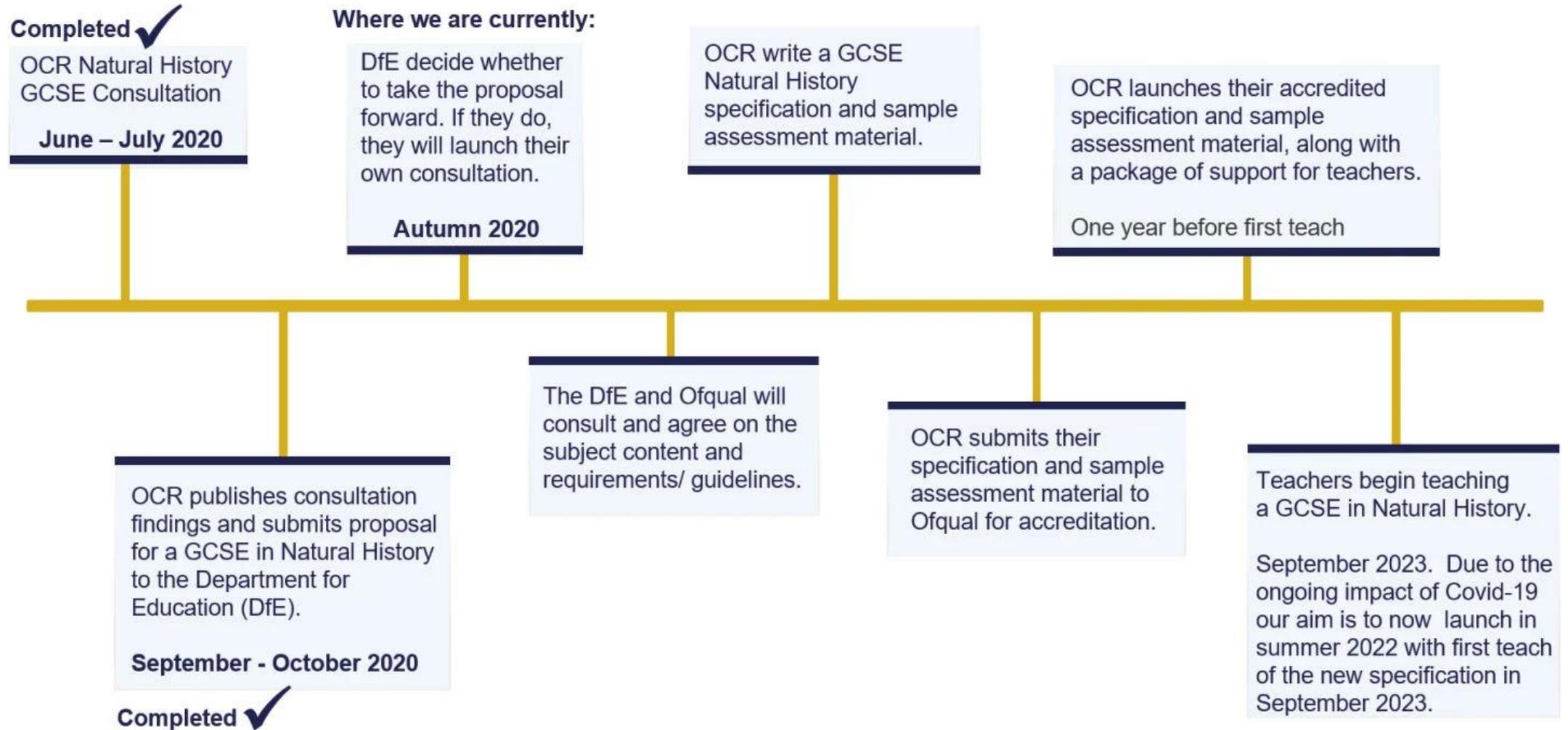
Proposed definition of 'natural history' is...

“Natural History focuses on understanding the rich and diverse natural world. Through **observational study** (generating systematic records of direct and indirect observations, often made over long periods of time) and **investigation**, natural history seeks to understand the diversity, complexities, and interconnectedness, of life on earth in contrasting habitats. Natural history explores how our natural world has been shaped, and how it continues to change, both by natural processes and through human intervention”.

My interest in this

- PhD in Transdisciplinary Research in Outdoor Studies, Cert in Education for Sustainability, BSc Natural Sciences
- Practical experiences in conservation/environmental education
- [BERA sig convenor](#) in *Nature, Outdoor Learning and Play* – supporter of / advocate for this proposal

Progress so far



Summary of consultation findings

DEFINITION

90%

of respondents
agreed or strongly agreed with
our definition of Natural History



OUTDOOR STUDY

96%

of respondents
agreed or strongly agreed outdoor
study should be an important
part of a GCSE in Natural History



93%

of young people *expected* some
time *studying outdoors*



MOST POPULAR CONTENT THEMES

1



FLORA AND FAUNA

2



HUMAN IMPACT ON THE WORLD

3



THE NATURAL SHAPING
OF THE WORLD

4



LIFE IN THE EARLY WORLD

5



OUR CHANGING VIEW
OF THE WORLD

PURPOSE

91%

of responders
agreed or strongly agreed
with the proposed
purpose of a GCSE
in Natural History



INTEREST FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

94%

of young people *would like*
or *would have liked*
the option to study
such a qualification



Key supporters



My stance...

- This is long overdue and very much needed BUT
- It needs careful implementation and considered approach to pedagogy and practice
- Who is going to teach it?
- What support is needed – and for whom?



Over to you...

References and more information...

Colwell, M. (2019). *Campaign to introduce a GCSE in natural History*. Available at <http://www.curlewmedia.com/gcse-natural-history> Accessed: 9/12/2019

DEFRA (2018). *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*. Department for Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs: London.

Dioum, B. (1968). Speech presented at the General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). New Delhi, India.

Juniper, T. (2011). 'Introducing a natural history GCSE would give us a greener future'. *The Guardian Environment Blog*. Thursday 9 June 2011. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2011/jun/09/natural-history-gcse-greener-future> Accessed: 9/12/2019

OCR (2021). *Developing a GCSE in Natural History*. Available at <https://teach.ocr.org.uk/naturalhistory> [you can sign up for email updates]