

Windsor Debates

DEVOLUTION, EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION

Friday 26th September 2025

Professor Robert Van de Noort CBE became Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading in 2018, where he champions academic freedom and the University's work in climate research and action. Under his leadership, Reading was named Sustainable University of the Year 2025 by the Times and Sunday Times and received Times Higher Education's inaugural award for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership.

Robert convenes the S10 Vice-Chancellor's Group and chairs the Universities UK Research Bureaucracy Working Group. An archaeologist specialising in marine and wetland research, he studied at the Universities of Utrecht and Amsterdam before holding positions at the British School at Rome, the Rotterdam Archaeology Unit, the University of Hull and the University of Exeter.

He serves as Deputy Lieutenant for Berkshire, President of the River Thames Society and Patron of Reading-based homelessness charity Launchpad. He was appointed CBE in 2024 for his contributions to science, flood risk management and sustainability.



ROBERT VAN DE NOORT CBE

Vice Chancellor
University of Reading

