

Future of UK Treescapes

Eirini Saratsi

AHRC online workshop – 8 October 2020

Future of UK Treescapes

Eirini Saratsi

AHRC online workshop – 8 October 2020

Future of UK Treescapes

To bring new understanding of the treescapes in the UK with respect to

their current characteristics, functions and services they provide for the environment and to society but also their vulnerability to future change.

To assess

plausible social, economic, cultural, technological and environmental pathways to enhance the ability of these ecosystems to endure.

Proposals must take an interdisciplinary approach and form substantial research collaborations



Trees and Treescapes

‘[human-nature interactions] are important for determining what species can grow somewhere’ [...] ‘the history of a site and region plays a major role in determining what species actually do grow there.’

Emily Russell 1997

*‘Each species **has it’s own agenda** and **its own interactions with human activities**. If all trees were like the ideal [world] they would lose most of their significance, all their historic meaning, most of their beauty, and most of their values as a habitat.’*

Oliver Rackham 2006 – Woodlands p16



AALERT

4DM



VALUING
NATURE

landscape
research
group

AALERT

One-day workshop to explore the role of
**Arts and the Artist in Landscape and
Environmental Research Today**

National Gallery
Thursday 15 February 2018

... In recent years, the significance of the arts in landscape and environmental research has been increasingly emphasised, with arts and humanities components now a common, if not required, element in research proposals ...

However, there is not enough understanding about the contribution that can come from the arts and humanities.



VALUING
NATURE
PROGRAMME

VNP22



Photo by Rob Frowd / somewhereintheworld.com

Valuing Arts & Arts Research

Valuing Nature Paper | October 2019

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/aalert/the-resources/>



Disciplinary dynamics

- **Science – led**

efforts can be hampered by a lack of understanding about what the arts and humanities can deliver

- **Arts-led**

work tends to be led from metaphorical and conceptual approaches, usually new perspectives emerge revealing otherwise apparently unimportant aspects.

- **Collaborative**

there is a genuine partnership between arts and other disciplines from the outset

Artists engagement

- **Commissioned**

deliver specific outputs based on a brief

- **Artist in residence**

artist researchers have the opportunity to 'shadow' a project

- **Co-designing**

artists contributing to the research design from the outset, or called to join later in a position that has been outlined in the research design

- **Leading**

artists design, lead and they are responsible of the outputs of the project



For Successful Collaborative Research Projects

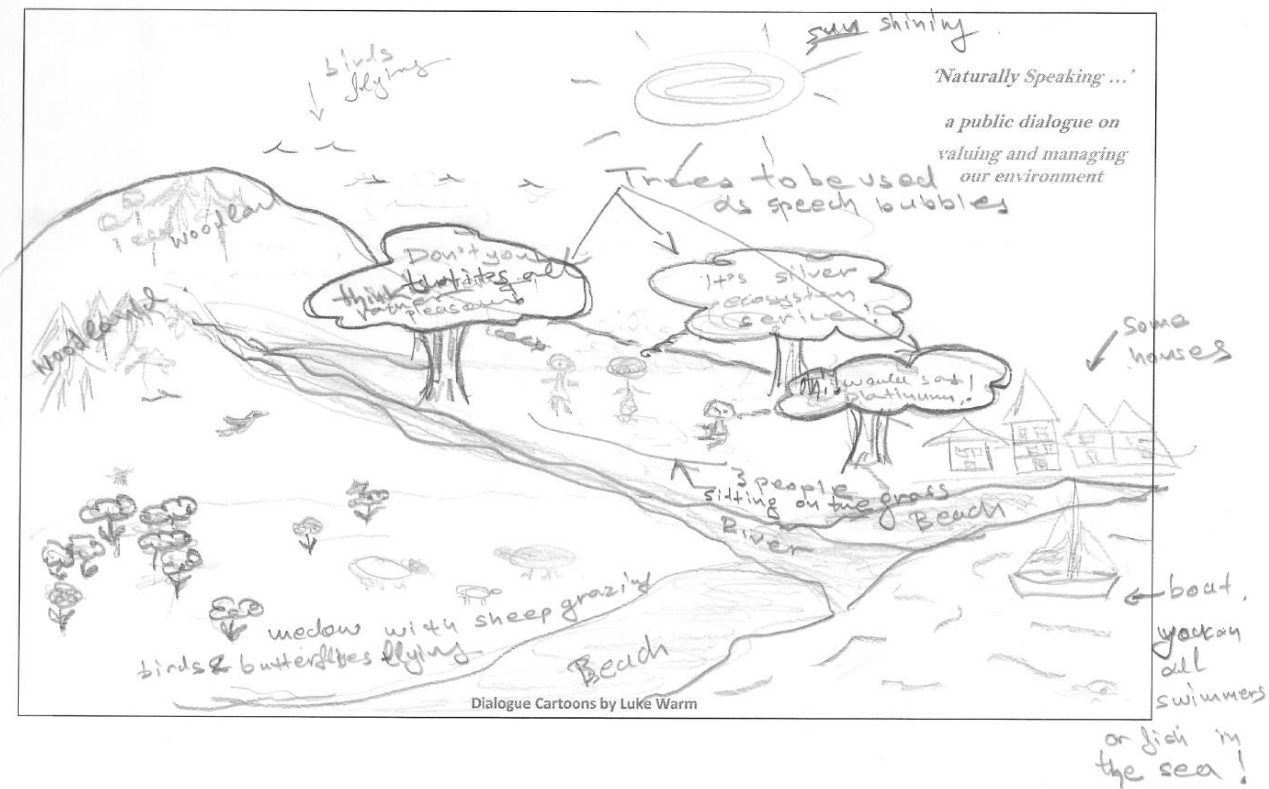
Broadening the concept of research

- Remember - reality is multifaceted
- Objective, verifiable forms of knowledge are suitable for many research questions
- Subjective knowledge and meanings gained through immersive situations can be equally important and **can result in more insightful paths to understand nature**

Co-development is crucial

- A sense of mutual trust and respect
- Utilise the wide range of expertise available
- Allow space for confidence-building exercises – it takes time!
- allow the artistic approach to be materialised
 - holistic approach;
 - sense of experimentation;
 - accept negative impacts





To harness critical perspectives ...

- It is essential the contribution of arts and humanities is equally acknowledged alongside disciplines e.g. natural and social sciences, ecology, economics ...
- Any collaboration should allow artists the margins they define themselves for their creativity to flourish



THANK YOU

Thank you