



Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

John Rodwell

NIA Best Practice Event, Alfriston, East Sussex
25 September 2013

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Ecosystem services include:

Provisioning services (crops, water)

Regulating services (pollination,
climate regulation)

Supporting services (photosynthesis,
soil development)

Cultural services

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Cultural services include:

Cultural identity

Heritage values

Recreation & tourism

Inspiration

Aesthetic appreciation

Spiritual services

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Inspiration is the use of natural motifs
or artefacts in arts, folklore, and so on ...



Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Inspiration is the use of natural motifs or artefacts in arts, folklore, and so on ...

Aesthetic appreciation of natural and cultivated landscapes

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Inspiration is the use of natural motifs or artefacts in arts, folklore, and so on ...

Aesthetic appreciation of natural and cultivated landscapes

Sacred, religious or other forms of spiritual inspiration

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Are these definitions adequate?



Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

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What are their outcomes, indicators
& values of aesthetic & spiritual
experiences?

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Are these definitions adequate?

What are their outcomes, indicators
& values of aesthetic & spiritual
experiences?

How do they fit with other cultural
ecosystem services?

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Are these definitions adequate?

What are their outcomes, indicators & values of aesthetic & spiritual experiences?

How do they fit with other cultural ecosystem services?

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



A two-day workshop at York in January
2013

for arts practitioners, people of religious
faith, scientists, policy persons

an 8000-word report with video clips on
the BESS web-site

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Aesthetic & spiritual experiences of the environment have distinctive features and deserve separate recognition among other cultural services

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Aesthetic & spiritual experiences of the environment have distinctive features

but they present challenges to existing attitudes and practice concerning outcomes, indicators & values of ecosystem services

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Aesthetic & spiritual experiences of the environment have distinctive features

but they present challenges to existing attitudes and practice

and how to make them spatially explicit?

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Artists talk of risky & willing attendance
on in-between situations (person &
nature, self & other, then & now)

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Artists talk of risky & willing attendance
on in-between situations (person &
nature, self & other, then & now)

where unbidden engagement occurs,
in dialogue, things brought together

Aesthetic & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

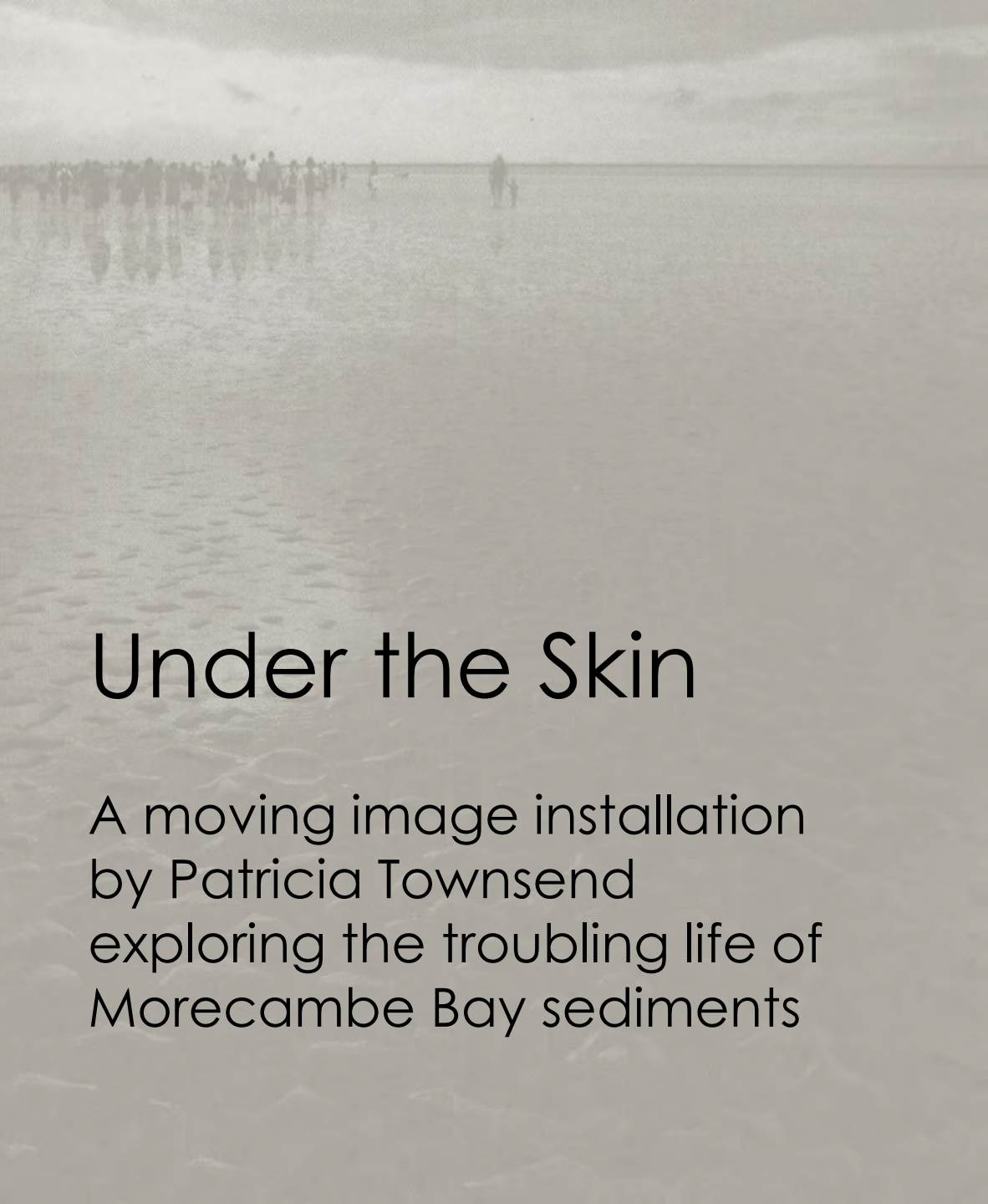


Artists talk of risky & willing attendance
on in-between situations (person &
nature, self & other, then & now)

where unbidden engagement occurs,
in dialogue, things brought together

with an uncertain outcome





Under the Skin

A moving image installation
by Patricia Townsend
exploring the troubling life of
Morecambe Bay sediments

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Artistic inspiration can be shared
through exhibition and performance

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Artistic inspiration can be shared
through exhibition and performance

and opens up the prospect of similar
relationships for us

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



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Artistic inspiration can be shared
through exhibition and performance

and opens up the prospect of similar
relationships for us

but measuring access & footfall are
inadequate surrogates for articulating
& recording such experiences

A landscape photograph showing a field of large, grey, rounded rocks in the foreground. The rocks are arranged in a somewhat regular pattern, with small gaps between them. In the middle ground, there is a flat, grassy area with some patches of brown. In the background, a large, rounded mountain or hill rises against a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene is desolate and natural.

FISSURE

by Louise Ann Wilson

FISSURE

by Louise Ann Wilson

“Not performance for the timid. Clinging to boulders, I ask myself whether being literally blown away by a show could be considered an artistic triumph. Unforgettable.”

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People of religious faith also talk of the
creativity of risky & willing attendance
in nature

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People of religious faith also talk of the
creativity of risky & willing attendance
in nature

and moments of unbidden encounter
with a revealed other

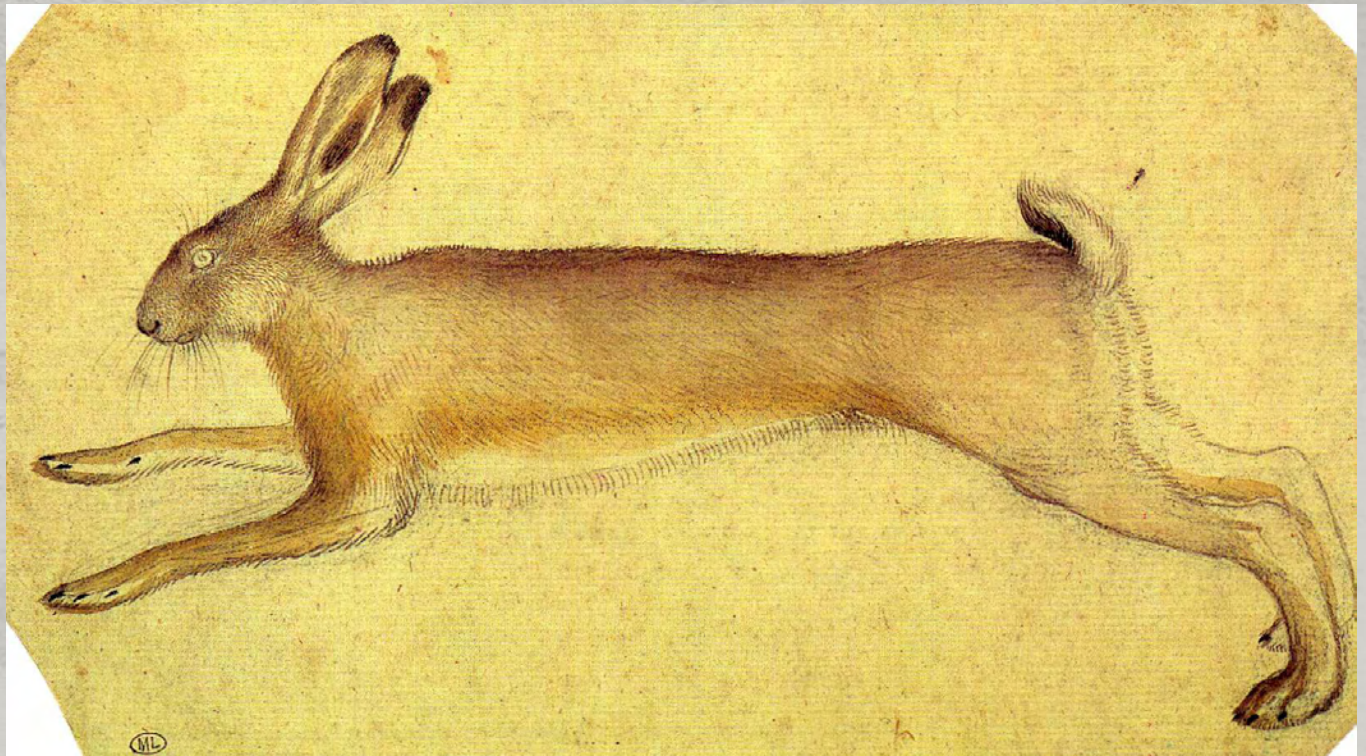
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People of religious faith also talk of the
creativity of risky & willing attendance
in nature

and moments of unbidden encounter
with a revealed other

which are of immeasurable value
though may cause visible change



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Faiths agree that there is a given-ness about the world which limits claims to ownership

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Faiths agree that there is a given-ness about the world which limits claims to ownership

Nature provides a context in which we learn what it is to be human

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Faiths agree that there is a given-ness about the world which limits claims to ownership

Nature provides a context in which we learn what it is to be human

Our attentiveness to nature guards against appropriation & commodification



This is not
a photo
opportunity

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Spiritual experiences can be shared
through narrative & ritual

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Spiritual experiences can be shared
through narrative & ritual

opening up the prospect of 'wonder',
'fascination' or 'delight' for us all

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Spiritual experiences can be shared
through narrative & ritual

opening up the prospect of 'wonder',
'fascination' or 'delight' for us all

but measuring inclusion of faith groups is
an inadequate surrogate for articulating
& recording such experiences



قولی است خالف و دل بر آن نتوان بست



قوی است خالف و دل بر آن نتوان بست



Aerosol Arabic

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual ecosystem services can be hindered by the designated, the exemplary and the interpreted

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual ecosystem services can be hindered by the designated, the exemplary and the interpreted

Green infrastructure must accommodate opportunity, unpredictability and risk

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual ecosystem services can be hindered by the designated, the exemplary and the interpreted

Green infrastructure must accommodate opportunity, unpredictability and risk

Such that something can 'take place'







**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

**WE ARE APPEALING FOR WITNESSES
CAN YOU HELP US?**

INCIDENT

WERE YOU IN THE AREA BETWEEN 2am - 3am
ON FRIDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 04. IF SO
CONTACT THE POLICE STATION ON THE
NUMBERS SHOWN BELOW

In strictest confidence please phone
020 8649 2477/8

**DID YOU SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING?
PLEASE CALL US**

On the number above or at your local police station
or ring **CRIMESTOPPERS**



Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences cast new light on relationships between environmental condition & human well-being

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences cast new light on relationships between environmental condition & human well-being

by offering rich perspectives on human nature, naturalness & the wild

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences cast new light on relationships between environmental condition & human well-being

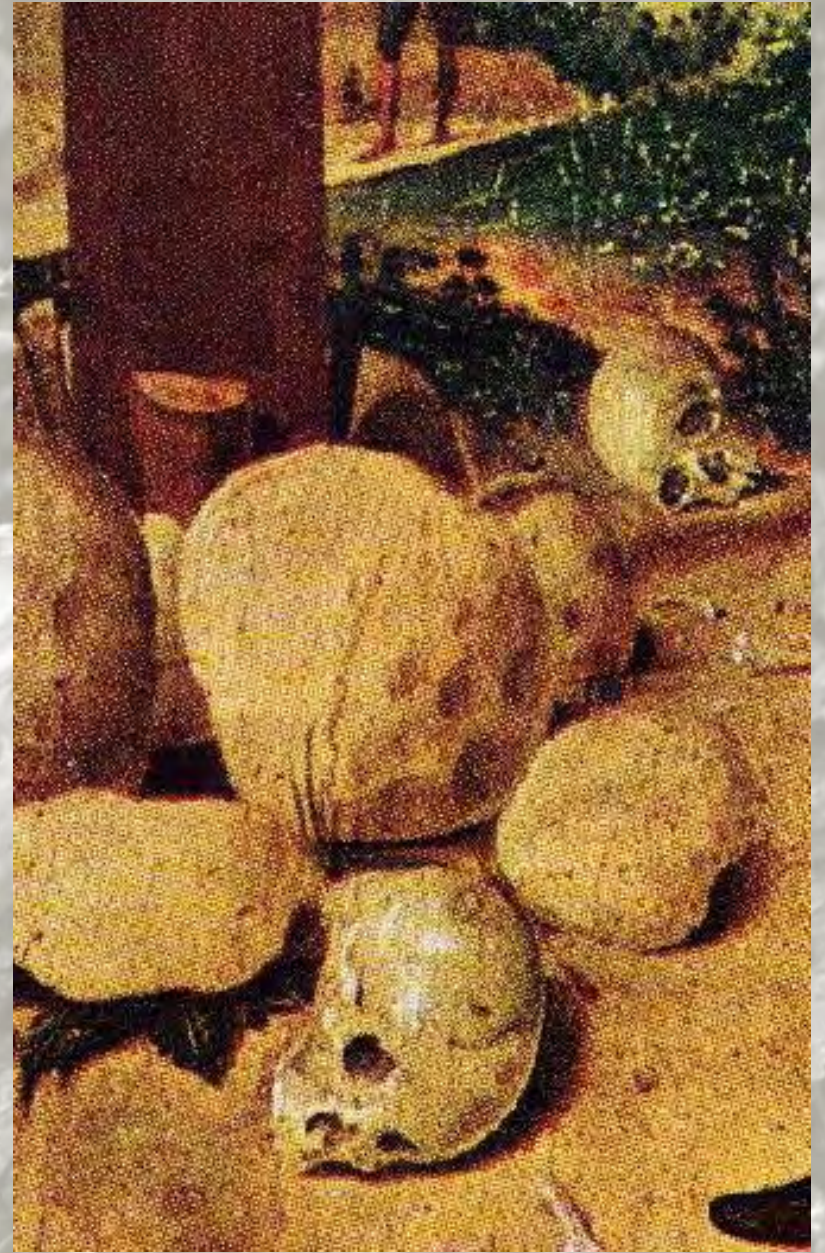
by offering rich perspectives on human nature, naturalness & the wild

and helping us negotiate change









Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences can mediate between nature & culture

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences can
mediate between nature & culture

help us find ourselves in place

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



Sensory & spiritual experiences can
mediate between nature & culture

help us find ourselves in place

and arbitrate contested claims
of belonging & ownership







Ross Bolleter playing at the
Wambyn Ruined Piano
Sanctuary

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Sensory & spiritual experiences are real



Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Sensory & spiritual experiences are real

They have recognisable outputs



Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

Sensory & spiritual experiences are real

They have recognisable outputs

They are often connected with
particular locations

Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services

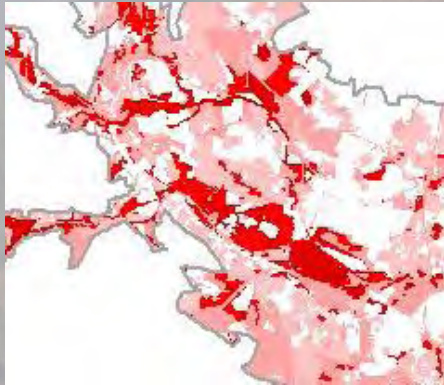
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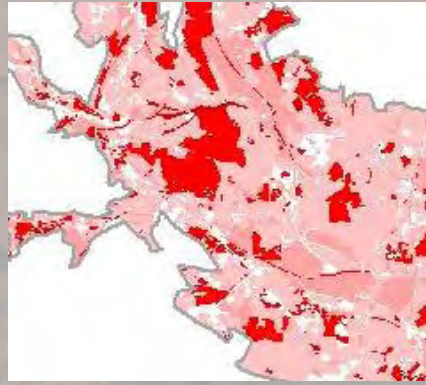
They are often connected with
particular locations

So how to make them spatially explicit?

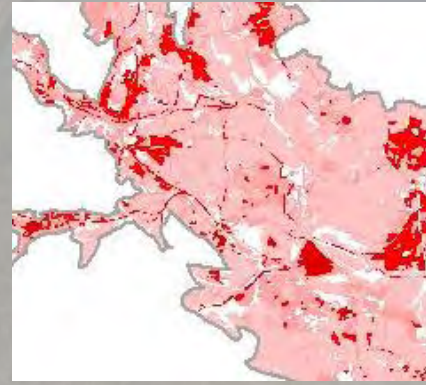
Sensory & Spiritual Ecosystem Services



**Ecological
well-being**



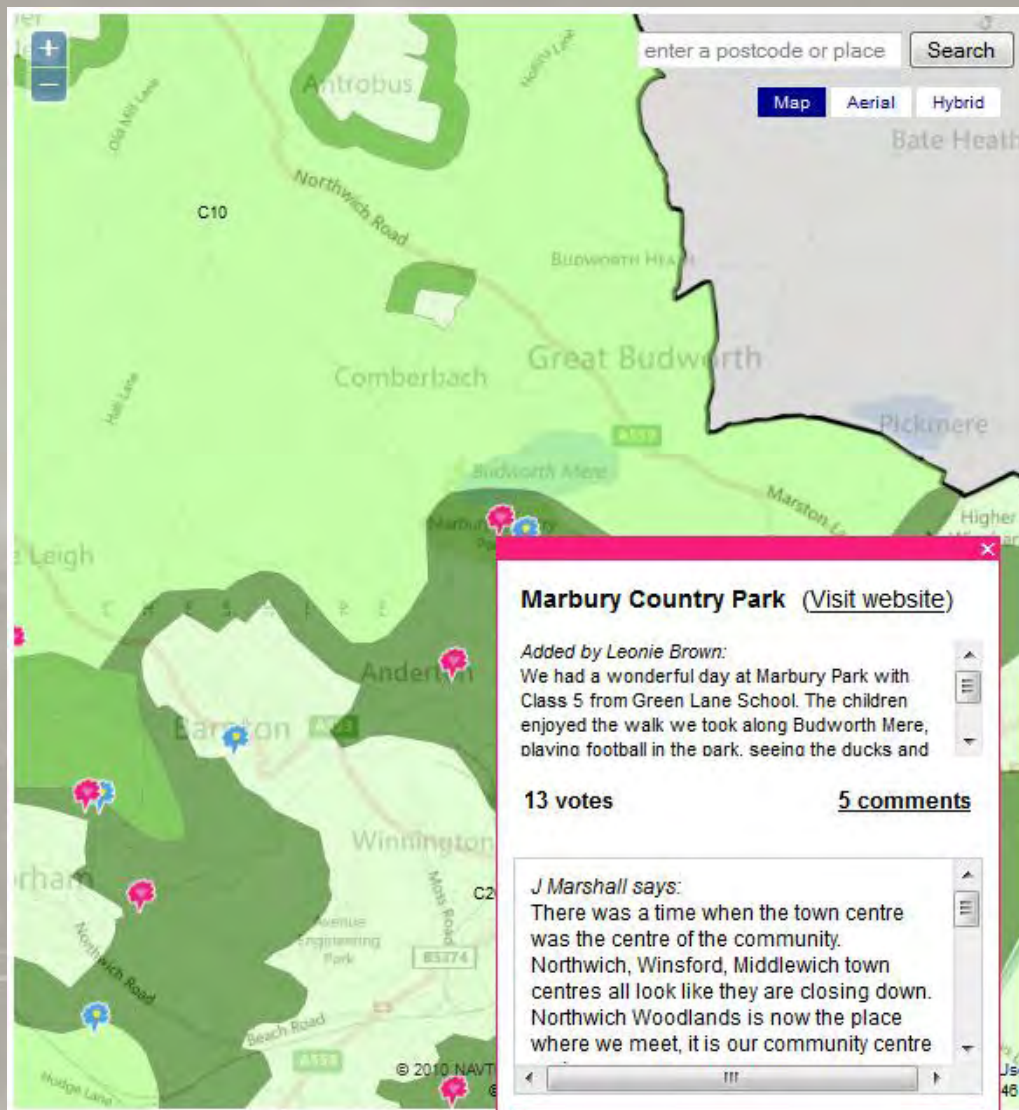
**Cultural
well-being**



**Social
well-being**



**Economic
well-being**



Show on map

"Where" policies

Click green areas on the map to read proposals and to comment.

Key

Indicative target for woodland cover:



Show on map

Specific locations

These show ideas that people have suggested - click below to add your own.

- Suggest where trees are needed
- Suggest how to make sites even better
- Add your favourite trees and woods







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With thanks to

BESS programme, University of York

NIA M&E Steering Group

Mersey Forest

Patricia Townsend

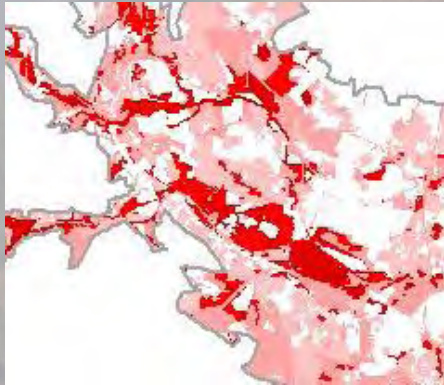
Louise-Ann Wilson

Alan Ward

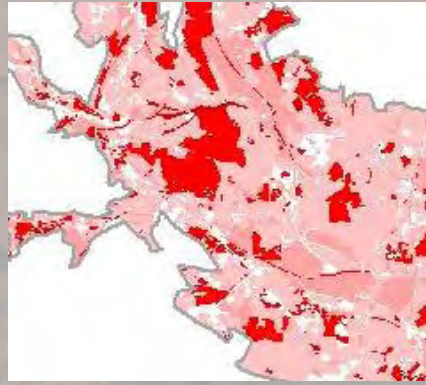
Mike Alexander



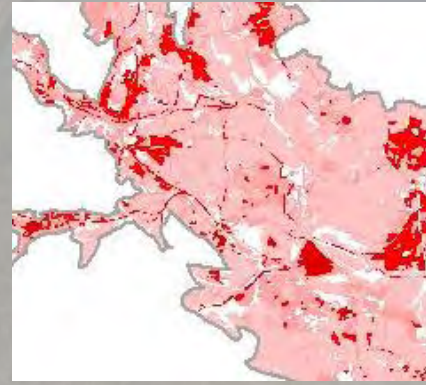
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