



VALUING NATURE

*Investigating & Linking
Tangible & Intangible forms of
Heritage of Urban Green Spaces ...*

Dr Eirini Saratsi

*VN placements – wash-up meeting
Canterbury, 23-24 May 2016*



Historic England

University of
Kent

Placement Objectives

Knowledge exchange with non- academics cultural heritage experts

- *How Historic England experts work and set their priorities (e.g. recommendations for registration, protection and management of public parks and gardens).*
- *Challenges they face*
- *Specific interests for research*

Review existing datasets about cultural heritage and urban green spaces

- *Understand how narratives about the heritage of such places are created*
- *Identify gaps in knowledge*

Describe meaningful ways to evaluate this kind of cultural heritage

- *Think about methods to assess the added value of the historic element in public parks and gardens*
- *Make recommendations for action*



Key activities undertaken

- **Interviews with heritage experts and policy advisors**

(9 - Historic England, 1 - local authority; 2 - other)

- *to grasp the institutional view*
- *revealed HE's specific interest: 'reassert the heritage argument in the green infrastructure and valuing nature debates'*

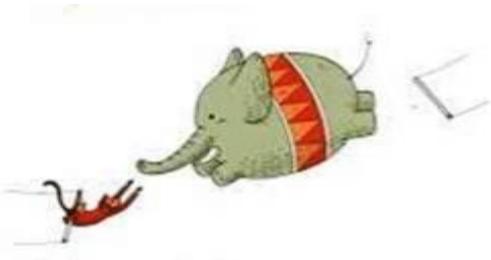


- **Reviews of existing datasets**

- *a good sense of what is, and what is not, out there (e.g. registration, social surveys, Historic England archive)*
- *not enough time to properly review and evaluate the information*

- **Work on research tools and dissemination**

- *assess links between heritage and 'nature' of UGS*
- *... at least, made a start!*



Learning - *Heritage and valuing nature*

- Heritage conservation is guided by the *general assumption* that:
 - 'there is strong public interest in caring for the historic environment (including historic green spaces), as a vital part of modern life and as something significant that defines the country's character and the identity of its people'*
- A sound reference to *'social values'* but
 - systematic assessment of *these values* and *public engagement* in decisions is marginal and usually *'reactive'*
- *Heritage is NOT adequately represented* in discussions about *'valuing nature'*
 - collaborative and pluralistic approaches to greenspaces must become a priority of institutions

Opportunity – VN placement

Strengthened Historic England's efforts for putting 'Valuing Nature' into practice

Reveal the 'nature' in heritage – stressing that people value places, not a series of features or buildings

Emphasise that

Heritage sites are connected with long social histories and values that effectively have caused the development of vegetation patterns which are often highly valued for their biological and visual diversity, regulatory functions as well their cultural importance.

Learning - *Public parks and gardens*

- They are **currently undervalued**
 - have no statutory protection
 - challenges for local authorities to secure funding
- **Planning is guided by policy silos** that distinguish between the historical and natural environment
 - we need to think about places as a whole; consider recreational, historic, habitat, amenity and regulatory values together

Learning - *Research and management priorities*

Research

- Consistent *typology*; *widen research* coverage /place specific; mapping;
- Create *databases of social histories*
- *Recognise social values and function* alongside design significance

Management

- *Protection and conservation at local level*
- Enhance *urban biodiversity*
- *Secure funding – create partnerships*
- Provide *leadership* – local authorities?



Progress on outputs

2. Dissemination: *conferences and papers*



Historic England

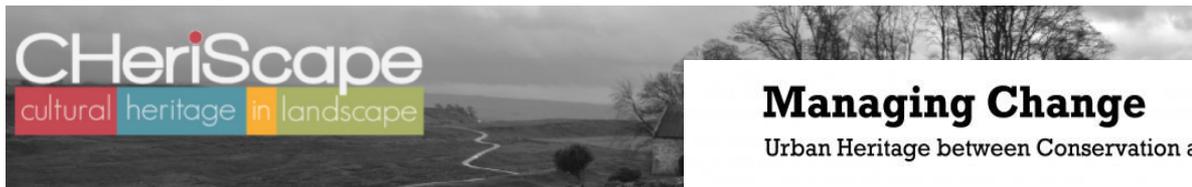


VALUING NATURE

The Historic Environment and Ecosystem Services: Linking issues and research

St Alban's Centre, Holborn, London

7th June 2016, 10:30am – 4:15pm



CHeriScape
cultural heritage in landscape

Home CHeriScape Team **Conferences** Funding Links

Managing Change
Urban Heritage between Conservation and Development

University of Kent
Centre for Heritage



Conference V: 14-16 June 2016 (Newcastle, UK)

LANDSCAPE IN IMAGINATION AND THE VIRTUAL FUTURE

[Announcement](#) [Call for Posters](#) [Registration](#) [Practical Information](#)

The final CHeriScape conference will look forwards – and inwards into imaginati inhabit are increasingly digital as well as remembered; new media is changing h how they think, perhaps in a way similar to how landscape and heritage governe way of perceiving landscapes is just another turn to the ELC definition of landsc people'. Perhaps it narrows 'real world' experience, but it also expands and stretches horizons. Landscape is no longer, if it ever was, only the local, the seen or walked/worked in; people 'possess' distant landscapes that

CHeriScape V in Newcastle on
LANDSCAPE IN IMAGINATION AT
THE VIRTUAL FUTURE

Progress on outputs

3. *Visual representation* - Heritage Drapery

The screenshot displays the 'Heritage Drapery' website. At the top, a dark green banner features the title 'HERITAGE DRAPERY' in white, a photograph of a grassy hillside with people, and the text 'VALUING HERITAGE REVEALING NATURE' in gold. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: Home, About Value, About the Drapery, Nature in Heritage (highlighted), Heritage in Nature, and Nature Drops. Logos for the 'VALUING NATURE PROGRAMME' and 'Historic England' are visible. The main content area is titled 'Nature in Heritage' and shows a large image of a street scene with a church in the background, overlaid with a play button icon. The footer contains the University of Kent contact information and the date 'Last Updated: 18/05/2016'.

HERITAGE DRAPERY

VALUING HERITAGE REVEALING NATURE

Heritage Drapery > University of Kent > Heritage Drapery

SHARE

Home

About Value

About the Drapery

Nature in Heritage

Heritage in Nature

Nature Drops

VALUING NATURE PROGRAMME

Historic England

Nature in Heritage

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The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NZ, T: +44 (0)1227 764000

Last Updated: 18/05/2016

Further research and collaborations

Landscape Research Group

- *observations*
- *interventions*
- *commentaries*

AHRC research proposal

- *with Historic England*
- *to be submitted soon!*

ARTISTS, FARMERS
AND PHILOSOPHERS

GETTING GRASSROOTS EXPERTISE
INTO LANDSCAPE RESEARCH,
POLICY AND PRACTICE.

THE BOWES MUSEUM 7-9 SEPTEMBER 2016



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Thank you
Eirini Saratsi



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