

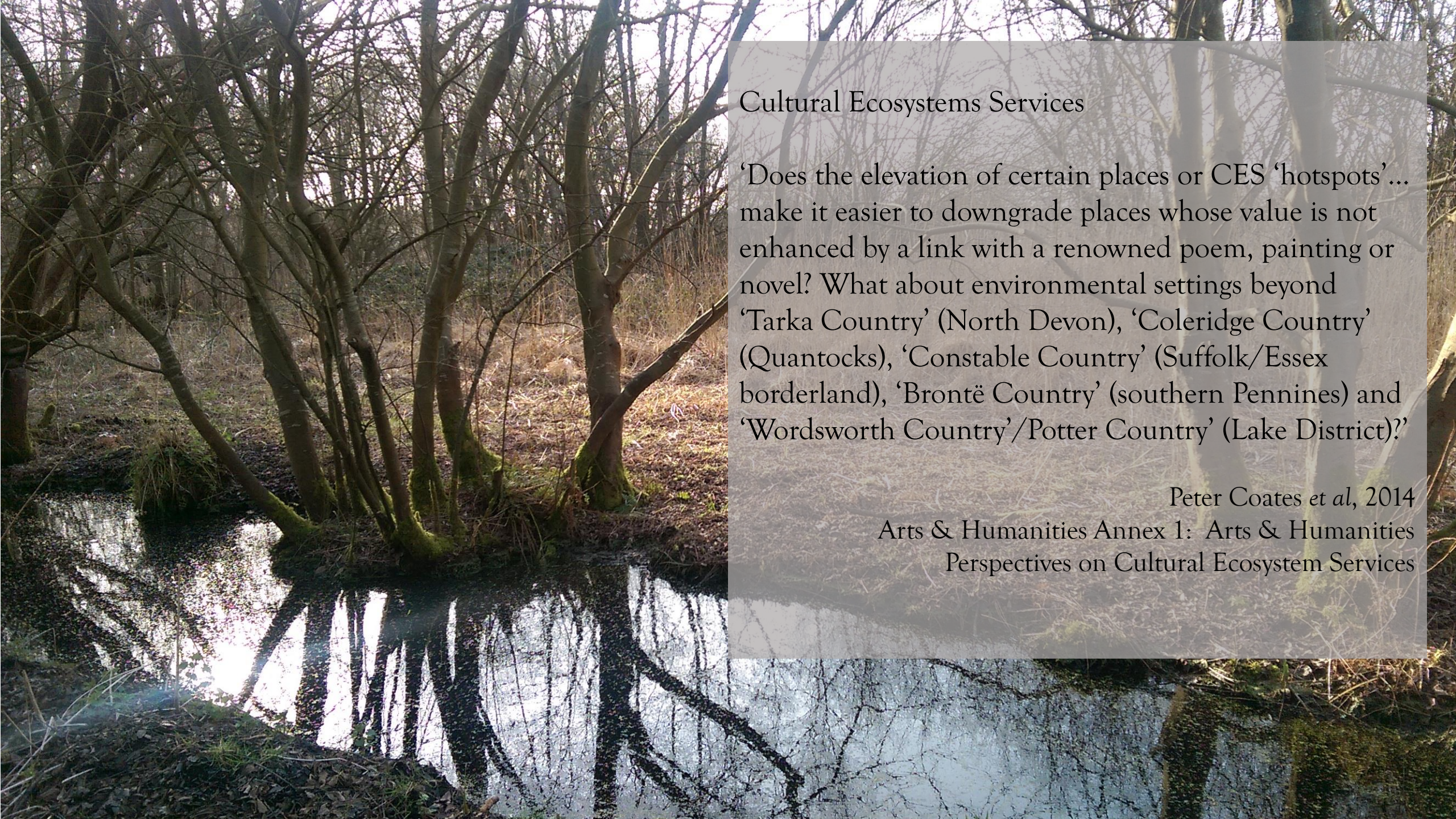


A Room with A View: Observing nature and narrative through the bird hide



11 h. DII

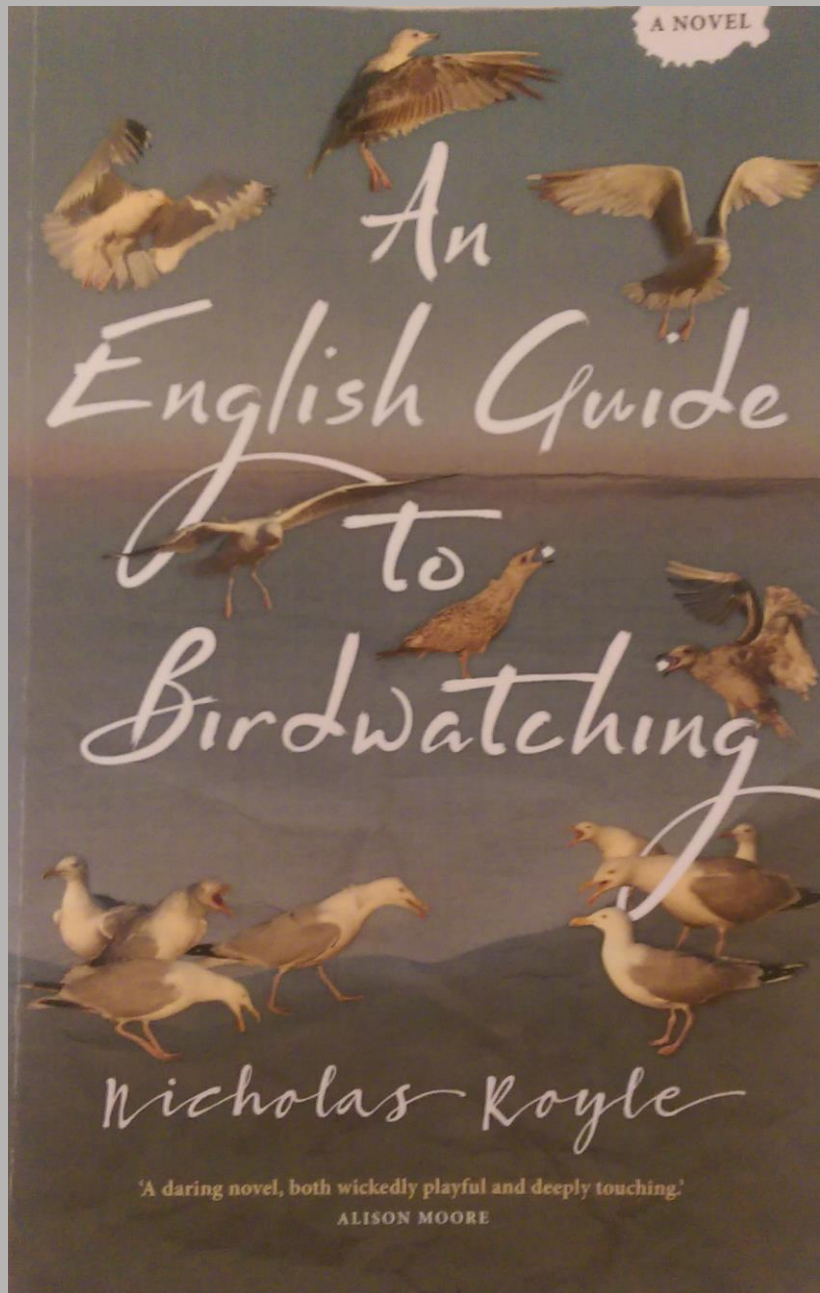
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A photograph of a forest stream. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. The tree trunks are covered in moss, and the forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and twigs. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Cultural Ecosystems Services

‘Does the elevation of certain places or CES ‘hotspots’... make it easier to downgrade places whose value is not enhanced by a link with a renowned poem, painting or novel? What about environmental settings beyond ‘Tarka Country’ (North Devon), ‘Coleridge Country’ (Quantocks), ‘Constable Country’ (Suffolk/Essex borderland), ‘Brontë Country’ (southern Pennines) and ‘Wordsworth Country’/‘Potter Country’ (Lake District)?’

Peter Coates *et al*, 2014
Arts & Humanities Annex 1: Arts & Humanities
Perspectives on Cultural Ecosystem Services



- I fantasise about a book that would be a new form of music, a transformed birdsong, a work of many voices in flight...Only it couldn't be a novel. I don't know what it would be. I dream about the idea of a hide.
- Jekyll and Hyde?
- No. Well, yes and no...the idea of a *text* that would *be* a hide, a place from which to look out and look in, a secret place from which it which it would be possible not only to observe the activity and behaviour of birds and humans, say, but also to observe the novel itself, a kind of screened-off or embedded space within a novel in which it would be possible to explore the relations between birds and words, birdwatching and wordwatching.

Nicholas Royle,
An English Guide to Birdwatching



HIDE & SEEK
PROJECT



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Memory:

My father telling us of his Sunday School Outings in the late 1930's/40's. They would have to walk from Ashatt to the station. How excited they all were about the steam train journey to Fusham. How lovely to be able to do that today!

Not so long ago, when a drystone wall was being repaired near Charter House, on the Mendip, a glass bottle was found in the wall. It contained a message, a love message from a young woman. Research showed that the message dated to 1914. The woman and the young man to whom the message was addressed were in love. Their families would not agree to the relationship because the young man came from a working class family and the woman from a professional class family. The reason the note from the woman was still in the bottle was that he had gone off to the war and never returned to collect it and leave one for her.



NAME: JILL R.

This has always been a peaceful, tranquil place to visit, and an especially good place for an afternoon picnic!! A paddling bittern would be nice though...



Please post me in the Word Hide and visit www.wetlandlife.org to view your contributions and for news about the Hide & Seek Project

My father in law used to Anonymous

work here in the 50's drying peat. He came out to see the Marsh harriers from the tower hide.

We have scattered his ashes in a place he loved!



NAME:

What a beautiful place to
come on a overcast August
Day.
Food for the soul...

Please post me in the Word Hide and visit www.wetlandlife.org
to view your contributions and for news about the Hide & Seek Project

Swallows are as fast as
snails are kind

Lily pads, Soloman
can see, far as the eye

Tranquil water spreads out to the trees
Butterflies flutter in front of the hide
& dragonflies dart to evade the hobby.
The Tor keeps a careful watch on all
below, the herds, the bells & out
to the sea.

Love this place! Emma X.

We sit and watch
We sit and listen
Our patience frayed
The birds are missing!



NAME: Solomon

SWALLOWS are
as fast as snails
and are kind.

Please post me in the Word Hide and visit www.wetlandlife.org
to view your contributions and for news about the Hide & Seek Project

Arrive to collect a white van

Loading daughts, wats & myself
Off to meet Lady of the land,
Near Mere - Avalon Marshes
Gobbled coffee, cake, reconnected -

Have to have energy.

Under the roof trees lie slopes
Neat rows of rectangles 10' x 10' x 10'

Doors slid open, van cavity
Rearranged, 120 blocks (10' x 10' x 10')

Extracted and filled.

Doors slammed, at work
contained (potential).

NAME: Tom Bashleyfield

Please post me in the Word Hide and visit www.wetlandlife.org to view your contributions and for news about the Hide & Seek Project

Peace & seritude,
Bird song in the air,
Cool summer breeze,
on my face & my hair,

The sound of my foot steps,
as I walk the Sweet track
way,

Content with my world
in the silence of the day,

Bountiful nature all around,
Peace in my soul as
I tread this ancient
ground ~

Annie

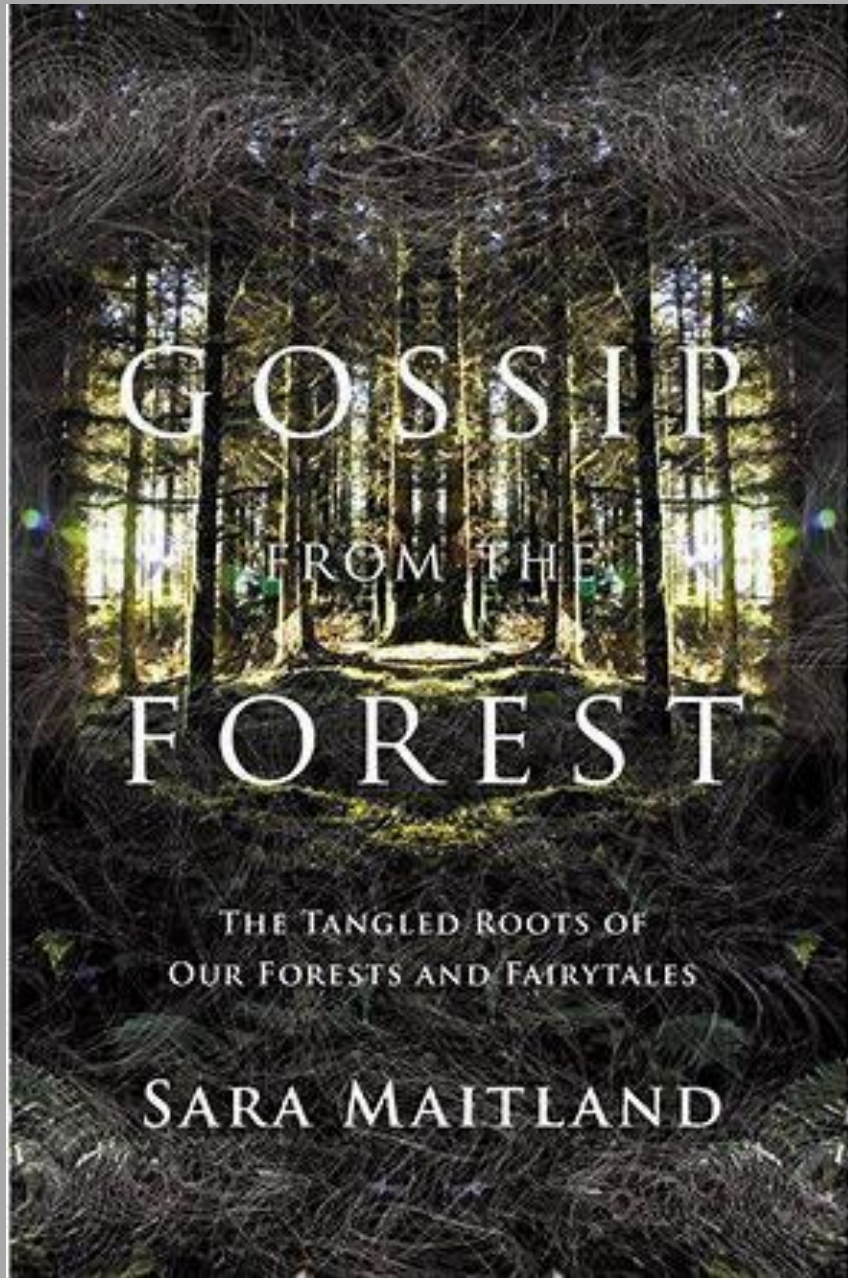
Alder, ALNUS GLUTINOSA
Fear in the Alder, gateway between two worlds
At home in liminal places, where the realms meet.
Fruit Alder heart of riparian forests,
Flourishes along waterways,
Green corridors of connection, meeting in the confluence of streams
Meeting in the confluence of streams.

Deep roots hold earth in the riverbank secure
Entwined in a lovers embrace, they
they weave through the waters, a safe haven for fish.
Fallen leaves, an abundant harvest in the rivers & rhynes,
Togeller with Frankia, Alna its symbiotic partner
Alder creates chemical alchemy with nitrogen & carbon.
Fertilising the soil & cleansing the air.
A tree that prospers in harmony with the elements.

So strong in maturity, it supports abundant biodiversity
A micro forest garden, ~~just~~ thrives along its limbs
A social tree happy to grow sheltering each other
The pinears of new habitat, across the fens
Dark thickets of Alder arise along wild edges,
where boundaries slip, as they shift & change.
Secret places surrounded by mirrored reflections.

This is the tree that bleeds, creating foam in blood
Fear Dearg, the Red man, the old folk say
the Fae caused the first war from Alster
Is this a Jewish old wives tale?
Or is the crone's wisdom hidden here?
For if this war was true what would it mean?
That we might prosper by supporting abundant biodiversity
Does humanity belong to the wild edges of the soul?
Do our rivers of blood bleed with the rainy waters of the land?
Is one foot in this world & the other beyond the veil?
Tricia Brown

‘The blind is blind to hide, the hide hides blind,
the blind is blind to blind, the hide hides hide.’



‘I want to match up what is in the forests with the fairy stories, see how the themes of the fairy stories grow out of the reality of the forest, and the other way around – show how people see the forests in a particular way because of the fairy stories.’

...‘twin-life’ of plants and the particular type of fungi they are paired with, called mycorrhizia.

...‘teach us how to see the forests’ and ‘protect our woodland’



‘Storytelling has a vital role to play in creating spaces within which alternative futures can be imagined’

‘...stories of past change can provide an intellectual-cum-cultural tool in thinking about the future.’

Peter Coates *et al*, 2014
Arts & Humanities Perspectives on Cultural
Ecosystem Services



HIDE & SEEK
PROJECT

Victoria Leslie

WetlandLIFE

University of Chichester

Bird hide photographs by

Tim Acott