

Observation Exercise: Listening to the Landscape

In this session we are not asking “what can I do with this land?”, but “what is this land telling me?”

Move around the site on your own, in silence, and spend 10 minutes on each part, below:

Part 1 - Intuitive: What are your first impressions of the site?

1. How would you describe the overall site?
2. Close your eyes: what can you hear, smell, feel?
3. What are the relationships with the neighbouring land?

Part 2 - Objective: Observe the site rationally and systematically. You may want to list the following (if you don't know the name of something, describe it):

1. Soil type:
2. Climate and micro-climate:
3. Water courses and features:
4. Plants:

5. Animals:

Part 3 - Imaginative: try to visualise this place in other times/states

1. How would this place have looked before humans influenced it?
2. How might it change 3 months from now?
3. How might it change 6 months from now?
4. How might it change if humans stopped influencing it?

Part 4 - Subjective: how does the *genius loci* of this place make you feel?

1. Go wherever you want, and do whatever you feel like...