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# John Muir Trust – Wild Places workshop

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## About the workshop and this report

### Purpose of the workshop

John Muir Trust invited a range of diverse voices to a workshop to share their opinions, experiences, understanding, and unique perspective on what it means for a place to be, and feel, wild.

The outputs from this workshop will directly contribute to John Muir Trust's future work identifying where the UK's wild places are. What people said in the workshop will help JMT to develop 'wild place' criteria which have been informed by what people in the UK value about wild places.

### About this workshop report

This is a record of what was said during the workshop. During the workshop, the essence of every point said was either noted by facilitators, or participants typed their own points. Following the workshop, Dialogue Matters collated all the outputs into this record and then sorted it out so that similar ideas, from within each conversation, are grouped together.

We sort it like this because conversations don't progress in a linear way, but go off on tangents, circle back and change direction suddenly – all of which makes reading it in that order difficult to understand. By sorting similar points together, the main topics and themes of the conversation become clearer.

When we are sorting the outputs, we let the ideas and then themes emerge, rather than use pre-set topic headings. This avoids bias and missing unique or unexpected points.

The ideas could have been grouped differently or different titles chosen, so no weight should be attached to them.

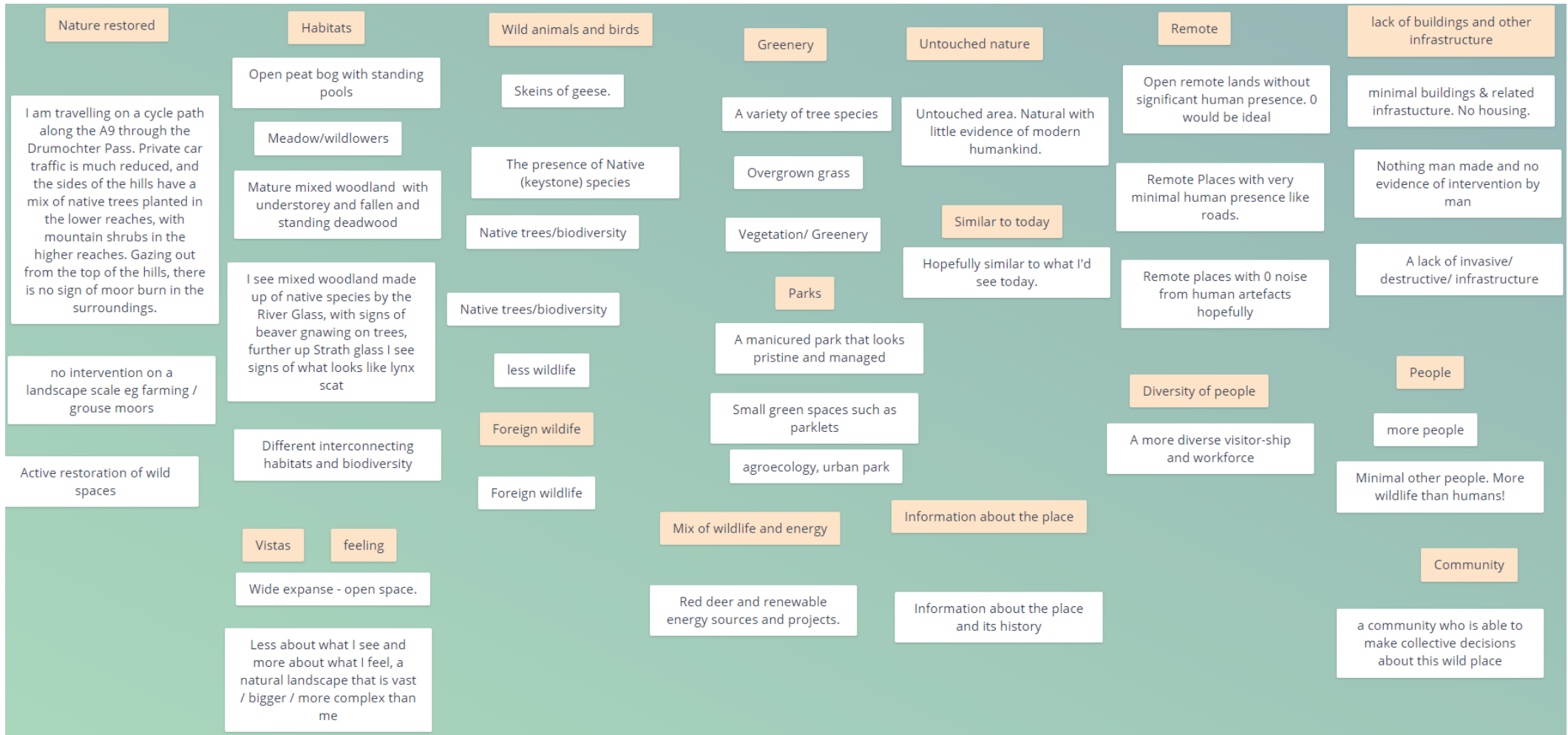
This report serves as a record of what people said and an *aide memoir* for those who took part in the workshop. Dialogue Matters are also creating a 2-3 page summary report which can be used to communicate about the workshop more widely.

The following output report follows the same order as the event.

Acronyms used in this report	Meaning
JMT	John Muir Trust
TYF	TYF Adventure (outdoor adventure organisation in Pembrokeshire)

# 1 Vision Question

## 1.1 Imagine it is 2030 and you are out and about in an area you think of as wild. What do you see?



## 2 Wild Ideas

### 2.1 What do you experience in a place that makes it feel more or less wild?

(Scale: 1= Less Wild, 5= Wild)

#### See

##### **Wildness is a sliding scale and relative to each person**

- 0 - Sliding scale, seeing no infrastructure, high end of scale, each person will have relative experience. Some like very wild with no mobile reception, other don't want that level of vulnerability and want a walk/path to introduce themselves
- 0 - The more knowledge you gain the more you delve into fascination with more unusual biodiversity - but some get just as much enjoyment from first experiences with common things - relevant
- 0 - Biodiversity - we value biodiversity because we have knowledge - people with less experience are blown away by seeing more common things like deer - different based on knowledge

##### **People choose to watch nature on screen as it's what they're used to**

- 0 - Ponds outside through the window but people still chose to watch it on the screen - look at what your used to - used to seeing it on TV but don't understand it is accessible - giving resources can show people it is accessible to them

##### **Wind turbines**

- 1 - Wind turbine
- 1 - Wind turbines in nearby wind farm. takes away wildness of area
- 4 - Wind farms

##### **More people**

- 1 - Lots of people
- 1 - People
- 1 - Crowds of people

##### **Managed landscapes**

- 1 - Managed landscapes

##### **Buildings and infrastructure**

- 1 - Lots of buildings, built up spaces. Tarmac, pavement, some green spaces
- 1 - Infrastructure

##### **Planes and drones**

- 1 - Planes and drones

##### **Damaged monoculture field**

- 1 - Monoculture field that has been damaged

##### **Street trees**

- 2 - Street trees

##### **Formal places/gardens**

- 3 - Formal place with signage and walking routes marked
- 3 - Gardens

##### **Biodiversity**

- 3 - Diversity, mix of species
- 4 - Biodiversity - not monocultures, range of species plants and animals - brown spaces in cities can promote this, wildflowers and species, can have great biodiversity even in recovered space

##### **Horizons**

- 4 - Horizons

##### **Natural, overgrown, and untouched vegetation**

- 4 - More flowers, natural growth around you. Overgrown grass hasn't been cut for a while. Untouched. Shrubs, grass, edges

**Unmanaged or unmaintained places and landscapes**

- 4 - Adventure playground in London - wild, unmanaged, kids are free to do as they please. People think of e.g., highlands as wild spaces but you can find wild places around the corner from you e.g. pond in the park where birds flourish
- 4 - Derelict land - lack of maintenance, unruly appearance
- 5 - Unmanaged landscape
- 4 - Not tidy, might have to climb and clamber over things
- 5 - Untidy - branches left where it falls to help things process

**Standing deadwood left for insects and animals**

- 4 - Standing deadwood not tidied away because of risk of it falling, leaving it as a home for insects and animals

**Remote houses**

- 4 - Remote houses

**Lack of human infrastructure**

- 4 - Lack of manmade clutter, litter bins, infrastructure, some signage
- 5 - Lack of human infrastructure
- 4 - Roads which are dirt tracks, the more basic it is the better

**Less light pollution**

- 4 - Less light pollution

**Fewer people**

- 4 - A couple of people
- 5 - Less people
- 5 - No people

**Returned species**

- 5 - Signs of species that have returned e.g., beavers

**Moorlands**

- 5 - Moorlands

**The sea gets refreshed by the tides and stays wild visually**

- 5 - It is hard for man to do too much to the sea, it gets refreshed daily by tides, so it stays wild visually 5 even if very close to busy path

**Get to be close to animals by the sea**

- 5 - Get to be close to animals when out of water and the sea - seals etc

**Sunshine**

- 5 - Sunshine

**Foreign insects and birds**

- 5 - Insects and birds that you haven't seen before. Foreign species. Unusual insects or foreign birds

**Trees and woodland**

- 5 - Nature reserve trees
- 5 - Ancient woodlands

**Extreme weather**

- 5 - Extreme weather events

**Animals and wildlife**

- 5 - Wildlife
- 5 - Presence of other animals you can see and experience is important - can be done at the sea with seals and otters

**Green and blue**

- 5 - Greenery/Blue surroundings

**Geese in the sky**

- 5 - Geese and clouds
- 5+ - Sky (with flying geese)

## Hear

### **Traffic and drilling**

- 1 - Cars
- 1 - Drills
- 1 - Drone of traffic
- 1 - People, drilling, sirens, cars
- 1 - Traffic noise
- 3 - Not hearing traffic noise

### **Sound of geese**

- 1 - Hearing geese on farmland chattering
- 5 - Hearing geese in the sky

### **Silence**

- 1 - Silence
- 4 - Peace and quiet and hearing
- 5 - Silence

### **Aeroplane noise**

- 2 - Plane noise under flight path every 90 seconds ruins even if it is quite a wild place - sliding scale. Even seeing plane trails ruins the wilderness experience

### **Boundaries between built environment and nature changing in unexpected ways**

- 3 - Non-native species thriving in city centre - lack of ability of people to control - boundaries between built envt and nature changing in unexpected ways

### **Hearing birds and birdsong**

- 4 - Birdsong
- 5 - Birdsong
- 5 - Bird song and animal moving
- 5 - Hearing birds

### **Busy rural roads**

- 4 - Busy roads, sounds of tractors, but still rural

### **Buzz of insects**

- 4 - Buzz of insects - abandonment can buzz with life more than managed hill side - if it has lack of intervention 5!!

### **Running water**

- 4 - Sound of the river, water
- 5 - Babbling brook

### **Birds of prey**

- 5 - Birds of prey

### **Deer rutting**

- 5 - Deer rutting

### **The elements**

- 5 - Elements - water, wind
- 5 - Wind
- 5 - Rain

### **Leaves rustling**

- 5 - Leaves rustling

### **Thunder and lightning**

- 5 - Thunder and lightning

### **Woodpeckers (non-urban birds)**

- 5 - Woodpeckers (different birds to urban birds)



## Smell

### **Sea is a short cut to a wild place**

- 0 - The sea is like a short cut to a wild place, you can see, hear, feel it. Sand, waves, salt water, animals. Fairly instant and nearby. Don't have to try too hard, or need special skills?

### **Petrol**

- 1 - Petrol

### **Retail outlets**

- 1 - Retail outlets

### **Food**

- 1 - Fast food
- 2 - A lot of food in less wild spaces

### **Air conditioning**

- 1 - Air conditioning

### **Farms and manure**

- 1 - Pig farm, really smelly, attitude to nature - control, destructive
- 3 - Manure
- 4 - Slurry smells - farmland

### **Dead things**

- 1 - Dead things are there to be smelt if you can smell them!

### **Fire**

- 2 - Fire

### **Wet leaves and woodland**

- 3 - Wet leaves
- 4 - Damp woodland smell, rotting matter, processes happening

### **Grass**

- 4 - Grass natural smell

### **Sewage at the beach**

- 4 - Sewage at beach

### **Fresh air and water**

- 4 - Salt air
- 5 - Clear air and earth
- 5 - Fresh air without pollution, petrol, fumes
- 5 - Taste - out in hills, rich, clear taste (e.g., clean water)

### **Pine woods**

- 5 - Pine woods

### **Petrichor**

- 5 - Petrichor

## Touch

### **Hard surfaces**

- 1 - Hard surfaces
- 1 - Feeling under feet - urban area hard and concrete
- 1 - Concrete

### **Soil/dirty hands**

- 4 - People working with soil, land, dirty hands - active understanding via touch
- 5 - Soil

### **Being open and wanting to feel**

- 4 - Touch because want to feel - e.g., tree
- 4 - More open to touch in more wild space. Less wild spaces chemical related pollution, less natural dirt that you don't want to touch

**Barefoot feeling**

- 4 - Feel grass beneath your feet
- 5 - Barefoot
- 5 - Wild areas more variation in texture - running barefoot in fields

**Most wild and free when interacting with landscape**

- 5 - Interacting in the landscape - most wild and free when fully interacting with landscape inc. touch

**River water**

- 5 - River water

**Precipitation**

- 5 - Snow
- 5 - Rain

**Hesitant to touch - don't want to disturb wild places**

- 5 - More hesitancy or sensitivity to touch the more wild - don't want to disturb

**Tree bark**

- 5 - Tree bark

**Feel**

**Experiences different depending on what you're used to**

- 0 - Coast doesn't hold same significance to everyone, maybe depends on what you're used to
- 0 - Different experience based on what you are used to, you seek more based on what you're used to but accessible level might be different

**Time for reflection on a dog walk, even in manmade environment**

- 0 - Bonding experience out with the dog, time to think, no other people as you stroll along, time for reflection. Even if it is a manmade environment - looks nice and pretty but touched by humans

**Who owns the lands affects experience of a place**

- 0 - Property affects relationship with place - who owns the land - past historic use, present uses, colour feeling and experience of place (if community owned - 5; if privilege and destructive use - 1)

**Learning ecology is about learning something new**

- 0 - Trying to learn about ecology has been less about being alone but about discovering and looking and learning something new and out of the ordinary

**Making small wild experiences in cities or local settings**

- 0 - Half an hour walk will gain an experience but it isn't remote but you can make something of it personally
- 0 - Can carve out those small experiences in a local park, even in a busy and load city but it provided the experience relative to surroundings

**You can feel judged, like you need to be qualified to be in the wild**

- 0 - sometimes you feel like you're imposing on others if they're enjoying the peace and quiet. You can feel a bit judged if you're in a wild place and everyone else is in high tech clothes etc. Sometimes a sense that you have to be qualified to be in the wild. Like you don't have a right to be there

**Feeling overwhelmed in urban spaces**

- 1 - Feeling of being closed in by buildings
- 1 - Feel overwhelmed in less wild spaces. Lots going on in cityscapes

**Campfire (comfort)**

- 3 - Campfire (comfort)

**Management makes somewhere feel unwild**

- 3 - Chain saw cuts, just cut out section over the path and leave everything else but becomes very unwild and managed when see

**Mixed feelings about wild space in city**

- 3 - Wilder space in city due to neglect, mix of feelings, not ideal conditions

**Calming to be in open space**

- 3 - Calming to be in open spaces, see the sea

**Fear of the unknown and the excitement that comes with it**

- 5 - In wild, you can feel a bit lost. Literally lost and the emotion as well. Fear of the unknown (really wild places, not sure what you will see). The excitement that comes with that as well

**Sense of presence and self-awareness**

- 5 - In wild places - sense of presence. More aware of how you are and how you're feeling

**More prepared for the unexpected**

- 5 - In a wild space, you feel more prepared for unexpected things - weather, where you're going, directions

**Sense of vastness**

- 5 - Big vast landscapes that feel bigger than myself
- 5 - Sense of distance

**Other People**

**Making wild places more enjoyable by giving people a reason to be there**

- 0 - Making enjoyment more accessible with small spotter sheet or info sheet - having a reason to be in a wild space - looking for wild things, looking for dragonfly – Pokemon Go gives a reason to be outdoors, a reason to be there

**Managing spaces can create wildness more quickly than abandoning them**

- 0 - Can a wild place be created? you can interact and enhance biodiversity - managed and created and become wild. Would have to be abandoned for hundred years to get there on its own. Would be idea to have completely abandoned

**Age extremes**

- 1 - Very young
- 1 - Very old

**Crowds**

- 1 - Crowds

**Farmers**

- 1 - Intensive farmers
- 3 - Farmers
- 4 - Regenerative farmers

**People more open to interacting in natural spaces**

- 2 - In more urban places you move past people without interacting
- 3 - Meeting people in rural and natural spaces - they are more open to interact

**Still finding space for wild experiences with lots of people around**

- 3 - There are people nearby but you can still disappear and get an emotional experience away from people - harder at the weekends when it is busy
- 3 - Try to avoid signs of human presence signs, snap a branch rather than cutting , leaving a stump if obvious and unwild
- 3 - Finding space for wildness when there are so many people in a small area

**Traveller communities**

- 3 - Travellers

**People being involved in the care of places/nature**

- 3 - How communities are involved in management of places - e.g. crofting communities
- 5 - People being involved in caring for nature

**Diversity of people**

- 3 - Out walking and don't see anybody. Then you spot someone, especially with headscarf (not middle class white) that's quite cool. See people who you wouldn't expect to see
- 5 - Quantity and diversity of people - in terms of ethnicity, background. Lot of diversity in less wild space

**Friends**

- 3 - Friends

**Indigenous and rural communities**

- 4 - Indigenous and rural communities

**Strangers**

- 4 - Strangers

**Fewer people**

- 5 - Very few other people (can be a group you know with you) not seeing others mistreating wild places
- 5 - Wilder places, associate with fewer people

**Sense of wild is influenced by individual experiences**

- 5 - We have to intervene - only get a 5 if no hint of man's action, but many people would give a 5 even when messed with because the experience is good

**Getting To**

**You can feel isolated from wild places because they're far away**

- 0 - Covid meant you had to find wild places which are walkable. when you can't drive you rely on other people going somewhere. You can feel quite isolated from wild places - because they're far away

**Not utilising what we have e.g., education**

- 0 - Maybe not fully utilising what we have - education

**Accessibility by public transport**

- 1 - Public transport
- 1 - Everything accessible. You can walk get public transport
- 3 - Accessibility on public transport - bus drops off not at most wildest part but the wild place is accessible from there

**If it is made safe, it is not wild**

- 2 - If it is tamed and made safe it is not wild. not litter but can be debris and fallen things, or things going to fall

**London parks much more accessible**

- 2 - London parks much more accessible

**Coast is a more accessible wild place**

- 3 - Coast is much better access to a wild place, lack of manmade structure
- 3 - Coast is more accessible than many places, you can walk short distance from car park - seeing the sea provides instant sense of space and scale of the sea

**Balancing nature with the modern world and people**

- 5 - Permits to access wild places make them hard to get into - becomes less wild because you have to queue and buy a permit - we don't have the freedom to roam - even though it keeps it wild - balance modern world and people. Rangers have tasers!

**Hard to get to or inaccessible**

- 5 - Wild places in national park. Feel rural, no phone signal, not accessible
- 5 - Wild places generally quite distant. Not many people inhabiting it. Quite hard to get to - drive, train, even fly.
- 5 - Wilder places harder to get to
- 5 - Inaccessible (5)

**In a city any small bit of isolation or wild can help**

- 5 - When you live in a city or town then any small bit of isolation and wild can help you find harmony with your environment when you live in a busy place or city

**Self-sufficiency**

- 5 - Sense of self sufficiency - take your own food, water, accommodation - range between needing a snack vs a few days of food

## Getting Help

### **Financial help for nature lacking**

- 0 - Governance and financial help lacking for nature - can be a high appreciation of nature but not willingness to put resources into protecting these places (generally hard to get resources for nature) - e.g., developing places and not considering nature

### **Harder to get help**

- 4 - Harder to get help in some wilder places - e.g., lack of signal, not as many people around (4) - nb urban wild areas where this may not apply
- 4 - Sense of risk and danger, help from passer-by but not a station of first aid
- 5 - Informal place where you have to map your own route, have less help

### **Harder for humans to be there**

- 5 - Inhospitable places - harder for humans to be there

## Other

### **Connection to history through trees**

- 0 - Land with ancient oaks that are very old - 600 years old, the trees have a presence, connection with people and nature and history, stepping back through time, being near those trees - historical connection to the passage of time and what the tree has seen and supported in its lifetime

### **Remoteness as a way of understanding wild makes it inaccessible**

- 0 - Remoteness as a way of understanding wild makes it only accessible for a few/privileged people and can mean people are or feel removed or distanced from the land.

### **We should be rethinking the way we live in urban areas**

- 0 - We should be rethinking the way we live in urban areas - by protecting the wild, possibly means people believe they can do anything want to the urban

### **Having Wifi**

- 1 - Having Wifi - not connecting with wild surroundings

### **Less opportunity for local people to live in/near wild places**

- 3 - Opportunities for local people to live on doorstep of wild places is difficult, this is a problem - would like to see people living in these landscapes

### **Space to be and act as you like**

- 3 - Space to do and be and act as you will yourself too, moving stages up the scale makes different wild places valuable

### **Intervention needed if we want quick results**

- 4 - We want quick results so interaction and intervention is needed, management - creating opportunities, bring beavers in and let them do their thing but we have to do something

### **Nature has to be left to its own devices**

- 5 - Has to be left to its own devices the nature

## 2.2 What are places like, that are more or less wild?

(Scale: 1= Less Wild, 5= Wild)

### Nature

#### **Different perceptions of wild from different perspectives**

- 0 - very different perceptions of wild from different countries and backgrounds - some view building and development surrounded by wildness is still considered to be wild
- 0 - such different interpretation of 'wild' from different perspectives - it becomes meaningless - wildlife may be a more useful term - emphasis on 'life'

#### **Few places in Scotland that are totally wild**

- 0 - few places in Scotland that are totally wild

#### **Urban areas can feel more wild with more biodiversity**

- 0 - can you get wild place in a city? can be difficult to comprehend - it is a matter of degree - where some places species have entered urban areas - they can feel more wild - particular species can embody wildness - brown field sites in cities can have a wild appearance and high level of diversity

#### **Animals disturbed by humans**

- 1 - Animals disturbed by humans much less wild experience e.g. dog disturbing birds, other people have intruded on your wild experience

#### **Need to move away from the term 'wild', does not incorporate human intervention**

- 2 - we may need to move away from the term 'wild' it does not incorporate human intervention - value you places on different terms rather than wild - these terms exist for those with different relationships with nature
- 0 - thinking about pristine, untouched nature can cause arguments. Is there anything that is untouched - e.g. microplastics

#### **Common wildlife**

- 2 - common wildlife - found in urban landscapes
- 1 - domesticated animals

#### **Non-native and invasive species**

- 1 - Alien/invasive species
- 2-3 - Introduced species
- 4 - Slightly inconvenient species - more wild

#### **Plantations**

- 3 - plantations

#### **Meaningful engagement with nature**

- 3/4 - Need meaningful engagement with nature - not only doing things (litter picking) but also not doing things

#### **Local nature reserves**

- 3-4 - local nature reserves and sites

#### **Animals behaving naturally**

- 3 - Animals behave naturally, going about business, despite human traffic e.g. coots on the canals, foxes rotting along
- 4 - if you see an animal doing something completely natural, unaware that you're there

#### **Lack of pollution**

- 4 - lack of pollution

#### **Litter**

- 4 - less litter
- 1 - a lot of litter - makes a place less wild

#### **Heather**

- 4 - heather in the moorlands and highlands

#### **Lack of human intervention**

- 5 - where nature has taken over - lack of human intervention - no recent human intervention - more wild
- 3 - place where there is minimal intervention and management - example glen affric - diversity of species is not most wild

**Rare and iconic species**

- 5 - Rare species e.g. only found in Scottish highlands
- 5 - iconic species - more wild
- 4 - "Wild" animals, or animals not often seen

**Trees and woodland where they belong**

- 5 - ancient woodland
- 5 - Trees where they belong

**Interacting with wildlife**

- 5 - interacting with wildlife e.g. seals, dolphins - more wild

**People not causing a disturbance**

- 4 - people being there - is also wild for me, not causing a disturbance

**Non-human nature**

- 5 - non-human nature
- 5 - Other life forms that lives free

**Paying attention makes a place feel more wild**

- 5 - the more you pay attention to what is there (in the city or countryside) can make a place feel more wild

**Native species**

- 5 - Native species

**How varied it looks**

**Monoculture**

- 1 - any monoculture - less wild
- 1 - monoculture
- 1 - monoculture

**Manmade materials**

- 1 - concrete slabs, grassy green patched, tarmac roads, parks, AstroTurf

**Clearly separated packets of variety**

- 1/2 - less wild - little packets of variety - clearly separated

**Farmland**

- 1 - farmed landscape
- 3 - farmed grassland

**Fence lines on farmland**

- 3 - Farmers fence line but still looks wild

**Variety depends on perspective**

- 3 - how varied it looks varies massively for people - massive open spaces, urban derelict spaces could both be varied, wild

**Better cohesion of between different landscapes**

- 3 - better cohesion in the variety of landscapes - between different landscape - wilder places have more variety but there is more cohesion

**Mosaic of habitats**

- 4 - mosaic of habitats

**Access paths**

- 4 - if place has any access path - dirt paths, bike tracks

**Overgrown brownfield sites**

- 4 - wild space in London - brown field sites, quite overgrown, lots of buddleia, weeds

**Varied colours**

- 4 - very varied and colourful - changes with the seasons - types of flowers, cycle of the trees - see changes - more wild
- 4 - varied colours

**Large landscapes**

- 5 - boglands and vast landscapes
- 0 - difference between macro and micro variety - large landscape can appear to have less variety but when you take a closer look you can see more variety

**Variety of crops**

- 5 - more wild - agroecology - variety of crops, companion plants

**Biodiversity**

- 5 - biodiversity

**Uniqueness**

- 5 - unique

**Bleak and monotonous**

- 5 - Bleak and monotonous

**Rugged terrain**

- 5 - rugged terrain -very wild, including mountains

**Absence of people, untouched**

- 5 - me being there, makes it less wild - footprint. Completely untouched
- 5 - if absolutely nothing that has been touched by man
- 5 - uncultivated

**Colours**

**Primary colours by themselves**

- 1 - primary colours by themselves

**Industrial greys**

- 1 - Factory/Concrete Grey
- 1 - any greys, most building colours - less wild. Monochromatic colours - urban landscape
- 1 - grey, white

**Contrasts and artificial colours**

- 1 - in certain areas the greens and browns represent degraded land use - lack of trees etc. On the other scale - bright green can seem artificial and less wild
- 1 - artificial colours
- 2 - clashing colours - less wild spaces. Buildings with unnaturally matching colours. Greater contrasts.
- 3 - Contrasts with some artificial colours

**Purples and yellows**

- 4 - purples and yellows - the colours of highlands and heather

**Greens and blues**

- 4 - lush green, dark green - more wild
- 5 - greens and blues

**Brown of the soil**

- 4 - brown of the soil

**Changing colours**

- 4 - Natural environments on a gradient scale - greens, oranges, browns, blacks etc
- 5 - changing colours

**Seasonal colours**

- 4 - warm hues, ferns dying off, orange colours in autumn - not year-round
- 5 - seasonality - interesting experience of wild

**Fog grey**

- 5 - fog grey

**Absence of colour can be wild**

- 5 - Absence of colour can be wild. e.g., pitch black dark sky - in a forest - you won't see any flashes of colour/white
- 5 - more vibrancy and diversity of colour in wild place - absence of colour can also be an indication of wildness - idea of wild changed as you learn more about the history of a place - timescale can play a factor
- 3 - landscape scale - not very colourful but on a micro scale more colour

**Broad spectrum of colours**

- 5 - Broad spectrum of colours, beyond the primary colours



**Subtlety**

- 5 - subtle

**Non-primary colours**

- 5 non-primary colours

**Sounds of nature**

**Other people**

- 3 - if you can hear someone else who's not in your group - it would change the wild place from 5 to a 3. Wild place - being there with your group dramatically.
- 0 - Don't mind other people in wild places. we all leave scars in nature - we have the choice of which scars we leave. Roads are not necessarily a problem in wild places as need access.

**Running water**

- 3 - running water, rivers and brooks - wild

**Foxes in an urban space**

- 3 - foxes in an urban space

**Sounds of nature dominate a wild space**

- 3 - sounds of nature dominate a wild space

**Different types of birds**

- 2-3 - sound of sparrows, robins - garden birds, less wild
- 4-5 - woodpeckers and osprey, associated with wilder places

**Buzzing with bird and insect life**

- 4 - buzzing with life - birds, insects. Sound washes over you - really wild

**The weather**

- 5 - Sound of the weather
- 5 - Wind, rain, thunder
- 4 - wind in the trees a sense of being in the wild

**Sounds of danger and fear**

- 5 - Scary sounds or those which give a slight sense of fear
- 4 - Sounds of danger/raw nature and weather

**Silence**

- 5 - silence
- 5 - Absolute silence - more wild
- 1 - Silence - might indicate the absence of wilderness

**Waves**

- 4 - waves have got an association with wildness even if landscape doesn't seem particularly wild - can create a strong wild feeling
- 5 - rougher waves - very wild sound
- 5 - Powerful waves

**Extreme weather**

- 5 - earthquakes - other extreme weather events
- 5 - the wind - whipping wind - storms - any extreme weather - elemental feel - more wild

**Birdsong**

- 5 - birdsong

**Other sounds**

**Other sounds would dominate a less wild space**

- 1 - other sounds would dominate a less wild space

**Emergency service sirens**

- 1 - sirens from emergency services - less wild

**Traffic and aeroplane noise**

- 1 - highway noises, sounds of cars
- 1 - Cars/planes/industrial sounds
- 1 - hearing a lot of plane noise, less wild
- 1 - traffic noises

**Mobile phones**

- 1 - mobile phones, calls/music coming out

**People**

- 2 - people sounds - e.g., crowds, shouting children

**Testing military equipment**

- 3 - bomb testing in wilder places
- 3 - military plane testing in wilder areas - low flying

**Mindful listening**

- 5 - Mindful listening
- 5 - Acute listening and paying attention

**Water**

**Knowledge and familiarity of a place can make it feel less wild**

- 0 - knowledge of a place may make it seem less wild - living in a wild place can make it no longer feel wild

**Roads along rivers**

- 1 - rivers in UK which have road alongside - less wild

**Straight rivers**

- 1-2 - Straight rivers

**Hard division**

- 2 - hard division - less wild

**Manmade bodies of water**

- 1 - Bodies and channels of water are manmade and often polluted - less wild places
- 2 - reservoirs, canals

**Drainage**

- 3 - Naturally occurring drainage and/or ancient drainage
- 1 - Drainage channels

**Temporary water**

- 4 - Temporary water (puddles, floods etc.) (4)

**Naturally formed bodies of water**

- 4 - Bodies water formed natural processes and less polluted - more wild
- 4-5 - rivers and lakes

**Green infrastructure**

- 5 - need more green infrastructure alongside river - more wild

**Burns and bogs**

- 5 - more burns and bogs - more nuanced difference between dry and moist - more wild

**Winding river**

- 5 - Winding river

## Land/seascape

### Restored landscapes are still wild places

- 0 - can restore landscapes to rewild - these are still wild spaces

### Scale of the landscape

- 0 - scale - larger more wild - inner city back garden not as wild

### Building into the sea gives idea of power over nature

- 0 - lack of control - pier in the sea - idea of power over nature - places without this seem less wild - can also represent an attempt to overcome wildness

### Pollution on the beach

- 1 - pollution - pesticides, microplastics in pristine beach

### Wind power infrastructure

- 1 - when wind power projects pop up - try to complement landscape that already exists. but think these make a place less wild

### Coastal industry

- 1 - coastal industry

### The wind at sea

- 2-3 - wind at the sea - feeling of the wind on face and tiredness from wind

### Coast is more wild in winter

- 2-3 - easily accessible beach - feels less wild, more people (2 or 3), winter could be a 3, summer a 2
- 4 - rougher waves, winter, more wild

### Transitions and boundaries between habitats

- 4 - less boundaries in some countries - can make it feel more wild - gardens merging - landscapes merging
- 1 - longer transitions from habitat landscapes
- 2 - habitat transitions - where they are manmade it has more impact on the wildness of a landscape

### Different conditions offer different wild experiences

- 3 - beautiful sunny day can be wild experience. But howling gale/ very cold/ dry can sharpen experience of wilderness

### Freedom of choice

- 4 - choice to take your own routes

### Harshness

- 4 - if rugged, wild place - feels wild
- 5 - harsh

### Humans in the landscape

- 4 - Respect for the human history of the landscape
- 5 - Post-industrial environments (remembering all wild places have a human history as well)
- 0 - Respect for those who live and work in the countryside

### Sand dunes

- 4-5 - sand dunes

### Being near or out at sea

- 5 - can also feel wild very high up or out at sea
- 4 - sea not the first thing think of for wild (don't live near sea) but sea can be really wild

### Expanses of beach

- 5 - quieter parts of a beach, feel more wild
- 4 - very flat, e.g. large, exposed beach - also so wild. Dominated by the sky, immersed in the environment
- 3-4 - tidal range, huge expanse of sand, very changing landscape makes feel wild, ability to do rock pooling - too close to roads to be more wild

### Novelty

- 5 - novel in its own right

### Mountains

- 5 - mountains

### Element of risk and the unknown

- 5 - element of risk - more wild - element of unknown - extreme weather

## Sky

### Light pollution

- 1 – Light pollution with spotlights etc.
- 2 – light pollution, ability to see stars – less wild

### Aeroplanes and contrails

- 1 – sky full of plane contrails – turn into heavy cloud cover. Feels like it has polluted my sky with planes
- 3 – planes
- 1 – Steam/smoke/contrails/smog

### Watching murmurations

- 3 – watching murmurations

### Being able to see the sun

- 3 – being able to see the sun in the sky

### Clear

- 5 – clear

### Being able to see stars

- 4 – being able to see the stars, urban light pollution can block out
- 5 – dark skies and stars

### Level of obstruction by buildings

- 5 – if not obstructed by manmade structures – more wild
- 2 – if it's obstructed by buildings, unnatural objects

### Clouds

- 5 – cloudscapes

## Land use

### Not as simple as wild being separate from human intervention

- 0 - danger of thinking that wild is separate from humans and human intervention - can't separate so distinctly - need to make people feel a part of it
- 0- even where historical land has been cultivated and then left to be 'wild' that land can still be characterised as managed and not wild - more nuanced than more intervention = less wild, and less intervention = more wild
- 0 - danger of thinking that wild is separate from humans and human intervention - can't separate so distinctly - need to make people feel a part of it
- 0 - people don't need to be absent - more about the degree of people's impact on the landscape which affects the feeling of wildness

### Wild spaces being created in Glasgow but still a push for development

- 1 - areas in Glasgow are creating wild spaces but there is still a push for development

### Modern infrastructure

- 1 - wind turbines, cellphone towers in background
- 1 - cities have been designed in a way to constrain nature - climate change demonstrates how this approach can cause issues

### Countryside represents a loss of wildness

- 1 - countryside represents a loss of wildness - interventions (planting wild flowers) can create spaces of wildness - urban schools could have an opportunity to create wild space and biodiversity

### Industrial farming

- 1 - farming - intensive big commercial farms don't feel wild
- 1 - Industrial farmed landscape - not a wild place. Dominated by man, nature has no place there. Only one huge crop, no birds or insects
- 1 - Industrial farmed animals

### Trawling and clearing

- 1 - exploitation of the space
- 1 - trawling
- 3 - clearing forest, burning moors or farming - less wild

**Type of animal farmed**

- 2 - type of animal - pig farming less wild

**Barriers in the landscape**

- 1-2 - fencing (e.g., instead of stone walls) is less wild
- 3 - stone walls
- 4 - hedge

**Building materials**

- 1 - new builds, brick
- 4 - stone cottages e.g., in peak district

**Low impact farming**

- 3 - small farms can feel a bit wild
- 3 - regenerative farming - boundaries between different landscape are less obvious - more wild
- 3 - ancient farmed landscape, farmed sympathetically

**Respect for people who live and work**

- 3 - Respect for people who live and work BALANCE

**Local nature reserves**

- 3-4 - local nature reserves and sites

**Open grazing**

- 2-3 - Farming/grazing animals
- 2 - enclosed farms
- 4 - open farms - more wild
- 4 - sheep or cattle in the hills can be compatible with wild

**Brownfield sites are wild in the city**

- 0 - same landscape in countryside and city can be different - brown field may not be wild in countryside but would be in the city
- 2-3 - brown field sites can be wilder than garden where flowers have been planted - less intervention - is planting native species really creating wildness?
- 4 - in cities most wild is brown field - absence of pressure rather than scale - still pollution pressures - may be a relative influence

**Less intense land use**

- 3-4 - lack of commercial land use can increase feeling of wild
- 5 - Less intensive land use

**Less human intervention is more wild**

- 0 - less human intervention = more wild; more intervention = less wild
- 4-5 - if land is not used by man for anything, even if degraded landscape - nature is taking it back
- 5 - wildest - no human intervention

**Landscape with a long history**

- 5 - landscape with a long history - more wild

**Animals that appear to live free**

- 5 - Animals that appear to live free

## 2.3 What are 'wild places' like in different parts of the UK?

(You may need to zoom in on the document to read the text)



## 3 Getting to and Enjoying Wild Places

### 3.1 What are the benefits of wild places?

#### **Connection and empathy with nature**

- Being in a wild places helps us develop an empathy for wild places and help to understand our place in the natural world/universe as a whole
- immersing more people in wild places to allow people to care for it and want to protect it is essential for the preservation of nature and our species
- greater connection with nature and better understanding of work around them

#### **Increased knowledge and understanding of nature**

- knowledge and education
- increase peoples' knowledge and understanding of nature

#### **Shows people how they can make a difference**

- helps people to understand that what they do makes a difference and they can play an active role in what difference they want to make

#### **Reminds people about the scale of the world**

- Give a sense of scale of the world, reminded that the world is bigger than just our humancentric existence

#### **Education in real life scenarios**

- putting education into real life scenarios - seeing it in the wild, in action, functioning

#### **Recreational opportunities**

- recreational opportunities e.g. hiking

#### **Cost effective activities**

- walking doesn't cost anything
- cheap activity - only travel costs

### **Health benefits**

#### **Physical Health benefits**

- exercise
- fresh air
- physical health benefits
- beneficial for human health
- health

#### **Wellbeing benefits**

- wellbeing
- wellbeing
- mental health
- Gives us time to reflect and think
- good for reflection
- good for the soul, recharge us from stresses of life
- peace and mind
- space to breathe
- relaxes people



### **Therapeutic benefits/healing**

- therapeutic impact of being in wild places on healing from illnesses
- Use of wild places as a therapeutic intervention (recovery through nature) personal - professional facets
- the tangibility of working on a task in a wild place - gives people focus and helps people to heal

### **Occupations in wild places – helps with mental health, substance abuse recovery**

- meaningful occupation - benefits that has on mental health or substance use, recovery

## **Social benefits**

### **Place to be social with peers**

- being in green environment, social aspect of being there with peers

### **Helps to build relationships**

- community cohesion, bring people together
- facilitating the building of relationships - better insights with people out walking and talking

### **Opportunities for more fruitful, open conversations**

- Opportunities for open conversations, conversations more fruitful in wild space

## **Personal benefits**

### **Challenge yourself/build resilience**

- challenge yourself
- build resilience, opportunities to go out in the rain
- sense of achievement where they go out somewhere they aren't so comfortable - pushing limits, leaving comfort zones

### **Real life experiences and practical skills**

- real life experiences and practical skills (how to grow, maintain, manage, plant)

### **Gives people a purpose**

- gives people a purpose (tree planting)

### **Creativity and inspiration**

- Help us with creativity and inspiration
- inspiration from exploring and seeing things for the first time

### **Working in wild places is empowering**

- working in wild places is empowering

## **New experiences**

### **Different sensory experience to usual**

- heightened senses - feeling wind on your face, paddling in a freshwater stream. Using senses you wouldn't use, or pay attention to
- giving other senses a break from over-stimulation, technology, lights, busy noises

### **Opportunity to explore new places**

- exploration - having things to explore you wouldn't normally see

### **Change to normal routine/environment**

- get away places, away from typical day to day
- getting away from screens, tarmac
- a different perception from human infrastructures



## Freedom

### Different ways of being

- embody different ways of being
- Space for humans to be human
- Space for humans to be human

## Open to all

### The wild spaces are non-judgemental

- not judgemental spaces - unless the people there are judgmental and not inclusive
- the space itself doesn't judge

### Meaningful & accessible for all ages and abilities

- meaningful for all ages and levels of ability - anyone can (hopefully) access and benefit from them

## Benefits for nature

### Wild urban space – space for biodiversity

- can give biodiversity in urban spaces too where it gives space for different species

### Space for biodiversity

- benefits biodiversity too - space for it
- space for biodiversity

### Preserving nature can be put first

- somewhere where nature can be first, in comparison to urban areas
- promote ecosystems
- preserving nature
- beneficial for planetary health

## Benefits for climate crisis

### Frontline for tackling climate change

- the frontline of how we might tackle climate crisis
- climate change - contribution

### Urban wild spaces bring climate crisis into view

- wild spaces in urban areas can help bring the climate crisis into peoples' view

## Benefits from nature

### Ecosystem services

- more untouched wild spaces provide services like oxygen and clean air, filtered water, prevention of soil erosion
- ecosystem services
- off site benefits - e.g. water downstream, pollinators for agriculture, flood prevention
- re-wetting our bogs so they become carbon sinks rather than sources
- they provide ecosystem services for our survival - absorb carbon, stop flooding, store water

### Foraging food for free

- foraging - fungi, plants exist in wild places
- free food

## Economic opportunities

### Tourism

- economies can benefit e.g. from tourist industry/sector (1)
- other industries/land uses could employ more people than those industries near wild places (1)
- tourism

### Community economies

- community economies

### Employment opportunities

- offer different occupational opportunities and employment opportunities

### Can live off the land

- working in wild spaces allows for people to live off the land

### More space for renewable energy

- roll out of renewable energy could be faster as fewer constraints/tensions with other land uses

## 3.2 What makes it easier for people to enjoy wild places?

### Appropriate clothing & equipment

- not having the clothing you need can hamper the enjoyment. lack of rain coat or shoes for the weather
- equipment to comfortably experience these places - rain coats and food - can they bring their own food

### Having a purpose to be in a wild place

- A purpose and a reason to be there (having a particular species you want to see, going for a walk with a friend, having something you enjoy doing there)

### Affordable accommodation

- affordable accommodation

### Money

- Money!

### Have more wild places

- more of them!

### Experienced person to help you with navigation and safety

- company, someone who knows it and can navigate and take some of the responsibility of the experience (safety?)
- ranger services - help introduce people to landscapes that might otherwise be alien to them
- A guide to help take those less familiar with/uncertain about wild places out into wild places to help them get a better experience from it

### Interactive opportunities in wild places

- more interactive opportunities - conservation vols etc going out with an expert to teach you things - interactive with the space

**Support for disadvantaged communities to access wild places**

- outreach to disadvantaged communities - having someone come in to facilitate engagement
- Having support to allow people from disadvantaged background to access wild places

**Easier if you're from a more privileged community**

- the community you are from - some communities are more privileged and have access over others

**Partnerships between organisations**

- building partnerships between e.g. JMT, schools, charities, inter city.

**Social prescribing from health system**

- Green gym, social prescribing, within health system

**Strike a balance between keeping character of a wild place and making accessible**

- balance to strike - making places accessible - can change their character which can reduce benefits

**Need different types wild places to understand differences**

- Subtlety, nuance of places - may need different types of wild places to understand differences between them

**Rethink the definition of 'wild'**

- rethinking definition of wild

**Be open to how learning takes place**

- the idea of understanding the learning process and being open to how learning takes place

**Sharing location of wild places**

**Knowing where nearby wild places are**

- knowing where they are that are near by

**Share locations – digital options**

- use of technology to digitally share them on apps or on google maps

**Share locations – paper version**

- paper versions for those who don't use digital resources

**Infrastructure and facilities**

**Manage infrastructure to make accessible to everyone**

- Stiles and paving, uneven ground - managed paths for access of all abilities
- good infrastructure - can depend on the place, e.g. could be paths in parks
- footpaths within them - safe access within the spaces

**Options for people with reduced mobility**

- options for people with access needs e.g. related to mobility, families

**Facilities near wild places**

- facilities near the wild places

**Age-appropriate activities**

- age appropriate activities. Seems too childish. a range that is accessible to different ages

**Internet coverage for plant ID**

- being able to look up plants on my phone - mobile phone coverage, apps

## Accessibility - information

### **Easier if you have prior knowledge about the wild place**

- prior knowledge of the wild place, what to expect, what is near it, how to access it

### **Information about what you can do, how challenging it is, how long it will take etc.**

- info panels should show the level of challenge and the time the walk will take to prepare you
- knowing what they involve, how strenuous is the walk or incline, is it useable for the group. No info then they don't know in advance to plan
- facilities and signage, info boards, know where they're going, what they can do and where they can go
- giving people an overview of what they will be doing at the wild place, keep it simple to encourage engagement without being patronising

### **Information available in audio and braille**

- audio and brail for access for all

### **Find info online about a wild place**

- research online to find out about a place

### **People to help make information more accessible**

- people to help make it more accessible

## Accessibility - transport

### **Wild places nearby**

- accessibility - not being too far away or needing the car.
- transport/ease of access to wild places
- getting people to the wild place is vital in order to help them form a connection with the place

### **Connect with groups online to help arrange transport**

- going online to connect with groups to help with transport/access

### **Car sharing**

- Car-pooling or sharing. One way rental

### **Funicular railway**

- funicular railway - option that people can reach places but only allowed to view them not get out and explore them

### **Public transport**

- Public transport
- access - transport, public transport particularly, good buses

### **Bicycle routes and paths**

- bicycle routes or paths - so people can get there safely

### **Funding for travel costs**

- alleviating economic costs of travel
- funding if you do need to travel. help to fund costs

## Personal skills

### **Positive mindset**

- wellbeing, positive mindset to tackle and be in those wild spaces

### **Self-confidence**

- a certain level of self-confidence to access them. lack of support if you need it

### **Opportunities for young people to grow up comfortable with wild places**

- if young people are given opportunity to get outside then they will grow up feeling more comfortable in those places

## Education

### **Knowing how to use and respect wild places**

- education - people knowing how to use and respect wild places

### **Learning more about wild places helps you to enjoy them**

- literacy - knowing more these places helps people to enjoy them
- education - if you learn about environ and things in it, can enhance peoples' enjoyment of it

### **Include on curriculum so it's easier to get children outdoors**

- be on the school curriculum - make it easier to get a class outside. Forest Schools etc.

## 3.3 What makes it more difficult for people to enjoy wild places?

### **The weather**

- The weather

### **Lack suitable clothing & equipment**

- lack of suitable equipment for outdoor activities like camping
- lack of clothing

### **Lack of company**

- not having company
- companionship - some people would enjoy with others but not alone

### **Mobility issues**

- disability
- appropriate paths, accessibility, mobility issues - elderly people etc

### **No time/mental space to engage with wild places**

- have too many other things going on in your life to be thinking about engaging with wild places - have to think about survival

### **Anti-social behaviour in wild places**

- anti-social behaviour of people on wild places

### **Preserving wild places which general public can access**

- The challenge of preserving fragile wild places when it is accessible to the general public

### **Lacking services and facilities**

- wild land perceived as lacking services (e.g. mobile signal)
- no facilities

#### **Pollution**

- pollution

#### **Lack of wild places to experience**

- fragmented nature and disjointed spaces where is possible to see/experience nature

#### **'Overtourism' of wild places**

- outdoors has become a big thing esp after covid - now overpopulated, parking is an issue, doesn't seem as wild anymore. Local people having arguments with visitors

### **Lack of inclusion in wild places**

#### **Lack of diversity in wild places**

- being the only person of colour in a space dominated by people different to you
- Wild places are filled with a lot of white, middle-class people

#### **Wild places feel unwelcoming**

- wild places can be seen as alien, not welcoming, people don't feel like they belong there.
- Prevailing stereotypes/stigma preventing certain groups from feeling welcomed in wild places
- countryside should be welcoming to everyone - people think they need all the right gear etc. there is a snobbery about the countryside

### **Financial barriers**

#### **Lack of money**

- poverty
- needs - financial costs of enjoying wild places

#### **Lack money for clothing**

- lack of money for clothing

#### **Lack reasonably priced accommodation**

- lack of places to stay, especially reasonably priced e.g. youth hostels - can be too expensive to stay. There used to be a ring of youth hostels around Dublin (a day's cycle away) which have now all closed

#### **Lack of funding**

- funding

### **Wild places feel unfamiliar and scary**

#### **Unfamiliar landscape**

- unfamiliarity
- alien landscapes - very different from what you know

#### **Fear of unknown, feeling unsafe**

- lack of connection with the outdoors can seem scary
- Fear of the unknown
- lack of feeling safe

#### **Lack of confidence or knowledge**

- lack of confidence or knowledge, not knowing how to do things, or worry that they won't know how to participate

## Transport

### **Wild places are hard to reach: poor public transport links and limited without a car**

- By their nature, wild places are typically remote, hard to reach, not accessible by public transport links, greatly limits those without cars
- People who can't get to a wild space - poor bus, train connections or don't have access to a car

### **Lack of transport to wild places**

- no public transport
- Lack of transport
- transportation is a major barrier and is a source of anxiety for people, those who need to connect with nature the most often face the most barriers in accessing wild places

### **Public transport too expensive**

- transport especially with cost of living. public transport isn't an option, too expensive

### **Public transport doesn't run regularly enough**

- Major barriers was timing of things for single parents with school runs and train times, people collecting methadone scripts means they have to be somewhere at a certain time
- public transport isn't an option, don't run often enough

## Access issues

### **Uncertain about whether land can be accessed or not**

- Anxiety about where we are allowed to access/where we are allowed to experience
- Private landownership - makes people uncertain if they are allowed to access vast areas of land across the UK

### **Conflict between landowners and land users**

- lack of dialogue between landowners and land users
- conflict between landowners and land users

### **Potential restricted access to wild places**

- Potential of permits/restricted access to wild places (like in the USA)

### **Lack of public footpaths in N. Ireland**

- Lack of public footpaths in N. Ireland
- Land ownership (esp in Ireland) can make it difficult to walk on paths etc

### **Physical barriers to accessing wild places**

- physical barriers - e.g. brownfield sites that could be enclosed/not available to access

## Health & safety

### **Health and safety culture**

- professional approach to health and safety - which creates health and safety culture (1)

### **Perceived risks**

- health and safety - perceived risks (1)
- perceptions that places are dangerous

### **Real risks**

- health and safety risks - real risks (e.g. structure of old building could collapse) (1)

### **Worry about insurance claims**

- Insurance issues – farmers think they need insurance if they have a public footpath through their land. Are worried people will make claims. (esp. N. Ireland)

## 3.4 How could these be overcome?

### **Give people a sense of ownership**

- giving ownership - finding ways to create ownership - through care and love of connection
- John Muir aware 4 levels, explore, connect etc, helps build framework and ownership

### **Ask people what initiatives they would like**

- getting the feedback from those people for what they would like - good initiatives but they don't relate - learning what works

### **Metric to show government the monetary value that wild places have to society**

- Convincing government of the benefit of wild places/nature to human - develop a metric that shows its monetary value to society in order to provide funding to improve accessibility to wild places for all

### **Community support groups**

- community groups where people can talk about bigger issues in their lives or just forget about it and socialise and enjoy the space they are in

### **More activism about climate change**

- more activism in e.g. climate change

### **Build peoples' confidence in local areas first**

- build confidence at home and build up and expand as it gets wilder
- one on one home visits with people, run more local walks in urban areas first to build confidence and comfort and keep it familiar
- Outreach to people at home or an environment they are comfortable, with people they know and friendly faces. go to them where they are comfortable

## **Information and Guidance**

### **Rangers to inform and guide groups**

- rangers that can inform people and take out groups
- Leadership on the group at wild places, critical to the success of the programme in improving accessibility to

### **Information, maps and safe routes available**

- having the information, maps and routes, safety measure clear
- working with experts who can plan routes safely and takes pressure off, they don't have to worry about that

## **Facilities**

### **Facility information available on Google Maps**

- integrate nearby facilities into google maps

### **Improve facilities**

- better facilities

## **Activities**

### **Activities for different experience levels**

- have a range of activities covering different knowledge and experience levels. entry level vs further on for challenge

### **Walking groups**

- walking groups



## Wild places feeling welcoming and safe

### Diverse people in wild places

- Having people like you around you.
- more images of countryside with diff diversities/backgrounds/ ethnicities so that people see role models like them

### Nearby communities being welcoming

- Having the communities around those spaces being welcoming and friendly

### Design of green spaces

- design of green spaces - e.g. lighting

## Opportunities for all to access wild places

### Good connections between organisations

- good connections with external organisation, to refer to one another to joining activities and learn about the support they can get
- good working links between organisations,

### Share info in different ways to reach different people

- sharing info on different platforms and providers to reach lots of different people in different places

### Provide ways for hard-to-reach groups to get involved

- Providing a way for a cross-section of society (hard to reach groups) to get involved that doesn't typically attend outdoor initiatives
- Collaborating with other organisations/groups that work with hard to reach groups

### Access to urban wild spaces as well as rural

- justice in wild place accessibility - both urban and rural - e.g. higher density green spaces, trees on streets

### Affordable outdoor experiences to try things out

- free experiences with the equipment to try things in a safe space
- cheap, affordable, accessible outdoor experiences for communities - after school adventure club type set up with guides from an outdoor company (initiative in Pembrokeshire -TYF)

### Make use of local, easily accessed wild places

- making use of what is available, on doorstep, what can be accessed easily

## Education

### Education for children

- education, from early years nursery setting, educate as much as possible, parents, teachers all aware, spreading of messages

### Education for adults as well as children

- making sure education is available to adults too - not only angled for children

### Opportunities for children to connect with nature

- greater education and connection to wilderness in general, in schools and curriculum
- Working with children, making the experience of wild places a normal and important aspect of their life to ensure an early life connection

### Education about dangers and how to overcome them

- education - e.g. forest school nurseries, learning the dangers and how to overcome them

### Share the value of wild places with people

- Helping someone develop a knowledge of the values of wild places, educating on foraging etc

## Outdoor clothes/equipment provision

### Donations from brands

- brands have linked with outdoor groups to provide equipment to groups, branch out to any disadvantaged groups
- Rohan and mamut doing donations

### Second hand stock

- stock of supplies and equipment, stock of hand me downs

### Loan system

- you need equipment to be in the wild -could you have a loan system that rented out good waterproofs, boots etc so that you can explore safely but don't have to spend lots of money

### Funding for clothing and footwear

- funding for clothing, footwear

## Improve transport options

### Funding for transport

- funding for transport

### Cheaper public transport

- better public transport (cheaper)

### More public transport options

- better public transport (more options)

## Funding

### More funding

- more funding
- once there is funding you can look to take people further afield (beyond what can be accessed easily)

### Funding for footpaths, gates etc.

- nature services need money, funding for e.g. footpaths, gates

### Funding for green prescription services

- funding for existing services - if there was funding for green prescription services it would help

## Land reform

### Regulate land and property owners

- regulating property market (how and what owners can do with their property/land)

### Land reform needed

- socio-economic reform and land reform e.g. pressures on land from volume house building and this land use proceeding without regard to environmental harm, private landownership

### More activism about land reform

- more activism in e.g. land reform

## Fewer barriers for landowners /farmers

### Reduce detriment to landowner

- need to open up countryside but not to detriment of the landowner

### Perceived insurance risks

- insurance - not a real issue, a perceived issue - farmers afraid that they will be sued if someone is injured walking through their field (esp N.Ireland)

### Farmers penalised for allowing footpaths

- farmer is penalised for allowing a footpath to be in place (N Ireland)

### Opportunities for living closer to wild places

#### Improved broadband for working remotely

- having improved broadband would allow people to work remotely and be closer to these wild places. Chance for people to stay in wild places, don't have to go to the cities

#### Affordable accommodation for local workers

- communal and affordable accommodation for visitors and local workers

#### Job opportunities and housing opportunities

- Job opportunities and housing opportunities will help people to enjoy wild places if they can live closer to them

#### Crofting communities in wild places

- bring people back to wild places - crofting communities, local communities

## 3.5 In light of your discussion, describe the kind of place you prefer to be in to experience a sense of wild. And why there?

#### A place by a river

- ...always nice to be near a natural pond or river (so I may fish)!
- An urban river which is not confined by hard infrastructure, which has a good buffer zone of appropriate vegetation alongside it. Rivers are often urban areas greatest socio-ecological assets, and they need more respect. #Re-wild the Clyde

#### A place away from urban sights and sounds

- A green space with trees and birds and possibly a stream. Far enough away from roads to hear little traffic noise. It's close enough to get to by either foot or public transport but you still get the feeling that you are away from urbanisation.
- A quiet, calm environment full of greenery and wildlife. Good for mental health and time to think and relax without human distractions.
- quiet, places with no human/industrial sounds, just the natural sounds of wind, waves and wildlife
- Sitting peacefully by a river with a nourishing meal. Helps to remove all of the mental noise created by our modern lives.
- surrounded by dense forests completely for a significant radius with 0 artificial noise. You feel engulfed by nature as a stark contrast to cityscape.

#### A place to get away from your daily routine

- A Place of adventure and unexpectedness with minimal influence of our day to day lives and human interaction
- I prefer travelling to a wild space - the 'away' from the usual daily routine adds to my sense of wilderness

#### A place where you can connect with nature

- A place that allows and encourages people to learn, understand, connect with nature - there are accessible info resources somewhere
- Anywhere where we can connect to nature and increase awareness in a collective and just way and where we can rethink our relationship with nature towards more reciprocal and responsible practices
- For me personally it would be an ancient piece of woodland - connecting me to nature and history...the idea of stepping back in time.

#### A place where diverse people belong and feel safe

- A place that has diversity of people in it, visiting it. People feel like they belong in these places.
- Woodland - feels safe. Less anxiety around physical ability.

**A place where wildlife has space to thrive**

- A place where wildlife thrives and can go about it's business relatively undisturbed and unmanaged
- biodiverse habitats where human needs are second to the needs of the wildlife

**A place where people respect the rich nature around them**

- A place with mountainous topography on the coast, with a rich variety of native woodland, high biodiversity, minimal infrastructure, local people who respect the nature that surrounds them, and use it respectfully.

**A remote place**

- In a remote natural uninhabited place, as far from the access point as possible. Because this is what I consider true wilderness and this is where I get the nurturing, satisfying grounding that I seek
- somewhere in isolation from the rest of the world
- Somewhere isolated, away from built up places i.e., mountains, moors
- Remote, Vast lands with varied topography. They create a sense of you being in a much bigger scale of nature triggering a great feeling of being adventurous and far away from typical urban lifestyle
- Untouched and unknown area. Sense of excitement and adrenaline.

**A place where you must be self-sufficient**

- On the side of a mountain with the wind lashing against me. Preferably having ridden there on a self-supported bikepacking trip. It gives me a sense of mental and physical space, pride to have reached that point under my own steam. Most importantly it gives me an appreciation for reducing life down to the primal needs of where am I going to and when am I eating next
- In A sea Kayak exploring the coastal edge wilderness. Leave no trace, low impact, self-reliant adventure Pembrokeshire or west coast Scotland.

**A vast place**

- In the sand dunes where the footpaths disappear to give you the feel that you are in a vast desert. You can sit and hide from the world.
- Somewhere where there is a sense of space where I am able to be solitary. Feeling awe at the natural world is part of what wilderness means.

**A rural place**

- Rural space - feels like a change of scenery and pace. Less anxiety around people and transport
- Rural: as little human intervention as possible. Few paths. No boundaries. Trees and other biodiversity integrated. Large expanse.

**A place where you feel free**

- Somewhere I feel a sense of wild or freedom, and feel the elements of weather by the sea or through a field of wildflower
- Somewhere untamed and free.

**An urban place where nature has taken over**

- Urban: brown sites where nature has taken over. No recent human intervention. If a barrier needs to be climbed for entry all the better!

# Annex 1 Agenda

## John Muir Trust – Wild Places

Online workshop  
Thursday 1st December

<b>09:15</b>	<b>Getting Started: registration, starting activities</b>	
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	Diana Pound, Director, Dialogue Matters
	<b>Facilitator's introduction</b>	
	<b>Why are we here?</b>	Rosie Simpson, John Muir Trust
	<b>How outputs will be used</b>	
	<b>Session 1: Wild Ideas</b>	
<b>10:40</b>	<b>10 mins Break</b>	
<b>10:50</b>	<b>Session 1: Wild Ideas (continued)</b>	
<b>11:45</b>	<b>15 mins Break</b>	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Session 2: Getting to and Enjoying Wild Places</b>	
	<b>Finishing tasks</b>	
		Parking Place
		Feedback
		Wrap up, thanks and next steps
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Finish no later than this</b>	