

Project Number : C7 Round View



Project Overview: The project will empower the varied ‘Custodians of the Future Carbon Landscape’ through delivering training in the RoundView, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues, gathering and making available the ideas, inspiration and messages generated during these dialogues, and building capacity within the Carbon Landscape to sustain these activities. It will inspire new ways to understand the ‘Big Heritage’ of the Carbon Landscape and possible futures for this post-industrial area.

Project lead organisation and other organisations involved: The University of Manchester

Project Location: Throughout the landscape

Project dates: 2017-2022

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Number attending	Notes
16 RoundView in the Carbon Landscape workshops	16	16 (see notes)	~300	The split between the two workshop types did not prove to be the most effective way to work with people, so (as described throughout the project) we delivered longer combined workshops covering both types a significant amount of time, particularly during the online workshops in the Covid era.
8 Visioning workshops building on the first RoundView workshops	8	8 (see notes)		
8 Facilitator training programmes	8	4 +see additional outputs	~15	(The budget for the 4 events remaining was allocated to ‘Playing the RoundView’ see below.)
8 resource packs provided for newly trained facilitators	8	See additional outputs	n/a	See ‘Playing the RoundView’ in additional outputs.
1 ‘RoundView and Interpretation of the Carbon Landscape’ event	1	See additional outputs		This budget was used to make a professional promotional video for the launch event and website.
5 ‘The future of the Carbon Landscape with the RoundView’ events	5	3 + see additional outputs	~100	(The budget for the 2 events remaining was allocated to ‘Playing the RoundView’ see below.)
8 mini-reports on ideas generated during workshops and events	8	8 equivalent		The workshops and engagement activity did not follow the regular pattern originally anticipated in the project plan. There were some periods with little or no activity, and others with a lot of

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				engagement in a shorter period of time. The availability of reports on the ideas generated followed this with significant analysis and reporting after larger events or series of events (in particular: the larger Wigan based 'Deal' workshop, the extensive engagement during the NNR process and the two multi-stakeholder workshops held online towards the end of lockdowns). Additionally a final pulling together in one place of <i>all</i> ideas collected will be completed by mid-June 2022.
1 Spreadsheet 'database' of all ideas collected as shared resource	1	1		
Additional outputs delivered				
Promotional Video		1		The RoundView team helped put together a Carbon Landscape video around the time of the launch which helped to set the scene and got some wide coverage including the BBC. It has been used often by the team throughout the project.
New ways to interpret and tell the story of the Carbon Landscape embedded within other the outputs of other Carbon Landscape projects		4 significant cross-cutting contributions: 1. basis of the Carbon Clever package and games , 2. framing of interpretation boards throughout landscape, 3. deep time dimension of oral trails , 4. inspired new directions for Carbon Creative including 2 new songs		RoundView workshops and involvement of the team in developing projects lead to new interpretations and understanding of the landscape that crossed across the Programme, providing a cohesive element linking levels of scale across the partnership and community groups.
Playing the RoundView		6 exhibits and free downloadable resources		We have created a transferable set of physical games that can be used in public spaces throughout the landscape and pop-up stands into the future, to better deliver the outcome of capacity to sustain activity after project.

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Significant contribution to partnership development and external communications		<p>3 Peer-reviewed journal articles (two published, one under review)</p> <p>2 recorded presentations at major events promoting the partnership</p> <p>1 Case study in the Routledge Handbook of Urban Ecology</p> <p>2 Key concepts embedded in Postgraduate Courses</p> <p>3 Postgraduate dissertations in the Landscape area</p>		<p>The two Postgraduate courses go on to have significant impact over time as students learn about the Carbon Landscape and the innovative approach to engagement trialled here.</p> <p>In the Planning and Environmental Management course, circa 100 students per year visit the Carbon Landscape on their field trip and do an assignment based on the Landscape. These have led to three Postgraduate dissertations based in the landscape, which have contributed to the Citizen Science, climate communication and Natural Flood Management elements of the Programme.</p> <p>The RoundView and Carbon Clever innovations have been embedded into a new programme in the Manchester Institute of Education- MA in Education for a Sustainable Environment.</p> <p>There will be ongoing impact from these educational innovations after the lifetime of the Programme.</p>

Reflecting on the last 5 years, what's the one thing that you're most proud of that has come from your project being part of the Carbon Landscape?

The greatest achievement of the RoundView project has been helping other partners and groups to achieve a step change in the landscape through facilitating dialogues, sharing ideas and building capacity. Running workshops with wider stakeholders in 2021-2022 helped clarify and crystallise a new objective for the Great Manchester Wetlands Partnership, to embed the more creative and integrated way of working that has been pioneered through the Carbon Landscape and enabled by the RoundView project. The pride comes from watching people getting excited about the possibilities in their landscape and learning new skills to help move towards them. The significance of this project is less about any one outcome, and more about having a qualitatively different project than we would have had without that process of learning together through the lens of sustainability.

It was fantastic to have the opportunity to engage with so many members of the community in Wigan and Leigh around creating a National Nature Reserve in the area, and in particular to see the young people learn new skills in facilitation and sustainability thinking. As this was during lockdown, we developed a new way of delivering workshops using personal physical workspaces (Ketso Connects plus maps) combined with a live shared digital environment – in addition to 'zoom'.

This 'hybrid' approach was then used successfully in online workshops for professionals from a wide range of organisations to engage with the simultaneous challenges of health & wellbeing and nature recovery in our landscape. It was a surprise and a pleasure to see how well the principles we had built our engagement on

(hear everyone's voice, structure effective thinking and link ideas across time and place) were able to be adapted to new settings and ways of working.

The project has facilitated a shift towards longer-term, bigger picture thinking, along with the skills of asking questions together to work out how to create change in place. Talking to partners and community members who have taken part in RoundView and visioning workshops as part of the project, we get a strong sense that these skills and ways of working will be carried on into new projects and future work across this landscape and others.

What difference has this project made to the cultural and natural heritage of Carbon Landscape?

The RoundView has helped our team, communities and stakeholders to interpret the landscape in a different way, creating new stories about the heritage. The new understandings of the landscape are reflected in the oral history trails, interpretation boards across the landscape and communications such as videos and the website. The RoundView project used the Big Heritage of the Earth's story to draw out new ways of understanding local heritage, at the same time as forging more links across the wider landscape.

A difference this has made to the heritage of the Carbon Landscape has been to see beyond a particular industry, coal, to wider heritages and ways of understanding the landscape, as one project partner reflected:

"If we pitched our story around the Industrial Revolution, we miss that opportunity to go right the way back and then right the way forward, which I think the Round View really encourages, to go beyond just that little bit, the Industrial Revolution...we didn't want to become fixated around just a tiny piece of history... that's why we really emphasised the geology because we didn't want it just to be around how we exploited that geology but also how that geology came about. It's around biodiversity, it's about plants, it's about water, it's about wetlands, it's about this space over a long period of time".

Using the RoundView as the basis of the primary school package developed in Carbon Clever has set the local landscape in a bigger picture, and made the educational resources more widely applicable and adaptable to different settings and across the curriculum.

This understanding of change in the landscape has inspired future action towards sustainability, helping partners and community members to think wider, beyond their patch, as one partner reflected:

"When you did your workshops that was a common message that was coming out, what can we do in the bits in between, and maybe people have never even been asked that before."

What difference has this project made to people?

The RoundView encourages people to see the story of their landscape within a global story of sustainability, from the formation of the Earth to the rapid changes wrought by the Industrial Revolution. This has been combined with a social learning (supported by using the hands-on toolkit Ketso), to explore the particulars of the place, its assets and possibilities. This combination of big-picture sustainability and envisioning has enabled partners to see connections and forge synergies across a wider landscape than may have otherwise been the case.

This approach helped people to think bigger, beyond their patch, about how these activities can contribute to broader sustainability aims, such as climate change mitigation. As one partner commented in an interview, the catalytic role of the carbon narrative, inspired by this longer term thinking of sustainability,

gave “a powerful unifying theme... [which has] broaden[ed] our horizons and our audience... [and] enabled us to join individual sites together”.

Offering engagement activities that look at wider issues of sustainability and climate has helped broaden our audience, in particular through the Youth Summits and involvement of young people in the National Nature Reserve workshops. This led to discussions about the possibilities for sustainability in the area, and the potential to use increased awareness of the ecological richness of the Wigan Flashes as a catalyst for change.

Feedback included:

“I have learned new ways of thinking through the Zoom workshops. The environment and nature and especially our effects on them”;

“I found the RoundView process genuinely inspiring; it’s very easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless against the planet’s problems but I left feeling optimistic that change is possible for a positive future and I really loved hearing people’s passion and ideas.”

A key element of the difference this project has made to people is in developing the soft skills and new approaches to take a more integrated, forward visioning approach in their work and projects. It has inculcated a forward-thinking creative process, as one project partner reflected:

“Without Ketso we would not have been able to understand the perspectives of so many different stakeholders, and even more crucially, help them to feel part of the process, building ownership for its long-term success.”

Useful Links

RoundView website: www.roundview.org

Ketso website: www.ketso.com

Videos:

[Taking a RoundView](#) of the Carbon Landscape

[Video and case study](#) for the launch of DEFRA’s Nature Recovery Networks (2021)

[Video used by Natural England](#) for the launch of the UN Decade of Restoration (2021):

‘New Voices in Nature Recovery’ [documentary](#) about developing a National Nature Reserve in Wigan and Leigh that archived as a record of this work at the Wigan and Leigh Archives (2021).

Two songs directly inspired by RoundView and the Carbon Landscape:

[The Undoing](#)

[Traceless](#)

Art exhibition at National Trust property inspired by RoundView and development in Carbon Landscape:

[Unintended Consequences](#)

Reports and articles:

Astbury, J. and Tippet, J. (2019) ‘Nature rebounding in the peri-urban landscapes that the industrial revolution left behind: North West England’s Carbon Landscape’ – research report in The Nature of Cities - <https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2019/01/03/nature-rebounding-peri-urban-landscapes-industrial-revolution-left-behind-north-west-englands-carbon-landscape>

Douglas, I, Champion, M, Clancy, J, Haley, D, Lopes De Souza, M, Morrison, K, Scott, A, Scott, R, Stark, M, Tippet, J, Tryjanowski, P & Webb, T. (2020) 'The COVID-19 pandemic: local to global implications as perceived by urban ecologists', *Socio-Ecological Practice Research*, 2 (3) 217-228.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s42532-020-00067-y>

How, F. and Tippet, J. (2021) 'Evaluation of Community Engagement: Towards a National Nature Reserve in the Flashes of Wigan and Leigh', Report for DEFRA and Natural England, July 2021, RoundView Project in Carbon Landscape Partnership and School of Environment, Education and Development, The University of Manchester, Manchester, UK, July 29th 2021, 34 pp.

<https://carbonlandscape.org.uk/sites/default/files/Evaluation%20of%20Community%20Engagement%20for%20Proposed%20NNR.pdf>

Morris, S. and Tippet, J (submitted) 'Perceptions and practice in Natural Flood Management: community and practitioner perspectives in the peri-urban Carbon Landscape, North West England', *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjep20/current>

Sen, A., Nagendra, H, Victor, RABM, Furlan SA., E.A. Rodrigues, Tippet, J. Astbury, J. Douglas, I. (2020) The role of urban nature in fostering social capital and sense of place, in *The Routledge Handbook of Urban Ecology*, eds. Douglas, I, Anderson, P. M. L. Goode, D. Houck, M. C., Maddox, D. Nagendra, H., Yokoutledge, T. P., Taylor & Francis, London, 673-684 (Carbon Landscape is a case study)

Tippet, J. Deas, I. Haughton, G. (2022) 'Geo-environmental spatial imaginaries: reframing nature using soft spaces and hybrid rationalities', *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities*, 4:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frsc.2022.882929> (open access) (Carbon Landscape is the case study)

Tippet, J. and How, F. (2020), *Town Planning Review*, Where to lean the ladder of participation: a normative heuristic for effective coproduction processes, 91, (2), 109132. <https://doi.org/10.3828/tpr.2020.7> (open access) (Carbon Landscape is discussed as an example)

Recorded conference presentations:

Nature recovery, collaboration and creativity: lessons from Greater Manchester's post-industrial landscape. I hosted this invited talk with Carbon Landscape partners at Manchester Festival of Climate Action, Oct. 13, 2021 <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/climate-festival/>

Towards a post-industrial National Nature Reserve in Wigan, Opening talk at a Manchester Environmental Research Institute (MERI) event to celebrate the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, June 7, 2021 <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/meri-celebrates-un-decade-on-ecosystem-restoration-launch/>

Future Plans and Legacy

'Playing the RoundView' is a novel way of engaging a very wide audience with sustainability principles, which has come from our objective of embedding ongoing capacity to continue this way of interpreting and engaging with the Carbon Landscape after the end of this project. Designed as large-scale puzzles, the games are visually appealing, fun and tactile. They are designed to be stand-alone, with key ideas about sustainability coming clear as the puzzles are pieced together. This is a new approach, as the RoundView has previously only been taught in workshops in a sequence led by facilitators.

The series of games will be combined into a 'Playing the RoundView' exhibit in visitor centres in the Carbon Landscape, as well as used in pop-up stalls and festivals by project partners. Making the exhibits stand-alone, and not requiring staff interaction with visitors, will maximise the possible reach. The long term impact of these installations will be shifts in perception and inspiration toward sustainability action amongst the visitors to these heritage sites.

These physical installations will be complemented by the digital RoundView game and Carbon Clever educational packages – both key elements of the legacy of the project, which will broaden the reach far and wide.

The success of the RoundView project in the Carbon Landscape has already inspired the National Trust at Quarry Bank to build a large-scale exhibition, "**Unintended Consequences**", on RoundView-inspired interpretation of the heritage of the site, in partnership with Future Everything, artist Jen Southern and the John Rylands Research Institute and Library. This includes an exhibit of 'Playing the RoundView' <https://futureeverything.org/portfolio/entry/unintended-consequences/>

The Crannog Centre in Scotland offered a two-day "**UNESCO RoundView Sustainability Take Over**" in June 2022, using 'Playing the RoundView' to complement activities exploring sustainability skills in the Iron Age. This is a trial of using the RoundView to interpret UNESCO sites and develop a digital trail exploring sustainability and decolonisation across World Heritage sites in Scotland.

UNESCO UK is exploring funding options to trial the RoundView and Ketso as engagement tools for using geo-parks to inspire long-term thinking about resilience and sustainability.

A long-term aim for our project is to create an open learning resource and toolkit that can be used to tell the story of sustainability and interpret a wide range of cultural settings across the UK, and internationally, increasing awareness, dialogue and engagement around our shared and unique heritage during these times of challenge and transition. This will be developed as a significant bid to Innovate UK and the British Academy that builds upon our achievements with the Carbon Landscape project, in partnership with the UNESCO UK Commission.

Lessons learned?

The Carbon Landscape project has demonstrated the value of looking at the heritage of a place through the lens of deep time and long-term sustainability.

Key lessons:

- Use a long-view and systems-based approach to sustainability to broaden thinking and to interpret heritage in new and surprising ways
- Ensure you have a way to encourage everyone involved to be heard and to capture their ideas
- Engage partners and community members early in the big-picture thinking and envisioning
- Engagement and envisioning needs to carry on throughout the project – in particular to link across sites

What we would do differently:

- Make sure that the RoundView and visioning workshops were more clearly integrated into the programme of outreach and engagement with community groups, so that it became almost an 'induction' into working with the project. We did this at the beginning with new

project staff, partners and volunteers, but struggled to maintain the sense of continuity over the whole duration of the project as personnel changed. In a few times during the Programme, the RoundView seemed a bit like a separate, optional project, rather than an activity to be integrated across all work programmes.

- In particular, looking back we could have explored different ways to *promote* RoundView workshops as *part* of the Carbon Landscape project earlier on – we learned a lot from the promotion of the engagement around a National Nature Reserve, such as reaching out to youth councils and use of social media, which would have been helpful to increase engagement in the earlier stages of the project.
- More closely integrate RoundView and creative / artistic engagement activities – the few areas where we did this produced really interesting results and some opportunities were missed to engage early in these activities.
- Pay more strategic attention to the transition between development phase and the full project start, anticipating in more detail any extra needs that may arise due to changes of staff or roles, particularly when coordinating between multiple sub-projects in a cross-cutting project like this one.

Taking a longer view made us think a bit differently and forge better connections across the landscape and partnership than if we had had a focus just on the patches of land that partners were managing. We would like to make a case for more of these large scale projects to take such an approach, producing their own unique and different interpretation of the landscape. This approach, however, requires investment of time (both of project coordinators and partners) and resource, both up front and throughout the project.

Photographic Evidence



RoundView game, Launch event, Mayor of Salford



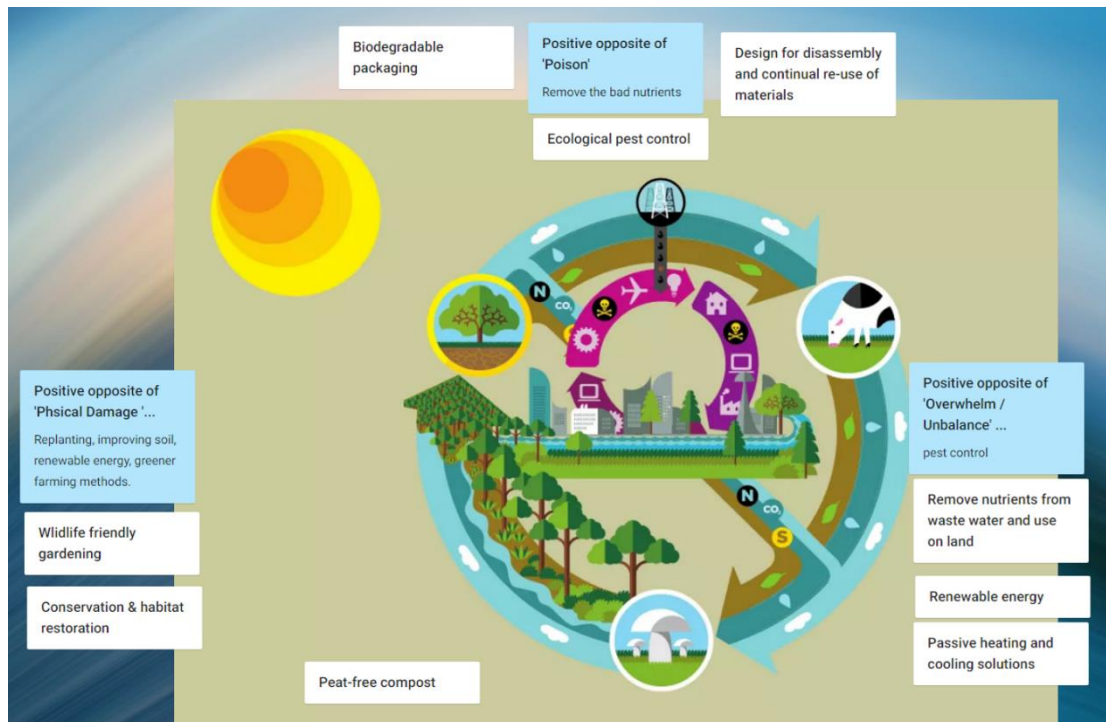
RoundView and the Deal – Workshop for Wigan Council and stakeholders



Ketso used throughout the project to develop ideas for the future together



Team training RoundView tools and approaches



Snapshot from live interactive online workshop exploring sustainability in Carbon Landscape



Playing the RoundView credit National Trust copyright David Watson



RoundView in Carbon Landscape community workshop (youth)



Interpretation boards throughout the landscape 'framed' by RoundView

Funding Partners



Note that whilst University of Manchester is a partner, additional match funding was secured through University of Manchester sources – such as School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED) Social Responsibility and SEED Research Impact funds, and with in-kind support from Creative Manchester.