



Assemblage

Weaving a Community-Landscape

by Richard Keating

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This book accompanies the exhibition:

Assemblage: Weaving a Community Landscape

April 2014: Gallery 1: Museum in the Park, Stroud,
Gloucestershire.

As an element of a practice led, post graduate research project at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea, the showing of the ephemeral artefacts exhibited is a part of an enquiry into how a collaborative arts practice has intervened in a number of Stroud related land-based projects and walks. The research has focused on the development of the primarily walking/drawing practice as a way of incorporating a 'community-landscape' aesthetic into decision making about place making and landscape change.

The purpose of the research has been to study whether and how five interventions have developed the practice, added value to the local projects and generated new learning.

This book illustrates three elements of the interventions referred to as 'Collaborating', 'Encountering' and 'Exchanging'. The work exhibited is the fourth element of the practice; 'Assemblage'.

The 'Collaborating' section consists of three collages which refer to the way in which the interventions are part and parcel of community driven projects by over-laying relevant agencies, participating organisations and landscape features and values.

The 'Encountering' section is an abbreviated visual calendar showing some of the moments of engagement with and between people and landscape and as such describes some of the methods used.

The 'Exchanging' section illustrates the aspect of the practice whereby the information gathered from the encounters – how people value landscape – has been shared and disseminated,.

'Assemblage' is a metaphor for the whole process, an ephemeral artefact which is itself in transition.

The five interventions are:

Weave: a project initiated by The Stroud Local Strategic Partnership in 2010 and co-facilitated with Max

Comfort, a director of Stroud Common Wealth. The purpose being to explore what the wider community hopes to gain from the Cotswolds Canal restoration project.

Folly Wood: a project to develop a framework for caring for the community owned wood on the edge of Stroud, bought in 2010. This project, initiated with Martin Large and Ben Spencer, was co-facilitated with them and other directors and active members of the Stroud Woodland Cooperative.

In-Between Places: the double catalyst for this 2012 walk between Stroud and Derby, was the 'Gainsborough's Landscapes: Themes and Variations' exhibition in Bath and the 'Affective Landscapes' conference in Derby. The purpose was to develop walking, drawing and conversation in the context of Transition Towns, with a view to envisioning and accessing new landscapes. This project was co-facilitated with Alison Parfitt, Sue Porter and other members of Gloucestershire's Facilitators' Learning Network with the support of Seb Buckton from Transition Stroud.

Transhumance Walk: for a number of years, landscape planning colleagues from Aurland, Norway have been visiting Stroud on study trips, in particular looking at community involvement in landscape

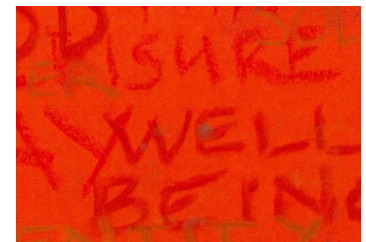
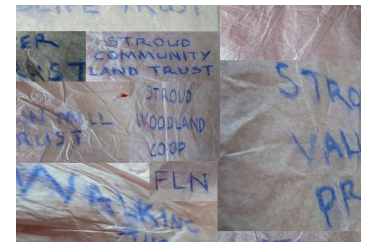
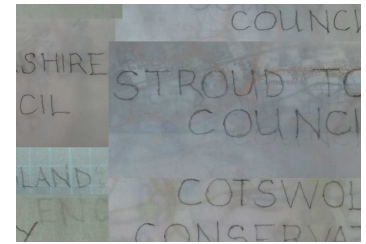
management and enterprise. The purpose of the walk in 2012 was to develop and use art-walking alongside story telling in the context of slow tourism, focussing on the transhumance farming traditions of the area. This project was co-facilitated with Jorun Barane, Morten Clemetsen, Kel Portman and Martin Large.

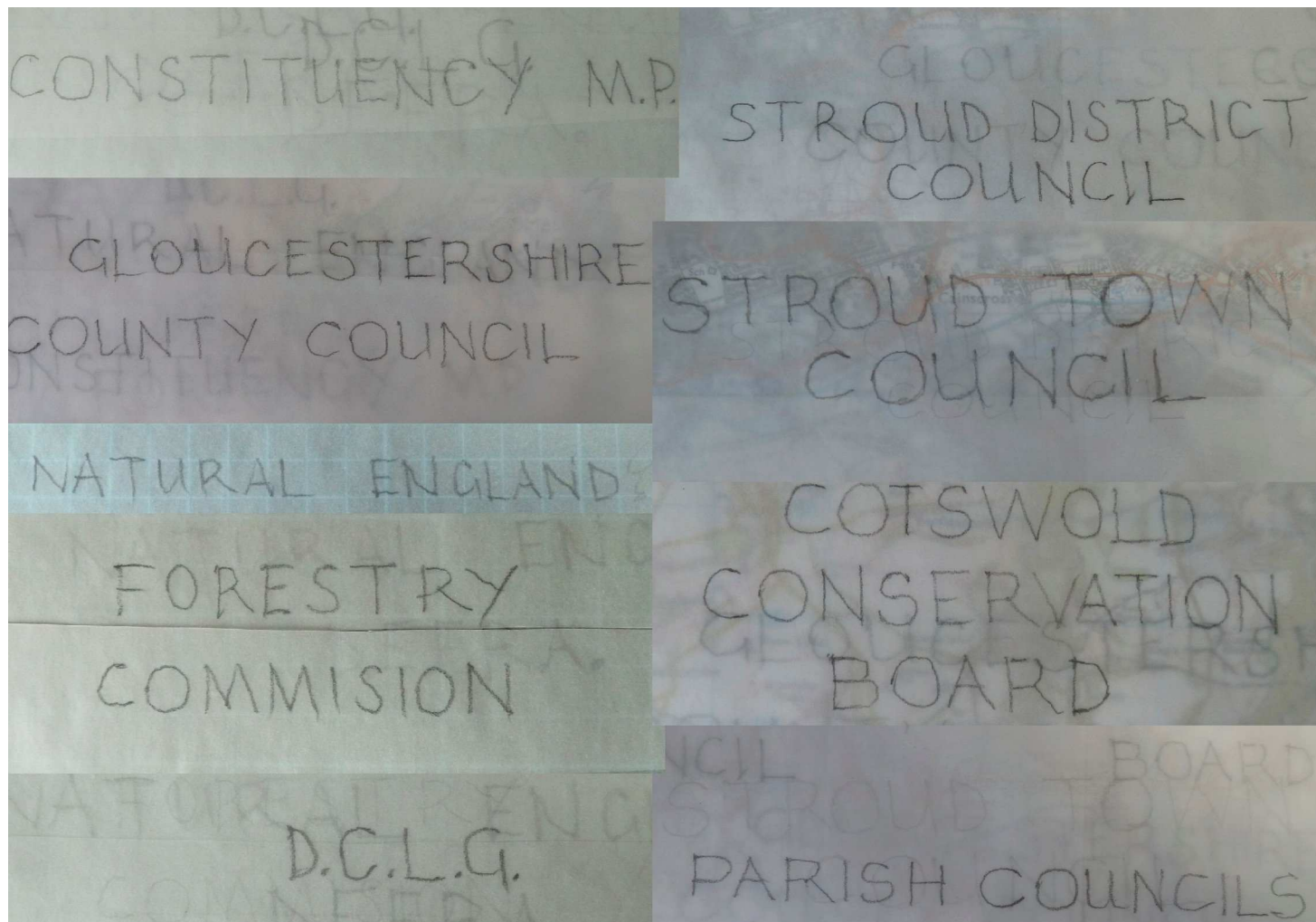
River Map: a project conducted during 2013 to collect information to help inform the review of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Landscape Character Appraisal of the Stroud Valleys. The method involved ten local artists walking and responding to the River corridor and producing work for exhibitions and discussion/collection workshops in a variety of community settings. The project was co-facilitated with Walking the Land artist Kel Portman and associated artists Tara Downs, Lucy Guenot and Valerie Coffin Price along with the Cotswold Conservation Board's Mark Connelly and Stroud Nature's Steve Roberts. The Sustainable Development Fund and Stroud Community Land Trust also supported the project.

Collaborating

“We might speak, then, of a meaningful loss of intentionality in dialogic practice as the artist opens out to the effect of site, context and the collaborative Other. Here the mindful surrender of agency and intentionality is not marked as failure or abandonment (of the prerogatives of authorship or the specificity of ‘art’), but as a process that is active, generative, and creative.”

Grant Kester, 2011. *The One and The Many; Contemporary Collaborative Art in a Global Context*. Durham and London: Duke University Press. (page 115)

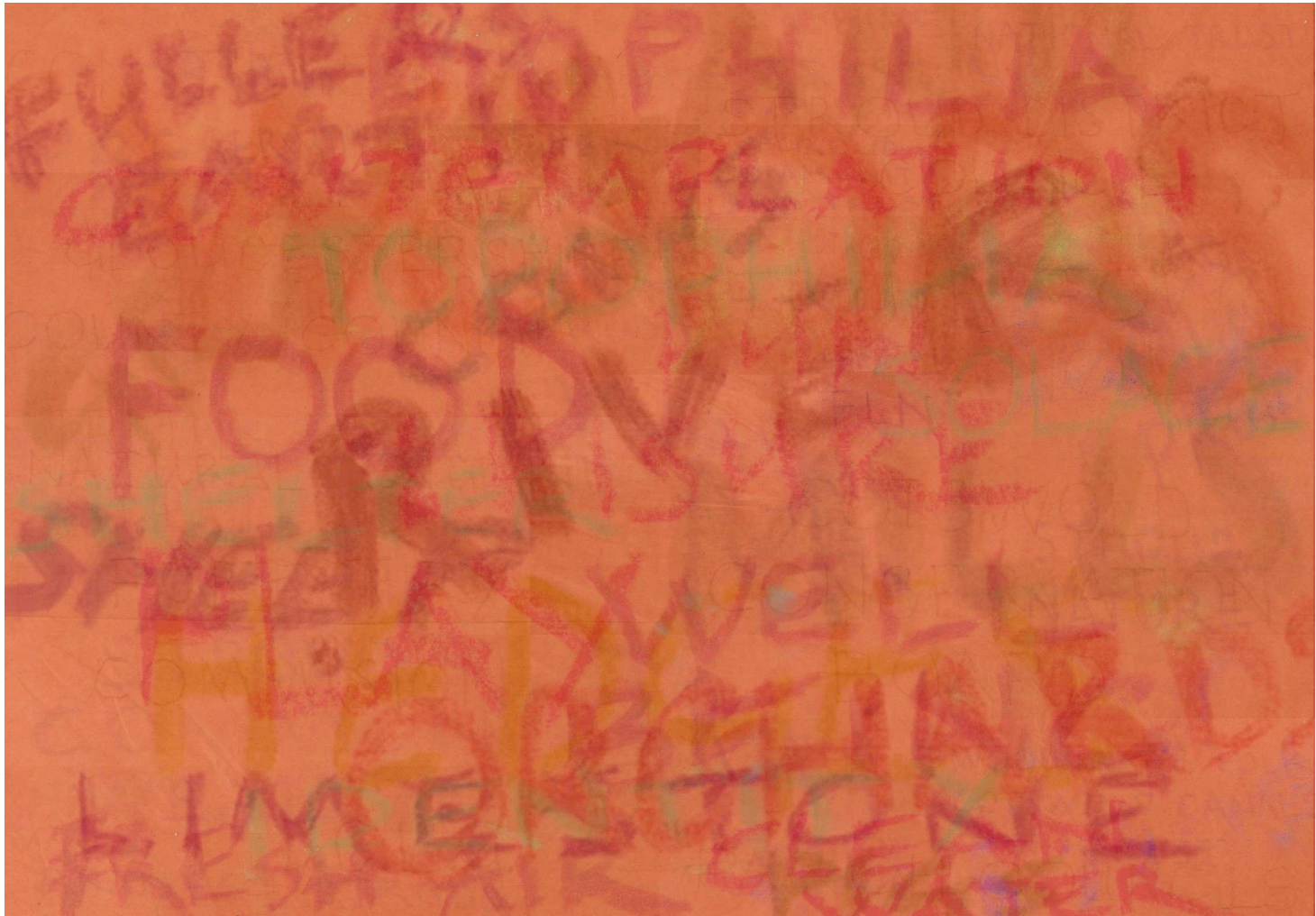




Institutional Framework



Community Framework

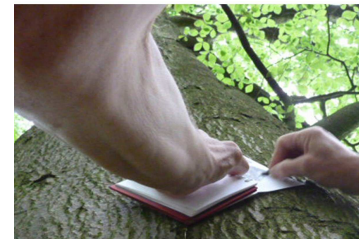


Landscape Features and Values

Encountering

"Only personal connection with the landscape can allow people to know their landscape in depth, including its opportunities and threats, and base their actions and activities on knowledge of the landscape in all its complex relationships. Personal engagement with a specific landscape can guarantee the sustainable development of the old landscape into new living ones, taking into account the value of the former ones."

Bas Pedrolí and Jan Van Mansvelt, 2006. *Landscape and awareness-raising, training and education in Landscape and Sustainable Development: challenges of the European Landscape Convention*. Council of Europe Publishing. (pages 119-142)





folly wood.

Winter solstice gathering: tree dressing
17/12/2010



weave

Transition Town Council Walk , Capel Mill, Stroud
22/01/2011



weave

Transition Stroud Council walk, Capel Mill

22/01/2011



weave

vision walks: Wallbridge, Stroud
15/02/2011



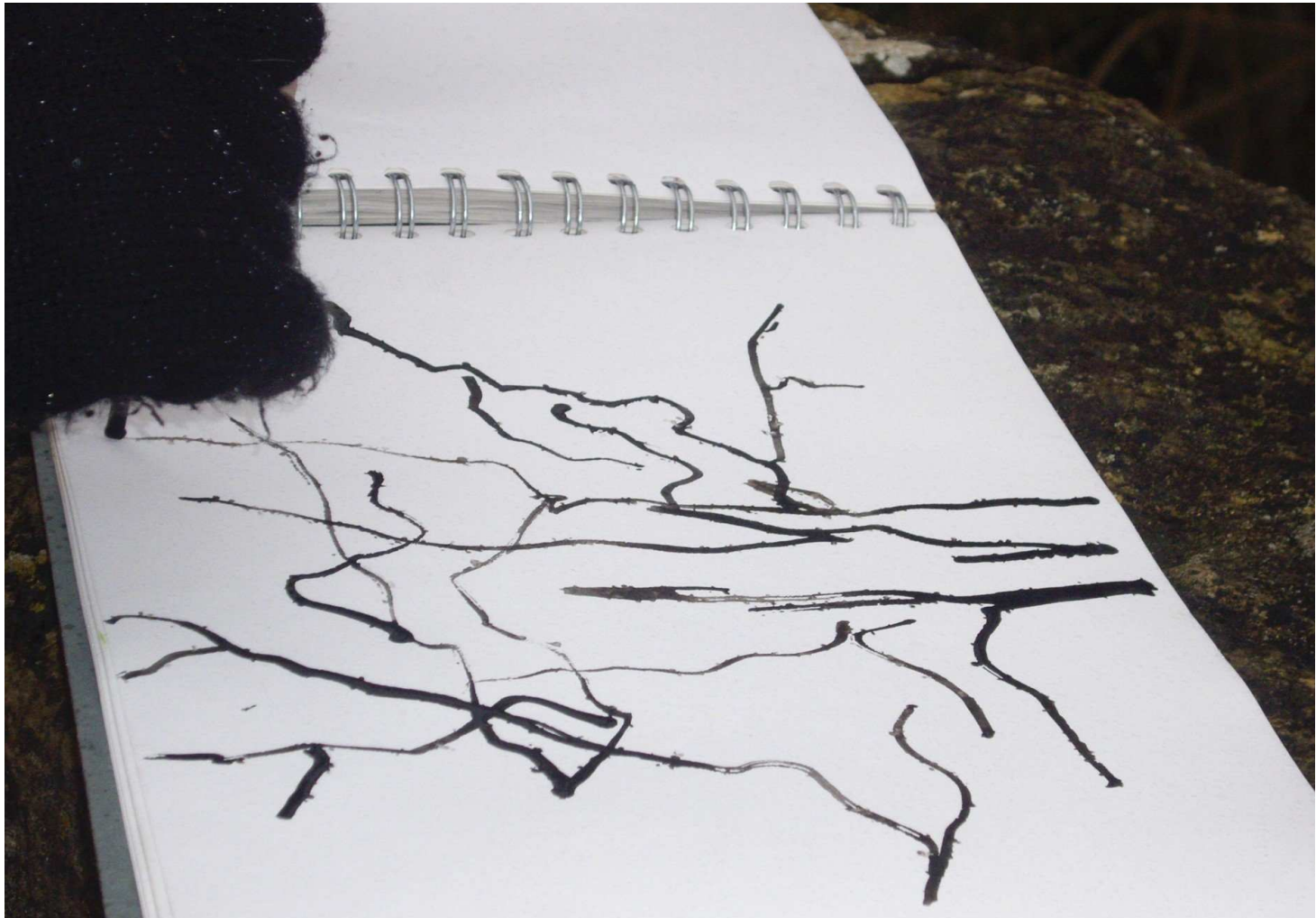
folly wood

response to 'sudden oak death' in european larch
18/01/2011



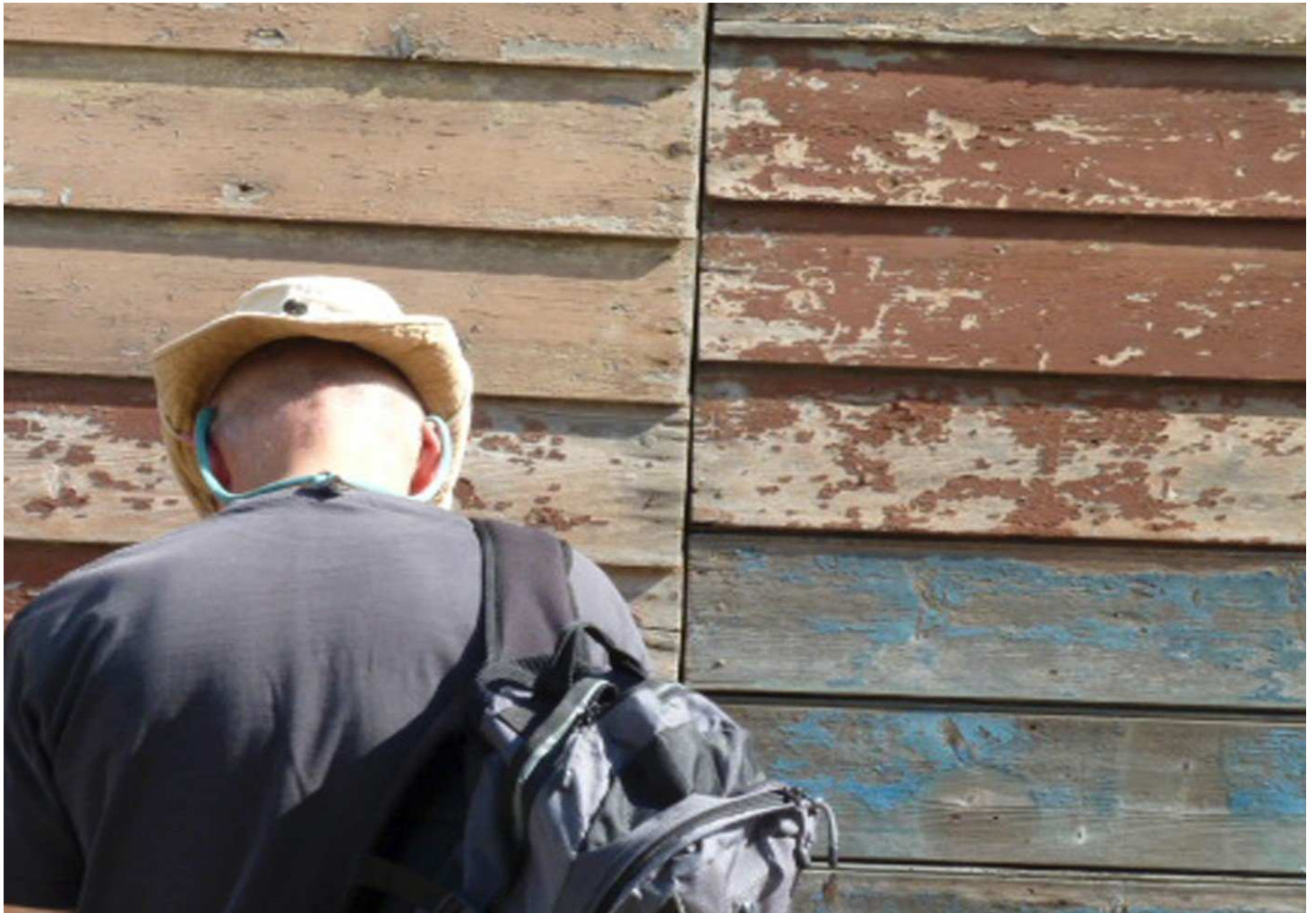
weave

First Friday Walk: disused canal at Sapperton, Gloucestershire
04/02/2011



weave

First Friday Walk: disused canal, Sapperton, Gloucestershire
04/02/2011



weave

First Friday Walk: Lodgemore, Stroud
06/05/2011



folly wood

Walking the Land woodland pilgrimage: Helen's Wood, Toadsmoor Valley, Gloucestershire
29/05/2011



folly wood

Walking the Land woodland pilgrimage: Parkend, Forest of Dean
02/06/2011



folly wood
Summer solstice gathering
19/06/2011



weave

Briefing for Academy of Urbanism, 'Place Partnering' visit
13/07/2011



weave

Yoga, walking and drawing workshop, Rodborough Woods
23/07/2011



weave

Festival of Nature, Stratford Park, Stroud: mother nature's drawing machine
10/09/2011



river map

First Friday Walk, Purton, Gloucestershire
06/01/2012



folly wood
into action: heeling in
10/01/2012



folly wood
into action: tree planting
15/01/2012



folly wood

into action: tree planting

26/02/2012



in-between places

Shustoke, Warwickshire

17/05/2012



in-between places

Shustoke, Warwickshire

17/05/2012



in-between places

Middleton Hall, Warwickshire

18/05/2012



in-between places

Winchcombe, Gloucestershire
07/06/2012



river map

Rodborough Fields, Stroud
27/06/2012



transhumance walk

Aurland, Norway

27/07/2012



transhumance walk

Aurland, Norway
28/07/2012



transhumance walk

Aurland, Norway
28/07/2012



river map

First Friday Walk, Chalford, Gloucestershire
02/11/2012



river map

Miserden Park, Gloucestershire
04/01/2013



river map

First Friday Walk, Bussage, Gloucestershire
01/03/2013



river map

Aust, South Gloucestershire
24/03/2013



river map

Rodborough Fields, Stroud
09/07/2013

Exchanging

"It is wise to dream beyond what we currently believe to be attainable. Once we have done so, the next step is to co-imagine the dream in a more shareable form. This means exchanging dreams and seeing how they can be conjoined to enhance one another."

John Wood, 2007. *Design for Micro-Utopias: Making the Unthinkable Possible*. Aldershot: Gower. (page 13)





folly wood

first gathering: collecting aspirations
25/07/2010



weave

The Weave Symposium, The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud.
13/05/2011



weave

The Weave Symposium, The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud.
13/05/2011



weave

Academy of Urbanism 'Place Partnering' visit, The Star Anise Cafe, Stroud.
03/11/2011



folly wood
mapping gathering
19/06/2011



in-between places

'Affective Landscapes' conference, University of Derby
25/05/2012



transhumance walk

Aurland, Norway
27/07/2012



transhumance walk

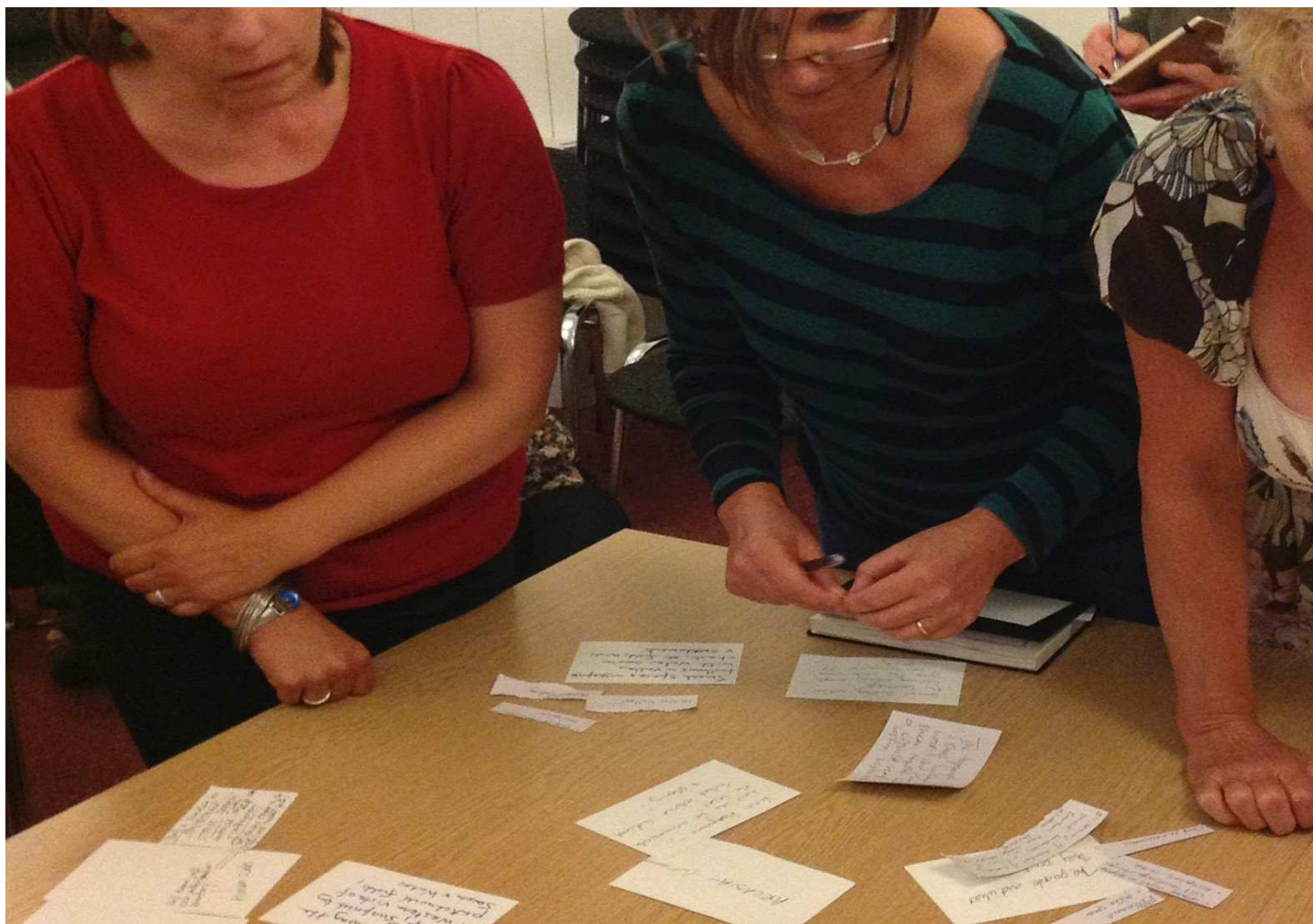
Aurland, Norway

27/07/2012



river map

exhibition, walk and discussion event, Stroud Brewery, Thrupp
18/05/2013



river map

exhibition, collection and discussion event, The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud
19/08/2013



river map

exhibition, walk, discussion and collection event, Ruskin Mill, Nailsworth
08/09/2013



river map

final exhibition and seminar, Museum in the Park, Stroud
09/11/2013



