

**Caring for Landscapes:
Can framings around care better align national strategies with local delivery?**

Session organisers:

Emma Gardner (NERC-funded Landscape Decisions Programme Research Fellow; UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology)
Ewan Allinson (member of Arts and Artists in Landscape and Environmental Research Today Network; University of Dundee)
Katharine Earnshaw (PI of AHRC-funded Fieldwork Research Network and Field || guides project; University of Exeter)

This **discursive, interdisciplinary session** invites participants to consider how we care for landscapes, what care looks like, and how notions of care could better align national strategies with local delivery. The session will explore whether framings around care can facilitate dialogue between national and local agendas and help to achieve more positive environmental outcomes.

It is intended to encourage discussions between groups who occupy different positions along the spectrum from strategic national planning to local action, including central government, local government, NGOs, researchers, land managers and community representatives.

The session is divided into three parts.

Part 1 will set the scene for the event, through a **short, provocative panel discussion** between researchers and practitioners. Session organisers Ewan, Katharine and Emma, together with an upland hill farmer, a member of the Beaford network (connecting artists and communities with North Devon) and a national co-ordinator of conservation volunteers, will respond to three questions:

- *How does a greater focus on care provide a meaningful alternative to ecosystem service concepts?*
- *How does a greater focus on care provide a way for local delivery and top-down strategy to work together?*
- *How does a greater focus on care better support nature recovery?*

Part 2 will feature **case studies of care contributed by session participants** and collected through the conference's open call for contributions.

We are looking for case study contributions that represent **striking examples of care and carers in landscapes** – whether this is care for individual creatures, places or whole landscapes – and that **highlight how care has influenced landscape decision-making**. These case studies could be drawn from the daily caretaking practices of land-managers and communities, local responses to national land-use policies, grass-roots-driven conservation actions, or any other instances of care for landscapes and their inhabitants. Tell us who is taking care, who/what they are taking care of, and why.

We invite case study contributors to bring to the session a labelled object, image or testimony that encapsulates their case study. Please use the online form to tell us how your object/image/testimony represents care, indicate whether you would be happy to give a short 3-minute (slide-free) introduction to it, and include a brief 250-word summary of your case study.

A selection of contributors will be asked to give **verbal introductions to their case studies** during Part 2 of the session and **all contributed objects, images and testimonies will be used as prompts** for Part 3.

During **Part 3**, session participants will divide into small groups to discuss the question '*How would the notion of care be implemented in your own sphere?*'.

The session will conclude with a **short feedback and summing-up** led by the session organisers. After the conference, participants will have the option to participate in **co-producing an accessible written summary**, outlining key learning and case studies from the session.

If you would like to contribute a case study to the session, please submit your completed online form by 30th June 2023.