



## Research paper

## Broadly engaging with tranquillity in protected landscapes: A matter of perspective identified in GIS

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Tranquillity has a meaning that varies at both group and individual level.
- Views distinguished between policy makers, the public and visitors.
- Political perspective on audibility, whereas visibility is prioritised.
- Objectives of related policies conflict.
- Issue raised on how distinct views might be reconciled in planning practice.

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## ABSTRACT

References to the subjective notion of tranquillity have long been extensively deployed in marketing literature and in planning policy in relation to both its promotion and its protection, particularly in protected areas. Whilst a liberal use of the term has ensued, a plethora of research interprets tranquillity primarily with noise, and where broader interpretations are progressed, traditional, directional questioning techniques are evident in attempts to understand tranquillity and quantify its features. Surprisingly, few enquiries have taken a broader, inductive approach to determining the range of stakeholders' views and of these even fewer have engaged specifically with local residents and particularly those classed as hard-to-reach. Using these latter approaches, of the few and most recent studies conducted, the Broadly Engaging with Tranquillity project provides a replicable framework for determining and mapping tranquillity. An extensive community engagement process launched the study, using participatory principles from which stakeholders' views were modelled using Geographical Information Systems. Results of this research are reported together with an interpretation of the models created according to four distinct groups representing views of institutions and members of the public. Similar views are identified amongst the groups with tranquillity commonly related to natural environments, whereas nontranquillity was primarily equated to seeing and hearing people and the products of human activity. Yet distinctions are identified between the four groups that have important implications for who should be involved in determining local characteristics of tranquillity and for how protected area managers might include nonexpert views in their understanding and conservation of tranquillity.

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## 1. Introduction

Tranquillity is a frequently occurring term in protected area, tourism, and marketing literature where it is used synonymously

with subjective descriptors such as *solitude*, *remoteness*, *calm*, *peace*, and *quiet*, to recount both a state of mind and to describe a quality of experience that is commonly perceived to be found in certain locations. These areas tend to be associated with relatively undisturbed environments, are hence often related to rural locations and especially to protected areas valued for their landscapes, seascapes, and biodiversity. However, a review of international conventions and standards relevant to these areas demonstrates that the concept of tranquillity is very much open to interpretation. For example the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention focusses on tranquil

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qualities, related to cultural and spiritual features found in many World Heritage Sites (WHS), but especially in relation to aesthetics enhanced or pejoratively affected by what can be seen and/or heard (International Council On Monuments and Sites [ICOMOS], 2011). A similar interpretation is also found in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN), categorisation of protected areas. As with WHS, the IUCN do not specifically report tranquillity to be a management indicator per se, but qualities relating to tranquillity are identified in the organisation's standards and guidance for management. These assert for example, varying degrees of remoteness, the ability to see and hear features of environments in their natural state and where mankind's impacts are minimised (Dudley, Stolton, & Shadie, 2008).

Understandably, the contents of such international agreements on protected area management are reflected at a national level in policies relating to environmental conservation, planning, development control, and at the local level in the emphasis of environmental protection through statutory management plans (Powell, Selman, & Wragg, 2002). Such documents equally report on the importance of enhancing and maintaining tranquil qualities as beneficial for not only contributing to biodiversity and landscape conservation but also, in recognition of the many communities residing in these areas, to positively enhancing individuals' physical health, social, psychological, and ultimately economic wellbeing (e.g. Berto, 2014; Department Environment Food & Rural Affairs [DEFRA], 2000; Herzog & Barnes, 1999; Kaplan, 2001; Ulrich et al., 1991). Consequently, tranquillity and the range of interpretations it attracts are often cited as key economic and social considerations in sustainable development strategies. In the latter cases, the most liberal use of tranquillity, its synonyms, and its inference through what are commonly interpreted as indicative features of protected areas, are promoted, particularly given these are regularly demonstrated to be a key motive for visiting these locations. For example, in a 1990s survey of United States National Parks, 72% of respondents suggested that a key purpose of such areas was to provide opportunities for experiencing natural peace and the sounds of nature (Haas & Wakefield, 1998). In the UK, tranquillity and the synonym, peace, are cited as a key motive for visitors to rural areas (Campaign Protection Rural England [CPRE], 2015), while views of open rural and natural landscapes are often seen as a secondary priority (cf. CPRE, 2006; National Parks UK, [NPPUK] 2015).

A wealth of literature exists on the benefits of tranquillity, amongst which qualities of particularly sound, have gained increasing political attention and subsequently academic interest in the US since the 1980s (Miller, 2008; Shannon et al., 2015) and in Europe, especially since 2000 (e.g., Gidlöf-Gunnarsson & Öhrström, 2007; Watts & Pheasant, 2015). Much of this research has taken the traditional, directional questioning approach in consulting with the public on landscape qualities and particularly so on noise factors. Subsequently research has been primarily positivist in nature and often conducted through applied acoustics to the modelling, and even the prediction of tranquillity in both urban and rural locations (e.g. Pheasant, Horshonekov, & Watts, 2010). Yet, while such attempts to objectivise the subjective nature of tranquillity may prove attractive in practice, in theory the scientific ability to accurately and appropriately predetermine just how people may interpret tranquillity is questioned. For example, in applied acoustics, questions arise as to how natural and contextual aspects of tranquillity are calculated given views on tranquillity are socially and geographically constructed and informed at the least, by an individual's cultural, social and environmental preferences (e.g. Hague & Jenkins, 2005; Pheasant, Horshonekov et al., 2010; Selman & Swanwick, 2010).

Concurrently, a far broader perspective on the meaning of landscapes for the wider public has been emphasised in landscape planning policy. For example, in Europe, the most comprehensive

vision for landscape planning derives from the European Landscape Convention (ELC, 2012). This treaty emphasises "a holistic understanding of the landscape" informed through public participation that combines the physical with the aesthetic for which tranquillity is emphasised as a key characteristic (Natural England, 2009, p.6). Conversely, the EU Environmental Noise Directive END (OJEC, 2002) encourages the much-researched and narrower interpretation of tranquillity, as primarily related to sounds. Furthermore implementation of END 2002 in EU member states means that a statutory obligation is placed on local administrations to identify tranquil zones in their areas. In the UK, both urban and rural areas are incorporated in the Government's first official recognition of tranquillity as a public asset through its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG, 2012). As with the END, (OJEC, 2002), noise is emphasised, yet importantly NPPF recognises that tranquil spaces may also be determined as "demonstrably special to a local community . . . holding a particularly local significance . . ." due to their "beauty, historic significance, recreational value. . . tranquillity or richness of [their] wildlife." (Department Communities & Local Government [DCLG], 2012, p.18). Consequently, an additional obligation is placed on local administrations to not only consider tranquillity when determining planning applications but also to identify, in consultation with local communities, tranquil zones within their jurisdictions.

Given the benefits of tranquillity together with both its increasing presence in international conventions and the political attention it receives in the EU and the UK, it is surprising to note the lack of practical guidance on just how tranquillity might be determined in such a way that it is sufficiently representative of the range of public views held. In this paper we report results of the Broadly Engaging with Tranquillity (BET) project, which used an inclusive, inductive and comparative approach comprising institutions', visitors' and residents' views on determining characteristics of tranquillity. Our aims are threefold: firstly to consider how various organisations, residents, and visitors variously view tranquillity, secondly to test an investigative framework on how to collate these views and thirdly, to evaluate how tranquillity is best represented spatially for use in protected area management. We address these aims with reference to a study area in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), central southern England (Fig. 1).

## 2. Protected areas, tranquillity, and tranquillity mapping

Protected areas are defined by IUCN as "a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" (Dudley et al., 2008, p2; Shadie & Dudley, 2013). Organisations managing such areas will usually have some degree of responsibility in respect of planning and development. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland for example there are various protected area designations, the two at landscape scale being National Parks and AONBs. Both designations share a primary purpose, to conserve and enhance their natural beauty. They are distinguished by an additional purpose in the case of National Parks: to promote enjoyment and understanding of the area's special qualities. They also differ in their governance structures: National Parks' Administrations are separate legal entities with full planning powers while AONB partnerships work on an advisory basis with their relevant planning authority. Nevertheless, the management authorities for both designations must ensure that development opportunities are progressed in consultation with their local residents, that they do not adversely affect nature conservation or the quality of life of their local communities, while they should also not affect tranquil-



## در اجرای درخواست شما مشکلی رخ داده است

با سلام ☐ متأسفانه  
مشکلی در فرایند  
اجرای درخواست شما  
رخ داده است ☐

همکاران ما در حال تلاش برای رفع این

مشکل هستند ☐

لطفاً درخواست خود را در ساعات دیگری

مجدداً تکرار فرمایید و اگر باز هم با این

مشکل رو به رو شدید، از طریق فرم تماس

با ما به واحد پشتیبانی اطلاع دهید ☐

برای یافتن مطلب مورد نظر خود می

توانید از روش های جستجوی زیر استفاده

فرمایید :

## جستجو در میان موضوعات

برای جستجو در میان موضوعات، به محض این که عبارت خود را در فیلد زیر بنویسید، موضوع های مرتبط در درخت سمت چپ با رنگ متمایزی مشخص می شوند.

جستجو ...

## جستجو در میان مقالات

اگر موضوع مورد نظر شما در لیست موضوعات اصلی وجود نداشت، با استفاده از فیلد زیر می توانید آن را در بین کل مقاله های سایت جستجو فرمایید.

جستجو ...

جستجو

لیست  
درختی  
موضوعات

- الگوریتم های هیوریستیک +
- بازاریابی و مدیریت بازار +
- حسابداری و حسابرسی +
- روش های آماری +
- سازمان و مدیریت +
- سیستم های اطلاعاتی +
- علوم اقتصادی +
- مدیریت استراتژیک +
- مدیریت امور فرهنگی +
- مدیریت تولید +
- مدیریت دولتی +
- مدیریت رفتار سازمانی +
- مدیریت مالی +
- مدیریت منابع انسانی +
- مطالعات اسلامی +
- کارآفرینی و مدیریت کسب و کار +

## تماس با واحد پشتیبانی

همکاران ما در واحد پشتیبانی آمادگی دارند تمامی درخواست های شما عزیزان را بررسی نموده و در اسرع وقت رسیدگی نمایند.

## پیگیری خرید مقاله

پس از خرید هر مقاله، یک کد رهگیری منحصر به فرد به شما تقدیم خواهد شد که با استفاده از آن می توانید وضعیت خرید خود را پیگیری فرمایید.

کد رهگیری

ارسال

## پیگیری سفارش ترجمه

با ثبت کد رهگیری پرداخت، می توانید سفارش خود را پیگیری نموده و به محض اتمام ترجمه، فایل ترجمه مقاله خود را دانلود نمایید □

کد رهگیری

ارسال

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