



A network linking the Quality of Urban Environments with
Nature Connectedness and Health

Environment
Centre

Lancaster
University

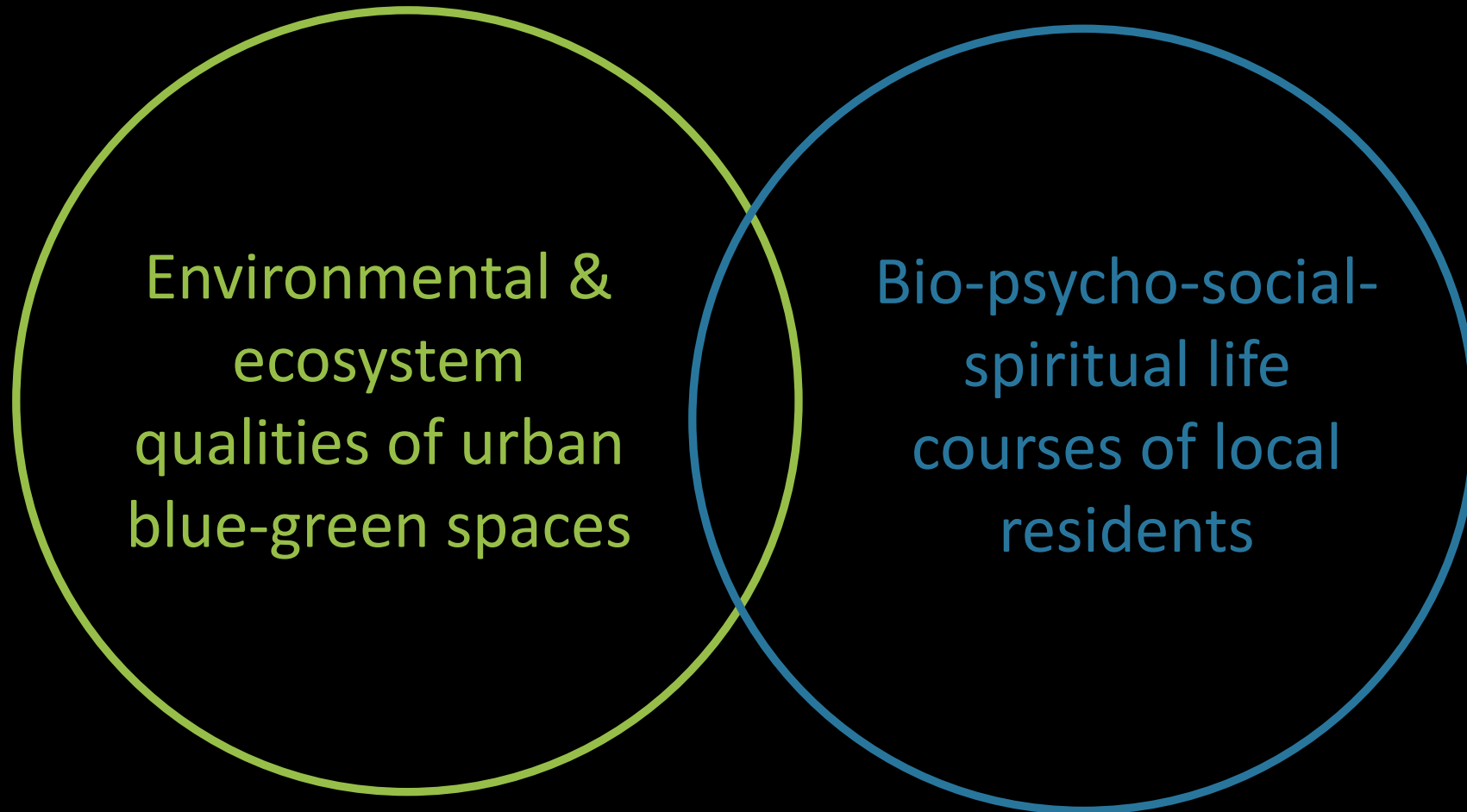


Natural
Environment
Research Council

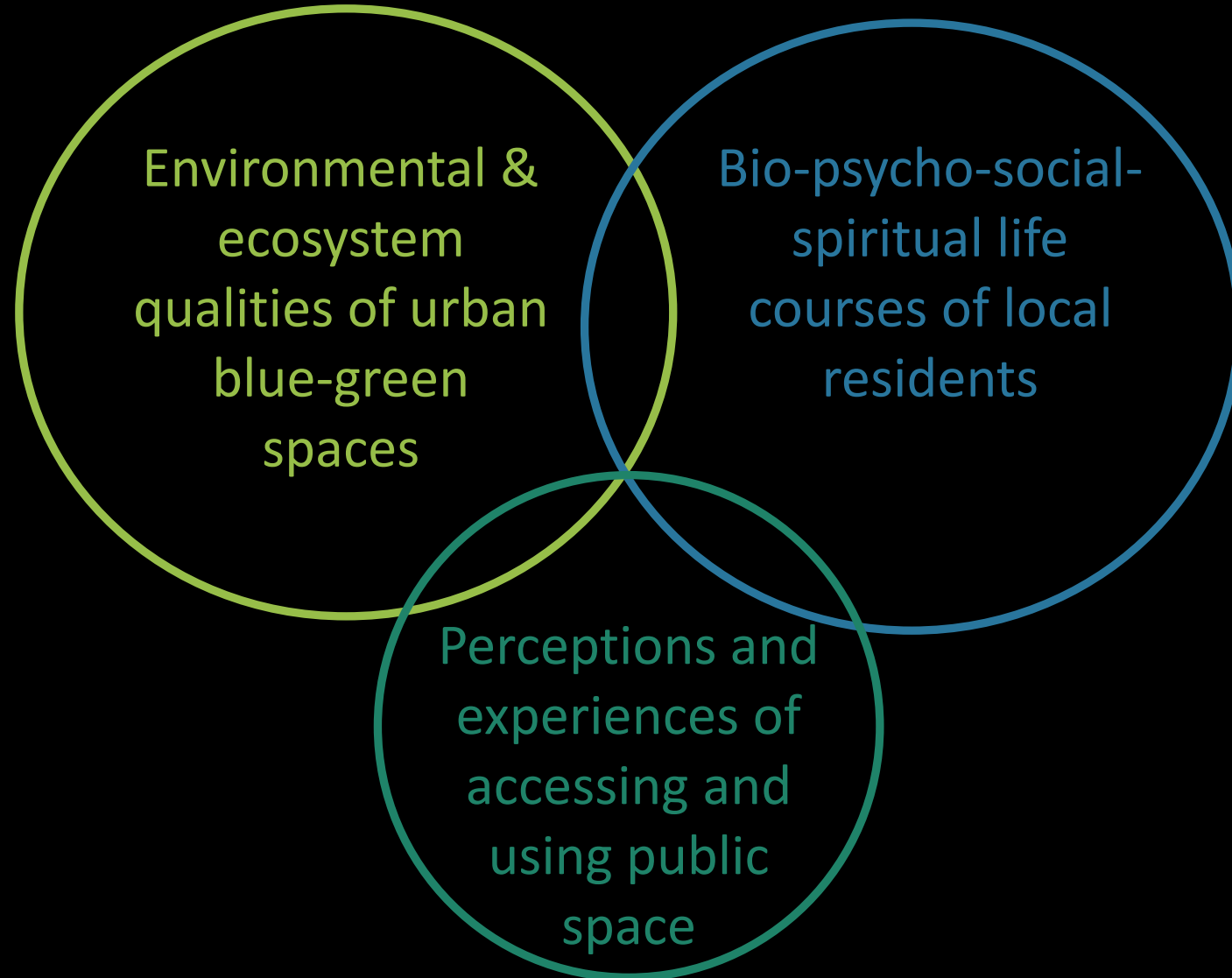
Environmental Quality - Inequalities

Kirsti Ashworth (Lancaster U), Beth Nicholls (U Sussex)
Nadine Andrews (CultureProbe), Emma Critchley (Eden Project North), Danielle
Lambrick (U Southampton) Laura MacLean (James Hutton Institute) & RAs:
Scott McVean, Hattie Roberts, Isla Young

What influences sense of place?



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Key research question: What influences sense of place?

In this pilot study, we will explore the following questions:

1. What physical, environmental and bio-psycho-social-spiritual factors influence inequalities in access to urban green-blue space?
2. How do these factors affect sense of place?
3. How do access and sense of place differ across demographic groups?

The team

Environmental
Natural Science

Kirsti - Atmospheric
Sciences

Emma - Eden
Project North

Environmental
Social Science

Beth - Ecology &
nature-connectedness

Laura - Environment
& architecture

Bio-psycho-social-
spiritual studies

Danielle -
Bio-monitoring

Nadine - Ecology &
nature-connectedness

The Bay Health
Festival

Methods

Environmental monitoring

- micro-climate
- colour & light
- soundscape
- motion
- scents

Bio-monitoring

- heart-rate variability

Feelings mapping

- identification of local spaces
- associated feelings
- access
- demographic group

Ecological monitoring

- botanical transects
- pollinator counts
- birdsong

Qualitative methods

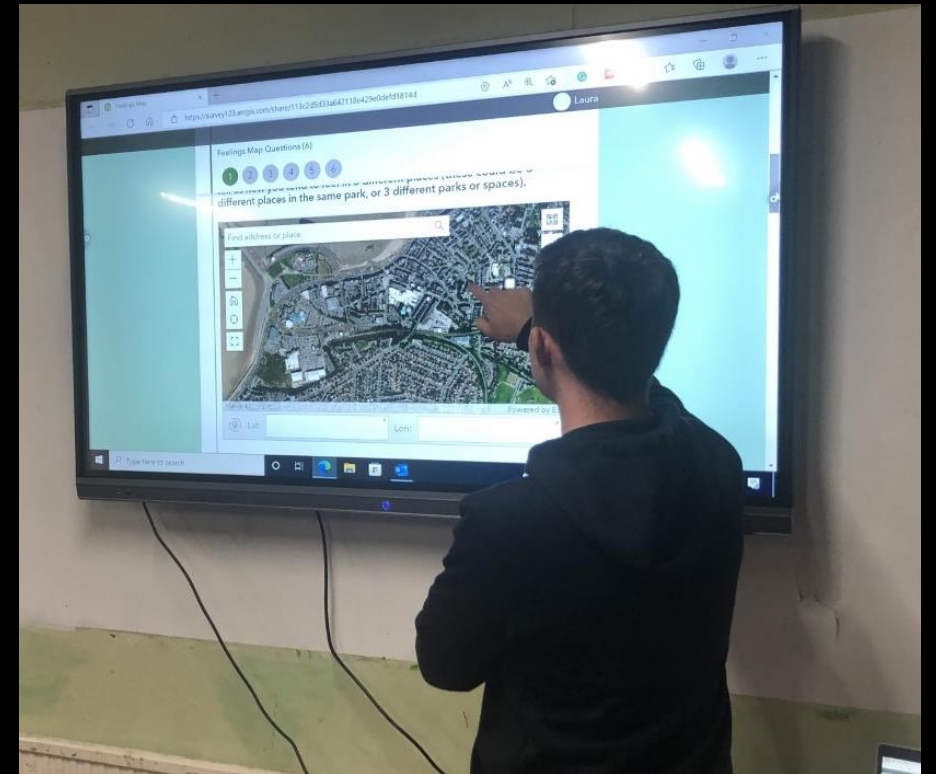
- interactive maps
- surveys
- site visits
- recording of perceptions

Approach

Phase 1: Feelings mapping

Interactive digital map to collect data on:

- Feelings invoked by specific, participant-identified places
- Demographics of participants



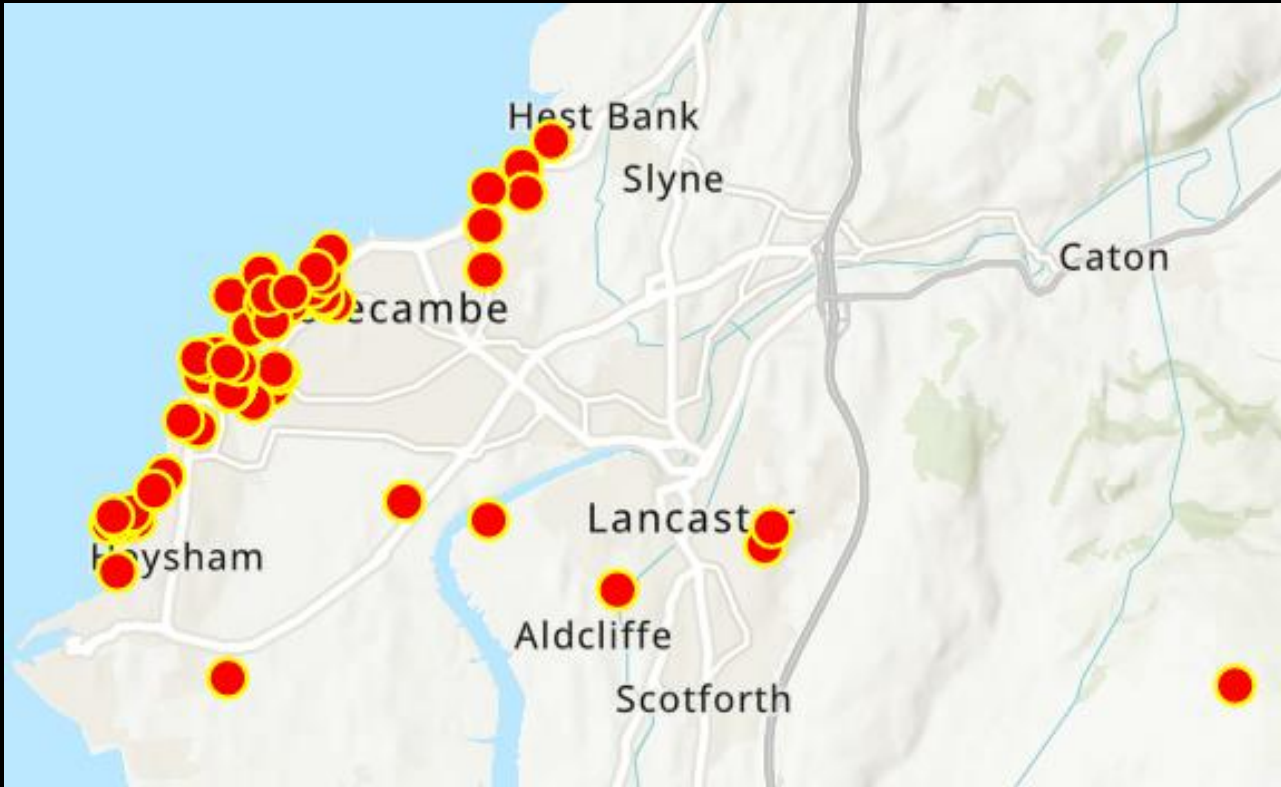
Approach

Two in-person events in
Morecambe-Lancaster area

- Eden Project North
- The Bay Health Festival

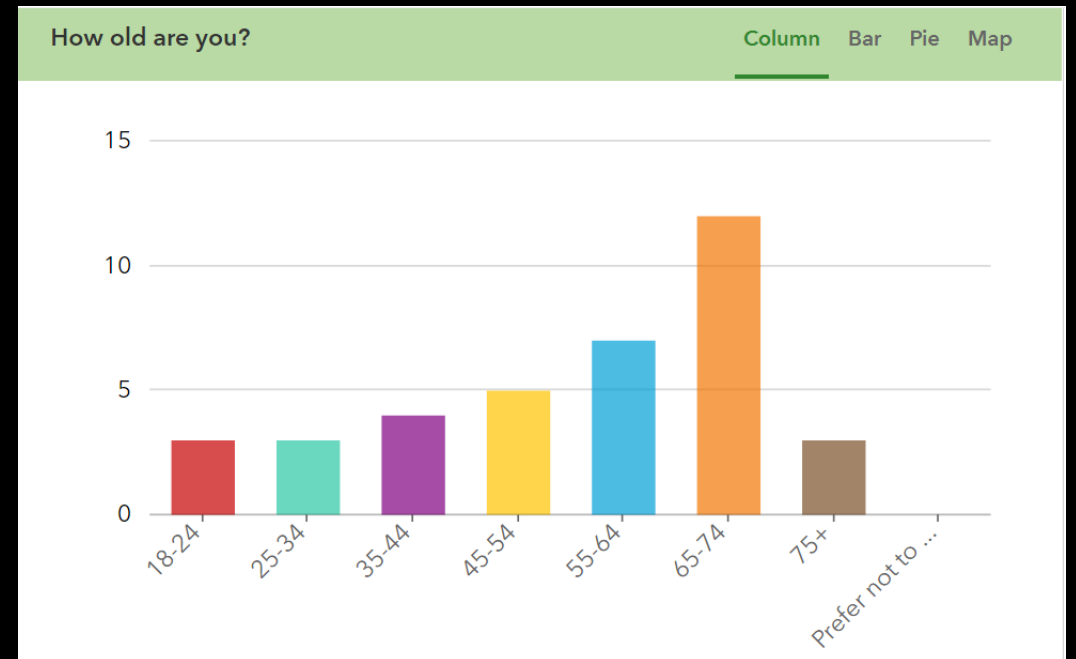
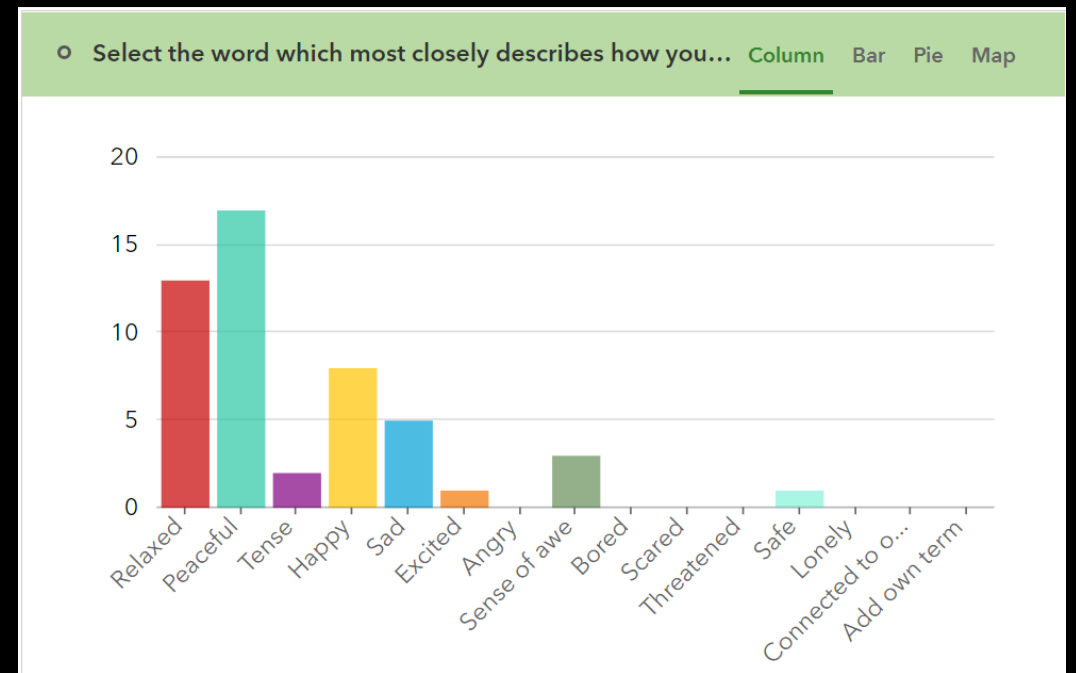


THE BAY
HEALTH FESTIVALS
BARROW • LANCASTER • KENDAL

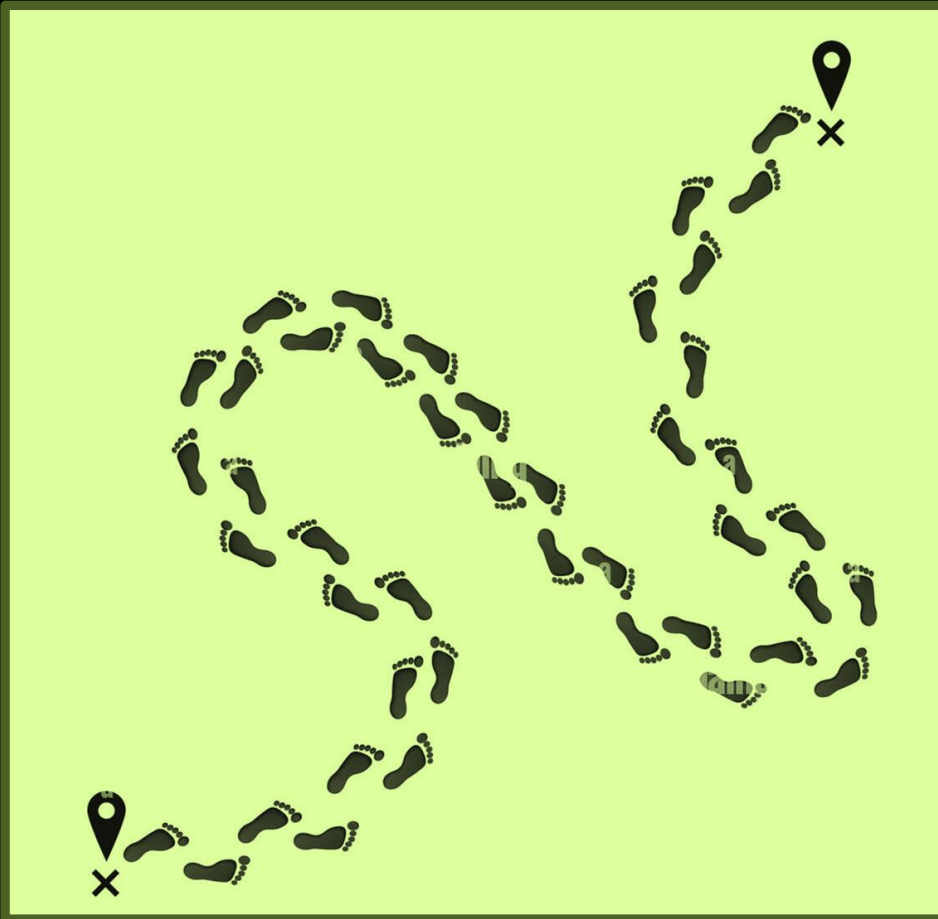


Phase 1: Feelings mapping

- First event 8th June
- Morecambe - Eden Project North
- Promising early results!



Approach



Phase 2: Site selection & visits

- Case study locations selected based on positive/negative hotspots from feelings map
- Contrast either in space/feelings/demographic group
- Research team visit to design a 'Feelings Tour' for participants

Approach



Phase 3: Sense of place

- 'Feelings Tour' - participants walk mapped routes
- Respond to mindful prompts at pre-identified locations
- Record & share the physical environment & their feelings
- Monitor their heart rate

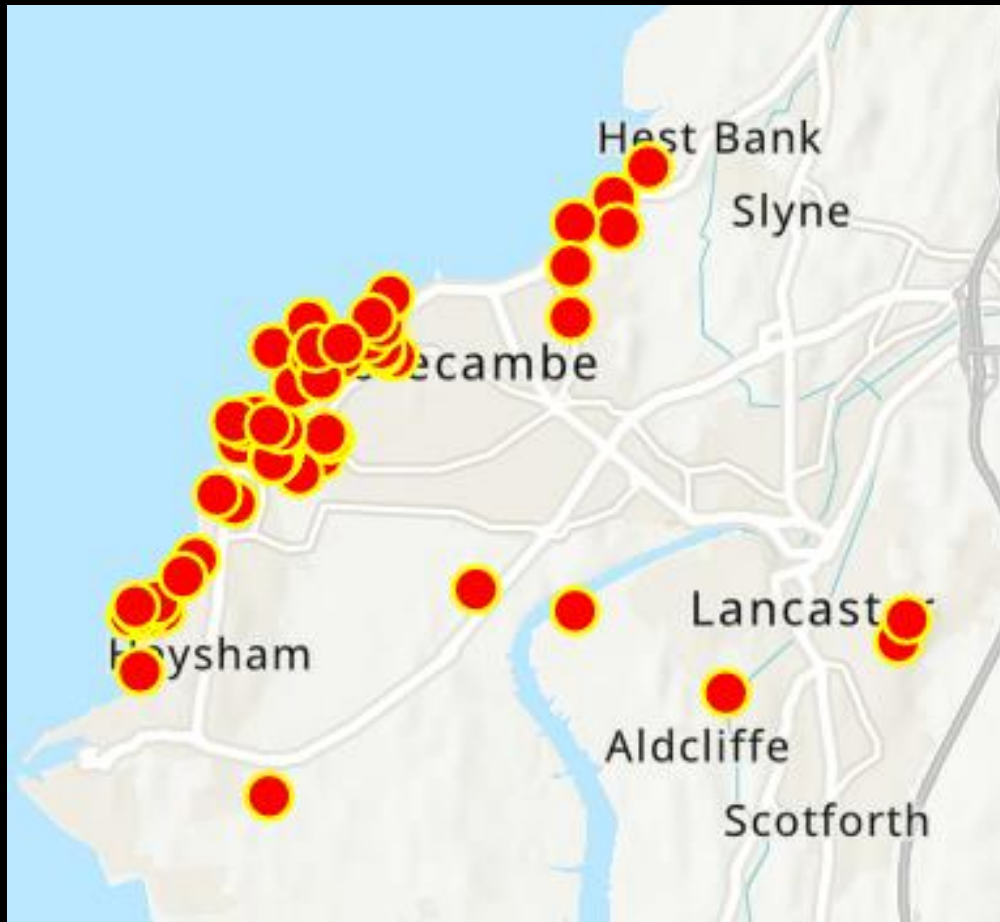
Approach



Phase 4: Environmental & Ecological monitoring

- RAs walk mapped routes and monitor and record chosen env. measures at each stopping point
- RAs conduct botanical transects and pollinator counts at each stopping point

Approach



Phase 5: Data interrogation

- Qual & Quant data overlaid on interactive feelings map
- Data (cross-)analysed using mixed-methods approaches
- Correlations between environmental quality, access & perceptions of place identified
- Differences between demographic groups explored

Future steps

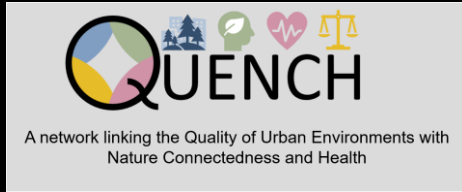
Dissemination:

- Healthy City Designs conference
- QUENCH reporting & website
- Potential publication or opinion piece



Full-scale project:

- Expand network and locations
- Refine methodology and implementation
- Develop funding proposals



Environmental Quality - Inequalities

We welcome questions, comments & suggestions!
And expressions of interest to join the full project

Kirsti Ashworth: k.s.ashworth1@Lancaster.ac.uk