



SOUNDING[S] :: hooke wood encounters

metamedia 2013



hooke wood

Hooke Park is a 350-acre coppiced woodland in Dorset, South West England, that has been owned and operated by the Architectural Association, since 2002. The woodland contains a small educational facility centered on a woodworking workshop, that was established in the 1980s as a furniture and forestry college. The combination of the workshop, a working wood and the rich community and craft traditions provides a unique opportunity for a school of architecture, for experimentation and fabrication.



metamedia

Mandy Rathbone, Ivo Oates, David Rogers and Joe Stevens have been collaborating for two years, sonically exploring architectural spaces, focusing on site-specific acoustic actions and field recording. Their raw material consists of sounds originating from materials found in-situ, and from interactions with the space. Recently metamedia have been exploring external spaces and have previously immersed themselves in the audio experience of Portland quarries and now Hooke Wood. Each recording in this podcast is a document of a specific moment in time in a specific location. The artists' focus has been primarily on phonographies that reflect the spirit of place, its aura and resonance.



encounter | ::

Encounters in workshop and woods - sound sketches at Hooke Park [7.36mins]

by ivon oates.

Sundown in the barn, sanding, feeding time for chickens and watering, birdsong in drains, and...

"the drastic coast... lumps of concrete covered in slates... foxes and the occasional badger..."

Composed of field recordings taken at sundown at Hooke Park's Architectural Association field campus.



These sketches form part of ongoing research into aural architecture and sound's plastic capacity to create spaces, establish moods and colour our experience.

How can sound generate architectural space?

What is the form most conducive to a particular quality?

The sound of the activity architectural form contains.

How does the architectural skin acquire its shape if it is formed by sound?



encounter 2 ::

Working Woodland [5.45mins]

by David Rogers

Hooke Wood is a unique environment with a working practice that sits both in the past and the present, with outcomes that project into the future. The woodland supplies the raw materials, which subsequently become the physical manifestation of ideas. Whilst still maintaining a picturesque benevolent environment supporting the well being of the managed landscape, it is a place for experimentation and risk



taking. This sketch attempts to audibly 'paint' a picture of this unusual rural landscape.

Wood-Store Building under construction

Deep in the wood

Stream

Distant pheasant shoot



encounter 3 ::

A Walk in the Woods [3.33mins]

By Mandy Rathbone

A crisp and bright November afternoon in Hooke Woods.

Walking, listening, capturing sounds - footsteps, streams, distant birds

Deep in the heart of Dorset

I followed this up thinking more about the unique qualities of the Dorset landscape and decided to add a list of Dorset flower names to my walk in the woods.

Hardhead—Knapweed.
 Hawk-yeer-mother's-eyes-out—Germander speedwell.
 Holm—Holly.
 Horse daisy—Ox-eye daisy.
 Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon—(i) Goat's beard ; (ii) Scarlet
 pimpernel.
 Jerusalem star—Red-cap fungus.
 Josephs and Maries—Lungwort.
 Knot—A flower bed.
 Kiss-me-John-at-the-garden-gate—Pansy.
 Kiss-me-quick—(i) London pride ; (ii) Red valerian.
 Lady Betty—Red valerian.
 Lady Dove and her coach and pair—Monk's hood.
 Lay lock—Lilac.
 Lent lily—Daffodil.
 Letterwort—Fœtid hellebore.
 Love and tangle—Hop trefoil.
 Lucky moon—Pennywort.
 Mandrake—White bryony.
 Marybuds—Marsh marigolds.
 Mayball—Wild guelder rose.
 Mazard—Wild or black cherry (fruit).
 Money in both pockets—Honesty.
 Mother of thousands—Ivy leaved toadflax.
 Mournful bells of Sodom—Fritillaries.
 Naked ladies }
 Naked maidens } Meadow saffron.
 Parson in the pulpit—Cuckoo pint.
 Ploughmen's spikenard—Winter heliotrope.
 P... .. (called penny because the flower can

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The list comes from
 'Dorset up along and
 down along'
 edited by Marianne R Dacombe.

This piece continues my
 exploration of different ways of
 experiencing the richly diverse
 natural environment here in West
 Dorset.



encounter 4 ::

close-up [5.07mins]

By Joe Stevens

Hooke has a strange feeling in that it is a mixture of wildlife, farmed woodland and building site. It is a quiet, peaceful place surrounded by human activity of dog walkers, horse riders, guns going off (presumably a pheasant shoot) and the almost constant sound of light aircraft flying overhead. On top of this if you get too close to the main buildings you hear the hum of the heating / air conditioning unit, along with sounds of building activity.



It's interesting to call it a park as it felt like a serene stroll into the countryside. There is continuous evidence of mans intrusions into this managed landscape. With a variety of trees being grown, for the different wood that might be needed by the students who attend this place. While on a weekday there is a steady sound of a building site, with electric drills, chainsaws, hammering, motorised vehicles and people shouting. These sounds permeate throughout the park and are joined by the constant buzz of light airplanes and occasional helicopters. But underlying this are the sounds of nature, of birds singing, water and insects. All told it makes Hooke an extraordinary wonderful place to visit.



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by MANDY RATHBONE

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