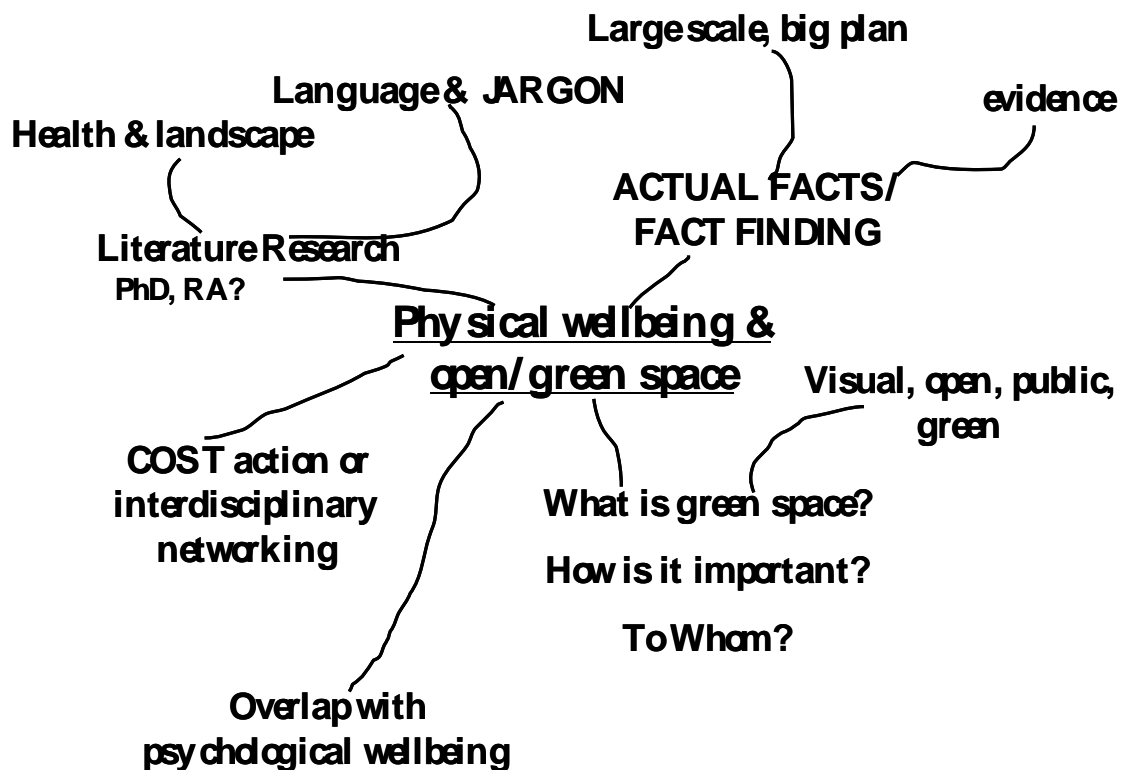


The group of 27 participants divided into 3 sub-groups to talk about their own work, interests and possibilities for collaboration. Reporters from each group summarised their discussions at the end of the afternoon. Some notes from this feedback session are provided here.

Group # Physical well-being connected to green spaces

- Some discussion was had about what is actually meant by 'green space' and concepts of open space and the scale at which this is important.
- How is it important to different sets of people (example, elderly, children, youth) and how can this be measured?
- There was a consensus amongst the group that it was difficult to separate out physical health from mental well-being and that the two are related.
- There appears to be lots of published material out there but this is held in different disciplinary fields and there is a need to pull it all together to show what work has already been carried out and where the gaps in evidence are.
- An international and multicultural project would be exciting and an idea was to apply for a COST network¹ grant to get people talking about existing work and methodological approaches.



¹ COST information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/>

Group * Landscape, natural beauty and scenery connected to psychological well-being.

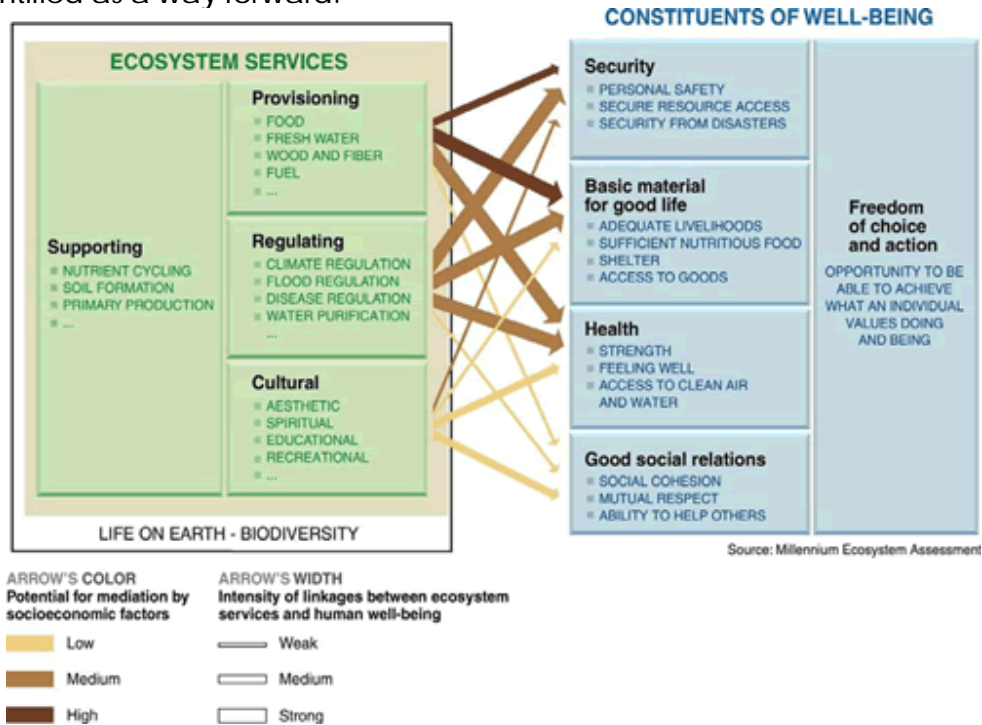
- Well-being is dependant on the level of engagement of a person with their environment, knowledge about the landscape and a person's experience. People tend to 'use' the environment in different ways. It all depends upon what people want at that moment and a nice view from a window may suffice or total engagement with the environment such as rock climbing may be desirable.
- Economic valuation is a way to determine how people value/appreciate their surrounding environment. For example a discussion was made around house prices near to public parks. Are people happier living near to green spaces and are they willing to pay for it?
- How do we know what a quality green space is and how can we find out what these spaces are composed of? Photo elicitation was described as a means for people to rank what they liked in a set of photographs and therefore explore what individuals perceived as preferred environments. Reminiscent points of view could also help to investigate what people remember as quality places.
- Perceptions were thought to differ between age, cultural and different economic groups. For example, what the elderly likes may not be the same as what a child thinks is great. All to do with 'use', 'function' and 'type.'
- This group also believed there was already plenty of information out there and that it would be foolish for any future projects to try and reinvent the wheel.

Group > Ecosystem services connected to objective well-being measures²

- The group identified the differences in situations in 'Northern' and 'Southern' nations when thinking about the concept of well-being in connection with an ecosystem services approach. For example, European citizens may have the luxury of having options when making decisions about managing ecosystem services to enhance their wellbeing (e.g. they may be able to make trade-offs to enhance recreational activities). However, in poorer nations there are frequently no options, enhancing well-being is often trying to restore the services that provide the essentials to sustain life (e.g. food and water).
- Given these differences it was posed whether it is possible to develop a general theoretical model that can bridge such geographical differences, linking ecosystem services, well-being, social and political systems (governance etc). It was thought that it is possible and the group wondered how such a theory could be tested. Could it be tested in Northern nations and still be applicable to Southern ones?
- How do we incorporate our existing knowledge about i) the environment and ii) well-being into a sound and useful decision making tool that can be applied to real life situations? How are decisions made anyway? Making decisions that are focussed on single issues as we do currently (e.g. water management) ignores that ecosystem services interact (managing one can have a positive or a negative effect on another) and there are feedbacks and complexity in linked social and ecological systems. A more holistic approach is needed.
- Another suggestion was to start with the wellbeing concept and work back towards the ecosystem service end, as ultimately what we are trying to do is enhance well-being.

² Referred back to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – see diagram
<http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>

- The group was interested in exploring the capacity within the University that already work on, for example, participatory decision frameworks for enhancing well-being in Southern nations. Developing systems approaches for modelling linked social-ecological systems was identified as a way forward.



Next steps:

- Develop some research questions and initiate a debate on how best to investigate.
- Circulate call information as and when it becomes available
- Organise some short question and answer sessions with a quick presentation on the key issues – perhaps 1 before Christmas?
- Ask what support is needed.

List of attendees

Name	Department
Fazeelat AKHTAR	Information Commons
Dimitris BALLAS	Geography
Aletta BONN	Peak District National Park Authority
Josephine BOOTH	Animal and Plant Sciences
Andy BRADFORD	Geography
Ann CHARLETT-DAY	Research Office
Richard COOPER	SCHARR
Martin DALLIMER	Animal and Plant Sciences
Dick EISER	Psychology
Alison HOLT	Catchment Science Centre
Graham JONES	SCHARR
Melanie KNIGHT	Environment Division
Alex McCLIMENS	Shef. Hallam, faculty of health & wellbeing
Kevin McKEE	Institute for studies on ageing
Hussein MATLABI	Institute for studies on ageing
Josie MESSINA	SCHARR
Mark PARNELL	Peak District National Park Authority
Laurence PATTACINI	Landscape
Sarah PAYNE	University of Manchester
Paul SELMAN	Landscape
Chris SPENCER	Psychology
Christine SPRIGG	Institute of Work Psychology
Kevin THWAITES	Landscape
Aki TSUCHIYA	Economics & SCHARR
Nick WILSON	U Sport
Helen WOOLLEY	Landscape
Jan WOULDSTRA	Landscape