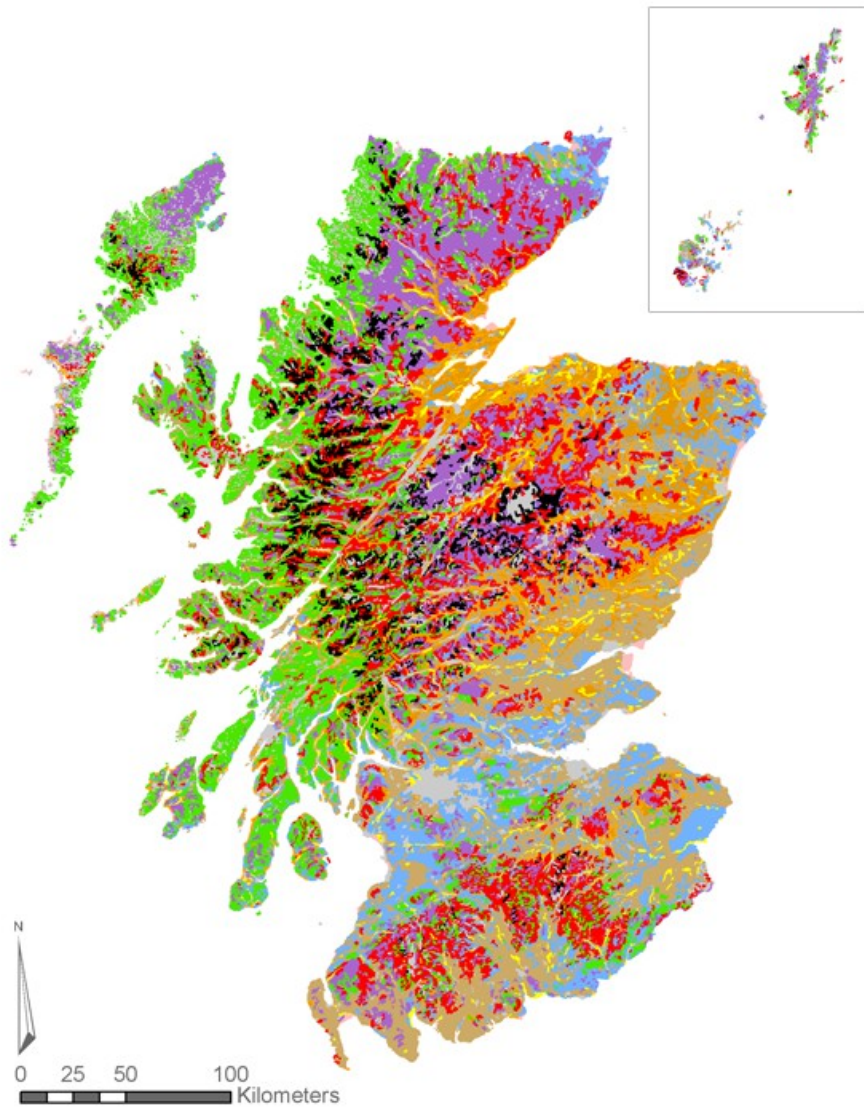


ARTIST'S BRIEF

Project: Nil by Mouth: food, farms, science and sustainability.
Curatorial Team: Crichton Carbon Centre and Wide Open
Project Management: Wide Open
Date: 04 September 2013
Revision: 08
Status: For Issue



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Soil Types in Scotland



Introduction

“The success of any social movement depends on its ability to depict a world where people want to go.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Food production contributes **30%** of the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. **30%** of the world's population is malnourished and another **30%** is obese. Food production uses **70%** of the world's fresh water and **40%** of the world's land. Developed countries waste **30%-40%** of food. There are no win-win situations, only trade-offs.

The Crichton Carbon Centre has secured Creative Scotland funding to deliver a talent development programme for four creative professionals working in any artforms which will promote professional development, connectivity and support ambition. Wide Open, with its extensive expertise in working with artists, is collaborating with the Crichton Carbon Centre, in its capacity as a research and educational centre for environmental science and sustainability, to curate this programme.

The Nil by Mouth programme is a unique opportunity to research and express current science associated with food production through workshops and knowledge exchange. In parallel artists will undertake two short residencies on farms or in food producing communities. In developing this programme it seems only appropriate to start with soil as a counterpoint to the statistics noted above. The programme lasts approximately 6 months. The research will culminate in a group exhibition, event or performance.

Deadline for applications is **5pm Monday 23 September 2013**. Electronic submissions to chris@fremantle.org

Creative Aims

Scotland has world class research focused on the complexity of food production and sustainability including a number of research centres involved in the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme *Environmental Change; Food, Land and People* (the Rowett Institute of Nutrition & Health, The James Hutton Institute, The Moredun Research Institute, Scotland's Rural College [SRUC], Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland [BioSS], the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh).¹ The Nil by Mouth project benefits from links with the Strategic Research Programme. The curatorial team will work with the Strategic Research Programme to identify scientists to contribute to Workshops and will support and mentor artists in developing working relationships with relevant scientists. Our starting point will be soil and soil science, but the selected artists will develop their own interests and directions.

1 <http://www.knowledgescotland.org/strategic-research.php>

Scotland's farms are changing and there is an increasing split between agrochemical farming and organic farming. But Scotland also has a distinctive tradition in crofting and some key examples of urban farms, community gardens and a strong allotment movement. Scotland also has innovative social and civic initiatives such as the Fife Diet² and Nourish Scotland³.

The curatorial team will match artists with farmers or food producing communities for the residencies and will support and mentor working relationships. Farms/food producing communities for the project will be selected to represent a cross section of practice in Scotland. 'Farm' as used here is a term that includes but is by no means limited to organic/mixed farms, crofts, community farm/allotments and dairy or grain farms.

This programme is aimed at artists across all artforms who are interested in developing work with communities of scientists and food producers. Whilst artists participating will not be expected to have any particular science background, a demonstrable interest and willingness to engage with the issues of sustainability and food production, and a willingness to develop new work in collaboration with other disciplines and practices is essential. Some experience of collaborations, residencies and learning processes will be an advantage.

The long-term outcome of the programme is intended to engage a wider public audience in understanding and responding to the sustainable development agenda.

There are also a number of potential outcomes, including but not limited to projects which communicate the sciences and practices of food production or projects forming new collaborative relationships between artists and scientists.

Artists selected to participate in the Nil by Mouth programme will attend workshops with scientists and undertake residencies in food producing communities. This initial programme will focus on soil science. The residency element of the programme will involve two weeks in the late Autumn of 2013 and a further two weeks in the Spring of 2014. Between the periods of residency there will be a feedback session with the curatorial team, and a second workshop with scientists. All the residencies will take place in Scotland.

The programme lasts approximately 6 months. There will be a public presentation of the results of the programme. The format will depend on the artforms of the participants (see Programme below for more detail).

Background

The Crichton Carbon Centre and Wide Open are both committed to encouraging collaboration between artists and scientists. Both also aim to engage existing and new audiences. Creative Scotland supports the development of new

2 <http://fifediet.co.uk>

3 <http://www.nourishscotland.org.uk>

contexts and audiences and in the Year of Natural Scotland has partnered with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Crichton Carbon Centre⁴ is a not-for-profit postgraduate teaching and applied research establishment focused on understanding the challenges and promoting the benefits of low carbon societies.

Its portfolio of work currently includes leading research in climate justice for Scottish Government's Centre of Expertise in Climate Change; building capacity for sustainable business practices in the SME sector in Scotland, funded through EU structural funds in collaboration with private, public and third sector sponsors; and delivering sustainable development education for teachers and pupils in primary and secondary education, a programme of work now in its sixth year, also funded through the EU together with a number of foundations and trusts.

The Centre therefore has a broad network of collaborators in the scientific, educational and government communities and a track record of successful project management in sustainable development.

Taken together, these programmes highlight the Centre's focus on accessibility - making climate science and, more broadly, the rationale for sustainable development more accessible, in order to broaden public engagement in the details of that agenda.

Wide Open⁵ is a multidisciplinary project-led social enterprise company, which, through creative practice, releases the dynamic potential of places. Working closely with context we support creative professionals and thinkers to evolve artworks through interdisciplinary creative processes which uncover the identity, distinctiveness and potential of place and people.

Wide Open has a strong track record in the development of unique and innovative projects in both the natural and the built environment. Through grounded, careful research and development we support artists to work closely with places and people, delivering work of integrity to create meaningful and lasting legacies.

We work with artists at various stages in their careers from internationally renowned professionals including Charles Jencks and Andy Goldsworthy to mid career artists such as Alec Finlay, Adrian Macdowell and Dalziel and Scullion. We also work with and develop the skills of recent graduate, postgraduate students and local artists of quality.

Many of the projects Wide Open have realised also involve collaborations with historians, writers, musicians and scientists in the development and delivery of projects in close association with the communities in which they are based.

4 <http://www.carboncentre.org/>

5 <http://www.wide-open.net/>

Programme

Brief circulated	Wednesday 4th September 2013
Submissions	5pm Monday 23rd September 2013
Final Selection Interviews	Tuesday 1st October 2013
1st Science Workshop	25th October 2013
1st Phase Farm Residencies	W/c 28th October 2013
1st Phase Farm Residencies completed	7th December 2013
Artists' presentations on first residencies to curatorial team – agreement on proposals	W/c 13th December 2013
2nd Science Workshop	W/c 3rd March 2014
2nd Phase Farm Residencies	W/c 10th March 2014
2nd Phase Farm Residencies completed	25th April 2014
Round up meeting	W/c 1st May 2014
Public Presentation	Provisionally May-June 2014

Contracts, Fees and Payments

A formal residency contract will be signed prior to work commencing. This will be a fixed sum agreement against the stages of the programme.

Insurance

Artists will demonstrate that they have Public Liability Insurance (to £5 million) in place for the duration of the project.

Health and Safety

Artists will comply with any Health and Safety requirements, including undertaking any inductions, whilst in residence on farms/ in food producing communities. Artists should have up to date tetanus vaccinations.

Budget

Selected artists will receive a total fee of £5,500 covering four weeks of residency in two blocks as per the Programme, at least two knowledge exchange workshops with scientists, meetings with the curatorial team, creation of art works.

Accommodation, subsistence and travel expenses related to the Residency periods will be reimbursed against legitimate expense claims as required.

There is a small budget allocation for the production of work as an expression of the residencies. The allocated costs will be agreed in detail following completion of the first phase of the farm residencies.

Submission requirements, Selection, Contacts

Submission to be sent in electronic format to Chris Fremantle as below by 5pm Mon 23rd September 2013.

If you need to submit in hard copy, please contact us for the postal address. You will be notified within two working days of the closing date that your application has been received. If you do not receive notification please contact Wide Open to ensure your application has been received.

Submission should include (in one email of less than 10MB to chris@fremantle.org. The subject line should specify '<yourname> Nil by Mouth Proposal'):

- ◆ Curriculum Vitae;
- ◆ Examples of your current and previous work e.g. 3 written pieces, 3 audio or video files of up to 4 minutes each, 15 images. This material should be compiled into a PDF presentation with audio and video files accessible on the web. Please provide captions including date, media, contextual information;
- ◆ Statement of experience and interest in this project (not more than 2 sides A4) including:
 - ◆ Reference to any previous work with scientists and/or farmers or food producers;
 - ◆ How participation in the programme will provide you with an opportunity for practice development.
- ◆ Contact details for two referees (please indicate if we can contact the referees during the selection process).
- ◆ Written confirmation of availability for key dates in the Programme as identified above.

Criteria for selection will be:

- A. Quality of previous work (50%);
- B. Quality of proposal / Statement of Approach including Contextual Understanding (50%).

Shortlisted proposals will be invited to interview **Tuesday 1st October 2013**.

Final appointment will be made subject to references.

Contact:

Chris Fremantle,
chris@fremantle.org
+44 (0)7714 203016

Wide Open,
Gracefield Arts Centre,
28 Edinburgh Road,
Dumfries,
DG1 1JQ

Questions

Are you looking for emerging or established artists?

This is funded through Creative Scotland's Talent Development initiative, so it's more important that this is an area that you want to explore and develop. You don't have to have any science qualifications or ever have been on a farm before.

As one of the artists will I have free range over the farm or laboratory?

In both cases you will be a guest and therefore need to be mindful of the context, so you will need to negotiate where you can go and what you can document with your hosts. Both are working environments and it will be necessary to pay attention to safety guidance.

As one of the artists will I be expected to do farm work?

There is no requirement to do so but it may be a good way to research and understand the context, if agreed with the host farmer/community lead.

As one of the artists where will I stay?

Either on the farm or in the immediate vicinity. We will only be able to answer that question more specifically when we match artists with farms. Travel, accommodation and subsistence are all budgeted for in the project.

As one of the artists will I need my own transport?

It's desirable but not essential. Travel expenses will be based on 2nd class public transport rates unless no public transport is available.

What do you mean by public presentation?

We are currently negotiating with venues, but until we have selected artists and understood the practices and proposals we cannot finalise whether we are producing an exhibition or an event.

As a farmer do I need to provide the artist with a studio?

Not in principle but some workspace may be useful depending on the artform of the artist. A poet or writer might need a desk, but a visual artist might only need somewhere to store video equipment. Broadband access would be desirable.

As a scientist what level of knowledge can I expect from the artists?

The level of knowledge will vary as will the methods of working. Artists don't usually start with a research question, but more commonly explore contexts at multiple levels (physical, spatial, social, temporal, cultural).

As a scientist my research area raises ethical issues.

Our aim in this project is to develop respectful working relationships. Some aspects of research are confidential and this will be respected, just as aspects of artists' practices can be subject to copyright or IP.