



**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

KEF

**PAUL RATCLIFF & DARREN WALL
EARTH ENERGIES**

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris (S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) and Dr Tina Conkar (t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by **21 February 2023**.

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

Name:	Dr Darren Wall
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School:	Leeds School of Arts

Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

Project Title:	Earth Energies
Project Date(s):	Exhibition Launched 01/09/22. Exhibition closed 29/01/23.
URL Link to Project:	Online A/V hosting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVMTmmlLe3A Face Book Posting – See 21 st Sept 2022 https://en-gb.facebook.com/ThwaiteMills/ Leeds Museums and Galleries Posting https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/events/thwaite-watermills/earth-energies/
Brief Description of Project (250-1000 words max.) In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.	
<p>This is a collaborative audio/visual piece delivered by Dr Paul Ratcliff and Dr Darren Wall</p> <p>Commissioned during COP26 and at a time where increasingly people are seeking wellbeing from nature, Earth Energies was recorded at Leeds' Thwaite mill; a place connecting themes of renewable-energy and urban-wildlife. This audio-visual installation combines Dr Darren Wall's Illustration, animation and drone-footage with Dr Paul Ratcliff's site-specific sound recordings and additional video. The production starts with the wildlife around the mill then journeys through the working museum as the water-wheels rumble into life. It ends by returning to the river, whose energies have been harnessed by the mill and which provides a natural world habitat for wildlife.</p>	

It was viewable at Thwaite Mills, Leeds LS10 1RP as an Installation (1st Sept 2022 to 29th January 2023) and remains online (accessible on Leeds Museums and Galleries YouTube Channel) . The work has been highly praised by Chris Sharpe, head of Leeds Industrial Museums and Thwaite Mill.

With permission, small sections of the audio recording have also been used by artist *Lora Litchfield* (https://www.instagram.com/flolux_/) in a 7-minute sound and light installation above Leeds Dock. This is titled *Light Stream* and featured as part of Leeds Light Night 2022. *Light Stream* ran from 13th October 2022 to 15th October 2022 in Leeds and continues to be exhibited across the country.

Chris Sharp – Keeper of Leeds Thwaite Mill

“Visitor figures are difficult, but pre-pandemic Thwaite had around 20,000 visitors a year and Leeds Industrial Museum had around 40,000. Visitor and online viewing figures are currently lower than usual – and I have had to make an educated guess about the numbers of people who will see your work. I think an honest (but optimistic) projection of what we might expect in viewing figures and the situation as I currently understand it is 10’000.”

<p>Organisations Engaged with: Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p>	<p>Leeds Thwaite Watermill Leeds Industrial Museum, Armley Mills Visitors to these mills Flora Litchfield</p>	<p>Total participants: Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p>	<p>Approx. 10’000 In person visitors to the exhibit and online access to hosted content</p>
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<p>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes: If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p>	<p>The development of a new audio/visual piece leading to an installation and online dissemination. The on-location exhibition was free to view and open to repeat and new visitors to the mills. This leads to community engagement and the delivery of historical and regional education. The online depiction allows for those who cannot access the Thwaite Mill to experience the rich visuals and soundscape.</p>
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Quotes
In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.

Letter of Commendation from lead contact Chris Sharp – Keeper at Thwaite Watermill and Leeds Industrial Museum

RE: *Thwaite Watermill: Earth Energies’ / Paul Ratcliff and Darren Wall – Letter of Commendation To whom it may concern,*

Thwaite Watermill is part of Leeds Museums and Galleries, a local authority run museum service (Leeds City Council) and a national portfolio organisation for the Arts Council England (ACE). The site has a rich industrial heritage as a working industrial mill until the 1970s and is now a museum with working machinery set within 9 acres of natural space. As a museum

funded by LCC and ACE we always aim to meet joint goals of engaging people on their own terms from multiple and diverse communities through meaningful engagement with museum collections in creative ways.

Thwaite Watermill was contacted by Dr Paul Ratcliff in late 2021 about the possibilities of commissioning a sound-led art video installation of the site, capturing the audio essence of the natural and industrial sounds at the museum. Paul also introduced us to his colleague Darren Wall to bring engaging visual elements to the project to complement the audio recordings. The proposal was to exhibit the finished recordings on site and online. COP 26 was used as an inspiration behind the project to ensure it engaged with our museum visitors around the ongoing Climate Emergency, as well as appreciating nature with the recent experience of connecting with the environment for wellbeing during COVID lockdowns. These elements were developed by Paul and Darren and ensured the finished artwork is relevant to our audience.

Paul and Darren worked to the availability of the site team at Thwaite in sensitive and accommodating ways, making repeat visits to take high quality audio recordings of working waterwheels, birdsong, and all that makes Thwaite such a wonderful and unique setting. Darren utilised drone footage, digital animation, and photography to complement these recordings. The finished piece will speak to our museum visitors, and the wider community, about the themes of nature and industry. It shows the site in honest and beautiful ways, and will be an invaluable tool in connecting with people now and in the future. The museum intends to exhibit the artwork later in

2022, and we are excited for people to discover our venue in new ways. We hope to display the artwork for at least 3 months in late 2022 at Thwaite Watermill where it should be seen by excess of 2,500 visitors, and to exhibit it online for a wider audience. I also intend to show the piece on occasion at Leeds Industrial Museum where we have a historic cinema, reaching an even larger audience whilst cross-promoting two separate museum sites. We hope the piece will reach over 10,000 people across the different venues and online channels.

Paul and Darren have been a pleasure to work with, and their output has been produced to the highest standard. They have always been professional and friendly, and have developed the piece with us efficiently and courteously. Suggestions have been taken on board at every turn, and the flexibility and creativity in their approach has been second to none. They have worked with us around questions of accessibility to audiences with different needs to make the piece open to as many people as possible, and always accommodated requests when made.

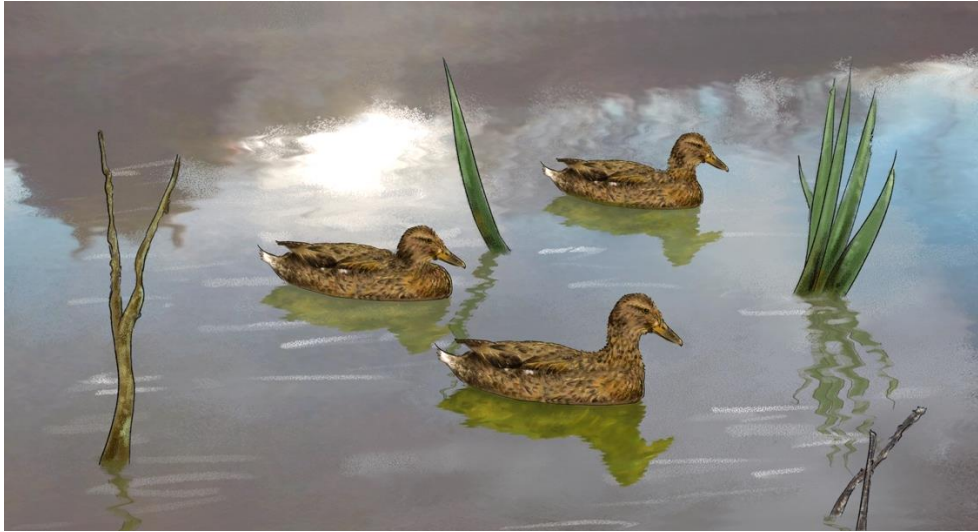
I would have no reservations in working again with Paul and Darren in the future should the right project and funding become available. They have added value to Thwaite Watermill and opened the site to new audiences in real and creative ways. I wish them all the best as they continue to develop their artistic practice in new and exciting ways, and look forward to seeing what they work on next.

Best wishes,

Chris Sharp
Keeper at Thwaite Watermill and Leeds Industrial Museum

Images

In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.







Sat 5 Nov 2022 - Sun 1 Oct 2023

Earth Energies

Exhibitions Film

Event organiser: Thwaite Watermill

Come and immerse yourself in Thwaite's wonderful sounds and sights!

Created by Paul Ratcliff and Darren Wall, this 8 minute film features high quality audio recordings of the wildlife and machinery at Thwaite Watermill in early 2022, accompanied by images and animations.

Commissioned during COP26 and at a time post-lockdown when people are seeking wellbeing from nature, Earth Energies was recorded at Thwaite Watermill, a place connecting the themes of renewable energy and urban wildlife.

The piece is available to experience in high definition sound in the Warehouse at Thwaite Watermill when you visit, alongside a fascinating archive documentary about the mill and its history made when it opened as a museum in 1990.

Thwaite Watermill Museum

Thwaite Watermill Museum
Thwaite Lane
Leeds
LS10 1RP



Visit Leeds



Earth Energies at Thwaite Watermill

"Listen to the rumbling of the wheels before returning to the sounds of nature that surround the mill..."

Presenting a new audio visual artwork – Thwaite: Earth Energies 

Created by Paul Ratcliff and Darren Wall, this 8 minute film features high quality audio recordings of the wildlife and machinery at Thwaite Watermill in early 2022, accompanied by images and animations.

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