

# Provocation: There's no such 'thing' as social value

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[www.wrestlingsocialvalue.org](http://www.wrestlingsocialvalue.org)

# There's no such 'thing' as social value

Social values are

- Multiple
- Dynamic
- Not inherent to fabric

May coincide with or diverge from 'official' assessments of value



Community concert at the Arnol Blackhouse, Isle of Lewis

# Social Value - a definition

The significance of the historic environment to contemporary communities, including people's sense of identity, belonging, attachment and place.



Transect walk with local residents on the Brown Caterthun, looking towards the White Caterthun, West of Edzell, Angus

# Whose Values Count?

Participation and  
marginalisation

Are communities:

- Recognised?
- Engaged?
- Heard?



Open Day at Kinneil House, Bo'ness

“It's somewhere I've always wanted to go ever since I was first told about the stones by Hood veteran Ken 'Nobby' Clarke... Nobby is gone now and, sadly, he never got to Loch 'orrible' as he called it. I got there and I like to think that, vicariously, Nobby did too and that, by doing so, we keep alive the story of Hood and the men who served in her.” (1)



The lower of two sets of 'Hood Stones' above Laid, on the shores of Loch Eriboll, Sutherland.

Created in 1934 by crew members of HMS Hood (sunk 1941 with the loss of 1415 men). Since 1993, the Stones have been maintained by local school children and visiting naval crews.

“Glasgow Graffiti heritage, isn’t normally thought of” (2)

“The community of artists / writers that have written there [Sauchiehall Lane], built friendships and brotherhoods” (3)

“Bumping into each other on a wall, leaving messages to each other... What they’ve done, how many they’ve done. Walking down there to see what’s up.” (4)



Work by 'Real EBA' (d. 2015) in Sauchiehall Lane, Glasgow (produced c2001; photographed 2018, removed 2019)

“It was a favourite place to climb and play and hide and scare people... Tale of a tunnel to the loch. Used to look for the tunnel as children, so did my children probably” (5)

“Officials think the locals don’t know or don’t take an interest in the archaeology... [we are] sensitive ourselves” (6)



Dun Carlaway Broch, Isle of Lewis

# Questions - whose values count?

- Are formal heritage processes valorising some narratives of place and potentially negating or perpetuating the absence others?
- How might we enable wider participation and incorporate previously under-represented perspectives in our work (and what are the implications of doing so)?
- How do we respond to divergence, diversity and conflicting understandings and values?



All images are the presenters own. Creative attribution for the graffiti goes to Real EBA.

Citations are as follows:

- (1) Member of the H.M.S. Hood Association (via Facebook)
- (2) City Council staff member (in interview)
- (3) and (4) members of the Glasgow Graffiti scene (in interview)
- (5) and (6) local residents in Doune Carloway (in interview)