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## Plan Overview

*A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline*

**Title:** Rural Music Project

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**Funder:** Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

**Template:** AHRC Data Management Plan

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### Project abstract:

The Rural Music Project will explore the development of music ecosystems away from major city centres, utilising art school pedagogies and scene development to generate vibrant music ecosystems in lesser populated locales, enriching lives through encouraging cultural interaction, economic growth and an increased sense of place.

According to the UK Music survey, the value of the music industry to the UK economy in 2022 was £6.7 million with 210,000 people employed. Almost two thirds of people stated that local music venues are essential to their community, demonstrating the impact of the music industry on UK lives, something which cannot just be measured in economic terms but also its social impact. Research outlined by [UK Music](#) shows that performing, composing or watching live music, known as musicking, provides entertainment and a sense of communal wellbeing. Currently, a large proportion of the UK music economy and most academic research is concentrated on major cities, but smaller cities, towns and villages contain their own ecosystems, energising local communities whilst feeding into major conurbations. Without concentrating on rural music ecosystems, disparities between urban centres and countryside locations will widen, splitting communities as people relocate to cities for cultural and economic reasons. Dynamic rural music ecosystems will provide opportunities and enliven dormant areas.

To bridge this gap, the Rural Music Project will explore music ecosystems external to major cities in the UK, through research in collaboration with local communities and industry experts. Art school practices will be implemented including workshops on improvisation, experimentation, conceptual ideas and unlearning, maximising music creativity and applying theories of scene development, mapping the positioning of rural music ecosystems within the overall UK music industry.

The Rural Music Project will base research in two contrasting locations, in Seaton, East Devon in the South of England and Perth, Scotland, to ascertain and test the main elements needed for developing vibrant music hubs away from major cities. Both locations have limited music ecosystem infrastructure but with the potential to become active hubs serving local communities.

The main research questions will be to ascertain the main elements for the successful

development of a rural music ecosystem. Through art school practices, the research project will explore the use of innovative musicking practices to support the evolution of local music scenes through maximising participation, collaborations and creative outputs. The Rural Music Project will also start to assess how large city music centres and rural music ecosystems connect across the UK music industry.

A mixed methods Participatory Action Research approach will be activated in both locales, featuring live events, workshops, roundtables, focus groups and a symposium. A template in the form of an interactive documentary (i-doc) will be developed for rural music ecosystems. Live music events will include a one-day festival in Seaton, Devon in July 2026 and a series of gigs in both locations. In addition, Intellect books will publish the latest research on global rural music scenes, collated through a one-day symposium at Bath Spa University in 2027.

The project is supported by Creative Scotland, Seaton Town Council, Sidmouth School of Art and Community Hub, B Sharp and Tomorrow's Warriors music talent development.

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**Start date:** 12-01-2026

**End date:** 11-01-2028

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# Rural Music Project - Initial DMP

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## Ethics and responsible research and innovation (RRI)

### What are the ethical or RRI implications and issues relating to the proposed work?

#### Ethics

The Rural Music project will utilise the [BSU ethics frameworks](#), completing a two-stage application process and submission to its ethics committee. The universities integrity and ethics overview will be followed through rigour, honesty, transparency, accountability and respect.

Dr Strange has experience of utilising ethics procedures at BSU for major research projects so is confident that the most effective procedures will be covered.

#### Recruitment and selection procedure

All participants on the project including evaluation and workshop participants will be provided with information on the project and will sign an informed consent form. This will also be the case for call for evidence or fieldwork participants who support other elements of the research. Information provided about the project will include an introduction, how to apply and take part, links to information about data collection and links to GDPR policy. Consent and information forms should be clearly laid out so a simplified postcard version containing information about the project will be produced. Consent forms will be easy to complete for all participants in the research, including for evaluation and data gathering purposes.

There will be clear procedures for working with younger or more vulnerable age groups, providing access requirements to people with disabilities and specific information for neurodiverse or physically impaired participants. There will be an acknowledgement of Duty of Care to all participants outlined in Health and Safety procedures, risk assessments of spaces and the necessity to attain standard or enhanced DBS checks for all workshop leaders. Informed consent will be required from parents, carers and children as appropriate with these consent form written in simplified language. Participants will understand that they are entitled to withdraw at any stage through the process.

Findings from the Rural Music Project will be made available to the public. A data management plan will also be developed that includes storing data on the universities secure drive. Research information sheets and participant consent forms will be developed using BSU templates. GDPR procedures will be followed for collecting data connected to the project website.

#### Data Management

The project will store significant amounts of data. Data will be anything that is captured, collected or created through processes undertaken in the Rural Music Project. The university Research Support Office will help to advise on best practice. A Data Management plan will be developed following [BSU Data Policy](#). Data will be stored for up to 10 years and will then be deleted. BathSPAdata is the secure institutional repository for storing data accrued through the research project.

Dr Simon Strange, as the Principal Investigator, will be responsible for the management of the project data. Research data from the findings of the project will be made freely available via public open access dissemination. The constraints of the project will be outlined to ensure that data can't be unofficially reused without participants consent

Participants will have the opportunity to be anonymised, which will be outlined in the provided information sheets and consent forms. Any collected personal data will be stored safely on the institutional BathSPAdata online drive and follow the data procedures as outlined in the Data Management Plan. The information gathered from events, questionnaires and interviews will be stored securely: paper copies of any research data will be stored securely and destroyed as soon as they have been digitised. The digital data will be stored in a password protected folder on BathSPAdata.

GDPR policies will be followed at all points through the data collection process. Informed consent will undertaken for any research gathered through the project. Participants will be able to leave the project at any point and have their data deleted.

Researchers will maintain the Intellectual Property (IP) of any research findings they have developed and published. The BSU IP Policy will be utilised. There will be transparency in the management of IP and any joint collaborators will be equally acknowledged in outputs created from the Rural Music Project, including any posts from contributors that are placed on the project website. IP for the template produced will rest with all those involved in developing it in the project, through mutual consent.

# Planned Research Outputs

## Report - "Rural Music Project i-doc Template"

Interactive documentary resource developed by the communities and researchers, demonstrating a template for rural music ecosystems.

## Collection - "Rural Music Project multi-authored book"

Book based on the proceedings of the Rural Music Project symposium held at Bath Spa University in 2027. It will be published by Intellect Books

## Interactive resource - "Rural Music Project Mapping"

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### Planned research output details

| Title                                   | DOI | Type                 | Release date | Access level | Repository(ies) | File size | License        | Metadata standard(s) | May contain sensitive data? | May contain PII? |
|---|-----|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Rural Music Project i-doc Template      |     | Report               | Unspecified  | Open         | None specified  |           | None specified | None specified       | No                          | No               |
| Rural Music Project multi-authored book |     | Collection           | Unspecified  | Open         | None specified  |           | None specified | None specified       | No                          | No               |
| Rural Music Project Mapping             |     | Interactive resource | Unspecified  | Open         | None specified  |           | None specified | None specified       | No                          | No               |