



Dan Raven-Ellison

In this extended episode, published to coincide with the Festival celebrating London becoming a National Park City, Andrew Stuck talks to Dan Raven-Ellison, the campaigner behind the initiative. Dan is far more than just a 'one trick pony' having spent a lifetime seeking ways of getting people, young and old outdoors into nature. He has also been exploring new ways of making it easier for people to understand the scale of increasing urbanisation and its impact on the natural world of which we are all part. A self-styled, 'guerrilla geographer', our conversation begins with Dan explaining what that means. 34'41" 16.3MB

Notes from the podcast interview by **Andrew Stuck**: Recorded in April 2019 in Walpole Park, Ealing in West London on a windy day in which the recording had to be stopped as planes passed overhead. Published in July 2019 on <http://www.talkingwalking.net>

Dan's own website: <https://ravenellison.com/>

Guerrilla artist Banksy: <http://www.banksy.co.uk/>

Geography Collective & Mission Explore: <https://www.sustainablelearning.com/resource/missionexplore-geography-collective> <https://geovation.uk/missionexplore-london-countdown/>

Water boarding torture <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterboarding> used by the US during the Presidency of George W. Bush Junior https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush

Children's right to roam, inspired by a map in the Daily Mail reporting on three generations of a Sheffield family and the range of their childhood adventures <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-462091/How-children-lost-right-roam-generations.html>

Psycho-geography <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychogeography>

Duncan Fuller - 'My Walk project' <https://www.acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/825/682>

Wrights & Sites: Misguide to Exeter <http://www.mis-guide.com/mg/mgexetermain.html>

Doreen Massey: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/mar/27/doreen-massey-obituary>

Dan has undertaken some mammoth walks:

Prompted by the news in 2008 that more people began living in urban areas than in the countryside

Transects across cities taking photographers every 8 steps - cities included:

Mexico City, Mumbai, London initially and then Portland, Oregon in the US and Manchester in the UK

See all at his You tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTPDgjAhFLebPA7zhnGWbsg>

Santa Fe in Mexico City https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Fe,_Mexico_City

Urban Story Walks: explorations based on social economic factors rather than physical contours, natural physical extremes or wildernesses or polar explorations <https://ravenellison.com/portfolio/urban-earth/>

70th anniversary of National Parks in the UK: <https://www.cnp.org.uk/news/celebrate-70th-anniversary-national-parks-us-peak-district>



Working with National Geographic <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/> & Cisco https://www.cisco.com/c/en_uk/index.html - walks across all the National Parks and all the cities in the UK wearing an EEG <https://www.emotiv.com/glossary/eeg-headset/> on his head that measures brain activity: <https://ravenellison.com/portfolio/wild-cities/>

Forest bathing: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/08/forest-bathing-japanese-practice-in-west-wellbeing>

In partnership with Friends of the Earth <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/> , running a You Gov poll <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/overview/all> to find out how people felt about how much of the UK is urban. Photographed by a drone while Dan walked through the UK - a 100 metre walk a 100 second film, where every one second and one metre walked is representative of the land use area of the UK: Space for Nature: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/space-nature-uk-100-seconds>

Dan has been campaigning for 6 years for London to be designated as a National Park City and to make significant change in people's behaviour and their lifestyles, through them making simple changes in their everyday lives. <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/>

London National Park City Festival 2019 programme <https://nationalparkcity.london.gov.uk/>