

SCRUB: Caroline Harris

## Biography

Caroline Harris is a writer, publisher and educator. As a child she kept a nature notebook detailing the park life around her suburban home and went on wildflower hunts with her mother. She was fascinated by ‘waste ground’ and edgelands.

Caroline is the author of *Ms Harris's Book of Green Household Management* (John Murray) and in 2017 completed an MA Creative Writing (Poetry) at Royal Holloway, for which she was awarded the University of London prize. Her poetry has been published online by The Poetry School and appears in the *Bedford Square 10* anthology. Alongside *SCRUB*, current projects involve the waters of North Cornwall, birds and deer, and the variety of forms a poem can take, from video to typesetting by hand.

Harris + Wilson, the company she co-founded, has created books for global publishers with authors and brands ranging from ethical bakery The Thoughtful Bread Company to Dorset Cereals. Caroline is a Senior Lecturer in Publishing at Bath Spa University.

## SCRUB

‘Scrub’ is defined as vegetation dominated by shrubs or bushes, forming the margin between grassland or heath and woodland, and in coastal locations. Although now recognised as ecologically valuable, it is also seen as a threat: scrub encroaches, and its species can be invasive.

In built environments, scrub marks the ever-moving border between the human-made and the other-than-human: the plants of railway tracksides, derelict land, motorway embankments. It is an ecology that is seen as requiring management – generally by cutting, spraying, or uprooting.

*SCRUB* delves into this hinterland, combining cyanotype photograms and letterpress techniques with text poetry made in, inspired by and transcribed from video in a variety of ‘scrub’ settings. Cyanotype is the earliest form of photographic printing, first used for botanical specimens and allowing both direct contact and more mediated printing from digital negatives. *SCRUB* will also involve the ‘management’ and ‘erasure’ of both plants and text.

The project is envisaged as a series of location-specific poem-print pamphlets, beginning with the garden of Singing Apple Press itself, which has been deliberately left relatively uncultivated.