

Chapter abstracts

Chapter One. [Understanding Landscape](#)

This chapter introduces different ideas about landscape and looks at how conceptualisation of the landscape has developed over time. It defines the term 'landscape' as used in this thesis. It considers the role of a landscape architect in the light of this definition and sets out the relevance of the concept of emergence to our idea of what landscape is. It explains the importance of emergence in underpinning the methodology for this research. It goes on to use the example of Ashley, Cheshire, to demonstrate the application of emergence to a specific place, and considers what an emergent landscape design project might be like. It introduces a discussion of the role of local landscape knowledge in a large-scale infrastructure project, taking in to account possible definitions of 'rural'.

Chapter Two. [Engagement with Landscape](#)

This chapter considers what engagement with landscape might mean and what constitutes reasonable aspirations for such engagement. It argues that embodied and reciprocal engagement with landscape is a valuable condition, to be sought out by professional landscape designers and inhabitants alike, especially in the context of rural landscapes facing significant challenges. It discusses the status of both visitor to and inhabitant of a landscape, and examines the use of walking as a research method, all with reference to emergence.

Chapter Three. [Ashley, its History and Landscape](#)

This chapter describes the present landscape character of Ashley, and also the changes that have occurred in that landscape over time, in order to explain the landscape context and to highlight the significance of the cumulative effects of transport infrastructure on the parish. It traces the emergence of the place and begins to look to the future of this rural landscape. It proposes that Ashley has its own individual character but at the same time has much in common with many other rural places in the UK that are not designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or National Parks, and which will bear the impact of large-scale infrastructure projects.

Chapter Four. HS2 Limited and Public Engagement

This chapter sets out how HS2 Ltd's public engagement strategy has worked up until the spring of 2018, including its aims, the role of the Environmental Statement, associated Parliamentary procedures and experiences of residents in rural areas. It examines a case study from Phase 1 of HS2 in order to understand the experience of an affected parish in the later stages of engagement. It also considers other theories of public engagement, evaluates these various procedures and proposes that methods more suited to an emergent landscape could be considered.

Chapter Five. Action Research in Ashley

This chapter describes the action research element of the thesis, as undertaken on the ground in Ashley. It covers all the different methods used, including walking the landscape, networking, involvement in village occasions, and mapping with residents. It also proposes ten 'working' principles which could form a methodology for emergent engagement with landscape, and evaluates the action research activities in the light of these principles. The largest part of this chapter is devoted to an analysis of the potential contribution of neighbourhood planning to public engagement with landscape, and this leads to a consideration of the future of the rural landscapes surrounding HS2, positing that the concept of 'cascading development' is useful in understanding possible futures.

Chapter Six. Conclusions, Recommendations and Cascading Engagement with Landscape

This chapter briefly summarises the key problems with existing processes of public engagement with landscape. As a response to those problems, it explains what is meant by the concept of cascading engagement with landscape, and considers how this might be set in motion. It suggests what the possible outcomes of such rapidly evolving public engagement might be, and offers practical recommendations for public engagement both with landscape and with landscape proposals, which are drawn from experience in Ashley. Finally, it proposes themes for further research.