

Jo Phillips

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Profile

I am a landscape architect and academic interested in designing with plants, public engagement with landscape and transport infrastructure, and the future of the UK countryside. I am also a fully qualified teacher and have been associate lecturer in Landscape Architecture at MMU since 2011, lecturing in vegetation design and contemporary landscape theory, and running the MLA dissertation. In my spare time I am a keen allotment gardener and cyclist.

Education and Qualifications

Manchester Metropolitan University, *PhD in Landscape Architecture* 2015-2018

Thesis: '*An Emergent Methodology for Public Engagement in the Rural Landscapes of HS2*' (abstract attached)

Supervisors; Professor Tom Jefferies, Eddy Fox, Eammon Canniffe, Dr. Sam Illingworth (MMU, Science and Engineering)

Manchester Metropolitan University, *Bachelor of Landscape* 2009-2010

Winner of *LINW* award for best portfolio at end of year exhibition.

Manchester Metropolitan University, *G. Dip. in Landscape Architecture* 2008-2009

Reaseheath College, Nantwich 2005-2008

RHS Diploma in Horticulture, (3 yrs) Pass with Commendation

BTEC Professional Diploma in Garden Design, Pass with Distinction
(involved in three RHS show gardens in this period)

University of Wales, Cardiff, *Post Graduate Certificate in Education* 1996-1997

Qualified as teacher in the post-16 sector.

University of Wales, Cardiff, *BA Hons. in English Literature* 1991-1994

Graduated with 2:1

Employment

Manchester Metropolitan University, *Associate Lecturer in Landscape Architecture (pt)* 2011 to present

Input to the undergraduate course included devising the vegetation design module and delivering the majority of these lectures between 2011 and 2015, and also writing and delivering landscape history lectures. Tutorial support for MA students in 2011-12. Vegetation design lectures and tutorials for Graduate Diploma students from 2011- 2014. Since 2016, overview of the brief, lectures and individual support and assessment for MLA dissertation students. Design and delivery of Landscape Studies lectures.

Sustrans, Manchester, *public engagement consultancy* Nov. '17 to Sep. '18

Devising, planning, delivering and reporting on an event (*Floopfest*) to engage the public with design of cycling infrastructure. Managing volunteers.

The National Trust, Dunham Massey, *Gardener (ft)* May '07 - Aug '08

Ashton Sixth Form College, Lancashire, *Head of English and Modern Foreign Languages* 2004 - 2005

Cirencester College, Gloucestershire, *Head of English* 2000 - 2004

Worcester Sixth Form College, *English teacher* 1997 - 2000

Additional Experience

Journal Publication; *The "whys and wherefores" of citizen participation in the landscapes of HS2.* Planning Theory & Practice, April 2017, Volume 18, Issue 2

Assisting in organization of the Landscape Institute conference, 2017, including reviewing paper submissions. Presentation of my own paper, *Citizen Participation, Complexity Theory and the Transport Megaproject.*

Member of judging panel for Landscape Institute Awards, 2017, student dissertation category.

Writing the *Local Landscape Character Assessment* for Ashley, Cheshire, as part of their

Neighborhood Plan process (2017).

Volunteering with Sustrans on the Fallowfield Loop cycleway

Joint winner, Landscape Institute Awards 2015, Capability Brown Moccas Park design competition, student category (with Owen Byrom).

Consultation with primary children at Blackley School over playground redesign, for Steven Martlew (2015)

Visiting horticulture lecturer at Reaseheath College, adult education, autumn term 2010

Extended student placement at Barnes Walker Associates, Manchester, September 2009- May 2010

Conferences

Attendance at the *Valuing Nature Network* conference, Cardiff, 2018.

Presentation: *A Space for Everyone, what do you want from the South Pennines Regional Park?* Pennine Prospects Annual Conference, November 2017

Presentation: *Reaching for Simplicity - Citizen Participation, Complexity Theory and the Transport Megaproject*, AESOP annual conference, Lisbon, 2017

Workshop: *Mapping Workshop*, NWCDTP annual symposium, RNCM, October 2016

Presentation: *Landscape Change and HS2, a Public Engagement Methodology*, Bath Spa University, Landscaping Change conference, 2015

Presentation: *Process, Utility and Strategy; Designing with Plant Materials in an Uncertain World*, (with Ian Fisher) ECLAS annual conference, Hamburg 2013

Presentation: *Prototype Ecologies; Vegetation in British Landscape Urbanism* (with Ian Fisher) World in Denmark Conference, Copenhagen, 2012

References

Prof. Tom Jefferies,
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of Architecture,
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Dr Sam Illingworth,
Senior Lecturer in Science
Communication,
0161 247 1203
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Mr Edward Fox,
Programme Leader for
Landscape Architecture,
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Abstract

“Methodology: the strategy, plan of action, process or design lying behind the choice and use of particular methods and linking the choice and use of methods to the desired outcomes.”

(Crotty, 1998: 3)

This thesis proposes the concept of *cascading public engagement* as a desirable condition in which public engagement with landscape expands and deepens in a self-sustaining way, through continually evolving interconnectedness of landscape processes. Emergence theory is applied and tested as the methodology for the research and also as the strategic foundation for the proposed approach to engaging people with landscape. I consider how small disturbances in landscape systems can have transformative effects and apply this thinking to how small disturbances might catalyse engagement.

The study is grounded in a view of landscape as a continually changing, emergent and complex entity, which is composed of open systems and requires suitably responsive engagement. This is especially pertinent to projects with long timescales, such as HS2, the UK’s proposed high speed railway linking the north and the south of England. It examines HS2 Ltd’s engagement activities and the associated parliamentary procedures, in order to gain some insight in to the challenges for both the company and inhabitants of rural places.

The work is based on action research carried out in the rural parish of Ashley, adjacent to Manchester Airport and on the planned Phase 2b alignment of HS2. Evidence from Ashley is reviewed in order to explore how such a change in public involvement might be triggered and supported. The qualitative, lived and embodied landscape knowledge held by local people is central to this thesis. I discuss how to access this knowledge within an emergent framework, and why it should be valued.

Walking the landscape with inhabitants has been a significant method, proving valuable in developing final recommendations for achieving non-linear cascading engagement.

I report on a variety of other engagement methods, used to gather local knowledge in Ashley. This includes sustained involvement in neighbourhood planning, which I found to be poorly suited to an emergent context at the present time. It is unlikely to provide sufficient response to the challenges faced along the HS2 route. The research seeks to instigate an empowering, creative and inclusive experience for local inhabitants, as they become pro-active in minimising detriment and maximising benefit to their own landscapes. The desired outcome for such flourishing engagement would be that it *makes* policy and *shapes* landscape, rather than simply being subject to legislation.