



COMMON GROUND

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Sustainable Landscape Developments at an Urban and Strategic Scale

This paper forms part of a wider research looking at pioneer landscape strategies across Europe, examining the extent to which low carbon, sustainability and spatial quality can be delivered effectively on urban and strategic scale. The focus here is to put landscape at the core of development considering major environmental, economic and social challenges and find key quality elements that will impact to urban transformation, landscape quality and sustainability.

The proposal presents the outcomes of two major landscape infrastructure projects that use the idea of design to offer sustainable approaches on urban and regional scale. Both projects aim to transform the landscape in a way that will result in a major change to residents' way of living and understanding of the landscape value. An investigation on climate adaptation issues through the 'Room for the River' (the Netherlands) national programme demonstrates the potential and significance of introducing the idea of landscape design, low carbon and aesthetics as vital aspects of urban infrastructure. In addition, the HS2/HS2LV (UK) major infrastructure project played a significant role at looking how a sophisticated process in design and effective visuals are able to convey a sustainable vision and the impact this might have had to the cities and regions for revealing their real potential.

The case studies have shown that successful delivery requires the development of a vision and the understanding of the low carbon and spatial quality concepts through design in order to be implemented on the infrastructure. What this research concludes is that not only one action is needed in order to change the way of thinking in urban landscape transition projects and instil low carbon and spatial quality elements in their design and implementation.

The establishment of a solid project framework supported by policies and legislation make a real difference in the way professional practice and politics deal with this from now on. This proposal suggests that we need to make design secure throughout the landscape process in order to be able to express the significance of a visual at large scale strategic schemes.



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