

ALLEN SCOTT
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

CLIMATE CHANGE
STATEMENT

2019

**THIS STATEMENT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO PLAY OUR
PART IN REDUCING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

**IT IS A PRAGMATIC AND AUDITABLE APPROACH TO
ENSURE CONSISTENCY ACROSS ALLEN SCOTT'S WORKING
PRACTICES AND PROJECTS.**

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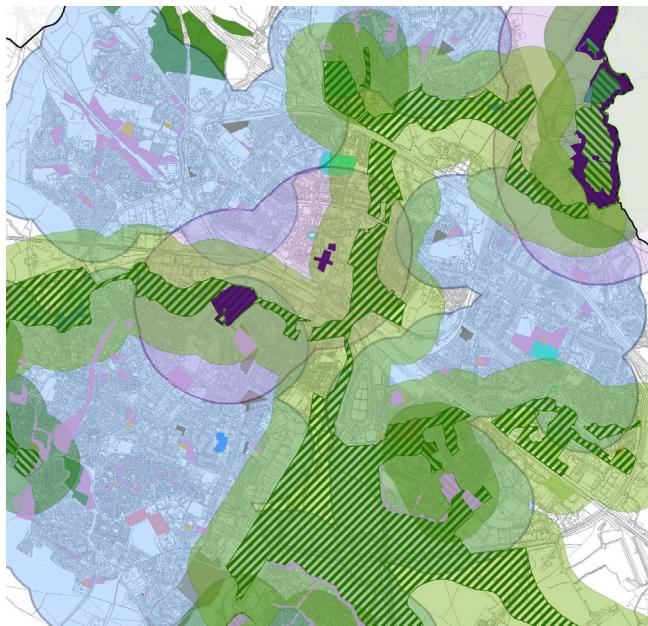
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“DO WE INCUR A SMALL BUT NOT INSIGNIFICANT COST NOW, OR DO WE WAIT AND SEE THE NEED TO ADAPT. THE ECONOMICS ARE REALLY CLEAR ON THIS, THE COSTS OF ACTION ARE DWARFED BY THE COSTS OF INACTION.”

CHRIS STARK, UK’S COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

Overview



Green Infrastructure and Open Space Planning are key tools

There is so much high level information (and some argue disinformation) around low carbon, sustainability and CO₂ emissions, that the threads connecting our work to the Antarctic ice sheets can seem oblique at best. What can we really do?

Many of our public and private clients wish to take a positive path and we do too. In partnership with our clients we will make sensible contributions through sensitive landscape design, through biodiversity gain and through integration with other disciplines. Our work together can raise awareness, we can educate, we can try and we can be seen to be taking the actions that we can.

To do this we are purposely avoiding grandiose platitudes and instead fostering a strong will to picture the next step and to take it. We've decided to take a pragmatic and auditable approach to reduce emissions and improve carbon absorption, to draw it down and lock it up again where we can through our design and specification process.

“THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR: IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT WE ARE FACING AN UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL EMERGENCY. WE ARE IN A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION OF OUR OWN MAKING. WE MUST ACT NOW.”

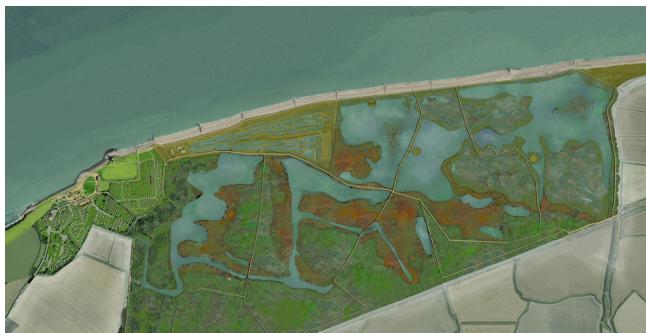
EXTINCTION REBELLION

The Three Levels



Project Example - Masterplanning

Managed coastal realignment. Reculver - Landscape Institute Award winner



Sea level rise poses significant challenges to the management of flood risk. Reculver's eastern seawall falls into managed realignment on low lying pasture.

Allen Scott's masterplan envisions substantial areas of salt marsh and wetland habitat creation to be developed in the long term and managed as a wildlife and bird reserve adding to the natural and cultural capital of the seashore and the Saxon Towers whilst building economic resilience through green tourism.

1: Larger scale schemes and masterplans

We will help create a design vision that accommodates development and addresses environmental challenges to promote a different more sustainable way of living. Where possible we will aim to be a part of the team, to innovate and explore options through green infrastructure and:

Promote landscape-led decision making into the planning process so that GI can help cool urban environments, improve air quality, ameliorate surface run-off, reduce flood risk, improve human health and provide wildlife corridors;

Check the decision making through integrating relevant sustainability policies and legislation;

Protect, conserve and enhance physical, natural, cultural and social characteristics;

Recommend long term management of carbon storage landscapes; open spaces, parks, tree avenues, water, woodlands and grasslands;

Explore opportunities to engage end-users in enhancing their environment for a sustainable lifestyle;

Ensure outdoor leisure opportunities contribute to improving public health, well-being and community development, biodiversity, food provision and place shaping;

Integrate and maximise local food provision in the landscape, reducing transportation and promoting more localised self-sufficiency.

The Three Levels



Project Example - Site specific

Integrating SuDs and green roofs into development. Centenary Quay



High density residential schemes can suffer from lack of sufficient quality green space to provide any meaningful carbon sink.

Centenary Quay's raised decks and apartment blocks were all utilised in Allen Scott's landscape design as intensive and extensive green roofs incorporating drainage run-off, native planting species and shelter.

2: The site-specific level

On a site-specific level we will try to lower carbon from the early design stages through to implementation. Infrastructure, parks, high streets and community spaces can all engage in climate mitigation and adaptation whilst being fun, looking good, improving the economy and health and environmental resilience. Where possible we will aim to:

Create carbon sinks through substantial green cover, elements and space;

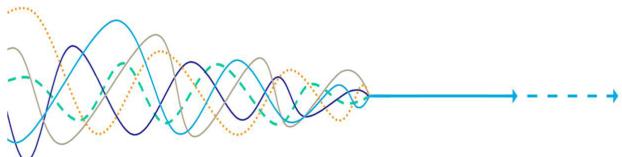
Promote green and brown roofs and walls to improve thermal efficiency and biodiversity, reduce heating and cooling systems and to alleviate flood risk;

Work with others to explore creative use of open space for ground source heating and cooling;

Actively integrate SUDs and exceed regulatory standards in the form of attenuation and storage minimise flood and pollution risks, create of habitat and recreational opportunities for local people;

Utilise low management, resilient, bio-secure and native plant species that will thrive in changing climatic conditions, the availability of water and the potential increase in pests and disease.

The Three Levels



3: The process level

At a process level we have a number of day-to-day working practices including:

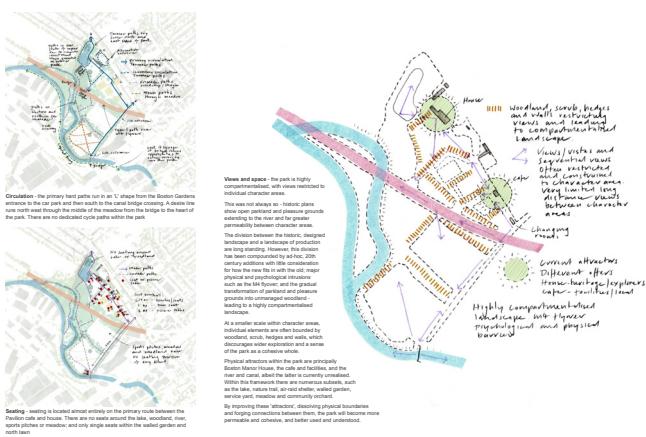
Procurement of sub-consultants and other contractual services who demonstrate similar commitments to minimise the carbon intensity of their work, capital works and site management activities;

Specification of local, sustainable and recycled content construction materials;

Reducing our carbon footprint through choice of travel, office supplies and operations.

Project Example - The process

Sustainability built into the design and specification process. Boston Manor



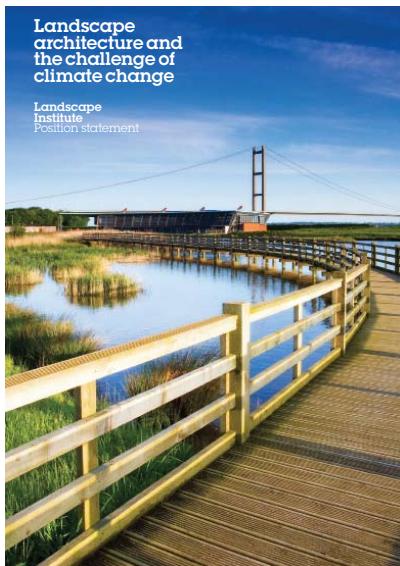
LB Hounslow united with The Mayor of London's climate emergency declaration, and is reviewing its carbon footprint, including a commitment to becoming carbon neutral within the shortest possible timeframe.

Allen Scott, with client support, developed proposals rooted in the principles of sustainable design. This commitment has manifested itself through compliance with best-practice and exceeding it where possible; by working with local partners and suppliers; and by taking a long-term view of the project.

“OUR VISION IS OF A WORLD THAT HAS ADAPTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHERE FURTHER CHANGES ARE MITIGATED. THIS VISION WILL BE POSSIBLE IF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO EXERT THIS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.”

LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE

On-going Improvements



The Landscape Institute's publication

Following the IPBESs global assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in May 2019, the UN issued a climate and biodiversity state of emergency declaration.

Whilst the biggest impacts are reliant on governments forming global alliances to tackle the issues together, responsibility for change also lies at a regional and local level for councils, companies and us, as individuals.

In June 2019 the Landscape Institute made its own declaration to acknowledge the current crisis and send a strong signal to governments to legislate to address climate change and biodiversity loss, including a call to professionals, working in the built and natural environment, to commit to a programme of definitive sustainable design measures and targets within the next 5 years.

We will work to the Landscape Institute's sustainable design measures and targets once published and available.

We will stay abreast of latest thinking and ways in which we can continue to improve our contribution.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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