

Institution: 10007140 Birmingham City University		
Unit of Assessment: 13: Architecture, Built Environment and Planning		
Title of case study: Integrated Landscapes: Seeing the Bigger Picture		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 2000 - 2020		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s):	Role(s) (e.g. job title):	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI:
Kathryn Moore	Professor of Landscape Architecture	1988 to present
Peter Larkham	Professor of Planning	1991 to present
Anastasia Nikologianni	Post Doctorate Research Assistant	2018 to present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 2013 - 2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
1. Summary of the impact (indicative maximum 100 words) BCU's research has set a new cultural agenda for the role of landscape as a strategic mechanism for sustainable city region transformation. It steered HS2's design policy towards careful integration with the landscape and initiated an urban National Park for the West Midlands (WMNP). The programme underpins the West Midlands Combined Authority's current sustainability agenda and directs long-term social and economic regeneration in the Black Country. It was instrumental in setting the course for the Black Country being awarded UNESCO Geopark status. Research combined with advocacy resulted in the African Landscape Network adopting a Landscape Charter for the first time.		
2. Underpinning research (indicative maximum 500 words) Moore's research is based on her redefinition of perception which challenges the habitual dualities of fact and value, 'real truth' vs 'mere opinion'. The research presents an integrated approach to regional transformation and cuts through professional silos forging a new understanding of landscape based on the relationship between a community and its territory. Prior to Moore's research it was commonly thought that the art of design was unteachable because that skill was presumed to be 'inherent' or 'mystical' and relied on a student's prelinguistic ability to think in a certain way. Moore presented an alternative understanding based on a Pragmatic/interpretative definition of perception which offers tangible connections between theory and practice, ideas and form, nature and culture. Her research redefines perception as intelligence and moves debate away from the realm of metaphysics into the real world informed by knowledge and ideas, making education profoundly more democratic. As a consequence of redefining perception, and taking account of interviews with the world's foremost landscape designers, Moore also expanded the definition of landscape as the relationship between a community and its territory (rather than a purely physical artefact). This work was published internationally (including translation into Mandarin) as <i>Overlooking The Visual: Demystifying the Art of Design</i> (hereafter OTV) [R01], and concluded by asking whether the new interdependent definitions of perception and landscape can transform a region and if so, how? The HS2 Landscape Vision exploratory research project sought to explore this question and applied Moore's vision to a regional scale examining HS2 as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for regional transformation, shifting the political debate towards social, economic, and environmental catalysts. Moore developed new landscape-scale graphic explorations to		

examine the West Midlands region from an interpretative and integrated standpoint, contrasting with the techno-scientific analytical and graphic conventions that still dominate the infrastructure development sector [R02].

Moore's design-led research and exploratory drawings for the Black Country Consortium resulted in a vision for the region's landscape that included geology, topography and culture called '*above, beyond, below*'. Running through the research is the articulation that improving quality of life, quality of the environment and raising aspirations is essential to regional transformation. This is expressed in the ambitious research underpinning a completely new kind of National Park; a social, economic and environmental proposition that celebrates and harnesses people's connection to everyday landscapes [R03].



[R03] Examples of regional-scale research through radical mapping of the West Midlands (left to right)

Fig. 1: HS2 Landscape Vision: hand-drawn spatial concept overlaid onto lidar image.

Fig. 2: Tame Valley Wetland Landscape Vision: hand-drawn diagram of the valley headwaters.

Fig. 3: WMNP: hand-drawn topographical information overlaid onto OS regional map.

Fig. 4: Tame Valley Wetland Landscape Vision: hand-drawn diagram showing the relationship between canals, river valleys, woodland remnants and built environment.

Further design-led research for Tame Valley Wetlands and the European SATURN project with Nikologianni and Larkham established the importance of strategic design leadership and repositioning the landscape as the driver and sustainer of future sustainable development [R04].

As President of the UK Landscape Institute (2004-06) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) (2014-18), Moore cut across art/science, nature/culture, fact/value silos advancing landscape as a holistic unifying concept, utilising her work on the International Landscape Convention (ILC) [R02, R03, R05] to strengthen the research into the value of landscape to societies [R06]. This research connects with and uncovers the value and significance of landscape in sustainable city and region planning.

3. References to the research (indicative maximum of six references)

R01. Moore, K. (2010) *Overlooking the Visual: Demystifying the Art of Design*, Abingdon: Routledge. [Chinese edition (2018) isbn9787112208418]
<http://www.tandfbuiltenvironment.com/books/Overlooking-the-Visual-isbn9780415308700>

R02. Moore, K. (2015) *Is Landscape Philosophy*, in Doherty, G. and Waldheim, C. eds. (2015) *Is Landscape...? Essays on the Identity of Landscape*, Abingdon and New York: Routledge ISBN 978-1-13-801844-0
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315697581>

R03. Moore, K. Portfolio of published and exhibited design work and research through design "*The Art of Design: Seeing the Bigger Picture*".
<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1173624/1175605>

R04. Nikologianni A, Moore K, Larkham PJ. Climate Emergency Adaptation and Sustainable Management Strategies in Rural and Agricultural Landscapes. *Infrastructures*. 2020; 5(11):97. <https://doi.org/10.3390/infrastructures5110097>

R05. Moore, K. (2015) *The Value of Values*, in Deming, E. (2015) *Values in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design, Finding Center in Theory and Practice*, Louisiana: LSU Press ISBN 978-0-8071-6078-7
<https://lsupress.org/books/detail/values-in-landscape-architecture-and-environmental-design/>

R06. Moore, K. (2018) 'Towards New Research Methodologies in Design' pp312-233 in: Braae, E. and Steiner, H. eds (2019) *The Routledge Research Companion to Landscape Architecture*, Abingdon: Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315613116>

Grant information

The research in this case study attracted 6 grants totalling in excess of £1.48 million, including European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Climate-KIC, International Federation of Landscape Architects, Landscape Foundation and Graham Foundation.

4. Details of the impact (indicative maximum 750 words)

Redefining landscape – Policy decisions informed by research evidence led to a new planning approach in the West Midlands.

Regional development of the Black Country (West Midlands, UK).

Moore was commissioned by the Black Country Consortium (BCC) to deliver the *Broadening Horizons* report, a strategic plan drawing on research from OTV [R01]. Moore's landscape-scale vision and exploratory graphics frame the whole Black Country as an 'Urban Park'. The report contributed significantly to the shared statutory development plan: the Black Country Core Strategy (S01). Chief Executive of the BCC comments that "as a consequence of this research, the Black Country is unique among Local Enterprise Partnerships in having a unified, endorsed Core Strategy" and that Moore's cross-region plan resulted in a "deeply integrated approach to transformation between and across the four metropolitan authorities of the Black Country" (S02).

Moore's research [R01, R03] also highlighted the international significance of the region's unappreciated and forgotten industrial heritage and geology; BCC Chief Executive said that Moore's work;

"helped us to envision the region's topography in relation to its diverse ecosystems (above), a network of local, regional and global vistas (beyond) and the underlying geology (below). This new way of looking at our landscape emboldened Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton Councils to apply for UNESCO Geopark status in recognition of the region's geological diversity and its role in the industrial revolution. In July 2020 UNESCO confirmed the Black Country as a Global Geopark - a place with internationally important geology and because of its cultural heritage" (S02).

A new model of National Park endorsed by the UK government: West Midlands National Park (WMNP).

The redefinition of landscape presented in OTV [R01] has, according to a member of the Government's Landscapes Review panel, "had an extraordinary impact on perceptions of what National Parks are" (S03). Moore's exploratory maps [R03], presented a vision for a different kind of National Park that celebrates the 'everyday' landscapes of the region. These propositions are cited in the UK Government's Landscapes Review as "a way of getting people to act and think differently" (S04). A member of the review panel notes that;

“the review’s report, quite remarkably, endorsed the application of National Park principles to cities. That we did so was due directly to Professor Moore’s vision and maps [R03]. This shows how, by reframing the way we think about National Parks, urban populations could benefit” (S03).

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) adopted the WMNP programme via the 2041 WMCA Actions for Climate Emergency policy. WMCA Mayor praised it for *“changing the way we think about the environment, our health and the way our economy grows” (S05).*

The research has impacted culturally, prompting The Guardian Feature Writer Stuart Jeffries to write;

“Not since Mayor Joseph Chamberlain sought to make Birmingham the new Athens at the end of the 19th century has anyone round here dared to dream this big” (June 20 2018).

Media debate brought public awareness about the region’s culture to a wider audience as featured on amongst others, BBC One’s ‘Inside Out’ (October 2018); BBC Costing the Earth (November 2019); BBC Midlands Today (October 2018); and Digbeth Conversations (May 2018).

Influencing environmental and design standards for a globally significant infrastructure project: HS2

Research demonstrating that landscape is the driver and sustainer of holistic development [R01, R02, R05] together with Moore’s HS2 Vision [R02] has, according to Vice Chair of the HS2 Independent Design Review Panel;

“persuaded HS2 to set up the Urban Integration team in 2018 to maximise the opportunities from integrating the line with its urban surroundings. This is delivering ground-breaking insights and opportunities along the whole route” (S06).

The same source confirms that Arup was *“commissioned to re-write the [HS2 Landscape Design Approach] document based on the approach articulated by Professor Moore, linking social, cultural, environmental and physical issues”*. Furthermore, Moore’s chairing of the HS2 Landscape Specification Working Group was key to this integrated landscape-approach becoming incorporated into the overarching HS2 Design Vision (S07) which is used by every design team across the multi-billion pound HS2 project.

The research was used in parliamentary speeches by former MP for Solihull to highlight the *“enormous opportunity that exists to do something ambitious, at scale, to offset the loss of green space of the type referred to in the amendment”* to the High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill on 20 Feb 2017.

Redefining perception – Challenging conventional wisdom and stimulating international debate within United Nation (UN) agencies.

Moore’s definition of landscape based on new theories of perception [R01] was integral to the proposal for a UN legal instrument, the International Landscape Convention (ILC), as outlined in a speech to IFLA and taken up as a project within the Montreal World Design Declaration as the International Landscape *Covenant* (S08). Work on the ILC led to the development of regional versions which are now policy in Asia Pacific and Africa, the latter of which *“formed the basis of the African Landscape Network ... which IFLA has been awarded a UNESCO Participation Programmer grant” (President, IFLA Africa) (S09).*

The research [R01] that challenged the nature/culture, tangible/intangible dichotomies is being used by UNESCO to monitor cultures' contributions to the United Nations' 2030 Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) via the Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS). Former UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture states that;

“The CDIS seeks to address the issue precisely Moore articulates, the artificial distinction that is made between tangible and intangible heritage currently enshrined in two UN Conventions – the 1972 UN World Heritage Convention and the 2003 UN Intangible Heritage Convention, as well as in the traditional distinctions made between culture, economy and sustainable development in other UN tools and practices. The CDIS reflects a paradigm shift, supported by Mrs Moore’s research” (S10).

5. Sources to corroborate the impact (indicative maximum of 10 references)

S01. Black Country Core Strategy: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council, Wolverhampton City Council.

S02. Testimonial letter from the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium Ltd. **[Named Corroborator 001]**

S03. Testimonial letter from a member of the DEFRA Landscapes Review panel. **[Named Corroborator 002]**

S04. DEFRA Landscapes Review, final report.

S05. Testimonial letter from the West Midlands Combined Authority mayor.

S06. Testimonial letter from the Vice Chair of HS2 Independent Design Panel. **[Named Corroborator 003]**

S07. HS2 Design Vision, High Speed Two (HS2) Limited.

S08. Montreal Design Declaration, issued at the 2017 Montreal World Design Summit.

S09. Testimonial letter from the President, IFLA Africa. **[Named Corroborator 004]**

S10. Testimonial letter from former UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. **[Named Corroborator 005]**