## Contents

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>How to use this prospectus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Why learn permaculture?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>How to learn permaculture?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Certified courses and teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Key permaculture courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Introduction to permaculture course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Permaculture design course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Examples of course formats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Diploma in applied permaculture design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Furthering your study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Permaculture teacher training (ToT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Specialist courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Social permaculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Forest gardening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Advanced permaculture design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Specialising in children’s education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Accredited courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Courses designed to meet your needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Family oriented courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>LAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>About the Permaculture Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Education working group explained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>The Educators’ membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Feedback</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to use this prospectus

This prospectus has been designed to help you

• Learn about the benefits of studying permaculture
• Explore options for studying permaculture and help you plan your learning
• Find useful links to upcoming courses and educator profiles

We, the Permaculture Association (Britain), are dedicated to ensuring that people coming to learn about permaculture are getting the best experience possible, with suitably inspired, experienced and certified educators.

We want to ensure the best education for learners so we offer an oversight of education offered in the UK.

This is an interactive PDF. If you’re reading it on an electronic device you should be able to click links to visit websites. You can also click on listings on the contents page to go directly to that chapter. The Permaculture Association logo at the bottom of every page links back to the contents page.
Why learn permaculture?

Permaculture is a positive, healthy and exciting discipline. It can help us make the most of life and create positive opportunities for ourselves, others and the natural world. Even if there weren’t big challenges, permaculture would still be a great thing to learn about!

Sadly though, we do face enormous challenges, with the climate crisis being one of the determining challenges of our generation.

The science is clear - with resource depletion, devastating storms, topsoil loss, dangerous floods, melting glaciers, rising seas, extinction and environmental health concerns becoming increasingly commonplace, it’s more urgent than ever that we change our thinking and begin working on solutions together. There are things that all of us can do to help change this.

Sustainability is not enough, we can be regenerative in our designs and active in our personal contribution to positive change.

But where to start? What is permaculture and how can learning about it offer these solutions?

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” Albert Einstein
Permaculture explained

Permaculture is a global movement that uses shared ethics, lessons from nature and a flexible design approach to create healthy and regenerative places and communities.

Permaculture solves problems by:

1. Understanding how nature works - using principles which embrace observation and help us to work with nature, rather than against it.
2. Re-thinking and managing systems using the sciences, technology & new economic approaches

Permaculture ethics

Earth Care - caring for and regenerating the Earth so that it can continue to sustain life.

People Care - meeting our own needs, and for our families and communities

Fair Shares - without exploiting others or nature

Find out more: If you are looking for some basic information about what permaculture is and over 180 practical solutions, you can find that here.

permaculture.org.uk/knowledge-base/basics

Graphic: permacultureprinciples.com – Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 2.5 AU
Offering solutions to global problems

Permaculture is used to design regenerative systems at all scales - from home and garden to community, farm, business and bioregions.

Permaculture education leads to change. Follow these links to see examples of permaculture in practice:

1. [Ragmans Lane Farm](#) - a broadscale example in rural Gloucestershire
2. [May Project Gardens](#) in South London works with urban communities to address poverty and disempowerment
3. [Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania](#) - permaculture education is part of a broader programme of farmer-to-farmer training, demonstration and research working with over 3000 small farmers, and a 80Ha/200 acre demonstration farm linked to 52 farmer field schools.
4. [OrganicLea](#) - a workers’ cooperative in London with market garden, volunteer programmes and training

You can find more examples of where to visit permaculture in practice on the [LAND section of our website](#).
Why permaculture?

“(Permaculture) showed me that it may be possible to live lives of quality and meaning whilst living within sustainable means - it gives me the tools and framework to take action in a responsible and concrete way” Gary F

Benefits for you

• Increase your awareness and knowledge about a wide range of environmental topics.
• Develop your skills and understanding about how you can make a difference in a practical way.
• Learn about your impact on the earth and how you can reduce it effectively, whilst also increasing your quality of life.
• Enhance your professional skills.
• Build your confidence to take action and increase your motivation, positivity and hope.
• Develop a framework that makes sense, for both ‘problems’ and ‘solutions’.
• Make changes at home and in your personal and family life.

Benefits for your community

• Understanding how to identify and share common resources
• Make stuff happen in your local community
• Being part of a local, regional and national community, as well as a global movement operating in over 130 countries!

Global benefits

• Ecological resilience and wellbeing
• Positive climate change responses (mitigation and adaptation for regenerative actions)
• Food and energy security in a changing world
• Enhance biodiversity, support wildlife and healthy ecosystems
How to learn permaculture?

Permaculture is immersive - it opens up the door onto a whole new world of fascinating study and solutions.

“I was hooked for life: permaculture has been a major influence guiding my life and work ever since.” Malika

There are lots of ways to begin and continue your learning:

• **Courses**
• **LAND - visit one of our learning and demonstration sites**
• **Events**
• **Knowledge base**
• **Read books and magazines**
• **Permaculture online community - Facebook groups, google groups**
• **MOOCs**
• Practise at home, at work or in your community

Join

Joining the Permaculture Association, from just £3 a month, offers you support as a permaculture learner and connects you to the permaculture network in the UK. Your membership supports us to support permaculture across the UK and contribute to the growth of the worldwide movement.

Join now: permaculture.org.uk/about/join
Certified courses and teachers

Why take a Permaculture Association certified course?

- Only certified teachers are able to issue Permaculture Association certificates, which means you can have confidence that the course will be run by an experienced, qualified educator.
- You will have quality assurance, meaning that educators are following our agreed core curriculum.
- The Permaculture Association ensures that all aspects of the core curriculum are met and then issues Introduction and Permaculture Design Course certificates. These certificates are recognised internationally.

To search through all of our courses, please visit:

permaculture.org.uk/courses

To learn more about our certified teachers, read their profiles here: permaculture.org.uk/education/members/certified

Our register

The Certifying Teachers Register is a list of teachers who are able to certify their courses with the Permaculture Association's Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC).

The register is overseen by the independent Education Working Group, and used by the Permaculture Association to respond to requests for Permaculture Association certificates.

All the teachers on the register have applied using the same transparent process, giving examples of their teaching timetable, how their course meets the core curriculum and their qualifications to teach.

Find more information about who can offer our certificates and learn about the Certifying Teachers Register: permaculture.org.uk/education/who-can-award-our-pdc-certificates
Featured teacher: Karen Noon

Certified courses

Karen is a permaculture designer and educator, with an interest in regenerative landscape design, climate appropriate planting, perennial food orchards, holistic management as well as social aspects of Permaculture. Read more about Karen’s teaching experience here in her Educator profile.

permaculture.org.uk/educators/2819/karen-noon-educator-profile

Did you know you can search for specific teachers on our course listings page?

permaculture.org.uk/courses

Alternatively go to this page for our full list of Certified Educators:

permaculture.org.uk/education/who-can-award-our-pdc-certificates

“As with other qualifications (accountant/health practitioner etc.) being registered with a qualifying body ensures a level of integrity, experience and knowledge gained.

The register also shows to many people that the Permaculture Association cares about the quality and skill it takes to deliver PDCs and to ensure that learners get the best experience.”
Key permaculture courses

There are a variety of permaculture courses which meet various needs, levels of skill and timescales.

Courses can be taught residentially, or non-residentially as shorter courses over weekends, evenings or online. There is more about the pros and cons of how you can study on the following pages.

Currently there are three key courses:

1. Introduction
2. Design Course
3. Diploma
Introduction to permaculture course

This course is usually run over a weekend or 2 day period, but they are often flexible and can be in one day or over evenings. An introduction to permaculture gives you the opportunity to find out about the history of permaculture. You will also explore permaculture ethics and principles, design tools and case studies.

Usually, this course includes practical sessions to create an interactive learning experience and you will be given a taste of how permaculture design can be applied in your everyday life, through a short design exercise. You will get the opportunity to work as part of a group - it's a very sociable and enjoyable experience.

At the end of this course you will understand the relevance and application of permaculture, inspiring and empowering you to start thinking and practising permaculture in your daily life.

To find out more about introduction courses in your area, visit our course listings permaculture.org.uk/courses and filter by ‘introduction’.
Featured teachers: Wenderlynn and Iain

Teaching the introduction

northdevonpermaculture.com

Teaching the Introduction to Permaculture enables us to make sure we are delivering the most important parts of the permaculture design process. The intro stage is an important point on people’s journeys, as it is where the students’ seedling curiosity in permaculture can really begin to flourish.

The standard two-day ‘Intro’ inspired us to take permaculture beyond the garden. We added a third day which focuses on social permaculture and the basics of how it can be used, covering the same methods and processes as the basic introductory course, and reinforcing the design process.

We run North Devon Permaculture social enterprise, incorporating Wishtree, our off grid, LAND Learner project in Devon. We deliver permaculture education through courses, workshops, our design consultancy and working with our local community. We use Wishtree to demonstrate ways that can help people to live a regenerative, resilient way of life whilst working with nature, using agroforestry & forest gardening. Living off grid helps us to develop our skills as designers and educators, learning more about resilience, both personally and with the land.

The Introduction To Permaculture is an affordable way for people to explore permaculture and enables them to learn about it before committing to a PDC. It gives the student the basic knowledge of permaculture but also starts the flow of a creative process to help them change the way they see the world and to reframe and broaden their thinking. It gives them an insight into the fundamentals of permaculture and its underpinning whilst discovering new techniques they can use in all areas of their lives. It inspires them to confidently start to put into practice the theory they have learned.
Permaculture design course

The Permaculture Design Course, or PDC, is a more intensive course than the Introduction to Permaculture. Developed internationally since the 1970's, it is generally seen as the heart of permaculture education.

The Core Curriculum sets out the topics that will be covered on a Permaculture Association certified Permaculture Design Certificate course. There is 72 hours minimum contact time between you and your teacher for you to be awarded your permaculture design certificate.

It is internationally recognised that Permaculture: A Designers’ Manual by Bill Mollison is the basis for the PDC curriculum. The Permaculture Association core curriculum builds on the Designers’ Manual and extends the scope to address challenges of the British context, and to reflect the development of the permaculture field since the Designers’ Manual was published.

PDCs can be taught residentially, as a group experience with a greater social aspect, or using different formats for delivery. These are discussed in more detail from page 18.

Overview of the core curriculum:
1. Context
2. Ethics of permaculture
3. Principles of permaculture
4. Design - processes, tools and significant design exercise
5. Themes - e.g. water, energy, buildings, etc.
6. Next steps & further information
7. Feedback

To read the full core curriculum in detail, follow this link.

Certified teachers use the core curriculum checklist to self-certify that their course meets the curriculum, to ensure high standards of teaching.
Additional skills

Many PDC courses have the added benefit of learning additional skills. These may include activities such as:

- Community living
- Fermentation
- Wood skills / crafts
- Building skills - natural building
- Small projects - pizza oven
- Propagation
- Seed saving
- Fruit tree grafting
- Healthy living
- Regenerative Agriculture methods

For areas that your teacher / course specialises in, contact your teacher for more information, or search through teacher profiles to find the specialisms you’re looking for.

Guest practitioners

As part of the course you will also have the opportunity to learn from other experts in their field.

These may not be permaculture teachers and can range from experienced gardeners to farmers, natural builders, wetland water purification system consultants, renewable energy specialists, holistic therapists and nutritionists, community builders and cooperators.

Each course is different and the collaborations are dependant on the area where the course is held and the guest practitioners that are available.

To find out more about courses in your area, visit our course listings permaculture.org.uk/courses

Most PDCs also include a visit to either LAND Centres or other sites where you can see permaculture in practice.
Examples of course formats

Residential courses

What to expect from a residential 72 hour course.

The usual format is between 10 to 14 days. Some courses spread the 72 hours over a longer period.

Pros:
- Most immersive
- Learn it quickly
- Easy to ask questions,
- Strongest community dynamic.
- Often includes live in examples of permaculture; compost toilets, forest gardens, solar showers, straw bale round houses and an active permaculture community.

Cons:
- More expensive than Introduction course
- Need to find two weeks out of life.
Featured teacher:
Steve Jones

Residential PDC

steven.jones@sector39.co.uk
permaculturedesigncourse.co.uk

The 2 week residential Permaculture Design Course is designed to create a permanent shift in the way people think. It is an immersion in permaculture ideas to the point that the participant starts to perceive and see things differently in a way they can’t un-see them.

I sense that many who attend a residential PDC are looking for a watershed point in their lives, where long held convictions are turned into actions. There is no doubt that completing a PDC is both a reassertion and discovery of one’s own core values and convictions and a deliberate attempt to forge a pathway towards one’s own stated goals and ambitions.

If you really want to turn your own ideas into actions, do a PDC. Not least because you are surrounded by people at a similar stage in their own development - you tend not to forget your residential PDC classmates, long term bonds and important connections can be made.

As a teacher of 40 full PDCs, I have started to spot the patterns and see how it really works. It is always a pleasure to see people go through this journey and I am always genuinely interested to see where they go with it and what they do next.

Our most recent course, for refugees from South Sudan was taught through two simultaneous translators to a group who spoke 8 different languages. Class content was pared to a minimum and we completed 16 different practical activities over the residential fortnight. Interestingly, the results were exactly the same or even more powerful than our usual format we use in the UK.

Permaculture really works, it is adaptable, powerful and relevant and I think it is one of the most powerful tools we have to shift the mindset of humanity to a harmonious relationship with each other and our living planet.
Non-residential courses

What to expect from a non-residential course

Non-residential courses can take many formats; they may be over evenings, weekend or a combination of both. They could be delivered by various teachers or online and may be an Introduction course or a full PDC course, but run flexibly around your needs.

Pros:

- Spread out your learning
- Flexible - easier to find time out of daily life
- Easy to ask questions
- Strong community dynamic
- Medium cost

Cons:

- More travelling
- May forget some of your previous learning
Online courses

Online courses offer the greatest accessibility to learners, but may compromise on the community or immersive aspect of permaculture.

To ensure that your online course offers you a valuable learning experience ask your teacher these questions below. These are features you would expect from a face to face permaculture course:

• How is your online course teacher assessing your learning?
• Will you see permaculture in practise? Visit our LAND centres?
• Will you have the opportunity to learn in groups and experience peer to peer learning?

To view our online courses, follow this link.

Pros:
• Accessibility
• Affordability
• Flexibility
• Study at your own pace

Cons:
• Limited community
• Not getting to physically see permaculture in practise
• Community dynamic depends on delivery system - forums etc.
• May not meet up in person
• Harder to ask questions

Have you heard about GROW and its MOOCs? A MOOC is a Massive Open Online Course.
Featured teacher: Heather Jo Flores

Permaculture Women's Guild - online course

permaculturewomen@gmail.com
permaculturewomen.com

This online course offers students the full Permaculture Design Course plus the Advanced certificate in Social Systems Design, to represent the additional 40 hours of training included on how to build the invisible structures that enable your projects to stand the test of time.

With this course you can study online, at your own pace, while practicing hands-on in your own home, garden, and community, and with the support of a 40-woman expert faculty from around the world. Enrollment is open to everyone, and includes 1:1 mentorship with a faculty member in or near your bioregion.

This course was developed and administered by Heather Jo Flores, author and founder of Food Not Lawns, to fill a need for better options for single mothers, homesteaders, low-income women, and others who struggle to gain access to a comprehensive permaculture education.

Tuition, scholarships and work-trade collaborations available.
Diploma in applied permaculture design

The Diploma is the next step after the PDC and is a course of self-directed learning. Completing the Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design will make you a better designer, potentially open up new work opportunities, help you to live more sustainably, and is an opportunity to make new friends.

During the Diploma, you will prepare ten designs that demonstrate your ability to apply permaculture ethics and principles and show your competence at using a range of design methods, tools and skills.

You can choose to take the Supported route or the Independent route. The Supported route includes tutorials and gives you much more guidance and feedback on your design work. We now also offer the Supported Route Plus, which has additional tutorials.

The Independent route is primarily for those who already have an extensive body of work that they wish to get accredited or for people who feel they need less support.

permaculture.org.uk/diploma
Furthering your study

There are many ways to further your learning.

To search all of our courses please visit: permaculture.org.uk/courses
Permaculture teacher training (ToT)

We know permaculture has answers, so if you've ever wanted to inspire others but haven't had the confidence, then this course is for you. This course is suitable for all abilities: apprentice and experienced teachers, also for those who have just completed their Permaculture Design Course (PDC).

The ToT concentrates on permaculture training but the techniques covered can be applied to any other subject, hence the course would be valuable for any teacher wanting to expand their creative teaching techniques. The course is lively and interactive on all levels using plenty of diversity in teaching styles.

For more about teaching training courses visit our course listings page above and search ‘teacher training’.

Alternatively, you can contact Aranya, one of our lead teacher trainers. See Aranya's teaching profile.
Specialist courses

‘Specialist’ refers to a specific area of specialist knowledge within or close to permaculture that the course will focus in on. Courses listed as specialist could include specific areas of society and management, or certain skills such as ‘make your own solar panel’, ‘wild medicine’, or ‘earthship building’.

Here are some examples of specialist courses and their corresponding tutor profiles, running from September 2018:

- [Food Preservation Course](#) - Graham Bell
- [Design Your Ethical Livelihood (2 days)](#) - Aranya
- [Sociocracy management course](#) - Helder Valente
- [Cultural Emergence Design Course](#) - Looby Macnamara

To see our full list of specialist courses, please go to our [course listings](#) and search ‘specialist’.
Social permaculture

The Social Permaculture course will explore permaculture as a tool for designing communities and organisations. It will help you to understand things in terms of connection – between people, economies, and governing structures – and how to create the conditions for humans to flourish on a societal level, as well as how to develop beneficial relationships with the ecosystems which sustain us.

To find social permaculture courses through our website, please visit specialist courses and look for social permaculture courses.

Alternatively you can contact Alfred Decker who runs regular social permaculture courses, or read his educator profile.
Forest gardening

This course will introduce you to the key concepts in forest gardening and the core considerations in designing sustainable systems that create multiple yields.

Forest gardening, or something equivalent, has existed for thousands of years. From Sri Lanka to the native cultures of America, tribes of humans have gardened the forest, creating intimate patchworks of highly diverse and productive clearings. These systems mimicked natural ecosystems, growing many species of edible and useful plants together. In contrast to this picture of diverse wild systems, current agricultural methods are often unsustainable because of their dependency on non-renewable resources.

The modern concept of forest gardening is evolving, in part from the desire to create a system focusing on food crops, but also looking towards a way for us to live in balance, as part of the whole.

Examples of courses running from September 2018:

Forest Gardening - An Introduction - Angie Polkey
One month food forest course - Laurence Manchee
Advanced permaculture design

Advanced design is about design skills beyond the PDC.

These courses may come in the form of a week long course in social permaculture or other topics, or in a longer more intensive course like that from Shift Bristol, detailed below.

Shift Bristol - ‘Immerse yourself in positive, practical and collaborative approaches to community led sustainability and resilience. A 1 year part time course based in Bristol. 2.5 days per week for 39 weeks from September 2018 to July 2019’

Modules of the 1 year Practical Sustainability course include:

Permaculture Design, Organic Horticulture, Green Building, Energy, Soil and Ecology, Woodland Management, Creating Change, Community Engagement, Re-localisation and Group Dynamics. A challenging, dynamic and integrated curriculum led by some of the UK’s leading teachers and practitioners through lectures and discussions, practical work, group design projects, field trips and a roundhouse build.

Practical Sustainability Course - Shift Bristol
Specialising in children’s education

Children in Permaculture

Many resources have been created, including surveying existing resources, writing case studies, creating films, and a new book: Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share in Education: The Children in Permaculture Manual.

The resources are for people working with children aged 3-12 years, such as school, nursery and kindergarten teachers, as well as those working in non-formal settings such as after-school or out-of-school club leaders (e.g. scout leaders), parents (whether natural, foster, adoptive or grandparents) and others who are aware of the importance of their role in children’s education.

If you are looking to specialise in teaching permaculture to children use the link below to contact CiP.

There is lots more information about the partners, the intellectual outputs and more on the dedicated website: childreninpermaculture.com
Accredited courses

From July 2019 we will see the return of externally accredited permaculture courses, delivered across the UK.

The course content has been built into a package of three 5 day courses which replicate the content of a PDC and will be quality assured by an external awarding body at Levels 1, 2 and 3, which goes on to form low GCSE grades to A level equivalent.

We will also be researching further learning into Diploma and Degree level. The accreditation will enable the qualifications to be widely available to others.

The content covered, including food growing systems, designing spaces and small scale food enterprises will be detailed on the certificates, enabling participants to go on to further learning or to seek work in horticulture, agriculture or in their own small business.

The three courses together will comprise a PDC and certificates will be awarded both from the accreditor and from the UK Permaculture Association.

Please feel free to contact Rachel Hammond - courses@edibleoxford.org to register interest or find out more.
Featured teacher: Rachel Hammond

Accredited courses

I have been involved in organising eco courses for more than ten years, and am excited by how the sector is growing, with awareness reaching more corners of the world.

Whilst Permaculture is what many of us were craving and missing from our lives, the connection to food and nature is needed by everyone, not all of whom can afford to take time out to study a PDC, nor pay for one.

Food production in the UK (in the mainstream) is wholly unattractive and we wanted to offer courses which got people excited about growing their own food and working in horticulture or agriculture, in a way that can bring an income whilst not damaging their own health nor the environment.

After studying my PDC in Leeds 7 years ago, I have founded various ecological enterprises, including Incredible Edible Oxford 5 years ago, after living in Todmorden for the previous 5 years.

Incredible Edible Oxford runs a slightly different model to that of Todmorden due to its size in part, and the level of activism already in existence in the city. We design and install edible spaces for local authorities, housing associations, businesses and private residences, we run a small nursery of edible plants, run regular courses on permaculture, forest gardens and associated skills such as composting, designing small spaces and growing fruit.

We pay our tutors and designers a living wage and the profit from any project goes into all our community growing, including our flagship forest garden in a public park in East Oxford.

Please feel free to contact us on courses@edibleoxford.org to register interest or find out more.

edibleoxford.org
Courses designed to meet your needs

As People Care is a fundamental ethic in permaculture, often teachers with particular interests or concerns will seek to cater for specific needs. For example, courses may be run which cater for disabilities, made accessible to those on means tested benefits, have a dietary focus, or they may be considered with accommodating your family.

Many courses offer vegan, gluten free catering, and can cater for a wide range of dietary needs. Food is a big part of sustaining a permaculture experience and is often one of the highlights of studying permaculture.

There are various considerations you may have to make when choosing a permaculture course. We encourage prospective learners with particular needs to ask their teachers whether they cater for their needs.

Use the profile forms to read more about the Educators and what they can offer. You will find permaculture teachers responsive to your needs.

Workers Educational Association

Teachers can apply to run courses through the WEA - ensuring means tested and inclusive courses. To learn more about means tested courses, please contact Paul Paine, or see his Educator profile here.

Alternatively you can check for upcoming courses on the WEA website here:
nottinghamwea.com/category/permaculture
Featured teacher: Nim Robins

Family oriented courses

nimrobinspermaculture.co.uk

One of my greatest passions has always been working with children and families in education and design.

When I took my PDC back in 2009 I had my then 6 month old son with me, so for me permaculture has always been a whole family learning adventure. I fell into permaculture passionately, and I immediately saw how it could help me to develop my place within a new vision for our future.

Studying with a small child definitely came with its challenges, but we’re working towards creating a future for our children, so why should the journey not include them too? I sometimes think how wonderful it would have been if I had begun this learning journey 30 years ago, and just what kind of state this planet could be in if permaculture education had been mainstream when my generation had been growing up. I think that things could have looked very different.

I’ve spent the past few years developing permaculture education and design specifically for children. In 2014 I founded a school garden design company called Organic Playgrounds. This led me into designing wildlife gardens, tree-houses, growing spaces and whole school playgrounds - all using permaculture design.

Through my visits to hundreds of primary schools across the country one of the things that struck me was just how many children in this country are spending every day in uninspiring concrete play spaces! I started looking towards ways that I could reach more children and I’ve now rerouted my skills towards running training courses for teachers and parents in how to integrate permaculture education and design skills into their own schools and homes, and these have been running since 2016.

I’ve recently been working with the Children in Permaculture project, developing a PDC curriculum for children, and I’m currently working on developing home school resources and designing children’s permaculture storybooks.

You can read more about our adventures and also see my upcoming courses as they appear on my Educators profile.
Some of the best places to see permaculture in practice are the demonstration projects that are part of the LAND network. There are over 115 in England, 18 in Scotland and an emerging network in Wales. The LAND network has also taken root in other countries.

The network includes suburban gardens, smallholdings, rural farms, city farms, forest gardens, and amazing allotments. They are all set up to show permaculture in practice to visitors and volunteers in a safe, accessible and inspiring way.

You may be able to visit a LAND centre as part of a course, or study your whole course at a LAND centre. Discover more about LAND:

permaculture.org.uk/land
About the Permaculture Association

permaculture.org.uk

The Permaculture Association (Britain) is a membership charity that has been working to develop permaculture since the early 1980s.

The Permaculture Association connects people, places, projects and resources, and supports the provision of quality education and research.

Our mission is to empower people to design thriving communities across Britain, and contribute to permaculture worldwide.

Our aims

1. Improve access to permaculture
2. Nurture and grow permaculture networks
3. Enhance collaboration within permaculture and related networks
4. Increase knowledge of the benefits of permaculture within society
5. Develop permaculture theory and practice
6. Build an effective and sustainable organisation

If you’d like to contact the Permaculture Association please do so using the contact form at permaculture.org.uk/contact
Education working group explained

The education working group of the Permaculture Association aims to develop both the capacity and the quality of permaculture education in Britain.

The group is responding to several perceived needs and opportunities:

• The need to ensure that all students receive a high standard of quality from courses that the Permaculture Association certifies.
• Identify opportunities and needs for new courses.
• The need to review the curriculum for the Permaculture Design Certificate course and agree a core curriculum.
• The need to share resources between teachers more easily, and the opportunities for using web technologies to do so.
• The need for teachers to market their courses effectively.
• The opportunities for engaging with schools and other educational establishments.
• The need to establish an effective and supportive apprenticeship scheme for aspiring teachers.
• The opportunity for the Permaculture Association to become a recognised accrediting body.
The Educators’ membership

Based on needs identified by our educators, the educators’ membership was launched.

By mimicking a mycelium network (i.e. the amazing ways fungi work in nature), we’re spreading knowledge around the world in the most efficient ways. To achieve this, we’ve created a global educators membership.

The educators membership is designed to support our Educators, helping them to lead, innovate and collaborate to bring permaculture education into the mainstream.

If you would like to become an educator, are wanting to connect with other educators, or you just want to learn more about the membership, please follow this link: permaculture.org.uk/education/join
Feedback

We will review this document each year to improve and make amendments. If you have feedback or anything you would like to see in this prospectus, please get in touch with our education network coordinator via our contact form permaculture.org.uk/contact.