

Northumbria Research Link

Citation: Barke, Mike and Hancox, Kayleigh (2014) What can you offer us? Challenges facing the practical application of urban morphology. In: ISUF 21st International SEminar on Urban Form Conference, 2-7 July 2014, Porto, Portugal.

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:
<https://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/17299/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)

**ISUF 21st International seminar on urban Form
'Our Common Future in Urban Morphology'
University of Porto, Portugal, 2-7 July 2014**

'What can you offer us?' Challenges facing the practical application of urban morphology

Michael Barke and Kayleigh Hancox, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Abstract

Amongst urban morphologists there is a broad consensus that the quality of the urban environment would be considerably enhanced through the application of urban morphological principles in both design and management. However, the obstacles in the path of achieving successful applications remain considerable, not least because of their multi-faceted character. Based on some preliminary findings from an on-going research project in a small conservation area in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, this paper will illustrate some of the problems involved. Based upon analysis of applications for planning permission over a period of 40 years and interviews with key practitioners in both conservation and planning within the area, an attempt will be made to conduct an audit of the extent to which urban morphological principles either are or could be applied. From this experience it will be argued that – before any comprehensive and successful applications of urban morphological principles in urban development can take place – a range of theoretical and practical issues need resolution. These include the precise relationship to other key actors, the specific role to be played, the appropriate point of intervention in any scheme and the sheer complexity relating to the range and nature of morphological components involved. Despite the almost overwhelming character of these problems, it would be wrong to be unduly pessimistic but for urban morphologists to achieve any impact a degree of pragmatism and compromise may be necessary.