

Neil Herrington, University of East London



How did you get where you are today? Having been a science teacher for 15 years, I became involved in teacher education in 2001. This was in response to acute teacher shortage in East London where I was teaching and the realisation that the opportunities of students were being inhibited by this situation. UEL was approached by a number of local authorities to start secondary initial teacher education and I was employed to be the programme leader for science. It became clear that our impact would be magnified if we embraced the situated nature of the issues facing East London. This led me to explore more fully the concepts of place based education and the way in which this is related to sustainability.

What tips would you give someone starting out in your field? “Always remember why you’re doing this.”

What inspires you? Or who? The enthusiasm of children and the resilience of the natural world.

What is a significant memory of being in nature as a child? The fact that I seemed to spend a lot of time outside is probably more significant than any one event. Plenty of memories of climbing trees, falling out of trees and off bikes, making camps and messing about on local waste land.

What’s your favourite game or activity? Gardening and birdwatching – sometimes at the same time

What’s your favourite eco-place in London, and why? The Green space that I visit most often is Wanstead Park. This is on my way to work and I often walk or cycle through it, although it is best enjoyed with a gentle stroll.

Do you have a recommendation to LEEF members? Build your networks.

What are you working on at the moment? I continue to try to incorporate place based education into the initial teacher education curriculum at UEL. I am also working on various projects exploring learning in the natural environment as well as developing training for providers of informal education.

How would you like to see Environmental or Sustainability Education develop in the next 10 years? It would be good to see a mainstreaming of sustainability education in the near future.

This fellowship was awarded on;

Tuesday 12 January 2016

At the Education Centre,
ZSL London Zoo, Regent's
Park, London NW1 4RY

LEEF fellowships are awarded to recognise excellence in Environmental and Sustainability Education

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www.leef.org.uk

