Flows explores Manuel Castell’s theory of the Space of Flows, proposed in The Rise of the Network Society (1996), which relates to network society and technologies role in a new type of space. Flows bring things and people into synchronous, real-time interrelationships made up purposeful, repetitive, programmable sequences of exchange and interaction. Therefore we can define flows as consisting of three elements – the medium through which things flow, the things that flow, and the nodes among which the flows circulate. Flows interprets these three elements through vehicles, CO2 emission ratings data and the A354’s ANPR cameras.

Flows scans registration plates in real-time across the six camera sites on the A354 between Dorchester and Weymouth. As vehicles pass the cameras a vehicle lookup enquiry is made to ascertain data on their CO2 emission rating, which is then used to drive Arduino controlled air turbines, generating movement in six particle filled acrylic tubes. As the total amount of CO2 emitted ebbs and flows, the air rate is increased and decreased in correlation, changing the velocity of the particles, and at the same time the tubes are flooded with light corresponding to the now ubiquitous environmental ratings charts. In this way, the viewer gains a material insight into the immaterial flow of CO2 between Dorchester and Weymouth at any given moment in time.