

landscape research extra

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EDITORIAL

Many articles and comments about Agricultural "set aside" found their way to my desk in the last few months. In the British Countryside set aside shares an ideas boundary with environmentally sensitive agricultural areas. There is disappointment from the Countryside Commission that the measures recently introduced are not more explicitly designed to bring environmental and recreational benefits! More imaginatively applied they could benefit the whole countryside in the way ESAs are benefiting.

The Director General of the RSPB in "A chance to improve the countryside" writes ...."When the European Commission devised the scheme they included the option of set aside being turned into grassland for grazing animals. This would be a marvellous opportunity to recreate some of the meadows and grasslands we have lost. But the UK Government has decided not to allow the grazing option here" The RSPB will be asking the Minister of Agriculture to improve the set aside scheme by allowing the grazing option and aiming the scheme at those areas of the country where over production is greatest. The RSPB's hope would be to recreate wet meadows by less drainage in lowland river valleys and this would probably meet with approval by many of those interested in landscape.

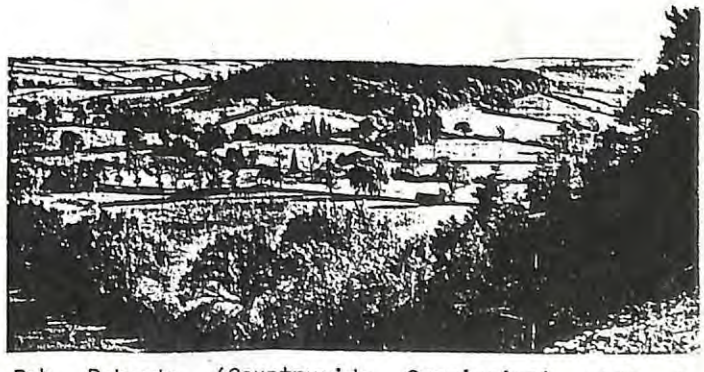
Capability in Landscape Design commends an almost idyllic solution yet one that the layman would see as perfectly sensible - the withdrawal from marginally useful land and land around villages. He also advocates a 10 metre non arable strip around field margin hedges, rather than the removal of whole fields from production.

In an analysis of Hampshire hedges and margins your editor proposed this type of withdrawal on arable land in the belief that if hedges were thus released from damage by ploughing and sprays they could hugely improve the visual and biological value of the hedged landscape. But how would these strips be managed? A procedure is outlined in the ESA guide for the Norfolk Brecklands. It doesn't include management by grazing though one imagines it could do if the land were not considered to be in "agricultural " condition or part of a fallow with a green cover crop. What some historically minded people might wish to see is grazed fallows. Or is this just unjustifiable nostalgia for the landscapes John Clare might have described and an inaccurate view of the historical fallowing system It seems that even setting land aside has to be done with fiscal logic, precise wording and accurate area measurement.

CHANGE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: THE ROLE OF LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES. AN LRG CONFERENCE AT YORK

Of the 90 who attended this conference 70 were from local authorities and one sensed that they were there for guidance in the way, rather than to confirm to themselves that they had got it right.

The writer felt that little new ground was broken and no speaker was prepared to take a fundamental look at what is a strategy. We heard a lot about this or that authority's multipronged opportunist approach but are we satisfied that their results, often stitched together from any landscape opportunity represents the result that one would like to recommend. And what result are we looking for?



Bob Roberts (Countryside Commission) gave a European Strategic briefing. There were many memorable statements: "Our ability to model landscape change is very limited" and later: "data gathering contributes to people's confidence" and "our data is beginning to let us ask -what if?" On constituences of opinion: "Has farming in the UK rationalised itself out of power?" and "Do we dislike food surpluses or paying for them?" On the thoroughly complex interaction between agriculture and environment: "economic and environmental values do not speak to each other across programmes" and "it is difficult to link a national-economic strategy with a geographical-environmental one". Heartfelt and perhaps most significant was: "We

should not trust agricultural policies to achieve environmental aims for us". He appeared frustrated and tired from dealing with intractable agriculture. As one has come to expect the paper was deep, complex and thought provoking. But how to bridge the unbridgable gulfs?

This "what and how" was answered in breezy fashion by Victoria Haigh, the last speaker onbehalf of Environmentally Sensitive Agricultural Areas (ESAs) out of MAFF. How simple it all seems if you have the money, the policy instrument, the power and the staff, have neat popular well imaged highly characteristic areas and know how each was in halycon days.



Between first speaker and last we heard Mike Dawson, Avon as second speaker. Avon had achieved a lot (it seemed). But did their efforts get to those parts (of the landscape) that other multipronged attacks also fail to reach? namely the general ordinary farmed landscape. Is theirs the model that other authorities should adopt? How much does it cost to go down this long, long road.

Bill Lanning before lunch explained that East Sussex, so badly hit by the October 87 hurricane, had no landscape strategy. They "have the basis for one", have defined 7 landscape areas (Wow! Editor), do a lot with small woods and have conserved a unique area of elms. Their planning documents are mostly defensive and protectionist. These points made, he gave details of the hurricane and conference participants sat back and enjoyed the talk released from wrestling with strategy!

A pleasing and positive paper was given by Simon Witney of Leicestershire. Leicestershire had Rutland and Charnwood Forest and many interesting areas. It was however the second least well tree covered county in the country. There was a lot of destructive change and mining had already changed much of the countryside. Leicestershire would welcome the proposed "Midlands Forest" - see elsewhere in this issue, but were working on forests of their own. A report by Chris Baines "Countryside 2000 - A Strategy for Action for Leicestershire" was a valuable report. Apart from this vision document what other detailed understanding does Leicestershire have of its landscape? How much does a county need to know to start the process of change? Where should change lead? Perhaps county landscapes are too big for county authorities to grasp.

The other two papers dealt with projects in Scotland, the second briefly reviewing a project described in the first.

Peter Nelson of Land Use Consultants first described the Glen Lyons-Loch Rannoch Study. A linear zone to the west of Pitlochry. The study had cost £60,000: they wished to condense such a study into 30 days. How else could it be useful when the Countryside Commission for Scotland had a further 39 areas to address!

In Scotland very little was known of the process of landscape change. Statutory designated areas only emerged in 1978 there were 40 of them subjectively chosen and mostly in the west. Their study asked what makes the landscape of the area special? has it changed? how might it change? and does it matter? Local people were suspicious about landscape designation. They were extensively consulted and to them, the landscape was a place where you lived and earned a living: aesthetic feelings were subsidiarised to economic ones

. The study identified "best" and "worst" landscape elements and the need for a strategy. They were unable to develop useful landscape zones and had resorted to individual landscape elements. Their popularised study document lead to an action plan funded by 4 large agencies. The fact that 40 estates own and control the area was a significant if not very helpful fact. Would the project achieve anything? lose momentum? provide an invaluable pilot exercise? Stay tuned!

Paul Selman then described the preliminary results of a study of several landscape strategy projects taking four in Scotland, Annabelle Barker (ESRC project officer) had spent a year investigating them. The four area plans were Fetlar (North Shetlands), Isla, Glen Lyons-Loch Rannoch and Loch Lomond. Each project had been analysed on its administrative, policy and funding arrangements.

Interim observations included the fact that "those who had modified their land management practises, had done so only at the edges of their policy aims; collaborative working arrangements are more important than the strategy itself and foster progress; FWAGs (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups) were widely seen as valuable; and success depended as one would expect on high project profile, good funding, and high elected member interest".

One knows that the same conclusions hold in lowland south east England. Even then what do the changes achieved amount to in landscape terms? Are we increasingly infatuated with the means of achievement at the expense of the achievement itself.

In discussion people queried the aim of all these tactics and local authority manoevrings: the value of toothless plans; were we there to discuss strategy or implementation; landscapes needed to be imaged and would not otherwise receive care; were historic landscapes a valuable means of enhancing that image; every area of the countryside required to have have a strategy even though practical problems might thwart its achievement; in order to survive and have a "dynamic" landscapes must have a population; what had happened to section 39 agreements, and should policies be area or sector bounded.

Though participants may have left with something of value, I do not believe that they can have taken away a clear view of strategy for it was impossible to shake off the heavy shackles of the local authority machine (the true reality?). Dare we look for a greater degree of vision?

R N Young, The Landscape Overview.

A NEW FOREST IN THE ENGLISH MIDLANDS: VISIONARY THINKING OR STRATEGY?

A feasibility study is now in progress to examine the Countryside Commission's proposal to create a major new lowland forest. This vision of future landscape is specified a little more closely in their brief to consultants from which the following passage is taken:

"It is important that the character of the forest proposed is properly understood. The Commission envisages a forest similar in physical character and extent to the New Forest (ie about 40,000 hectares). It is not seen, however as a single plantation of trees with a ring fence boundary but rather as a combination of different land uses with about 50% of the total area eventually devoted to woodland. The chosen site will need to cover a range of topographical, geological and hydrological characteristics and with micro-climates which will allow the widest possible variety in the structure and management of the forest. It is anticipated that the forest will have within it water courses, lakes, farms, homes, factories, shops, tourist attractions, visitor centres and roads. It would not, however be desirable for it to include major urban or industrial developments nor substantial mineral developments unless there is a clear prospect of restoration in a way which is compatible with the character of the forest.

" Readers may wish to bring to our attention any similar projects or comment on the fascinating prospect of change that a Midlands forest represents. Is this the answer to "what kind of landscape do we want?"



OTHER JOURNALS

ARBORICULTURAL JOURNAL 12(2) May 1988

W Michael Littlewood **The Management of roadside plantings** 145-162

A D P Hare **Woods Ancient and Modern** 177-180

Mark Flanagan **The damage caused by the hurricane force winds to the trees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** 181-188

Jeanne Goode **Andrew Jackson Downing on Trees** 189-194

Nina Bassuk & Thomas Whitlow **Environmental Stress on Street Trees** 195-202

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 14(4) October 1987

R Kaplan & E J Herbert **Cultural and sub-cultural comparisons in preferences for natural settings** 281-294

J Berger **Guidelines for landscape synthesis: some directions - old and new** 295-312

R G Bailey **Suggested hierarchy of criteria for multi-scale ecosystem mapping** 313-320

G A Goulty **Camouflage painting of steel lattice transmission towers, with particular reference to England and Wales** 345-354

LANDSCAPE HISTORY 9 1987

David R Wilson **Reading the palimpsest: landscape studies and airphotography** 5-25

Robert Young **Barrows clearance and land use: some suggestions from the north-east of England** 27-33

Nick Higham **Landscape and land use in northern England: a survey of agricultural potential, c550BC-AD1000** 35-44

Jeremy Haslam **The second burh of Nottingham** 45-51

Tim Unwin **The Norman aggregation of estates and settlement in eleventh-century Nottinghamshire** 53-64

Anthony Lewison **Creating a cadastre in the Alpes-Maritimes 1831-1842** 65-76

The volume includes a large number of in depth book reviews which readers will find very informative.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 172 April 1988

Ian Brotherton **When the mists lift** (examines the landscape and farming of the uplands) 14-17
James Sherry **The Lee Valley Regional Park - origins** (examines the past history of the Lee Valley Regional Park, and outlines the proposals for its future development) 23-31
Tom Turner **The Lee Valley - Assessment** (comments on the successes and failures of the Lee Valley Park) 33-35

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 173 June 1988
This issue is devoted to **The Glasgow Garden Festival**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 174 August 1988
Angela de Courcy Bower **A Gallery without Walls** - the Yorkshire Sculpture Park 10-13
Charlotte Attlee **Botswana - a design challenge** 14-16
Merrick Denton Thompson **M3 and the National Heritage** 17-19
Peter Bromley **After the coal rush** - the underestimated landscape of Doncaster 21-23
John Sheldon **Green Belt initiative - Edinburgh** 27-30
Victoria Haigh **Once in a landscape lifetime** 31-33
Chris Churchman **HLM Landscape ltd - Simple geometry in planning 35-39**
John Vaughan **Lambeth: an inner city landscape** 43-48
Edmund Waller **The diplomatic quarter - Riyadh** 49-52

LANDSCAPE DESIGN 175 September 1988
This issue has a number of articles on brick, cobblestone and sets for paving.
Marian Thompson **Steve Rettig's Community Garden** 11-13
Howard Bolton **Setting the street in Norwich** 27-31

LANDSCAPE 30(1) 1988
Wilbur Zelinsky **Where every town is above average: welcoming signs along America's highways** 1-10
Wilbur Zelinsky **Evolving landscapes** 11
Tony Walter **Stone** 12-14
James J Parsons **Hillside letters in the western landscape** 15-23
Peter Goin **Ground Zero: Nevada Test Site** 24-29
Robert B Carlisle & Susan G Carlisle **On Mark Girouard's Cities and People** 30
Alan Ritch **On Kenneth T Jackson's Crabgrass Frontier** 31-32
Dean W O'Brien **Figures against Ground: The imagery of British sight-seeing** 33-40
Christopher Grampp **The well-tempered garden: gravel and topiary in California** 41-47

LANDSCAPE JOURNAL 7(1) Spring 1988
P M Condon **Cubist space, volumetric space, and landscape architecture** 1-14
D Pitt, T Phipps & B V Lessley **Participation in Maryland's agricultural land preservation program: the adoption of an innovative agricultural land policy** 15-30
F Steiner, G Young, E Zube **Ecological planning: retrospect and prospect** 31-39
S Schauman **Scenic value of countryside landscapes to local residents** 40-46
Lucie Fortin **The evolution and persistence of three land division systems in the Green Bay region of Wisconsin** 47-59
R A Scarfo **Stewardship and the profession of landscape architecture** 60-70

PAYSAGE & AMENAGEMENT (1988)
From the March issue
L Tochkov **Appreciations du paysage dans la creation des parcs naturels regionaux en Pologne** 60-63
From the April issue
L Van Den Berg & Ph Menard **Protection des espaces naturels sensibles dans le departement des Landes** 36-43
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From the May issue
A Laroche **Parcs ou necropoles** 32-39
C Royer & F Dollfus **Une politique de rehabilitation des jardins remarquables in France** 40-45
K Sasaki **Les innovations de Jihei Ogawa, paysagiste japonais** 46-51

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT
4/88 Issue dealing with landscape architecture in France, includes Jacqueline Nebout **Open spaces in and around Paris** 33-37
5/88 Issue dealing with historic landscaped gardens, includes Hal Moggridge **Survey Techniques for the restoration of Blenheim Park** 49-53
6/88 includes E Hubmann, J Rainer & S Tillner **Fez Medina - a complexity of urban space** 17-23; K Werk **Green cities in Central Asia** 24-28; H Terlutter & M Godde **Surveying urban water courses for conservation** 45-49
7/88 Issue dealing with trees in the urban environment.
8/88 Issue dealing with Environmental Impact Analysis.
9/88 Issue dealing with Open space planning in small and middling size towns.

LANDSCAPE AUSTRALIA
1/88 Bicentennial issue - majors on the design of a new landscape for Darling Harbour (part of Sydney Harbour). Also deals with Thomas Shepherd early Australian nurseryman/garden designer who died in 1835.
2/88 James Willis **Baron von Mueller's involvement with the Australian landscape** 135-140
Juliet Egloff **Port Arthur; A nineteenth century landscape** 148-156
John Gray **Glebe Park - 148 years in the making** 177-179

URBAN LANDSCAPING IN CROYDON - A CONFERENCE REPORT

The Design Initiative inspired by the government has not had a high profile, but in Croydon a sequence of meetings has served the professions and the community with opportunities for environmental and landscape discussion. One such meeting was a one-day conference on "Urban Landscaping" held at the Fairfield Halls, attracting a very good turnout, and featuring a galaxy of speakers gathered through the auspices of the Landscape Institute.

The largely local authority audience was no doubt stimulated by the sequence of practical titles which the programme offered - Derek Lovejoy on Landscape Regeneration of the Inner Cities, Michael Middleton's Constraints and Challenges, Michael Brown on Urban Landscaping: Value, Image, Timespan and Costs, David Gosling's Public and Private Realm Strategies of the Urban Landscape, (with Keith Smith, also of Sheffield University, talking to the same title), Roy Worksett on The Quality of Spaces in the Townscape and Tarsem Flora's proposals for Re-Designing Leicester Square for the Future. Together with the promised periods for discussion this was to be a full and rewarding day.

It turned out to be a day of goodies and baddies, with few practical suggestions as to how the baddies might do better. Lovejoy identified a lack of imagination by elected members, though two questions later came from such frustrated representatives. Engineers and public undertakings, retail developers, and central government all came under fire. The positive accentuated with reference to enduring design qualities such as light and shade, the effective use of water (Lovejoy and Middleton), Southern European spaces, (Siena), German and Swiss urban landscaping, American adventure, and the Japanese green revolution. Far too many speakers re-stated the contrast between textbook examples and British reality without suggesting how the audience might face their desks in a new light the next day.

Lovejoy believed that a Landscape Masterplan was essential to integrate effort at the town scale and "whilst any scheme which at least identifies ownership and responsibility as well as hinting at the future, deserves urgent consideration ...". I have already gone further in this sentence than the speaker was able on the day. He also noted the importance of the corporate sponsorship of public landscaping and with several scattered illustrations appearing in presentations, this would seem to be a very appropriate theme for a future conference. The only assault on landscape economics, and on design effectively linked to site and cost, came from Brown who suffered particularly from slide and projector gremlins.

The only research-based presentation was by Flora who attempted to reveal the background and design strategy for his Leicester Square proposals in thirty minutes. Time was just too short to digest the rationale for diagnosis and the alternative cures proposed, but this was the level of detail with which we should have begun, giving sufficient evidence to pursue a debate of such national importance.

The day was littered with case-study fragments - Lovejoy's recent work for British Rail, Middleton's observations on the City of London's landscape programme, Brown on a variety of housing and commercial schemes, Smith on Runcorn, Worksett on Bath.... all worth exploring in detail with a blow-by-blow account of design and implementation with some reference to cost and the political debates invoved.

Whilst there is room for some contemporary discussion as to the philosophy of the urban landscape programme in Britain, what local authority practitioners urgently need are case-study examples of success and failure, judged against enduring values of quality and community concern rather than the litany of 'good places' which have as often hindered as helped the local urban landscaper in coming to terms with the specifics of local site and administrative context.

In the concluding phase of its 'Time for Design' programme Croydon could provide a valuable service by drawing together a conference presentation of local authority practitioners to illustrate their experiences of tackling the good, the bad and the ugly of the suburban ring which Croydon epitomises...with Siena banned for the day.

Brian Goodey - Oxford Polytechnic

HALLOWED GROUND: THE OTHER MCC, AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF LOCAL CRICKET GROUNDS BY PAUL CROMPTON HELD AT THE OLDHAM ART GALLERY 11th JUNE - 16th JULY 1988

The body of work from which this exhibition has been selected is about a search for a sense of place. The league and village cricket ground is a beautiful English manifestation of the human condition that collects and recycles junk, creating from it, in an aesthetic way, a unique individual place.

The reason for photographing the subject in winter is that when the obvious reason for places' existence is removed this sense of place is heightened and the mind is allowed to concentrate on the place without interference from activity.

From the moment the season ends the grounds take on

an almost ghostly appearance. Mowers, benches, rollers, sight screens are put to bed but in many cases not quite completely, as if jobs were never quite finished or secured properly against the weather. Shutters are brought down to protect the windows and become a playground for light and pen. Objects are placed in strange relationship to one another and the changing foliage and weather transform and reveal.

Close scrutiny of the grounds also reveals intimate details of human involvement and natural compositions based on form and a relationship between man and nature.

Paul Crompton

GLASGOW GARDEN FESTIVAL

My first acquaintance with Glasgow Garden Festival was on a bitterly cold winter day in 1985, I had travelled up as an entrant for the Water and Maritime theme competition. To say the least I was dismayed, firstly by the weather and secondly by the state of the site. It did not seem possible that the piles of demolition rubble covered with a blanket of snow could be transformed into a garden by 1988, or that anything could be done about the weather and the bitter east wind.

Nevertheless the clues were there in the form of a few brave pines planted by the river wall, the spendidly decaying rotunda tunnel entrances, and obvious signs of city regeneration. The keel had obviously been laid.

Two years went by, during which I prepared designs for the competition, only to be pipped into second place by those professional prizewinners - Derek Lovejoy and Partners. Then, earlier this year I again visited the scene in the company of landscape students. The fitting out was remarkably advanced and an especially good vehicle for the study of techniques and construction. We watched in fascination as the lone pines were replaced with huge semi mature trees in full leaf, and the significance of the huddled collections of specially designed portable shelters became apparent. The weather had not improved.

One cannot help but compare it, however, with the great European garden shows and it was interesting to hear the comments on the commercialism overlay, voiced by some students who had not been indoctrinated by visits to Liverpool and Stoke. To hear too, that breathing space was absent and that study of the design content was impossible simply because of the crowds. As a venue for study, the fitting out stage proved more rewarding. It is invariably the journey which is more rewarding than the arrival.

The designers brief was to "provide a festival and exhibition which is temporary, a fun day out for all the family within a setting of horticultural excellence". Glasgow certainly achieved that. The achievement was miraculous but there remain some nagging thoughts. Perhaps because of its very popularity, the plan and circulation did not work for me - too much in too little space, structure confused by artefacts and a poor official guide. Undoubtedly the plan was designed on the most sophisticated models and precedents, almost as though the process is the sacred cow. What seems to be lacking is the three dimensional aspect of design, the ordering of space and the views from normal eye level. Aerial perspectives have a lot to answer for, and not many people have two hours or so to spare to queue in cramped spaces for the panoramic views from the Clydesdale Tower. Why, I wonder, was the Rendezvous space not marked by the highest landmark feature? Why were all the paths so sinuous? The best walk was by the riverside, here you know where you are because the views are open.



I also experienced a disappointment with handling of scale and colour - especially in the Water and Maritime area. Sour grapes maybe, but the black masts and yardarms were lost against the Clyde and its structures and excessive use of blue and red combination may be fashionable but were least successful on the daring structure of Bell's Bridge.

Nevertheless there are gems to be found, the magical mirror walls in the Italian garden, the sculptures, the quarter of a million pound garden of the National Trust of Scotland, and the seaside atmosphere of beaches and boats around the canting basin. Opportunities for study were there too, whether it is in collecting new names for species of geranium, or in examining the methods for effective temporary design as exemplified in the Bonsai garden. Small things too were there - the drilled rows of flax instead of the ubiquitous grass swards, the waterside detailing and the careful design of signing and paving. On the subject of paving I did wonder just how much it costs to sweep up the loose Fibredec every night.

Roy Winter RIBA ALI

SHOULD YOU READ?

* T A Rowell and H J Harvey **The recent history of Wicken Fen, Cambs. England: a guide to ecological development.** Journ of Ecol. 1988 73-90 (includes historical and application of general principles).

* Mark Robinson & Adrian C Armstrong **The extent of agricultural field drainage in England and Wales** 1971-80 Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 13(1) 1988 19-28.

* J W Aitchison & E J Hughes **The common lands of Wales** TIBG 13(1) 1988 96-108 (See also Landscape Research 11/3, 1987 17-21)

* Douglas C D Pocock **Geography and literature** Progress in Physical Geography 12(1) 1988 87-102

* Murray P Ferguson **National Parks for Scotland** Scottish Geographical Magazine 104(1) 1988 36-40

* Peter Jones **Urban fringe management projects in Scotland** Scottish Geog Mag 103(3) 1987 166-170

* George Houston **Assessing the investment development potential for the Western Isles** Scottish Geog Mag 103(3) 1987 163-165

* Ian M Matley **Literary geography and the writer's country** Scottish Geog Mag 103(3) 1987 122-131

* Ruth Weaver Conference Report **The ecology and management of upland habitats: the role of remote sensing.** One day NCC workshop 24July 1987 Scot Geog Mag 103(3) 1987

* Owen J Furuseth & Mark S Johnson **Neighbourhood attitudes towards a sanitary landfill: a North Carolina study** Applied Geography 8(2) 1988 135-146

* J A Dawson, D Gransby & R Schiller **The Changing High Street** Geographical Journal 154(1) 1988 1-22

* GJAshworth, P E White & H P M Winchester **The red-light district in the West European city, a neglected aspect of the urban landscape** Geoforum 19(2) 1988 201-212

* James M Mayo **War memorial as political memory** Geographical Review 78(1) 1988 62-75

* C Y Jim **Street Tree study as a theme in urban biogeography** Geography 71(3) 1988 226-232

* M Kulken **Consideration of environmental and landscape factors in highway planning in valued landscapes: an Australian survey** Journal of Environmental Management 26(3)1988 191-202

* I Brotherton & N Devall **Forestry conflicts in National Parks** Journal of Environmental Management 26(3) 1988 229-238

* D E Ervin **Cropland diversion (set-aside) in the US and UK** Journal of Agricultural Economics 39(2) 1988 183-196

* J N Tarn **The landscape and buildings of the British National Parks in a changing economic and social world** Town Planning Review 58(3) 1987 243-254

* J Duncan & N Duncan **(Re) reading the landscape** Environment and Planning Society and Space 6(2) 1988 117-126

* L A Hills **"Life on the upslope": the post modern landscape of gentrification** Environment and Planning Society and Space 6(2) 1988 169-190

* J Burgess, M Limb & C M Harrison **Exploring environmental values through the medium of small groups: illustrations of a group at work** Environment and Planning a 20(4) 1988 457-476

* Hazel Conway **Sports and playgrounds and the problem of park design in the nineteenth century** Journal of Garden History 8(1) 1988 31-41

Deborah Epstein Nord **The city as theater: from Georgian to early Victorian London** Victorian Studies 31(2) 1988 159-188

* Special issue - Word & Image 4(2) 1988 Theme - **Maps and mapping**

* **Andrew W Gilg & Sue Harrand The socio-economic influences on the nature conservation resource** Report to the NCC/ESRC Joint Research Programme (provides a review of research and priorities: includes 2 chapters among 10 entitled "Managing the conservation resource"; and "Perceptions and preferences of the general public for wildlife and countryside"). Available from the Dept of Geog. Univ of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4RJ

* City of Bradford Metropolitan Council **Bradford's Environmental Strategy**

* **Avon Landscape Strategy - consultation draft.** Copies from Avon County Council. The Information Bureau, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol. (See report on landscape strategy conference)

* P H Selman **Rural Land Use Planning - Resolving the British Paradox?** Journal of RuralStudies 4(3) 1988 277-294

* Timothy Darvill **Ancient Monuments in the countryside - an Archaeological Management Review** from English Heritage Fortress House, Savile Row, London

* John Low **In praise of tall chimneys: does the mill chimney deserve its dubious reputation?** Journal of the North West Civic Trust, Contact No 7 Winter 87-88

* Kate Ashbrooke (General Secretary to the Open Spaces Society) **A new deal for common land and village greens** Journal of the North West Civic Trust, Contact No 7 Winter 87-88

* M Horsey **Multi-storey council housing in Britain: introduction and spread** Planning Perspectives 3(2) 1988 167-196

* Jane Smart **Why are most parks so bad for wildlife?** Urban Wildlife 1(2) 1988 11-13

* Hilary Ash **St Helens** Urban Wildlife 1(2) 1988 14-18

* **Directory of ecology courses** Urban Wildlife 1(2) 1988 36-39

* Minerals Planning Guidance **Opencast coal mining** MPG3 DOE/Welsh Office 1988 HMSO

* London & Southeast Regional Planning Conference **Sand and Gravel in Southeast England - Deposits and Constraints** from 50-64 Broadway, London SW1H ODB Price £15

* Royal Society for the Protection of Birds **The Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: New opportunities for wildlife and the environment** price £5 from Dept CP RSPB,The Lodge,Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

* AND **The RSPB second conservation review £5 from same address.**

LEARNING FROM LANDSCAPES

This project set in a context of English primary and secondary schools was initiated in early 1987 and is now beginning to gather impetus and support. Eileen Adams once a teacher relies on others in the field of landscape design and has approached the problem of school landscapes from the learning end. What activities might take place in school grounds if it were possible to change them? Would these be valuable for children's physical, social or intellectual development? and what experience of design are we offering pupils through our care and management of the school grounds and environment?

Before the project began it seemed to the outsider to have as its brief "What would be a good design for school land to maximise visual and experiential interest and minimise gang mowing?" No doubt faced with a total absence of grass or self landscaping in many town schools Eileen Adams has had to bring in other aims. To some extent she has felt the need to restrain the enthusiastic from drawing up shopping lists (bird boxes, ponds, flower beds, tree planting) that generate a focus for community involvement, pond dipping etc in order to see what are the less obvious needs of school children.

My discussion with her centred on primary school grounds. Secondary schools she said are a different matter to do principally with territorial possession. She has in fact started with the curriculum and asked what parts of it could more satisfactorily be done out of doors. More along landscape lines she has interviewed people and concluded that there is a need for differentiation of spaces: quiet reflective areas, a variety of levels, slopes, views and tactile experiences and stimulus. From questionaire surveys she identifies three types of school model - the ecclesiastical, the military and the industrial - each with its different atmosphere and emphases. When she surveyed how adults viewed various types of school



grounds their replies suggested that they recalled them variously as "playing fields of Eton, aristocratic parklands, municipal golf courses, green black or grey deserts and prison yards".

It is her concern now to devise different models for the late 20th century. She feels that children and young people deserve special environments which suit them, and that they should not have to share environments designed more especially for adult use. Adult groups after all have their own business and social landscapes arranged around their own needs.

She is now also employed by the Royal Fine Art Commission for their project "Learning to See". She would very much like to hear from landscape architects what they feel constitutes a beneficial outdoor school environment. Her address is Technology House, 3rd Floor, Victoria Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 7DU.

EVENTS

26 November New Buildings in Old Places - More than just Conservation. School of Pythagoras, St Johns College, Cambridge. Details: John Preston 022[illegible] 317616 or James Clifton 01948 6166

6 December Planning for Nature. A seminar organised by The Planning Exchange in Birmingham. Details: Hazel Graham, The Planning Exchange, 186 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4HG

3-6 January Environment and the Curriculum. Annual Field Officers course, Hull. Details: Margaret Johnson, Divisional Education Office, 5 Cliff Gardens, Scunthorpe, South Humberside DN15 7PH

2-4 February Creative Development. New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects incorporated annual conference Christchurch NZ. Details: Don Miskell PO Box 13-229 Christchurch NZ Tel (0064-3) 799 119

7 March Common Ground between landscape architects and environmental practitioners. Institute of Environmental Sciences at 139 Tottenham Court Road, evening meeting 7-8.30. Details: Roy Waller 01-647-5015

A NOTE ABOUT THE SUPPLEMENT

The Landscape Research Group is expanding, and to provide more for its members has decided to issue an expanded supplement dealing with items of current and general interest. More than this we invite you as members to use it as a forum either for letters or for interesting ideas, studies or techniques which you may not wish to commit to print as refereed papers but which have interest value to other members. Items will of course be printed at the editor's discretion. We are particularly interested to focus on landscape. The related fields (conservation, community action, area regeneration through project work) will only be of interest to us if they have a landscape dimension.And what is landscape, I hear you say. Perceived environment? This may serve for the time being.

Contributions, and enquiries, should be addressed to Bud Young, The Landscape Overview, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8NL Tel 0647 40904