

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 2 SPRING 1989

THE GROWING VALUE OF BELONGING TO LRG

At the beginning of 1988 LRG had 400 members. By the end of the year we had gained 84 and are now nearing 500. Our intention to grow and by growing to improve was signalled when we took on our development officer John Metson and we hope that this growth will continue. One of the advantages of larger membership is the ability to improve our publications and to offer you more services. This newsletter is made possible for that reason. An **index to Landscape Research by name and topic** will shortly be issued free. In addition members will soon receive the results of a recent membership survey, a **full list of members with their research interests, publications and addresses** so that they may make contact and further their mutual interests. It is our aim to create and foster links between those involved with landscape. **If you know of anyone who might wish to join us,** please put them in touch. John Metson, South Kilworth.

LETTER

Dear Editor,
As a speaker in the lively and informative LRG Conference at York last summer, I was naturally interested to read your views of the conference in 'Landscape Research Extra' (Winter 1988).

Despite some very fair observations and insights, I must confess to being somewhat at variance with the tenor of the article. I'm not sure, for instance, that it is right to say that "it was impossible to shake off the heavy shackles of the local authority machine". A number of councils are themselves trying to create a more workable system - which is precisely what strategies such as Leicestershire's 'Countryside 2000' intends to accomplish, by suggesting, guiding, assisting (in financial, administrative and design terms) and stimulating positive action in the countryside in a very light and even-handed fashion.

I am, of course, grateful to you for your description of it as a 'vision document': it does I feel, get to grips with what the Leicestershire landscape is all about - in broad terms as well as its local texture - and what sorts of options are available for it to change in a positive way. 'County landscapes' are not then, I would say, too big for County authorities to grasp, as you contend. Generally, too, the conference did stress many optimistic and creative ways of working up and (more importantly) carrying out strategies which seemed rather more than just 'stitched together'.

For your readers information Chris Baines launched but was not the author of 'Countryside 2000' - every conference it seems needs a media figure if it wants to be widely heard and he was both appropriate and available at that time. The hard and painstaking work was done by unsung and generally underpaid planners and others over a long period of time.

I am now pleased to report that the first signs of this new county council approach are beginning to appear - the appointment of a countryside management project officer and a long list of agreed and implementable projects for 1989. Let us hope that the eleven remaining years to 2000 bring about a realisation of the vision of the countryside that our document has conjured up.
Yours sincerely, **Simon Witney, Countryside Planning Officer, Leicestershire County Council.**

EDITORIAL

The privatisation of water is everywhere in the news. Does all this have a landscape dimension?

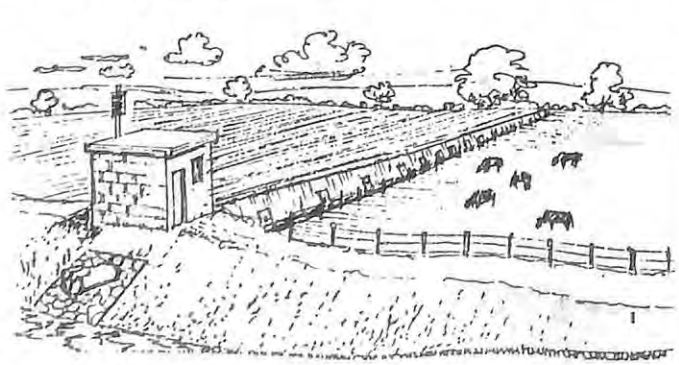
Recent water news from the Countryside Commission is limited to 14 column inches in issue 35 of their glossy newspaper. Characteristically they select

the "jewels in the crown" of water authorities' lands as their prime or current concern - such places as upland reservoir catchments. Potential threats they say include changes in agricultural practices, new forestry, the development of noisy sports and a reluctance to invest in positive conservation. They also identify that a high proportion of water authority land holdings coincide with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, and they would like safeguards on the future use of these landscape resources.

Is there just cause to be fearful of the landscape impact of privatisation? Supposing that the jewels can be saved from adverse change (though weren't we once concerned about ugly forestry on state owned water authority lands), what else should concern us? Will the landscape be noticeably different in private ownership, and what 'landscape' are we talking of.

Jeremy Warner of the Independent newspaper (21st February) reports that Thames Water have a land bank which is worth several billion pounds because of its location in the prosperous South East. The Perry Oaks works has potential as a fifth Heathrow terminal. Reservoir sites, pumping stations, 93 acres at Stoke Newington, 64 acres at Surbiton, 138 acres at Barne Elms, 31 acres at Hornsey and 187 acres at Kempton all represent redevelopment possibilities and potential transformation of very visible local landscapes. Elsewhere and through the regions there may be scope for relocating water and sewage treatment works into less valuable real estate....green railings velly cheap!

Should we be concerned about the effect on riverside, river bank and river channel which have seen such alteration by water authority works in the past? Will the National Rivers Authority alter any regime here. They, as I understand it will be in charge of conservation and flood defence. And what of the valley land and land drainage schemes. Business as usual?



In that context the Countryside Commission's report on Changing River Landscapes (CCP 238) came early into the ring. The preface to their report states that 'one aspect of water authority work that has been of great concern to the Countryside Commission is land drainage. Landscapes have often been affected both by the land drainage works themselves and by the knock on effects of such schemes.' Their study which uses airphotos to sample the landscape changes in 12 river valleys makes generalised references to the effect of land drainage, but draws very few observation-based conclusions. Specific instances of land underdrainage are not mentioned, the valley land use changes are not put into an overall pattern of change, and one is left wondering whether water authorities have altered river landscapes more than others have changed landscapes away from rivers Perhaps those who have read the report have found it helpful. Comments?

Norfolk County Council meanwhile seem to have produced a gutsy Norfolk river valleys report which actually refers to river landscapes, describes the rivers of Norfolk in their courses and gives some visual and personal sense of place to them. Theirs is only a preliminary report prior to making a longer study of some rivers. Surprising what a length of river they have to study. The Norfolk rivers, they write,'contribute variety in both relief and land use in an otherwise relatively flat county where the extensive farmland can be very bleak with few trees, hedges or other features of interest in the view'. Other local authorities have done, or are embarking on similar studies.

Another riverine publication 'Taming the Flood' by Jeremy Purseglove seems to be getting good reviews, and even picked up a conservation book prize. No doubt is will be reviewed in Landscape Research, or does it in its attention to habitat conservation slide past the visual landscape.

Meanwhile as water prices rise and effluents accumulate as discrete noxious ponds within the North Sea we, the Landscape Research Group, have arranged a two day conference on River Landscapes . In this we are assisted by officers of Thames Water. One hopes that the conference will discuss the landscape and how some of the places within it, sections of river, whole river basins might be restored.

But I dream - which I hope will be remembered by obituary writers as 'He had a dream!'. John Clare 1793-1864 wrote of what he saw in 'Angling' from which I now quote

'Marking its banks how varied things appear
Now clothed in bushes and now clear
While steep the bank climbs from the waters edge
Then almost choked with rushes flags and sedge
Then flat and level to the very brink
Tracked deep by cattle running there to drink'

ELIMINATION OF VILLAGE LANDSCAPES IN RUMANIA

Readers may be aware that President Ceaucescu (age 71) intends to "sovietise" the inhabitants of certain independent minded villages by razing their traditional settlements and rehousing them in agrocommunes. Our information is scanty, derived from one newspaper cutting and a Channel 4 News item reported by Sue Lloyd Roberts (February 27th). We grieve for the inhabitants of these villages, linked from time since to their familiar houses, land and way of life. We may be indignant also at the brutal transformation of a landscape. Can anyone offer me any background? Who knows more about this? Letters and information please.

THE PASTORAL IMAGE IN LANDSCAPE

Bob Lawson Peebles (Tel 0392 264263) is guest editor for the spring issue of the Journal which puts together papers on the pastoral image. He was recently appointed to a post at Exeter University where he teaches interalia about American landscape. He is the author of "Landscape and Written Expression in Revolutionary America" and is at present co-editing "Views of American Landscapes". Papers in the pastoral issue will deal with ancient Roman landscapes, Wordsworth, modern Ireland and (can this be true!) the Canadian sub-arctic. The pastoral image, he adds, stood as a potent symbol at the time of both world wars.



Sheepshearing - a 16th century view: what is really meant by pastoral?

PARTRIDGE FIELD MARGINS

The Independent newspaper of 11th February carried an article by Vinny Lee "Creating a land fit for partridges". It describes the Conservation Headlands project run by the Game Conservancy which "has established that hedgerows and perimeters of cereal fields are vital areas for wild game breeding and survival". Their recommendations include "selectiv spraying" for the six metre wide low yielding strip adjacent to the hedge.

When one considers that participating land owners stand to increase grey partridge numbers and improve their shooting it seems stingy not to go further. Is the marginal acre on large farms so important to profitability? Further information from Peter Thompson at The Game Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP5 1EF.

REPORT REVIEW

AN AIRPHOTO STUDY OF HEDGE QUALITY AND LOSS IN 10 TYPICAL HAMPSHIRE PARISHES prepared for Hampshire County Council Planning Dept by The Landscape Overview.

This report provides a detailed study of changes in hedge cover and quality in a sample of Hampshire parishes over a 27 year period. Parishes were selected using a generalised "soil-landscape" map of the county to identify a representative sample of landscapes. A series of aerial photographs taken in 1947, 1971 and 1984/5 provided the basis for the study and results are presented as a series of parish maps with overlays. Hedge quality was assessed by height, width, cut shape, and tree content.

The rate of hedge removal, which was considerable in the period 1947-71, now appears to be slowing down but the report leaves no room for complacency. The hedges that do remain are often in poor condition, are badly maintained and now have little wildlife value. Hedges adjacent to ploughland are most vulnerable and the creation of grass strip margins is advocated as a buffer between hedges and arable land.

The survey is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the changes and pressures in the modern countryside.

Mark Timms, Ecologist, Hampshire County Council

EXHIBITION OF COLOUR AIRPHOTOS OF SCOTLAND

Edinburgh was the venue late in 1988 for a major exhibition of colour airphotography of Scotland. JASAIR of Mitcham Surrey who flew many of the lowland areas in colour held this marketing launch for invited local authority, government, academic and private users. The flying had been funded cooperatively by the Scottish Development Department, the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Nature Conservancy Council. The whole of Scotland is covered. Dr Kirby (Edinburgh University and advisor to the SDD) outlined how the project had come about and how well it had succeeded despite Scotland's reputation for poor flying conditions.

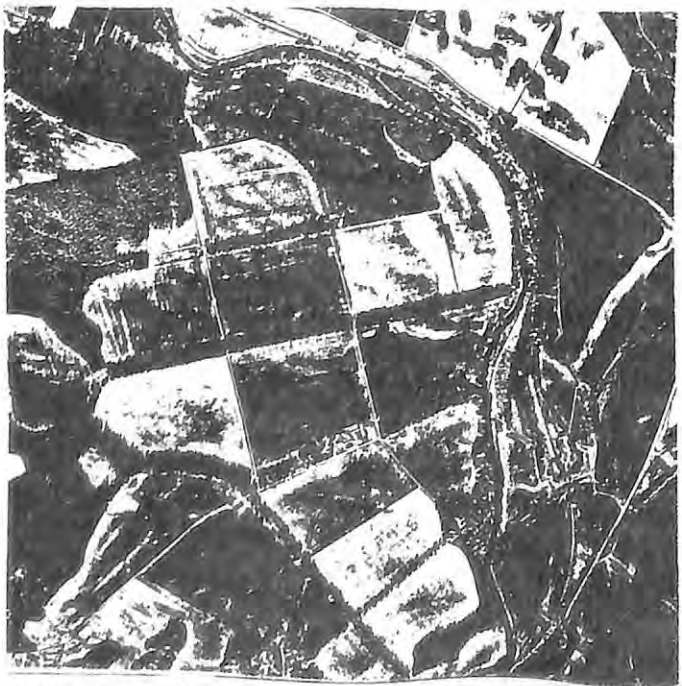
Less populated areas are mostly in black and white, but the Agfa film, Aviphot Pan 200 PE gives superb clarity and definition and will be a delight to interpret. Some areas of both black and white and colour will inevitably have been photographed in less than perfect conditions and if so the colour will have lost some of its saturation, which reduces its eye appeal without much affecting its readability.

The scale of 1/24,000 is well suited to the country's planners landowners and managers and its readability in the complex populated lowland areas is assisted by the use of colour.

Dr Kirby argues and I fully agree with him that this is how airphotography ought to be commissioned. It should be flown at an extensive level to cover whole countries using long flight lines and so to record land uses over a very short time span. This is the cost effective way of doing it and also makes the most of those brief spells of clear settled weather. Could this happen for Wales? England? some may feel that it requires a dominant agency such as the SDD to make it all work.
(The author of this item declares an interest in the work of the company concerned).

CENTRAL SCOTLAND WOODLAND INITIATIVE

According to 'Planning' January 1989 there is to be a massive planting programme for the Central Belt of Scotland, including new woodlands, broadleaved shelter belts and neighbourhood copses. The coordinating company set up by Malcolm Rifkind is called Central Scotland Woodlands Ltd and will draw heavily on publicly available funds. The whole thing has been planned by the Scottish Development Department, the Forestry Commission and the Countryside Commission for Scotland. Shall we be seeing the emergence of a new landscape or will the effort result in a disappointingly slight impact, the former one hopes.



Scottish woodlands belts - photocopy of one eighth part of airphoto 506.88.213 at 1/24,000 scale showing a variety of Scottish forestry plantings.

YORKSHIRE DALES AFFORESTATION REFUSED

Perhaps reflecting late 1980's thinking is the contrasting news that the Forestry Commission has refused grant aid worth £95000 for afforestation of 700 acres of moorland at Cam Fell (Yorkshire Dales). The Arboricultural Association states in its autumn 1988 newsletter that this is the first major refusal since the government altered its uplands afforestation policy. Was the refusal on landscape grounds? Information please.

PEOPLE ECONOMIES AND NATURE CONSERVATION

£200,000 has been made available by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council for this programme of research. This follows the commissioned investigation by Andrew Gilg (of LRG and Exeter University) into key research themes (see our last newsletter).

Two main research lines will be tackled by Newscastle University and University College of London respectively but proposals for associated work have been solicited widely from other researchers. Newcastle will focus on agricultural structures, land use change and environmental benefits and University College on the broader context of economic restructuring including intensification, extensification, farm woodlands and leisure/amenity investment.

The programme seeks answers to such questions as: To what extent is "good environment" and "nature" important to various rural enterprises: how to achieve the greatest effect in 'nature conservation land management' particularly within development; and how are various groups' attitudes to nature conservation changing. The last date for research bids has passed but further information can be obtained from the ESRC Cherry Orchard, East Kembrey Park, Swindon SN2 6UL contact Kevin Hamilton.

OTHER JOURNALS

ARBORICULTURAL JOURNAL 12(2) August 1988
Patrick A Board **Why conifers are the chief plant casualties of atmospheric pollution** 251-255
D R Helliwell **Uneven-aged woodlands in Britain. Advantages, Disadvantages and Problems** 273-278
Simon Humphreys **Silvanus: An integrated rural development project for woodlands** 279-284

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 15(1-2) June 1988
Special Issue: Urban Forest Ecology
R C Smardon **Perception and aesthetics of the urban environment:review of the role of vegetation** 85-106
R Kaplan & J F Talbot **Ethnicity and preference for natural settings:review and recent findings** 107-117
H W Schroeder **Visual impact of hillside development: comparison of measurements derived from aerial and ground-level photographs** 119-126
L M Anderson & H K Cordell **Influence of trees on residential property values in Athens, Georgia (USA):a survey based on actual sales prices** 153-164

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 15(3-4) July 1988
S Schauman **Countryside scenic assessment: tools and an application** 227-239
S C Bourassa **Toward a theory of landscape aesthetics** 241-252
R B Hull, I V & M M McCarthy **Change in the landscape** 265-278
J Gy Fabos **Computerization of landscape planning** 279-289

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 16(1-2) October 1988
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R B Mann **Ten trends in the continuing renaissance of urban waterfronts** 177-199

LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 16(3) November 1988
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T Pukkala & S Kellomaki **Simulation as a tool in designing forest landscape** 253-260
D R Hadrian, I D Bishop & R Mitcheltree **Automated mapping of visual impacts in utility corridors** 261-282
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LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING 16(4) December 1988
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Ken Fieldhouse **Home Ground - a visit to artist Mervyn Goode (south Hampshire landscapes)** 34-36
Nick Michael and Tony Bradshaw **A hard future for derelict land**
Michael Oldham **The Single Market** - effects of 1992 on the landscape profession 41

GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 10/1988
Special Issue:Bauen mit Grun **(Buildings with plants)**
GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 11/1988
Special Issue:Landschaftsplanung und Landwirtschaft **(Landscape planning and agriculture)**
GARTEN & LANDSCHAFT 12/1988
K Oldenburg Umweltbelastung und Landschaftsplanung in der Turkei **(Environmental stress and landscape planning in Turkey)** 21-25
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I Beller-Schmidt,A Gebhard & Elke Schmidt **A concept for traffic management in Old Schwabing** 42-47
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N Nakai **Urbanisation promotion and control in metropolitan Japan** 197-216

PLANNING PERSPECTIVES 3(3) September 1988
J A Yelling **The origins of British redevelopment areas** 282-296
T Knudsen **International influences and professional rivalry in early Danish planning** 287-296
M A Weiss **The real estate industry and politics of zoning in San Francisco 1914-1928,** 311-324

ECOS 9(3) Summer 1988
John Barkham **Developing the spiritual** 13-21

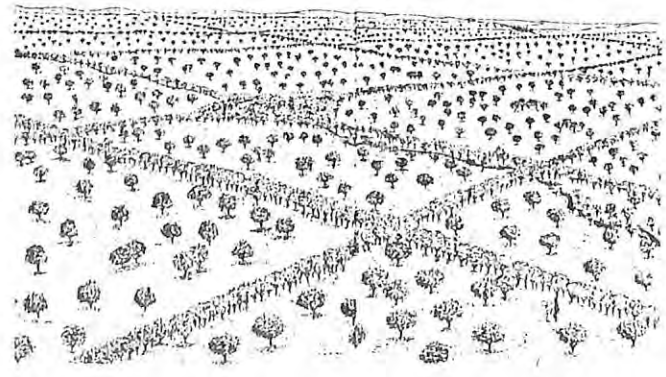
METAMORPHOSIS No2 1988
The Newsletter on the Environment published by the European Environmental Bureau. Address: La Maison Europeenne de l'Environnement 20 rue de Luxembourg 1040 Brussels
Alan Woods of the RSPB **Agriculture and the Environment: towards integration.** A careful exposition of the topic including ESAs, setaside, extensification, conversion and forestry; applicable to British and European landscapes.

LANDSCAPE AUSTRALIA 10(3) August 1988
Juliet Egloff **Port Arthur: A nineteenth century landscape - part** 221-224
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Mary Jeavons **Children's activity in the everyday landscape of the suburb** 301-305
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Michael Ewings **Pitt Street, Sydney** 357-366
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PAYSAGE & AMENAGEMENT in PAYSAGE ACTUALITES No 111 October 1988
P Legrand (Editorial) La nature en ville: un enjeu meconnu **(Nature in cities: what is at stake)** 29-30
Murray Nelson Friches agricoles - Enjeux, experiences **(Fallow agricultural lands: risks and experiments)** 31-33
M Thomson A nouvelle agriculture, nouveaux paysages... **(New landscapes for new agriculture)** 34-36
Fukashi Utsunomiya La crise verte au Japon **(The "Green Crisis" in Japan)** presented in two parts: aspects theoriques, politiques et reglementaires 38-43 and La crise verte a Kyoto 44-48
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PAYSAGE & AMENAGEMENT in PAYSAGE ACTUALITES No 112 November 1988
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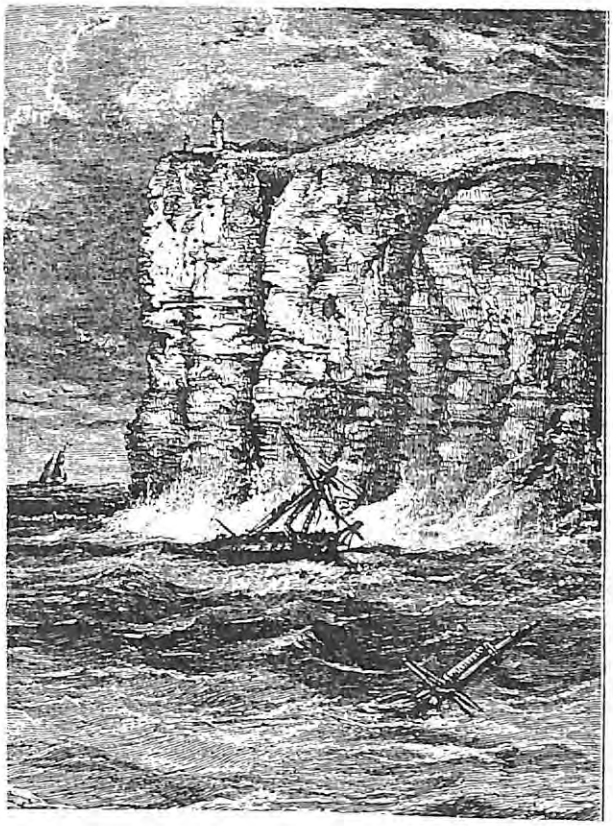


An illustration from 'The Lanark Study', Landscape Australia 10(4)

ARTISTS AND NATIONAL PARKS EXHIBITION ON TOUR

Art and nature do not mix. Art, at its purest, expresses abstract ideas and extends the limits of human imagination. The show of "Artists in National Parks", which was at the Victoria and Albert Museum from June to September last year, began a year-long regional tour in September. It presents an entirely different view. It attempts to bring nature to town, to increase public awareness and support for National Parks. A panel of art experts commissioned one artist to portray the natural character of each of eleven National Parks in England and Wales, and another twenty artists were invited to submit works for the exhibition. The organizers and the artists themselves have tried hard to communicate their perceptions of nature and convey their enjoyment of these places to an audience of strangers. The task is daunting. Artists have never quite succeeded in capturing the sublime moods of wild nature: depicting the power of winter storms, the vertiginous height of mountain peaks, the menace of desolate moors. It is technically difficult to paint rain, snow or fog, or the motion of wind, waves or waterfalls. Garry Miller has turned in the opposite direction and collected fronds, leaves, feathers and blades of grass in the Yorkshire Dales to compose a giant panel entitled "From the heart to the head". Andy Goldsworthy has built lattices of sticks in shallow water and has photographed these structures at Derwent Water in the Lake District. Other landscape cosmetics include a handful of balloons released over a crag, an artist's walk inscribed as a line on a moorland surface. In an exhibition setting in London these pieces look slightly absurd. Even a sincerely felt romantic vision of Snowdonia by Christopher Le Brun is difficult to take seriously. I found the most authentic renderings of nature were the somewhat reticent vistas by Anthony Eyton in Exmoor and Peter Greenham in Northumberland and exquisitely observed details of rocks, plants and animals depicted in David Nash's studies in the Peak District. With the best will in the world artists cannot evoke the enthusiasm for experiencing outdoor activities that animates mountaineers, fell walkers, botanists and zoologists. Artists cannot tranlate into images that will register in a crowded art gallery the sense of vast open spaciousness, bareness and solitude that are essential qualities of National Parks. They cannot even come to terms with basic natural elements: old hard rocks, high rainfall, low temperatures and strong winds. Nature has lost its grandeur, its power to thrill and to terrify. Its small-scale beauties are captured and for these I am grateful.

Hugh Prince - University College, London



Quite right - this is not from the National Parks Exhibition. But nothing like a good Victorian wreck to put across the feeling of strong winds, hard rocks and the compelling forces of nature. Dunnet Head near Thurso, Scotland 1854.

THE EXPERIENCE OF LANDSCAPE

An Exhibition of Painting, Drawings and Photographs from the Arts Council continues on tour to Ayr in February, March and April and to Stirling and Wakefield in May. It is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue of 96pp with an essay "The Experience of Landscape: Painting and Poetry" by the poet Jeremy Hooker. (Available from The Publications Office, South Bank Centre, Royal Festival Hall, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX).

"I turned to landscape not for the landscape sake but for the 'things behind'" noted Paul Nash whose work is well represented in this contemplative travelling exhibition which presents a rather brooding image of landscape. Our reviewer, Brian Goodey writes that he was not impressed by the exhibition which says more about Arts Council purchasing policy than anything else.

SHOULD YOU READ?

* Martin Shucksworth **Current rural land use issues in Scotland: an overview** Scot Geog Mag 104(3) 1988 176-180
* A Cooper, R Murray and S Warnock **Agriculture and Environment in the Mourne Mountains AONB** Applied Geography 9(1) 1989 35-56
* A M MacEachren and G B Johnson **The Evolution, Application and Implications of Strip Format Travel Maps** The Cartography Jour 24 147-158
* D D Arreola **Mexican American Housescapes** The Geog Review 78(3) 1988 299-315
* Yi-Fu Tuan **The City as a Moral Universe** Geog Review 78(3) 1988 316-324
* T W Parr and J M Way **Management of roadside vegetation: The long term effects of cutting** Jour Appl Ecol 25(3) 1988 1073-1088
* Various authors **Textile Mills: special issue** Industrial Archaeology Review 10(2) 1988
* Michael Williams **Historical geography and the concept of landscape** Journ Hist Geog 15(1) 1989 92-104
* J W R Whitehand **The changing urban landscape: the case of London's high-class residential fringe** Geographical Journal 154(3) 1988 351-366
* Shelagh J Squire **Wordsworth and Lake District Tourism: A study of romantic reshaping of landscape** The Canadian Geographer 32(3) 1988 237-247
* L Anders Sandberg & John S Marsh (eds.) **Focus: literary landscapes - geography and literature** The Canadian Geographer 32(3) 1988 266-276
* Alexander von Hoffman **Of Greater Lasting Consequence: Frederick Law Olmsted and the fate of Franklin Park, Boston** Jour Soc Architectural Historians XLVII(4) 1988 339-350
* Allan R Ruff **Managing Ontario's urban landscape** Planning Outlook 31(1) 1988 53-60 [Ecological approach to design and management].
* Jacquie Burgess, Carolyn M Harrison & Melanie Limb **People, parks and the urban green: a study of popular meanings and values for open spaces in the city** Urban Studies 25(6) 1988 455-473
* Thomas Leddy **Gardens in an expanded field** British Journal of Aesthetics 28(14) 1988 327-340
* R M Fuller & R E Randall **The Orford Shingles, Suffolk, UK: classic conflicts in coastline management** Biological Conservation 46(2) 1988 95-114
* Christopher Wood & Norman Lee **The European Directive on environmental impact assessment: implementation at last?** The Environmentalist 8(3) 1988 177-186
* Jay Ruby **Images of rural America: view photographs and picture postcards** History of Photography 12(4) 1988 327-343
* Chris Titterington **Landscapes and the Fall** Aperture 113 1989 10-19
* Michael Symes **The landscaping of Esher Place** Internat Journ Gard Hist 8(4) 1988 63-96
* Heinz-Joachim Mullenbrock **The 'Englishness' of the English landscape garden and the genetic role of literature: a reassessment** Internat Journ Gard Hist 8(4) 1988 97-103

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY AND SPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
A conference at Nottingham University, January 1989

This meeting tried to draw together those conversant with new technology (GIS and satellite remote sensing of the environment), and those who may know more about ecology and landscapes. Reporting as one who knows something but too little about the first, has a lay understanding of the second and a passionate interest in the third there was an overemphasis on the technicalities of remotely sensed and other data handling. Satellite imagery still only looks at land use and land cover; commonly it averages out the spectral signatures of divergent uses.

Jim Petch of Salford University described the East European traditions of landscape ecology where many maps are classified "for party members' eyes only" and landscape management units of collective farming can be 30,000 hectares. Mark Avery (RSPB) gave a pragmatic paper on prediction of wader population from Landsat imagery in Sutherland. Neither of these papers nevertheless deal with landscape in the perceived sense - unless one argues that dunlin, greenshank and other waders..... collective farm commissars and fellow travellers (no offence Mr Gorbachev,sir) work with acute perception on the landscape conditions which enable their survival!

There was a paper on landscape change in National Parks using GIS methods (John Taylor of Silsoe). R Dunn of Bristol University, evaluated earlier landscape change work done for DOE and the Countryside Commission, and discussed the problems of sampling the landscape from satellite image sources. Though each made an interesting and clear exposition, neither were talking landscape, rather they were discussing landcover or land use (grassland, woodland, moorland).

Two papers presented by researchers from Belgium tested the discriminating ability of SPOT the latest French satellite system which senses 10m panchromatic and 20m colour pixel (picture element)

sizes. Some of their observations in small scale landscapes began to approximate to feature distribution analysis - where features are linear land uses such as woodland belts, canals etc. The ability to generate value maps from this data was exciting and would be relevant in county-level landscape evaluations. Of particular interest was the observation that the "coarse grain" (comparatively low discriminating ability) of the SPOT image compared with aerial photography edited out all those smaller features eg narrow hedges - which anyway made no habitat contribution to the landscape

Two LRG members gave papers. In the middle ground technology of airphoto interpretation, Bud Young addressed two studies which were beyond the present capability of satellite sensing either because they dealt with narrow linear features - the height and quality of Hampshire hedges - see elsewhere in this report or because they dealt with a variety of marginal upland landscape units whose only shared attributes were that they were economically marginal to the farm unit. Charles Smart, LRG, and landscape architect at the Welsh Office in a paper entitled "Is remote sensing capable of evaluating landscape" concluded that though it appeared to have the potential to do so it was not being applied in a way likely to realise this potential which would therefore remain locked up. Studies were at scales either too large or too small and none dealt with the terms of normal human visual experience.

The conference did not set out to discuss the perceived landscape,and one might question the value of the term landscape ecology. It was however fast moving, informative, useful to your reviewer and extremely well hosted by Roy Haines Young of the University Department of Geography.

R N Young

TREES, WOODS AND FORESTS IN THE LANDSCAPE. Report on a CRRAG seminar, Edinburgh, November 1988

LRG collaborated in this workshop. Simon Bill, who heads the Forestry Commission's team of landscape architects, presented their now well developed approach to designing forests and woodlands. It is well known for its application to large upland, coniferous plantations. The second session applied the same design principles to small woods in lowland areas and provoked great interest in an audience which included local authorities, silvicultural advisors and landscape designers, who are concerned with the creation of farm woods.

LRG contributed to a discussion on research relating to the perception of forest and woodland landscapes. Roger Sidaway author of the recent report "Public opinion on Scotland's scenery" (Countryside Commission for Scotland) in which forestry is viewed as an agent of landscape change set the context. No coherent body of research and theory was available and this hampered the identification of further research. Clearer links betweem research and policy making were required.

Possible research agendas were then investigated in a group led by Richard Broadhurst, FC and Carys Swanick, LRG. Issues raised included the need to recognise the roles of different places in the forest landscape on different occasions for different activities; the division of the public into distinct groups and the relative merits of qualitative and quantitative research methods in questioning individuals about forest landscape change.

The event was relevant to the creation of new forests in urban and fringe areas and the proposal to establish a new forest somewhere in the Midland Counties of England. Questions of public preference must surely have a major influence on the design of such a forest. This aside, the event may have helped crystallise the FC's intention to sponsor research into public attitudes and preferences.

Carys Swanwick

FORESTRY STRATEGIES: COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION SHOWS THE WAY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Countryside Commission is pooling its intentions with the Forestry Commission (and the Nature Conservancy Council) to sort out a landscape approach to forestry. The latest project comes out of their recommendations in'Forestry in the Countryside' that all local authorities should prepare a forestry plan. Aware perhaps that many cannot or will not find the resources and may require to see "how it is done" and "what is meant by the term" the Commission is asking consultants to blaze the trail. Their first effort in mid Wales aimed to illustrate the concept in an upland area. The Bucks strategy is a lowland plan.

How this will amplify the recently written Buckinghamshire countryside strategy (Forestry) we have to see. One hopes it will extend and make more specific what so far has had to be couched in general terms for lack of detailed survey data. One also hopes that it will have a particular bearing on the health and strength of a beleaguered landscape. Unlike the Midland's Forest Project reported in the last issue the aim is only to extend the "potential forest estate" and of course to examine how the standing trees and woodlands can be kept in good shape in the face of a diversity of pressures, many emanating from London.

PUBLICATIONS

Landscape assessment of farmland CCP 255 prepared by Rachel Berger, A4, 28 pages, 22 maps, photographs, price £5.50 incl postage. Available from: Countryside Commission Publications, 19?23 Albert Road, Manchester M19 2EQ Tel:061 224 6287

The new Civic Trust **Environmental Directory** lists over 300 organisations concerned with amenity and the environment. Price £3.50 or £4.00 post paid. Obtainable from the Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW Tel:01 930 0914

The Centre for Urban Ecology offers a **catalogue to their specialist collection of about 500 reference books on the urban environment** housed at The Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3RL Tel:021 359 3562. The catalogue costs £2.65. Visitors may use the reference library without charge.

M40 Warwickshire by Colin Shaw. Illustrated catalogue to exhibition of photographs held at the Birmingham Ikon Gallery earlier in the year. Shaw has documented the popular environment which will be drastically modified by the approaching motorway ... 'a deliberate atttempt to deny town-dwellers' romanticised and usually inaccurate impressions of the countryside and country people'. Catalogue with the photographers' text available at £6.95 inc. postage from Ikon Gallery 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

The Aesthetics of Landscape, Proceedings of an LRG Conference at Hull , 1976, attractive A5 format available at £3.50 for non members, £2.50 for members. Its content is interesting and undated; valuable reading. Available from the Secretary, Leuric, North Road, South Kilworth, Nr Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6DU



Taming the Flood by Jeremy Purseglove - winner of the 1989 Sir Peter Kent Conservation Book Prize. He is Senior Landscape Architect in the Severn Trent Water Authority where he has worked for the last ten years. Channel Four/Oxford University Press £17.50

A Review of Recent Practice and Research in Landscape Assessment - This is the title of a report prepared by the Landscape Research Group commissioned and issued by the Countryside Commission. It makes extremely useful though naturally rather concentrated reading and should be on the shelf of every practitioner and teacher. At the amazing price of "no cost" it will also be affordable to students. Its chapters include Landscape Classification, Landscape Evaluation, Landscape Description and Analysis, Research related to Measurement of Landscape Elements, and Research relating to Perception and Landscape Preferences. CCD25 1988 Available from The Countryside Commission, Cheltenham Tel 0242 521381

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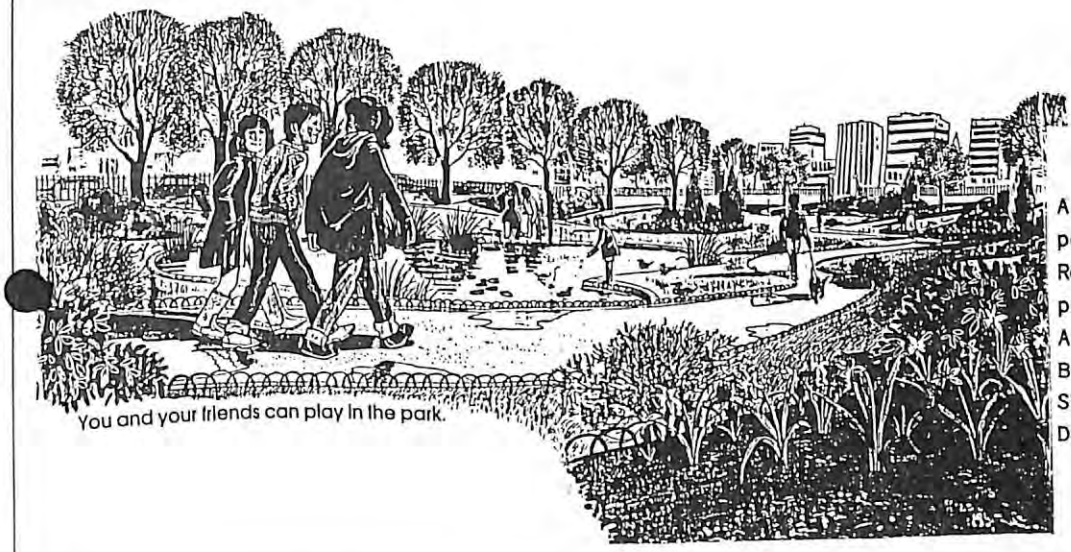
THE SOCIETY FOR LANDSCAPE STUDIES ...

welcomes new members interested in the landscape along the lines made popular by W G Hoskins in "The Making of the English Landscape". The society issues a newsletter and an annual journal, and holds a residential conference each year. Ordinary membership £12 (£8 for OAPs and students). Institutions £15. Details: Mike Hughes, 7 Juniper Close, Badger Farm, Winchester SO22 4LU.

Editor's note: the Society's journal is of very high quality and carries a large number of in depth book reviews. The fact that only 2 LRG members belong to the Society must surely be attributed to incomplete market knowledge which we aim to put right by this advertisement.

EVENTS

30 March at 7pm and subsequent Thursdays **Landscapes to Live in - a New Vision:** a series of six public lectures covering Agriculture, Forestry, Britain's International Responsibility, Rivers, Historic Landscapes and New Landscapes through the Planning System. Admission £2.00. Details from The Landscape Institute, 12 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH Tel 01 839 4044



You and your friends can play in the park.

A designed amenity landscape as perceived by C Forsey and J Robins, illustrators for a primary level reading book. Alternative keywords: EXPLORE, BUILD, TUNNEL, SAW, CHOP, STACK, RUN, PADDLE, SPLASH, DIP, COLLECT, TRACK, HIDE.

LRG'S OWN EVENT

3-5 April River Landscapes: Environmental Partnerships in practice. The Landscape Research Group assisted by Thames Water Authority are holding this timely residential conference which we hope will provide valuable information and a useful forum for those interested in environmentally sound river landscape management. Topics include the latest developments in river management, the likely impact of the National Rivers Authority and the landscape implications of privatisation. Venue: Royal Holloway College, Egham, Surrey. Details from Carys Swanwick, LRG Secretary, Leuric, North Road, South Kilworth, Nr Lutterworth, Leics LE17 6DU Tel:085 881 530

6-9 April The fifteenth annual conference of the Association of Art Historians will be held at the London University Institute of Education 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H OAL. One major theme running throughout the conference will be landscape. On 7th April there will be sessions on **'Landscape, politics, culture, class'** and **'Whose landscape is it anyway?'**. On 8th April, am: there will be a session on **'Landscape: feminist art practices'** and on 9th April pm: one on **'Landscape and narrative'**. Further details from the Conference Organizer, Tag Gronberg, Central School of Art & Design, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AP or tel 01 986 7556

13 April **Competitive tendering for creative conservation: opportunities for change in amenity landscape** Conference at Manchester University. Details from The Landscape Secretary, Dept of Planning and Landscape, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL Tel 061 275 6890

14-16 April **The Avant-Garde and the Landscape: Can They Be Reconciled?** University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus. Further information from Landscape Conference, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Minnesota, 89 Church Street S.E.Minneapolis, MN55455.

9-11 May **Coastal Management** Wessex Hotel, Bournemouth. Institution of Civil Engineers conference bringing together coastal engineers and other disciplines and professions involved in management of the coastline to look at legislation and policy, coastal planning, regional strategy, research, environmental issues, coastal studies, coastal defence methods and case histories. Details 01 222 7722

23 June **Sense and Sensitivity: planning and design on the right hand side of the brain.** New and emerging perspectives on sensitivity and creativity in professional roles which are crucial to building a more humane environment. The title is a reference to Betty Edwards 'Drawing on the right side of the brain' (Fontana 1981) which applies theories of 'split-brain' neurologists to art

teaching and particularly the distinction between the logical, linear, rational and the intuitive, holistic, non-verbal sides of the brain and human character. Details from Tracy Stephenson, CPD Centre, South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1 0AA Tel 01 928 8989

28-30 June 1989 The International Association of Landscape Ecology announces the 1st International Conference on **Cultural Aspects of Landscape.** Twenty well known speakers from 14 countries will present papers both theoretical and practical relating landscape issues, people and the human cultural environment. It will be held at Groeneveld Castle, Groeneveld, Netherlands and details can be obtained from Dr Hanna Swonden-Svobodova PO Box 5020, 1007 AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

ANOTHER LRG EVENT

1-3 September Landscape and Sculpture: an International Symposium at Manchester Polytechnic. Provisionally it will offer papers on the following topics: an overview of early pre-historic earth works; the public park as environmental art and the garden as sculpture; Henry Moore and sculpture in the landscape; environmental sculpture projects in landscape; public sculpture and environmental improvement schemes; environmental sculpture and the new landscape aesthetic; the sculptor as geographer; the 'mapping' and placemaking techniques employed by artists; landscape architects as sculptors; the role of the sculptor in collaborations with landscape architects; environmental sculpture practices in landscape; geomorphologists as sculptors; a number of individual case studies by or on behalf of sculptors and landscape professionals.
stop press: this event has now attracted sponsorship from Northwest Arts and from the Henry Moore foundation - an event not to miss?

Future Countryside Lectures - organised by the Royal Society of Arts: 9 March at Cambridge; 6 April at Cardiff Castle; 4 May in Glasgow; 29 June at Durham University; 16 March in London; Details of speakers and times and free tickets from Katherine Dark at the RSA Tel: 01 930 5115

PROFESSIONAL LEVEL COURSES

10-14 April **Practical course in the stereoscopic interpretation of colour and black and white airphotos.** Suitable for local authority staff and those professionally interested in landscape evaluation and change, habitat distribution, land use mapping or the geography of urban landuse. Details: R N Young, The Landscape Overview, 26 Cross St, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8NL Tel:0647 40904

15-19 May **Landscape Conservation** A course combining practical projects with lectures on how to make countryside management decisions which take landscape quality into consideration and contribute to landscape conservation. Details: Peak National Park Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB Tel 0433 20373

16-20 October **Integrated Woodland Management** A course which will look at the wide range of different ways in which trees and woodlands are used in Britain and how these differences can be reconciled. Details: as above.

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