

landscape research extra

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 3 AUTUMN 1989

HARVEST LANDSCAPE WITH BALES

It surprises me that I have not yet come across an evocation of the modern harvest landscape with bales. Perhaps I should be reading our English magazine "The Countryman". Yet in my work for this newsletter I am surrounded by ideas of outdoor sculpture, by appreciation of victorian harvest landscapes (and haywains!), by concepts of space and form; by the creation of places from wasteland and by evaluative studies of how landscapes register in our scorchingly fast journeys through the countryside, which is the way most people absorb their landscapes nowadays. Should we rest our images on victorian stooks and "reliable" harvest scenes of 100 years ago. Will someone direct me to more modern established images? But seriously will someone be doing a study next harvest?

What fascinates me among the many kinds of bales and arrangements of bales and landshapes(sic) and extents of space is how bales seem to inhabit and give life to the now nearly deserted field landscape. How in the fading light at 10pm aggregated square bales look like little villages: two room cabins instantly spring up in available living space. It intrigues me to know what it would be like to walk among them, discover their alleys and avenues. To find out how I react to their sculptural and monumental shapes. Mostly my point of view is that of the fast motorist. Are they best seen this way their shape and spacing integrated into a parallax of movement? Then there are the round bales now tightly strapped in plastic and for all the world like wooden cotton reels reflecting the degree of slope in their seeming readiness to roll on and congregate in the valley bottoms. A liveliness, the animation of the inanimate, do they secretly move in the short night? Images of prehistoric standing stones in Brittany, of granite boulders in frozen motion down Dartmoor Tors, of Easter Island which I have never visited. This year I crossed the rolling cereal downlands of Cranbourne Chase (a less demanding journey). The evening was luminous but the bales were gone and I was disappointed to have found the fields once again empty, desolate, depopulated.

THE LOSS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Common Ground to use their words "promote the importance of locality and our common culture - everyday buildings, plants and animals, familiar places, local distinctiveness and our links with the past". They are a London based group (45 Shelton Street WC2H 9HJ) and are just setting out on a Local Distinctiveness Project which seeks alternatives to the spread of uniformity throughout Britain. This project is one which should fall well within the area of interest of LRG members who individually may be involved with how we perceive and react to landscape - where landscape is the outdoor space we move in whether shopping plaza or dockland or desert. Common Ground's project "is exploring how people recognise the distinctive character of their surroundings and why this is important to them". Those interested might like to talk to Tom Greeves at the address given above or on 01.379.3109 (London).

The Countryside Commission (our government's advisory body on rural, that is non urban, landscape) has this to say in a late June press release: "[We] are critical of the design of new houses in the countryside. Much of it is bland and suburban looking, and ill adapted to its surroundings. If there is to be more development around villages and small towns, it must be of a higher standard of design and more 'respectful' of local traditions and buildings styles". Which is perhaps another angle on the same problem.

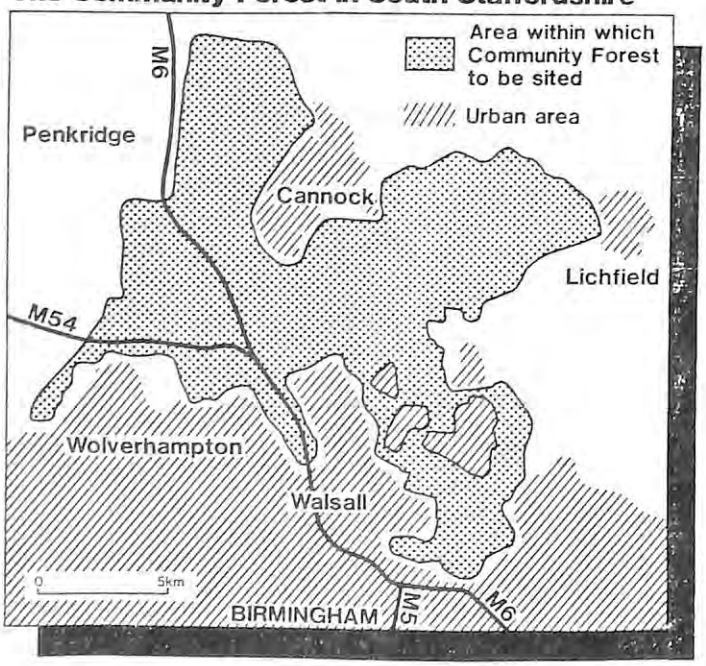
I have a number of 1930's books on my shelves that express the same anxieties including the following passage from English Villages and Hamlets Batsford 1934: "The church was still there (in a village called 'M') and I suppose a few of the houses. But the town had eaten up M, a herd of wild bungalows had trampled it down; it had been savaged by an arterial road and devastated by petrol pumps" The language changes but the elements are all still recognisable.

COMMUNITY FORESTS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Countryside Commission with the Forestry Commission have launched a further major initiative. They wish to promote 12 areas close to major urban centres as community forests. This might total from 1200 sq km - 2040 sq km of altered land use and (as in the brief for the Midlands Forest reported in our last issue) it would contain not only woodlands but other more open uses and provide for leisure recreation and educational use "on the doorsteps of millions of people".

Some parts of the forest will derive from local authority ownership, other parts - one supposes the vast majority - will remain in or be purchased from private sector owners. Is the title community forest simply a device? How will it be a community forest? perhaps because it will provide for community aspirations. Not, one supposes, because there will be direct management by local communities.

The Community Forest in South Staffordshire



Perhaps the most fascinating landscape aspect of the proposal is the potential it has for masking and effacing elements of the earlier landscape. Some of this might best be obliterated but some areas may have understated historic value, others may be held in sentimental attachment by a few. Do people become attached to what one presumes are degraded landscape?

The forest alternative is now coming in to its own and should have a profound effect on many parts of the country; the 12 proposed sites, the possibility of one of five (or more) sites for a Midlands Forest, and the encouragement to all counties to increase the number and extent of woodland especially in lightly wooded areas. Perhaps we should thank the agronomist, the farmer and the agricultural experts for the means of overproduction which has got us into this dramatic new land use scenario.

LANDSCAPE & SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM MANCHESTER POLYTECHNIC 1-3 Sept 1989

There was a strong feeling that 'something was happening' during this three day conference, and as it drew to a close people used various yeasty images to describe their sense of a process of fermentation at work. Accounting for the buzz after the event is not easy, but there are a number of possible causes.

First of all, there was a star-studded programme of speakers, and they didn't disappoint. The conference clearly hit an area of wide interest, enabling them to express cherished views that would strike many chords. Thus we had Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe in his opening address hoping that landscape design - by an association with sculpture that this conference encouraged - would be lifted into its proper place among the arts. Catherine Howett, of the University of Georgia was also hopeful that the profession of landscape architecture, by being brought into contact with new intellectual currents through the environmental art movement, would be reinvigorated with a new vision and set of values based on engagement with the landscape rather than formal composition. Several sculptors underscored this approach with talk of their own work as 'process rather than product'; as being in sympathy with natural forces, and to do with healing the alienation of people from nature. Garry Fabian Miller spoke of a fusion of art and religion to produce a new faith involving responsibility towards the natural world. All this was heady stuff, and no wonder people got a bit excited.

On top of this, each day - and each evening too for those who could take it - delegates were subjected to a barrage of slide shows of sculptors' and landscape designers' work. (Names include - to mention only official speakers - Nancy Holt, Betty Beaumont, Andrew Drummond, David Nash, Garry Miller, Andy Goldsworthy, Ian Hunter, Gary Duryer,

Richard Harris, Joan Brigham, and landscape architects Preben Jakobsen and Robert Camlin). This was almost too much stimulation. I think we overdosed on land art!

The conference was also considerably energized by the delegates themselves, over 300 of them, from all parts of the globe. There was a strong sense of common purpose, and, for the most part, of common language, though some interesting trans-Atlantic differences in attitude to landscape emerged, perhaps mainly to do with differences in scale. There was also a great deal of conviviality and late-night discussion - and in this context I should mention the special roles of (a) the pub round the corner, called 'The Salutation', a little Victorian gem, and an island of civilisation and decency in the sea of urban blight surrounding Manchester Polytechnic, and (b) the extreme hardness and bumpiness of the Poly's beds, encouraging no one to take to them earlier than necessary.

Towards the end of the conference the atmosphere of constructive purpose, however seemed to undergo a slight souring. Perhaps the enthusiasm for collaboration received something of a check when the various forums on the last day met to discuss some of the practicalities and found that there were inevitable obstacles and a danger of individual creative initiatives being strangled by joint projects. Frustrations with the conference began to be varied, and fears were expressed that the spirit that had been generated was finally leading nowhere. It was felt that too much time had been spent looking at slides, at the expense of consideration of meanings; at the expense of contributions from other disciplines (ecology, art history, environmental psychology, for example), and of opportunities for delegates to throw in their own pennyworth. In a spirit of revolt on the final afternoon a group of delegates (consisting mainly, I think, of not quite sober Antipodeans) went out to a derelict lot near the Polytechnic, collected up the litter lying about and lit an enormous blaze. As a piece of spontaneous performance art it seemed a fitting image for the whole conference, and a fine embodiment, as the smoke billowed over the town, of 'A Cloud of Unmaking', as Catherine Howett's paper had been called.

John Metson.

Editor's note: the views expressed here regarding the Polytechnic should be viewed in the context of the excitement and spontaneity of the delegates and does not represent LRG's official view of the accomodation or its environment.

THE BLACKDOWN HILLS LANDSCAPE

The public now has two appreciations of landscape special areas commissioned and published by the Countryside Commission; the first was the New Forest. The Blackdowns booklet has the distinction of being fourth on the Taunton Top Books list behind 'Oscar and Lucinda' first, a book on sorcery second and third a book entitled 'Demon Lord of Karanda'. If the Commission's intention is to establish the area with local people this is surely a measure of success.

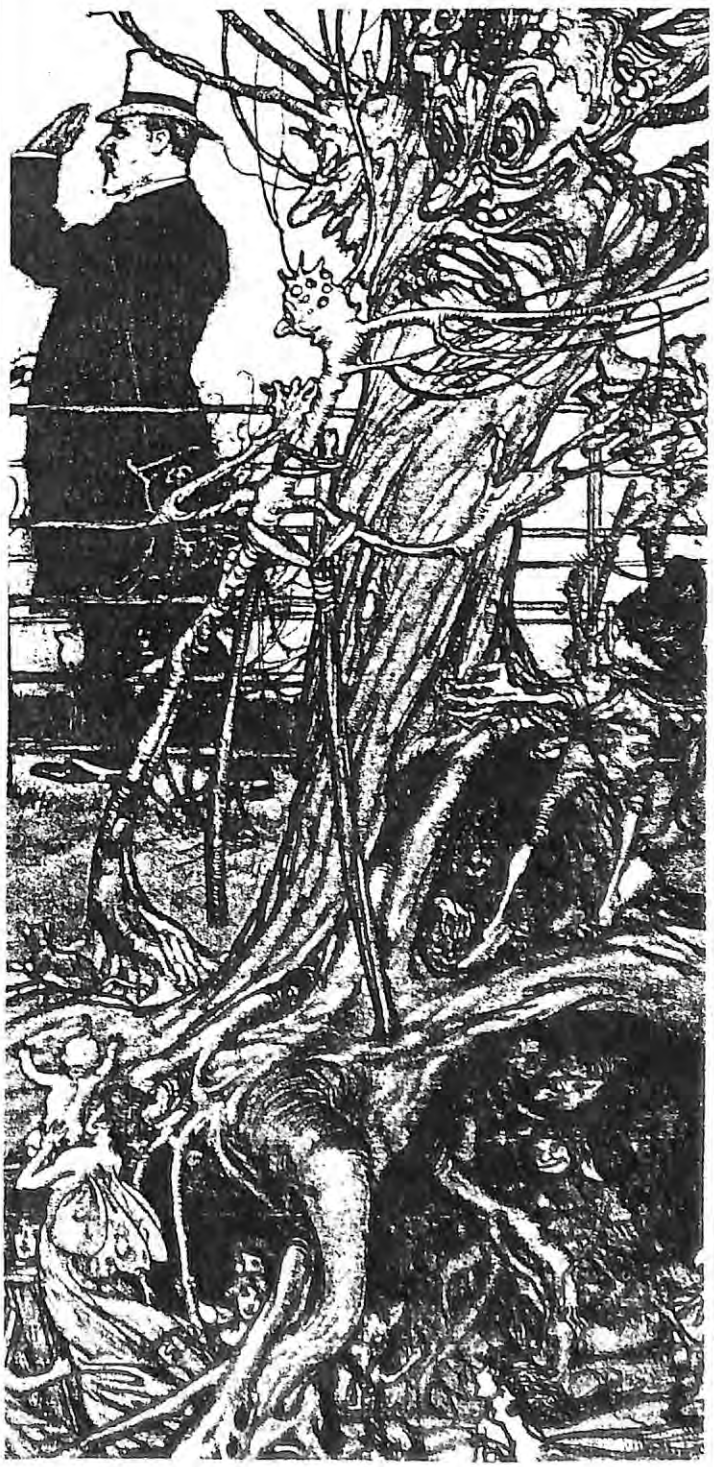


Illustration by Arthur Rackham from Peter Pan 1913 Edition Charles Scribner's Sons

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includes a projected tour by Laurent Defrance of some hundreds of parks throughout the world in search of the work of artisans; and a paper on designs for the embellishment of the Place de la Revolution in a town near Toulouse (Blagnac Haute Garonne).

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A CONSULTANT IN ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Phil Colbourn the co-author of "Britain's Natural Heritage" - see Should You Read - has recently left Hampshire County Council to establish a professional practice. Principally dealing with ecological and planning matters his practice also offers research into landscape history and interpretation. Enquiries to Philip H Colbourn, Ecological Planning and Research, 6 Hatherley Road, Winchester, Hants SO22 6RT Telephone 0962 842537

LANDSCAPES REVISITED 1: THE STOKE GARDEN FESTIVAL SITE

'During the last ten years the environment of Stoke-on-Trent has been transformed. Alongside the tranquility of the city's parks, the harsh landscape once ravished by industrial need has been softened through award-winning land reclamation schemes to produce some of the finest parkland ever created in a conurbation. The 1986 National Garden Festival site is a prime example'.

1989 Mini-Guide Stoke-on-Trent

'...and what do you tell visitors who ask to see the Garden Festival site?' I asked the Stoke Tourist Information Centre.....'That it is no longer there, that people expect flowers, that it is being developed, that jobs have been created, that it will open again in September', were the key elements of the reply.

And open in September it will ... 'The Most Fun You Could Ever Have in One Place Starts This Autumn' under the title of the Rank Festival Park. The modest promotional leaflet banishes all thoughts of landscape, featuring indoor waterland, eight screen cinema, bowling, dry ski-slope, and theme compression of a new order in "Norma Jean's: Experience the lively atmosphere of Norma Jean's - the art deco bar where the 50's come alive"!

Visit the site, having wondered how many jobs have been lost in the ghost town centre of Stoke, and it is very difficult to piece together the structure of an experience which learned from Liverpool and informed Glasgow. There is currently no formal pedestrian or public entrance to the site, no visitor parking area and a total breakdown in site integrity. In one corner the mini - St Katherine's dock marina looks inwards and fine. To the rear warehouse-like skylines seem superimposed on the Formal Garden area. Strict shorthaired security offers no entrance or information save that any photography must appeal to St Modwen, not the patron saint of Garden Festivals but 'a developer with a Birmingham number'.

Former viewpoints are fenced off, the main entrance roundabout is cut by a flyover and the dominant image is of unkempt hill planting. Round the site to the former 'Superkings Festival Market' (fags in greenspace, we should have been warned). Now met by a row of out-of-town/in-town boxy stores with come hither facades which draw little from the intended parkscape opposite. Concrete is being poured today, and in vast quantities.

But there is a way into the site, up to the Woodland Ridge South where the chair lift once passed and supports remain. Here the remnants of an unmaintained and vandalized Garden Festival may still be spotted. Aside from that most traditional of British landscape specialisms, grass cutting, officialdom seems to have conspired with the local vandals to reduce the site to a sad memory. The Kenyan Village huts are stranded out of context but survive. MIND and Picnic Garden areas are identifiable, with the addition of a new, questionable, element of public art. But why have buildings been removed and concrete bases left, like a wartime airfield? Edging details and water basins offer archaeological hints of three years past.

Explanations of the views out from the novel hilltop compass are still in place, but the views out are overgrown and the central sculpture is littered with broken glass. As for the planting, which was intended as 'wild' in much of the area, density prevents vandalism and variety is still evident; this season parts of the Norwegian Garden still survive against all odds. Attention is long overdue and the residual festival paths and spaces are not all appropriate to lower density local leisure use.

But, the reader may argue, Stoke always said that the site was being restored for development, flowers were the seasonal come-on for jobs, and early sales and commercial interest were evidence of its success.

Fine, our Festivals are not like the Dutch and German (as most writers have noted) but there is a residual responsibility to design and maintain with respect to the Garden Festival idea.

However small the area of the site which will remain as parkland, it deserved a development and maintenance programme which would allow it to mature and change image gracefully. If Festival structures were temporary, then so were their bases. Break up the Festival site network but finger post the residual system. Ensure that even if damage is not repaired, then the shards are removed.

More important, if you build up a visitor expectation for a Festival you must expect the memory (reinforced by current guides) to generate return visits - instant visitor attractions are not that instant. When visitors arrive, then tell them what is going on! For the investment of two or three interpretive boards on site and a leaflet on Stoke's creative use of the site the positive publicity that results could replace the nasty taste of neglect and opportunism which lingers from my visit.

Brian Goodey

THE CULTIVATED GARDEN, HIGH WALLS, PULLENS LANE, OXFORD

An exhibition of garden art by the Oxford Gallery held in a private garden in Headington, Oxford - July/August 1989.

This event returns for the third time after an interval of 4 years. The promotors hope that it will become a biennial event.

The setting is interesting and evocative. The turn of the century house overlooks a garden by Harold Peto. It does not have the weighty authority of Lutyens but the classical details have a characteristic lightness of touch, well suited to the wooded site on the edge of Headington Hill. The garden appears truncated at the bottom because the natural flow of the hillside down to the city has been interrupted by a housing estate, otherwise it is easy to transport oneself back 80 or 90 years to more solid imperial times.

Works were scattered round the garden in a somewhat random fashion. No doubt much thought went into the siting of each piece but there was no obvious genius at work here. The works were in a wide variety of media - everything in fact from steel to string. Such disparity was disconcerting in a garden already rich in contrasts. It is perhaps too easy to be conditioned to a gallery with simply defined spaces which provide the backdrop for a variety of works. It would be interesting to know whether the organisers considered grouping some of the larger exhibits.

Having said this, the range of works (by over 40 artists) was impressive. Almost every sort of garden furniture and ornament was represented, extending from craftwork to pure sculpture. There were many enjoyable and witty pieces and most were for sale. As the blurb says 'there is a superb menu on view from which you can decide on commissions for your own garden'.

Simon Rendel

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, MLA/LRG CONFERENCE, BIRMINGHAM, 15th March 1989

This event, organised by the Midland Landscape Association jointly with LRG, had the twofold purpose of examining what EIA is and what it means in terms of landscape, as well as of providing practical guidance to landscape architects engaged in environmental assessment as either project managers or specialist advisers.

As far, at least, as the latter aim is concerned the conference may have been successful, with speakers in the morning considering the background, procedures and techniques of EIA, and two case studies in the afternoon: Roger Hammond on the now abandoned proposal for Fawley B power station and Janet Jack on the Channel Tunnel. Peter Nelson, chairman and first speaker, distinguished between the procedures for producing an EA report to accompany a planning application and the use of EA as an aid to design and development that should be put into operation at a project's very inception. This theme was taken up by John Box of the NCC who argued that it was far better to prevent nuisance and pollution at the outset than merely to mitigate effects later on, and underlined his point by showing that the compensatory tactics of both habitat creation and habitat translocation are more problematic than is sometimes assumed.

Generally the speakers had more - and more useful - things to say about mitigation and design than about assessment itself. Barry Moore did run through a few landscape evaluation techniques, and was entertaining at the expense of photographic 'scoring' and the ingenious 'pupillary dilation' method, but his own preferred topographic technique, involving the assignment of landscape value on a scale of five, left a number of questions unanswered, concerning not least the criteria for assessing landscape quality. Difficult as such questions may be there have been moves away from this sort of 'scoring' approach in recent years, which might usefully have been acknowledged. Both Roger Hammond and Janet Jack gave highly illuminating talks on design rationale, but spoke almost as if mitigation meant neutralisation of all impact, and made little mention of either alternative locations or overall environmental consequences of the schemes. Such issues are of course of major concern given the sensitivities surrounding both the Fawley Power Station and the Channel Tunnel projects.

Peter Nelson, at the end of the day, put his finger on a key issue by querying whether the tasks of assessment and design ought, in the interests of an objective report, to be carried out by the same consultants. The comments from the audience (mainly landscape architects) were fairly insistent that they ought: the two processes went hand in hand; professional judgement and integrity should be relied on, and the period of consultation should allow for the raising of objections. But again one asks, what are the values and criteria to be adopted in assessment? Whose advocate is the landscape consultant? What should be the limits of his terms of reference? Finally, is it any less naive to think that he is impartial than to say that he ought to be?

John Metson

HISTORICAL RESEARCH AS A BASIS FOR LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Readers may remember the LRG York conference report (LR Extra No 1). Among the conclusions voiced by those who attended was that 'landscapes needed to be imaged and would not otherwise receive care' and that perhaps - this from a landscape historian - 'historic landscapes were a valuable means of enhancing that image'.

It is therefore interesting to note that the potential areas for the Midlands Forest are areas with pre-existing forest names: the Forest of Arden, Sherwood Forest, Rockingham Forest, Charnwood Forest, and the Forest of Wyre. These names have been used purposely to convey and sell the concept and to trade on the historic tradition, which one may imagine is fine unless the idea is overextended and used as a cynical device.

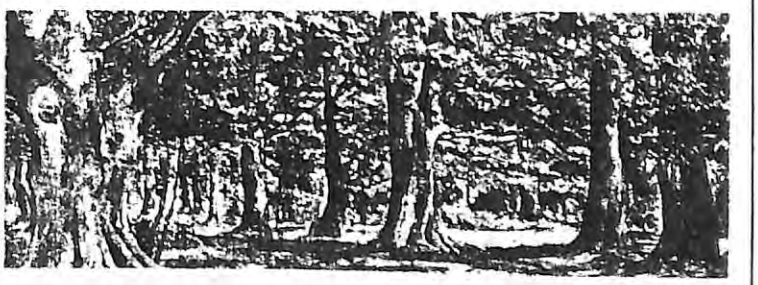
Della Hooke's paper "The Warwickshire Arden: the evolution and future of an historic landscape" (see listing in "Landscape History 1988") discusses the land use history of one of these areas. In it she explains the tradition of Arden as a Norman forest perhaps a royal hunting area which at an early date was variously emparked locally by manorial lords or cleared and settled. To quote from Della Hooke's conclusions "However the essence of Arden character does not lie in such sites alone (medieval earthworks traces): it is largely a combination of the area's natural topography and the pattern of settlement and routeways that has evolved over the centuries....but there has always been a preferment for some type of pastoral farming; ....and the small distinctive fields characteristic of assarting and enclosure have in many areas managed to survive. The very density of settlement in the area has prevented the amalgamation of fields which has occurred elsewhere".

Royal forests and chases are a new means by which Hampshire County Planning Officer, Bob Savage, intends his staff should image a number of areas for landscape conservation. Hampshire to be honest do not go for the term landscape conservation but make their pitch in historic, archaeological and ecological terms. This perhaps hints at the problems they, with others, have in analysing the physical, visual and experiential character of the landscape.

Hampshire inform me that they are 'out in front' with this idea. They have identified 5 potential non-mandatory Countryside Heritage Areas on this basis. A number of them coincide with areas of heather rich lowland heath which European ecologists are particularly anxious to conserve.

Arrangements for the first area, the Forest of Eversley will echo those in place in the Hampshire New Forest. To quote two passages from material supplied "Visible and identifiable remains of eight or nine such Forests and Chases exist. When these historic landscape features are identified and explained, (my underlining) they can form the basis for developing local awareness, concern and action to safeguard and enhance the Hampshire countryside". And : "The Forest of Eversley forms one of the best preserved examples of a medieval forest in Southern England. The heart of Eversley Forest and the Heritage area is the largest tract of surviving heathland in Hampshire outside the New Forest. The national importance of this area is reflected in the seven SSSIs which have been notified within it. However the conservation interest extends well beyond the unenclosed heartland of heath, mire and acid grassland to include a mosaic of meadows, enclosed woodlands and isolated commons and village greens in the surrounding countryside". There is here something of the agricultural marginality and close settlement pattern which Della Hooke speaks of in Warwickshire Arden.

In locating Heritage Areas one stated objective is "To define areas to which local communities can relate because of their distinctive characteristics, recognisable boundaries and potential for integrated cooperative management".



Examination of the Eversley area suggests that integrated cooperative management could work for it comprises a large Forestry Commission woodland estate, other woodlands, two major heaths, one of which is a county country park, a couple of parks and a low proportion of agricultural land much of which is best suited to grazing. Its population may well welcome the idea. Its size may also have an important bearing - it is about 50sq km.

How then for other areas largely arable, less easily imaged, less ecologically or historically interesting? Elsewhere in this issue we refer to the Blackdown Hills (Devon-Somerset) landscape description, which deals with an area five times the size and may form the base document for the construction of a strategy.

Copies of 'The Forest of Eversley Heritage Area' can be obtained from Hampshire County Council Planning Department, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UE

SHOULD YOU READ?

* N Walford, M Lane, J Shearman **The Rural Areas Data Base: a geographical information and mapping system on rural Britain** Trans Inst Brit Geographers 14(2) 221-231

* J Marriot **West Ham: London's industrial centre and gateway to the world I. Industrialisation 1840-1910** The London Journal 13(2) 1987/8 121-142 and **II. Stabilisation and Decline 1910-1939** 14(1)

* J Grassman **London Synagogues in the late 19th century: design in context The London Journal 13(2) 1987/8** 143-155

* B W Dollin **Moated sites in north east Norfolk** Norfolk Archaeology 39/3 1986 262-277

* D Austin **The medieval settlement and landscape of Castle Eden, Peterlee, County Durham Excavations 1974** Durham Archaeological Journal Vol 3 1987

* H P Blume **Classification of soils in urban agglomerations** Catena 16 1989 269-275

* G O'Hare **Landcover recognition in the Peak District, Derbyshire using Landsat 5 TM data** The East Midland Geographer 10(2) Dec 1987 45-53

* J Sponemann & F Lehmeier **Geomorphological mapping in the Federal Republic of Germany - standardisation and further development** Erdekunde 43(2) June 1989 77-84

* M T Wild & P N Jones **Rural suburbanisation and village expansion in the Rhine Rift Valley - a cross frontier comparison** Geografiska Annaler 70B 1988 2

* C Y Jim **Tree canopy cover, land use and planning implication in Urban Hong Kong** Geoforum 20(1) 1989 57-68. Also in Geographical Review

* K F Nordstrom & E L Lotskin **Perspectives on resource use of dynamic coastal dunes** The Geographical Review 79(1) January 1989

* B W Ilbery & N J Evans **Estimating land loss on the urban fringe: a comparison of the agricultural census and aerial photograph/map evidence** Geography 74(3) June 1989 214-221

* B Roberts **Urban Development - European villages past, present and future** Geographical 61(7) July 1989

* Seppe Cassettari An assessment of attainment and quality in 6 countries' **European map making** Geographical 61(8) (RGS) August 1989 34-37

* D Jones, D Brook & D Brunsden **Landsliding in Britain** (gives distribution maps). As above

* M Williams **Historical geography and the concept of landscape** Journ of Historical Geography 15(1) 1989 92-104

* D Alexander **Urban landslides** Progress in Physical Geography 13(2) 1989

* E J P Marshall **Distribution of plants associated with arable field edges** Journ Applied Ecol 26(1) April 1989 247-257

* J M Sykes, V P W Lowe & D R Briggs **Some effects of afforestation on the flora and fauna of an upland sheepwalk during 12 years after planting.** As above 299-320

* B F D Barrett & R Therival **E I A in Japan: environmental protection versus economic growth** Land Use Policy 6(3) 1989 217-231

* P Bell & P Cloke **The changing relationship between the private and public sectors: privatisation and rural Britain** Journ of Rural Studies 5(1) 1989 1-16

* L Dewhurst **Housing the workforce: a case study of West Yorkshire 1750-1900** Industrial Archaeology Review XI(2) 1989 117-135

* M Downing **Comment: Garden Festivals and their uses** Planning Outlook 31(1) 1988 4-6

* T R Herzog **A cognitive analysis of preference for urban nature** Journ of Environmental Psychology 9(1) 1989 27-44

* A N Lance, I D Baugh & J A Love **Continued footpath widening in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland** Biological Conservation 49(3) 1989 201-214

* R Marshall **Agricultural policy development in Britain: rural land use planning issues** Town Planning Review 59(4) 1988 419-436

* R Martin **Spaces, places and landmarks: environmental art** A D Art & Design 5(3/4) 1989 54-59

* H C Parkins **The country in the town: the role of real estate developers in the construction of the meaning of place** Journ of Rural Studies 5(1) 1989 61-74

* E S Thompson **Landscape and legend - concerns Australian native art.** Studio International 201(1020) 1988 31-35

* Yi Fu Tuan **Surface phenomena and aesthetic experience** Annals of Assoc of American Geographers 79(2) 1989 233-241

* S B Warner Jr **The search for the meaning of landscapes** Journ of Urban History 15(3) 1989 324-328 (Review Essay)

* M Williams **Deforestation: past and present** Progress in Human Geography 13(2) 1989 176-208

* A Wilton **Turner and the sense of place** Turner Studies 8(2) 1988 26-32

* Built Environment 14(2) 1988 issue devoted to **Rating places**

* Environmental Interpretation March 1989 issue devoted to **Urban Interpretation**

* Natural Resources Journal 29(1) 1989 issue devoted to **Wilderness: past, present and future**

* M Timms **The future of Hampshire's heathland** Hampshire County Council, published by Hampshire Books 1989 16pp many colour photos

* S Walker **Lesson from America (the landscape conservation activities of the Vermont Land Trust)** Roots Issue 5 June/July 1989 16-17

* Roots Issue 5 1989 contains short articles on contaminated land and remedial techniques.

* J Meens, JD Vander Hoeg & M Wigermans **Changing agricultural landscapes in Europe (book).** Available Knep Host Bookseller, Vagenin, Netherlands 27guilders 50cents

* Wiley Publishers are now advertising a new quarterly journal "Land Degradation and Rehabilitation" which may be of interest to LRG members inasmuch as such processes directly affect the quality of the landscape. Details: John Wiley & Sons Ltd Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1UD, England or 605 Third Avenue, New York NY10158 LR Extra will scan the titles for landscape content.

* D Edwards & P Wade-Martins **Norfolk from the Air** Published by Norfolk Museums Service 1987

* R Brown **Threatened Moorland Revived** - heather moor regeneration and management National Parks Today 24 1989 4-5

* P Colbourne & R Gibbons **Britain's Natural Heritage: Reading our countryside's past** Blandford Press 1987 ISBN 0-7137-1750-5

* Cobham Resource Consultants **The Blackdown Hills Landscape** Researched and written for the Countryside Commission CCP258 ISBN 086170.212.2 1989

The Newsletter of the RSA Future Countryside Programme - Issue 1 August 1989. Setting the Agenda contains a synopsis of views expressed in the 1988 invited regional seminars. Further information from RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ Telephone 01.930.5115

A Vision of Britain HRH Prince Charles, Doubleday 1989 Price £16.95

Metamorphosis The Newsletter on the Environment No 3 1989. 200, rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels



A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE

Roots is a new twenty four page professionally produced magazine which LRG members may find of interest. Duncan Ashcroft describes his publication as a 'magazine for the professional environmentalist'. It carries short seriously written articles describing new ideas and practice. The issue on the editor's desk deals with land contamination, the effect of increasing car ownership, the Vermont Land Trust, as well as news items and an extensive assembly (24 columns) of future events including TV and radio listings. At £7.50 for 12 copies it seems good value, and the owners claim 7,000 copies distributed. Details from Roots 26 Kiln Lane, Dentons Green, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 6AD Telephone 0744 24738.

EVENTS

17-19 September (New dates) **River Landscapes: Environmental Partnerships in Practice** LRG sponsored the Thames Water Authority. Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey. Contact Mrs Carys Swanwick, LRG Secretary, Leuric, North Road, South Kilworth, Nr Lutterworth, Leics LE17 6DU Telephone 0858-575530

19 September - 29 October (10am-10pm) **"Legacy - our rural heritage 60 years on"** Commissioned photographs of the English countryside illustrating protective campaigns and the achievements of the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England). Other exhibition stops include Portsmouth, Birmingham, Northampton, Manchester and Sheffield. Contact for touring details 01-235-9481 (Press officer CPRE)

20-22 September **Managing geographical information systems** Conference at Lancaster University Contact Miss Davies, Northwest Regional Research Laboratory, University of Lancaster, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YW

23 September **Green Villages, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow** Conference at the Architectural Association, London Contact: The Greentown Group, 19 Cawardon, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6AH Tel 0908-310066

26 September **Street Design '89** - an exhibition of street furniture etc. Contact Jackie Roche of EEC, POBox 13 Hereford House, Bridle Path, Croydon CR9 4NL

27 September **Grassland management** One day workshop by the National Turfgrass Council and the Countryside Commission. Caters for the growth in interest in flowery meadows and their management. Details from J P Sheldrick, National Turfgrass Council, 3 Ferrands Parkway, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1HZ

28 September **Trees in relation to construction** RTPI Southern Branch/Landscape Institute meeting, White Hart, Fyfield, nr Oxford. Details John Rawling 0235.20851

2 October **Quarrying: towards a better environment** at Bristol includes Prof David Bellamy Contact Michael Arthur, The Institute of quarrying, 7 Regent Street, Nottingham NG1 5BY

3 October **The Nature of Landscape Architecture** by Dan Kiley - eminent American landscape architect, a joint Landscape Institute/RIBA lecture. Contact RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD

9 October **New Perspectives in Woodland Enterprises** CLA Conference at Harper Adams College, Newport, Shropshire. Enquiries CLA Regional Office, Stafford (0785) 664947

27 October **Splashing out – Waterside Regeneration** The Royal Town Planning Institute, 26 Portland Place, London W1N 4BE. Venue: Cavendish Conference Centre.

28 October – 2 December **Common Ground, Save our Orchards** A touring photographic exhibition by James Ravilions which documents the differences between traditional and new orchards in south west England, and the methods of working them – part of Common Ground's campaign to conserve old orchards and plant new ones. Exhibition opens at the Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

6-11 November Kyoto, Japan **International Conference on Urban Climate, Planning and Building.** Details from IFHP/CIB/WMO International Conference on Urban Climate Planning and Building c/o Assoc. Prof. Yasuto Nakamura, Dept of Architecture, Kyoto University, Sakyo-Ku, Kyoto 606, Japan or in UK contact Prof V B Torrance, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, EH14 4AS Tel 031.449.5111 x4641

2-3 March 1990 A Landscape Interpretation and Analysis symposium on **Vision, Culture, and Landscape** will be held by the Dept of Landscape Architecture, Univ of California, Berkeley, in honour of J B Jackson and R Burton Litton. The principal organiser is Prof Paul Groth. LRG participants include Jay Appleton, Denis Cosgrove, and David Lowenthal.

HOLIDAY LANDSCAPES

The landscape practitioner makes a mistake if he or she spends his (or her!) holidays in familiar urban or rural landscapes. A trip to someone else's landscape is a valuable visual stimulus.

With this in mind the editor draws your attention to a tiny cartoon in the Independent saturday supplement which shows a pathetic, unshaved, down at heel old man standing in the High Street: a notice on his chest reads "I will look at your holiday photos, 50 pence". We in turn and on the same basis will look at your holiday landscape descriptions. Better still the editor personally and without question will pay 50p to any description he publishes in the next two issues.

The following "Highlights from Menorca!"should encourage even the least confident landscape enthusiast.

'Ancient scrubby fig trees close walled about within spiney fallowed fields all burnt up in the summer sun; amazing homely caves chopped into the soft rock cliffs anywhere; dignified, ornate, space saving multistorey tombs in walled cemeteries, (handles on the front seem to suggest you can open and close them like filing cabinets); landscapes of diminuitive shrub-crowned low hills within ploughed fields that outlandscape the very best parkland; ginormous beach apartment blocks 'sand surrounded and suddenly seen' with wholly unlandscaped external surroundings: the severe horizontal lines of the military bases at the entrance to Mahon Harbour.'

Readers will uphold the Editor's decision to make no payment to this contributor whose elegaic prose was accepted unopposed.

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* Colour vertical airphotography of many UK counties etc
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* Expert airphoto interpretation
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Contact Michael Brownen 01 685 9393 at 92-94 Church Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3TD

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