

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 8 SPRING 1991

JAY APPLETON, RETIRED ?

While in retirement, out of sight and probably out of the minds of all but old colleagues, one has time as never before to use one's accumulated experience in a wider perspective. Regrettably, retirement offers no secretarial assistance; no more funding from our employers for conferences or anything else for that matter and no more sharpening of ones brains by those challenging weekly confrontations with active young persons more intelligent than oneself. Alas!

But for my part I have employed my time producing a few little drops in the ocean of human knowledge, two of which might be of some interest to your readers. The first is another round in the 'nature versus nurture' argument, an addiction which I have found hard to kick. It has appeared under the title **"The symbolism of habitat: an interpretation of landscape in the arts"** and it challenges the orthodoxy of what I call 'The aesthetic priesthood. It is published by the University of Washington Press in Seattle (hardback $17.50) and is available in the UK at £8.95 from Reaktion Books, 1-5 Midford Place, Tottenham Court Road London W1P 9HH.

The second is a collection of little pieces about landscape, conservation, environment etc., which together address the theme that all of us who are engaged in the Landscape Movement stand in perpetual danger of taking ourselves too seriously. It is published by The Book Guild, Lewes, Sussex under the title **"The funny thing about landscape: cautionary tales for environmentalists"** (hardback £9.50). Other brews are maturing in the vat.

Both of these indiscretions will probably lose me friends, so I should welcome assurances that there are still some other old Nags around who share my philosophy that being put out to grass is fun. Better anyhow than the knackers yard.

Jay Appleton (lately Professor of Geography at Hull and one time chairman of LRG and that not long since)

SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE: PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE LANDSCAPE

- convened by LRG and the Visual Arts Department of the University of Wales
25-27 September Gregynog Hall, Newtown, Powys

Those wishing to contribute a paper should send their ideas to Professor A Crawford, Visual Art Department, The University College of Wales, Llanbadarn Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 1HB. The selection process will attempt to provide a broad coverage of landscape disciplines, and a broad range of photographic purposes.

The conference will explore the possibilities of productive cooperation between the many disciplines which take or use photographs of landscape. In addition to an examination of the use of the landscape to provide photographs as art objects, there will be concentration on the other uses of photography out of doors. After surveying the histories of such photographic practices there will be some research papers on contemporary concerns.

Photographic workshops, led by practising photographers, will explore the making of photographs within the landscape context, and an exhibition of work from the University's collection will be on view. There will be ample time for informal and formal discussion and practice. Participants are expected to bring both cameras and photographs with them.

Gregynog Hall, the home of the Gregynog Press, is the residential centre of the University of Wales. The finest mock Tudor house in the Principality, Gregynog has spacious accommodation, set in a fine formal garden, surrounded by magnificent rural landscape.

The Visual Art Department at Aberystwyth is one of the few European university departments with a research commitment to the history and practice of photography, which is also taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Numbers are limited to 50, and the cost is likely to be £125.00 including lunch on 25th and 27th. Those hoping to attend should contact the domestic organizer quickly: **Peter Howard, Kerswell House South, Broadclyst, Exeter EX5 3AF UK Tel: 0392 61390 or 0392 475101 at Polytechnic South West.**

COMMUNITY FORESTS: A CHALLENGE FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS from the project director of the Forest of Mercia

The creation of large new forests around major English towns and cities, as envisaged by the Forests for the Community Programme promoted by the Countryside Commission and the Forestry Commission, is probably the biggest intellectual challenge for landscape architects and planners since the first New Towns were launched in the late 1940's. Already a number of fundamental issues are beginning to emerge which need to be addressed if the initiative is to progress further.

Firstly there is a question of perception. It is not only the general public, but many professionals who have immediately translated the Community Forest concept into 'wall to wall' tree planting! Gone is the more traditional understanding of forests, which in the medieval sense means 'trees in space'. Such ancient forests like Epping and the New Forest, not only contain extensive woodlands but also a rich mosaic of other habitats Unfortunately as sites are already becoming available within forest areas they are ear marked for forestry planting irrespective of the existing landscape character.

Although the first phase of Community Forests has been targeted at areas of significant landscape disruption there are, in the Forest of Mercia, remnants of historic and attractive landscapes that will be retained and used to influence the nature and scale of new planting. One major concern is that new schemes will be seen as opportunities to get as many trees as possible into the ground as a way of creating the forest rather than reflecting the existing character of the area which may demand a lower level of planting.

Road proposals are of particular concern because of their scale and artificial way that they cut across the landscape. The Forest of Mercia is affected by two major road proposals, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road and the Wolverhampton Western Orbital Road. Landscape corridors have already been designated for both routes and there is a danger that they will be treated as linear landscapes in isolation from the surrounding countryside. Whilst most landscape planners would draw references from the existing countryside there is no guarantee that their paymasters will adopt such as approach, often their main concern is to minimise the visual impact of their scheme and so believe mistakenly that mass tree planting to provide a continuous screen is the most effective way.

Of equal concern is the need to avoid over specification and to establish an investment differential across the forest area. Perhaps the



bane of urban park management has been the rigid adherence to set standards both in terms of design and maintenance irrespective of location or status. Such standards are generally based on the most prestigious and intensively managed site. This approach poses very real financial implications for new forest and their subsequent maintenance. A sense of place is often prevented from becoming established because of a uniform approach. Certainly it will prove more difficult to develop the transition from town to country if an investment differential is not established.

Even within the forest there will be a need for an investment differential that distinguishes between important and lesser sites. The importance of a site maybe expressed in terms of its function or location and status should be reflected in landscape treatment. If every scheme is to reflect a perfectly structured 'high forest' then it will be more difficult to develop a sense of place or highlight the status of site. It will also restrict the variety that currently exists within our landscape which is in itself a source of visual stimulation and changing wildlife value.

Finally we must also remember that a large proportion of the forest area is in private ownership. High planting costs and maintenance bills will not encourage farmers and landowners to participate in the forest scheme.

Landscape architects and planners have a very important role in guiding the creation of these forests. Already some fundamental issues have arisen and maybe the solution(s) lies in a re-assessment of how we approach large scale landscape planning.

What do you think? Are these real issues or do you have significant faith in the ability of landscape planners to convince clients of the need for proper

landscape assessment and the continuation of a sense of place. **I would like to hear your views so please write to me Graham Hunt, at: The Forest of Mercia, 49 Park Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1JN**

WETLANDS: A THREATENED LANDSCAPE

Since Laurence Rose wrote about the disappearance of wetland landscapes in the Mediterranean region (Landscape Research Extra 7 Winter 1990/1), a world-wide survey of the present state of wetlands has been published. Edited by Michael Williams as a Special Publication for the Institute of British Geographers, **Wetlands: a threatened landscape** indicates the extent and rapidity of the destruction of these precious wildlife habitats. The loss of feeding grounds for migratory birds is, as Laurence Rose states, particularly serious in the Mediterranean, but in other parts of the world damage to different plant and animal communities is no less severe. The threat to remaining areas of wetland is widely recognised and the value of wildlife is now well appreciated. In this respect, public attitudes have changed dramatically during the past thirty years. Before 1960, Aldo Leopold and a few other writers pleaded for the protection of wetlands as wildlife reserves. At that time most farmers and many other people regarded these areas as watery wastes calling loudly for improvement by embanking and draining. In a historical perspective, the conservation movement has a recent origin and has had to overcome the deeply held view that lands capable of raising profitable crops and livestock ought not to be allowed to lie idle. A change in outlook among rural inhabitants in western Europe and North America has come about in a period of falling prices for farm produce and and a build-up of agricultural surpluses. The setting aside of agriculturally marginal wetland has the positive attraction of helping to save geese and ducks. But it is as well to be reminded that Arthur Young viewed the flooding of Cambridgeshire fens in 1805 as a catastrophe for local people. He lamented that "there was nothing to be seen but desolation". **Hugh Prince**

RIVER MONITORING CHARGES

The National Rivers Authority is to charge industrial, agricultural and other dischargers of effluent to inland and coastal waterways for the work involved in monitoring discharges and their impact on receiving waters. Published NRA plans propose annual charges relating to the condition of NRA consents which permit discharges to be made. They would be based on the volume of a discharge, its contents and where it is discharged.

CONFERENCE ON HABITAT CREATION AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN POST-INDUSTRIAL AND URBAN LANDSCAPES A conference organised by the Industrial Ecology Group of the British Ecological Society. Univ of Nottingham 25-27 March 1991

As the turn-away list of nearly a hundred people suggests, this was a most timely event. For those fortunate enough to attend it was a well-managed, value-for-money-feast of professional papers on a subject which now features on the desks of planners, landscape professionals and a very wide range of community groups. A publication is intended but some of the major themes are worth outlining as indicative of current energy in ecology.

David Goode has the pioneer status which permits a synoptic overview and the initial plea for more solid philosophical foundations for the subject. He questioned what sort of habitats? how were they perceived? and who were they for? He drew attention to the absence of monitoring of 'completed' projects, and the need to achieve a practical relationship between professionals and the community. **Ian Trueman** provided some evidence of monitoring in the creation of wildflower meadows, a popular habitat featured in several papers. Of these, a practical appraisal from **Old Hall Wildflowers** emphasised that many problems evident in habitat creation were designed into the schemes through a lack of understanding of plant materials.

Rachel Penn of R.P.S.Clouston opened out a major controversy with her question as to whether habitat creation was a developer's 'buy off'. Examples from practice, together with those provided by **Catharine Bicknore** of Travers Morgan and by **J.B.Redmayne** of Leicester Ecology Trust illustrated the environmental profits which can be earned from a careful negotiation of development and planning paths. Redmayne's presentation neatly focused the need to monitor both habitat and community within the urban context. His definition of habitat creation as 'the process of creating semi-natural habitats for the people and wildlife' underscored the emphasis of the conference.

The session on Conservation of Wildlife Habitats was keynoted by **Reinhard Bocker** who provided a structured overview whilst dropping such descriptive asides as 'architectural parsley' for mean urban landscaping. Subsequent papers showed the need to establish habitat surveys and site alert maps for urban areas where there was ample evidence of continued erosion. **Oliver Gilbert's** ramble through the knotweed and figs of Sheffield's Don Valley was a delight, but a more significant question was - perhaps unintentionally - raised by **L.W.Adams** of the U.S. National Institute for Urban Wildlife whose belief - 'I don't know the level of

social need for urban wildlife but I am convinced it exists' would not stand up at many enquiries.

The first day ended with a preliminary sortie on wildlife corridors and their scientific justification, a subject where 'further research is needed' although two reports are due.
The second day began with a level of environmental professionalism seldom seen in the U.K. when **Brad Burkhart** of Environmental and Energy Services Co. of San Diego illustrated the maturity of mitigation schemes derived from lengthy US EIA experience. A report on the **Manchester Polytechnic Limestone Research Unit** White Peak project in restoration blasting suggested a similar level of ecological, aesthetic and political sensitivity.

Amidst a variety of habitat creation reports there was a summary of the **Liverpool University** Ltd. survey of 130 U.K. sites and a most informed presentation by **K.A. Roberts** of the R.S.P.B. on the creation of diverse habitats and high local use on five waste hectares at Rye House in Hoddesdon.

All in all a very positive meeting, but one in which the planning, policy and legal issues were only hinted at. Major scientific questions with regard to establishment, size, form, and monitoring remain, but extension of habitat creation and urban wildlife conservation will depend on local government and community structures. In this regard the repositioning of the Nature Conservancy Council as English Nature, and prospects for local government reorganisation are crucial.

Brian Goodey

WATERMARK DISEASE OF WILLOW

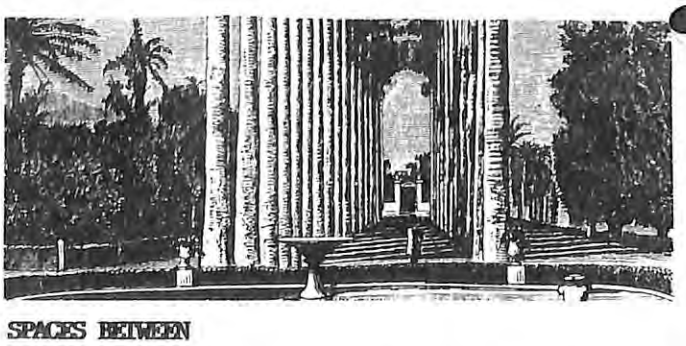
Tree willows are valued for their capacity for very rapid growth - some varieties reach maturity in 15 years - producing an attractive foliage that serves as a screen, or as green areas within residential areas. Some of the new towns in particular have made extensive use of willow for landscaping, to good effect.

But wherever these tree willows are grown in quantity, it is important that managers are aware of the potential problem posed by the watermark disease. In the Netherlands the watermark disease has been so destructive to their tree willows that the problem has been declared a national disaster. In this country, watermark occurs in the cricket bat willows grown for the commercial production of wood, but has been kept in check through regular inspection of the crop, and the felling of any trees found to be infected. It does not yet appear to be a problem in our amenity willow, but if the disease were ever to become established in these, the prospects for controlling its spread would be very slim indeed.

Watermark is recognised by the appearance of "red leaf" in early summer. The newly formed leaves on a single branch, or one section of the crown, shrivel and die. If the branch is lopped off, the wood will be discoloured, typically with a ring of dark brown stain wwhere the wood should be white. This is the characteristic watermark symptom. In successive years the crown becomes killed as individual branches die back and entire plantations may become thus affected.

In its early stages within a plantation, the disease may be eradicated by the felling and destruction of any trees found to be diseased. But the best method of control is to ensure that the young stock is bought from merchants who are aware of the problem and have made efforts to screen their material for freedom from watermark. Also, avoid planting any of the extremely susceptible varieties, particularly the Dutch variety "Liempde" which is no longer being planted in that country because of its susceptibility. Other susceptible Dutch varieties are "Drakenburg", "Belders" and "Lichtenvoorde".

Note The editor who is fond of willows and has seen the enormous plantations of willow in Milton Keynes has asked me to write this note about my research. Tree planters and landscape architects may have picked the information up in other publications. If watermark is suspected, please contact me, **Dr John Turner, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia,** Norwich NR4 7TJ. I will be pleased to arrange confirmation of the diagnosis at no cost.



SPACES BETWEEN

The Open Spaces Society and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations have joined to produce a booklet which draws attention to the importance of open space in the quality of urban life. The booklet is called Spaces Between and deals with the why of space need, how it is threatened and how local people can help in conserving it.

Free copies (large SAE please) are available on request from **The Open Spaces Society, 25A Bell Street, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA.**

LANDSCAPE CHANGE: THE DIFFICULT CHOICES POSED BY MINERALS PLANNING

Preparation of our Berkshire Minerals Local Plan confronts us with a wide range of practical landscape issues - where the word 'landscape' is applied in the widest sense rather than as something purely visual. The issues include how to limit damage or, more positively, how to ensure maximum benefits.

Damage limitation involves Berkshire in the study of a wide range of environmental interests: visual landscape, wildlife interests, the historic and cultural heritage, water supplies and pollution, agriculture, and people's living conditions, assessed in terms of national or local impact. We used a fairly standard 'sieving' approach, but it provided a very organised way of identifying where development could be accomodated with least harm, and made very explicit any choices which result. Field work as well as desk study was involved. This work also provided a pilot test for our GIS system, now operational.

The process threw up interesting issues, on which there is no right answer. Take, for example, the UK national designation 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)' - areas of national scenic interest. In Berkshire, we have decided to regard such national designations as first-order contraints against mineral development, that is, as a matter of principle we have not allowed sand and gravel extraction within the North Wessex Downs AONB. Yet we have done so, well aware that there are some areas of the AONB, especially on its boundaries, which are not scenically special and - mineral operators might well argue - could accomodate mineral working without too much intrusion. At the same time we have pointed extraction to areas which are arguably more attractive and sensitive to disturbance. The Countryside Commission (English national policy adviser) will, no doubt applaud the upholding of 'their' policy; but it will not be easy to convince local people of the wisdom of such a choice.

Such anomalies are apparent at a larger scale too. As we carefully protect our North Wessex Downs AONB, we in Berkshire have been content to benefit from damage to the Mendips AONB southwest of us in Somerset. After all, the Government's policy is to encourage the import of aggregates into the southeast. The Mendips have major limestone quarries which can supply us by rail. And in this way we reduce by one-third the amount of minerals sites otherwise necessary in Berkshire. In Berkshire, naturally, we say thank you for this relief! But the paradox is not an easy one to justify in landscape terms.

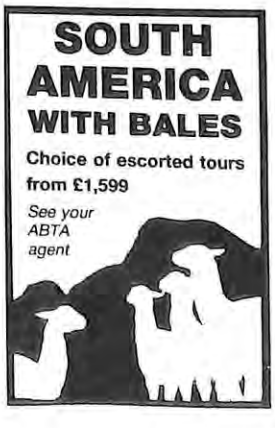
Our positive approach lays emphasis on restoration and after-use issues. A major aspect of this is the preparation of detailed landscape strategies so that we achieve landscape enhancement and more facilities for general public benefit both on extraction sites and in their wider surrounding areas. In two parts of the county, we have decided this will be best achieved by allowing clustering of mineral extraction sites. This will allow a coordinated pattern of working and restoration and maximise the scope for 'planning gains'. Again, convincing local people that such benefits outweigh the disadvantages to them will not be easy.

Such nasty choices are the everyday fare of town and country planners (supported in my team's case by other professional environmental staff). The nasty choices are particularly acute for County Councils (the strategic planning, minerals and waste disposal authorities), as the large scale and distant time horizons we deal with involve us in major rather than purely local decisions.

LRG's journal **Landscape Research** is full of interesting stuff on the research front, which has widened my horizons and thinking. But has landscape research in its current form given me much guidance for the sorts of problems outlined above? If it has, I find it difficult to decide how, except in the broadest sense that it made me determined to ensure Berkshire's new Minerals Local Plan would be 'restoration strategy led' and would reflect landscape issues in the widest sense.

So, you landscape researchers ..... what is on your agenda for the next few years, and how will it help me?

Steven Shuttleworth, Head of Environment Branch, Berkshire County Council, currently and for many years treasurer to LRG. The views expressed here are, of course, his own and not necessarily the County Councils.



Every publication needs a long running correspondence but we promise to break our obsession with bales from this issue on!

Acknowledgements to:

BALES TOURS DORKING SURREY
0306 76881 ABTA 13960

SHOULD YOU READ?

* **River projects and conservation** A manual for holistic appraisal edited by J L Gardiner National Rivers Authority, Thames Region, UK. Chichester: John Wiley and Sons Ltd approx 250pp due Apr 91 approx £50.00/$77.50

* **Use of vegetation in civil engineering** N J Coppin & I Richards (Project co-ordinators and editors) CIRIA Book B10, 1990 Price £50
* H W M Hewlett, L A Boorman and M E Bramley **Design of reinforced grass waterways** CIRIA Report 116, 1987 Price £30
* **Guide on use of groynes in coastal engineering** C A Fleming CIRIA Report 119, 1990 Price £60
The 3 publications above are from CIRIA The Construction Industry Researce and Information Association.

* **Fit for the future:** Report of the National Parks Review Panel. CCP 334 £20.00 ISBN 086170 291 3
* **The North Pennines landscape** An illustrated landscape assessment of 'England's last wilderness' - the North Pennines AONB. CCP 318 £7.00 ISBN 0 86170 279 4
* **Assessment and conservation of landscape character: The Warwickshire Landscapes Project approach** a report putting forward a practical approach to assessing lowland landscapes, with a view to conserving, restoring and improving the character of the landscape. CCP 332 £5.00 ISBN 0 86170 290 5
The 3 publications above published by the Countryside Commission: Cheltenham.

* **The Landscape Review 1991** A reference book for those interested in the design, management and study of the physical environment. £15.00 from Landscape Review Subscriptions, 5a West Street, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9BL

* Yves Luginbuhl **Paysages: Textes et Representations du Paysage du Siecle des Lumieres a nos Jours** Lyon: La Manufacture 1990 268p
* R Ambroise, P Frapa, S Georgis **Paysages de Terrasses** Edisud. 1989
* Bernard Lassus **Villes-Paysages Couleurs en Lorraine** Edit. Mardaga 217p. 1990
* Composer le Paysage (Construction et crises **de l'espace 1789-1992)** Seyssel, Editions Champ Vallon 1989 364p
* Michel Racine **Le Guide des Jardins de France** Paris, Hachette 1990 352p illustr.
The above five titles are reviewed in Paysages & Amenagement

* O L Gilbert **The ecology of urban habitats** Chapman & Hall 1989 pp369 ISBN412 28270 4 £35 hardback
* Adrian Fisher & Georg Gerster **The Art of the Maze** London: Wiedenfield and Nicholson 1990

* J W R Whitehead and P J Larkham **Housebuilding in the backgarden, reshaping suburban townscapes in the Midlands and South East England** AREA 1991 23.1 p57-65
* From a book review: Ed. John A Agnew and James S Duncan **The power of place: bringing together geographical and sociological imaginations** Boston: Unwin Hyman 1989 272pp £28.00 ISBN 0.04.445281.0
* G Rowley **The Goad Shopping Centre Plans - a new data set for town centre research in Britain; perspectives and directions** CAMBRIA 15 p1-9 ISBN 0306-9796
* James Holston **The Modernist City** An anthropological critique of Brasilia Univ Chicago Press Chicago & London 1989 369p ISBN 0.226.34978.0
* The Behavioural Environment: Essays in Reflection, Application and Re-evaluation Editors Frederick W Boal & David N Livingstone Routledge London & New York 1989 337p ISBN 0.415.00454.3
* W C Rouse **The Frequency of Landslides in the South Wales Coalfield** Cambria 15 167-179 ISBN 0306.9796
* J C Doomkamp **Landslides in Derbyshire** The East Midland Geographer Vol13/2 1990 p33-63
* Joy Tivy **Agricultural Ecology** Harlow: Longman 1990 288p ISBN 0.582.30163.7
* Timothy S Brothers **Surface Mine Grasslands** The Geographical Review Vol 80/3 July 1990 p209-225
* William Norton **Explorations in the Understanding of Landscape** Agricultural Geography 204p Westport Conn: Greenwood Press 1989 ISBN 0.313.26494.5
* Barry W Higman **Jamaica Surveyed: Plantation Maps and Plans of the 18th and 19th centuries** Kingston Inst of Jamaica Publications 1988 ISBN 976.8017.05.8

The three following titles in Geography No 330 Vol 76/1
* Tim Burt & Nick Haycock **Farming and Nitrate Pollution** p60-62
* Ben Vivian & Ron Spiers **Waste disposal and the management of landfill sotes p63-66**
* **Roger Arneth Estuarine pollution: a case study of the Humber** p67-69

* David Nicholson **Images of Reality** (Landscape locations in films and TV) Geographical Magazine 53/4 April 1991 p28-32

* Shelagh Hourahane **Sculpture in the Landscape** Planet No 86 April 1991
* D Baldock, G Cox, P Lowe & M Winter **Environmentally Sensitive Areas: Incrementation or reform?** Jour. of Rural Studies Vol6/2 1990 143-162
* G Higgs & I Bracken **Statutory designation and land-use changes - a case study from mid-Wales** Journal of Rural Studies Vol 6/3 1990 279-290
* Ian Brotherton **Initial participation in UK Set-Aside and ESA schemes** Planning Outlook Vol 33/1 1990 46-61

* H Green, C Hunter & B Moore **Assessing the environmental impact of tourism development** Tourism Management Vol 11/2 1990 111-120
* A Fleming **Landscape archaeology, prehistory and rural studies** Rural History Vol 1/1 1990 5-16
* D N Jeans **Planning and the myth of the English countryside in the interwar period** Rural History Vol 1/2 1990 249-264

* Tim Bentley **A set of ethical principles to guide land use policy** Land Use Policy Vol 8/1 1991 3-8
* D Clery **Europe's orbiting ocean plotter** [ERS-1] New Scientist 27.4.91 Vol 130 41-45
* Andy Goldsworthy **Geometry and Nature: and Art & Design Interview** AD 1990 94-96
* Steve Baker **The Sign of the Self in the Metropolis** Journ of Design History 3/4 1990 227-234
* Alix Wilkinson **Gardens in Ancient Egypt: their locations and symbolism** Journal of Garden History Vol 10/4 1990 199-208
* The Architectural Review April 1991 Vol CLXXXIX No 1130 is a theme issue concerned with **Landscape Art and Ecology**

* P.Wigglesworth **Limestone quarrying and nature conservation** The Planner pp 5-6 dated 26 April 1991

TERRITORIES, ESTATES & MANORS - THE EVOLUTION OF THE WESSEX LANDSCAPE The eleventh annual conference of the Society for Landscape Studies (SLS) September 23rd 1990 at Southampton University.

The aim of the conference was to re-examine, in the light of recent research, the way that changes in the landscape of Wessex have influenced and been influenced by territorial boundaries and divisions, and to what degree these can be seen to change over time from the neolithic period to the late medieval.

The evidence for man's past activities, comprising monuments ranging from Neolithic ritual enclosures to Medieval deserted villages, Iron age linear ditches to parish boundaries, is preserved for us across the varied landscape of Wessex, and forms for much of that time, the only available evidence for human activity. The reasons why, how and when these were created and how they were regarded by those who used them are, of course, central to the study of man's past. In the context of the SLS conference, the way the landscape has been exploited and changed from its natural state to the man-made artefact we see today is of particular interest. The way in which this landscape was divided up and controlled is evidently central to this study. Hints at the divisions existing across the landscape survive in forms such as changes in styles of pottery or ritual monument, or, more concretely, as boundary ditches or historical records of estates. The degree to which these social and economic divisions can be seen to change or remain constant has implications both for the evolution of the landscape per se and for the degree to which external factors influenced the course of man's historical development.

Wessex was interpreted in its widest sense to include Hampshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. The conference was introducted by the president of the Society, **Professor Paul Harvey**, of Durham University.

Dr Andrew Lawson of Wessex Archaeology spoke first, covering the period from the Neolithic, beginning c.3500 BC, to the Iron Age, c.500 BC. The Neolithic is the earliest period of man's history for which adequate evidence survives to posit the existence of territorial divisions. It was suggested that these are indicated by the existence of groups of monuments thought to have a ritual or religious function surviving within a landscape displaying areas between these groups which are devoid of evidence and thus, it can be suggested, human activity. Other evidence in the form of changes in pottery styles backs up the suggestion of the existence of discrete groups of agricultural communities separated by under-exploited areas which may have been forested in the earlier period. These forested areas appear to have been considerably reduced during the Neolithic and Bronze Age, indicating a growing exploitation and control of the landscape.

Mark Corney from the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England then spoke about the Iron Age and early Roman periods, c500 BC to 100 AD. By the early Iron Age, extensive areas of field survive as earthwork monuments across much of Wessex, integrated in many instances with linear ditch boundaries which appear to represent divisions between territories or estates in the late Iron Age. The evidence for continued occupation throughout the period at many large and high status sites upon which the estates are centred indicates, it was suggested, that many of these estates survived the Roman conquest intact.

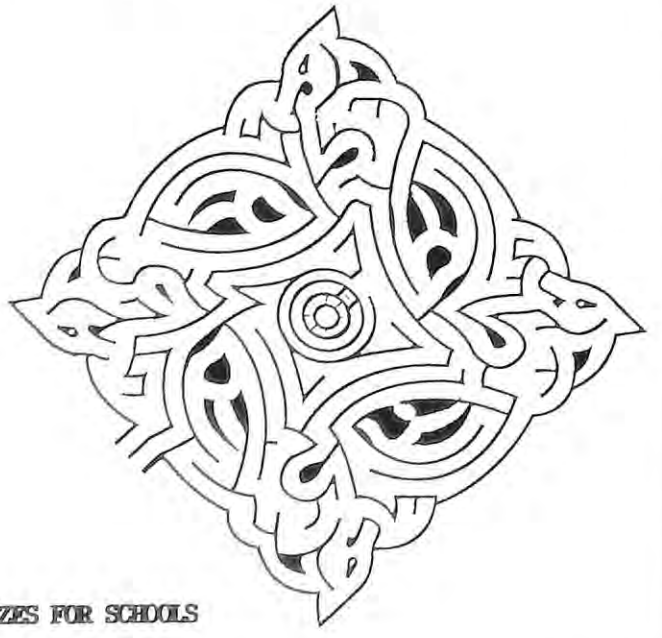
Another period traditionally thought to be one of great disruption and change is the years 300-500AD, spanning the end of the Roman occupation. These were covered by **Dr Simon Esmonde Cleary** of Birmingham University. The changes in the demand on the landscape resulting from the cessation of state exactions and the demands for agricultural surplus to feed the large towns must have led to changes in the countryside, but there is no evidence for great population decline or regeneration of woodland, suggesting that the changes may not have been as great as has been supposed.

During the Anglo-Saxon period, covered by **Dr Della Hooke** of Birmingham University, evidence for the existence of estates becomes more concrete, preserved in documents from the eighth century onwards. Similarities can be seen between the pattern of arable and pastoral exploitation in the Saxon and Medieval periods and highly organised linked territories can be observed, whose boundaries frequently correspond with later parish boundaries.

The Medieval period, spanning the years up to c1500 AD was covered by two speakers, in an attempt to redress the imbalance caused by a focus in the past in Wessex studies on the prehistoric. **Dr John Hare** of Peter Symonds College considered the evidence available for the relationship between manorial lords, peasants and the landscape which can be derived from the documentary sources, notably those of the Bishop of Winchester. **Mick Aston**, of Bristol University Extra-mural department then outlined the nature of the fieldwork-based research that is in progress into one medieval manor, Shapwick in Somerset, which belonged to Glastonbury Abbey.

In all, the conference, attended by 80 people, provided a useful opportunity to bring together a diversity of evidence, all too often separated into chronological specialisms. The leitmotif was the evidence for continuity in the organisation and exploitation of the landscape that could be seen to survive extreme political changes such as documented invasions. As always we need more information to fill in the gaps in our knowledge.

Carenza Lewis
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and editor for SLS.



MAZES FOR SCHOOLS

This attractively designed maze appeared with information sent to me by the Learning Through Landscapes Trust (who involve themselves in school grounds - see our first issue if you can find it!). It was designed by Adrian Fisher and Lesley Beck of Minotaur Designs for The Herb Farm, Sonning Common, Oxfordshire. Apparently the LTL Trust know of only one maze in a British educational establishment, the one outside the maths building at Leicester University constructed in different colours of brick. My guess is that there are dozens in the colleges of France and the United States. Minotaur Designs are at 7,Holly Bush Lane, Harpenden,Herts. AL5 4AL England and 'their' maze book is referenced in 'Should You Read'. The Trust's address is Technology House, Victoria Road, Winchester SO23 7DU if any one wishes to make contact

WELSH EXPERIMENTS IN LANDSCAPE SCULPTURE

The field of experiment in relating sculpture to the land is a lively one at present. Some projects are receiving serious attention from those involved in land reclamation, nature conservation, countryside leisure and cultural awareness,inasmuch as they offer alternative ways of engaging with the land. During the last ten years this practice has been involved in a number of creative and significant projects in Wales. For those travelling in Wales this summer I will focus briefly on a few of these.

Parc Glynllifon is owned by the Gwynedd County Council and is situated about six miles south of Caernarfon, on the Pwllheli road. It is open to the public and since about 1985 the Council have collaborated with professional advisers and artists to develop the thematic landscape sculpture project known as the **Celebration of the Writers of Gwynedd.** Working within an already planned park landscape, which has features dating from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the scheme allows for the development of up to twelve new sites in the park. Each will relate to a form of literature, for example, children's literature, drama, mythology, and the literature that deals with the lives of working people. The sites so far developed open up a late 20th century idea about landscape design which has a specific intellectual programme, and is both in keeping with and also a challenge to that of the previous generations of landscape designers who worked for the property's earlier owners, the Newborough family.

In complete contrast is **Eyes of the Sea**, the work of sculptor, Alain Ayers on the Pembrokeshire Coastal path near Millhaven. In this project the various pieces of stone sculpture may be missed altogether, so gently are they introduced into the land at the edge of the sea. One piece becomes a stile, another, the **Sleeping Eye** basks on a large boulder at the north side of the bay. The focus of

the work is the **Eye on the Beach**, a stone lined keyhole-shaped enclosure, which looks out to the Stack Rocks. **Eyes of the Sea** is a personal response to the nature of the site, but it also attempts to activate memories of historical associations with the Pembrokeshire shoreline and of activities, long past on the foreshore such as the carrying and slaking of lime.



Cywaith Cymru in english Artworks Wales (previously known as the Welsh Sculpture Trust), has acted as artistic consultant to both the above projects. It is also working with the Merthyr Tydfil Groundwork Trust on the Taff Trail, a bicycle route between Brecon and Cardiff, along which sculptures will be sited at intervals. These works will relate to the character of particular sites which the route passes and it is hoped, will investigate a variety of ways in which environmental art can be interactive with place.

Shelagh Hourahane
Chairperson, Cywaith Cymru. Artworks Wales, and Lecturer in the Visual Art Department, University College, Aberystwyth.Further information can be obtained from Cywaith Cymru, 2 John Street, Cardiff CF1 5AE 0222.489543

FURTHER COMMENTARY ON THE LANDSCAPE PAINTING OF SHEILA FELL.

This exhibition (see the note in our last issue) consists of a powerful collection of oilpaintings, over seventy in number. Despite the artist being the subject of Melvyn Bragg's first documentary for television back in 1966, this is the first retrospective of her work. She has remained largely unknown. She died in 1979, aged only 49. Her work represents an original contribution to the way we see landscape.

Fell's landscapes are drawn from Cumbria, the old county of Cumberland, working class towns and marginal farming. Her images are vivid and her application of paint represents what she called a 'sense of reality'. Colour is very important to her, she used a full brush; and many of the paintings demonstrate that technique of letting the masses of colour grow from a darker, often moody ground. In that way, important forms - snow, haystacks circa 1960, and a silage heap are achieved with striking colour. Her early work carves out shapes in the manner of Cezanne; later she engaged the simpler though equally powerful flow of Matisse's early landscape work.

But although the great number of the works on display are of Cumberland subjects, she is no 'regional painter', because the vision she structured into her paint explores a deep relationship, and exceeds the topographic record and reaches the point where, however representative of a particular use of land, the images become universal.

This is especially so in representing that relationship between people and the landscape, so rarely explored in British painting save in allegorical work by Spencer, or in idiosynchratic historical record by Moore. She acknowledged the influence of Van Gogh's depiction of people working in the fields. 'Figures are neither primary nor secondary; they are as much a part of the construction of the painting as the people of Cumberland are part of Cumberland'. This appears as people, figuratively drawn, participating in the combined structure of the painting. The content of landworking methods of the 'sixties, worked from drawings when she was back in her London studio, may bear some nostalgia, but has not removed the landscape from the graininess of everyday life.

Fell knew Lowry, and although there is no explicit link there with her work, there is a shared interest in landscapes of no touristic value; and Lowry asked her to paint Maryport. Of course, that town is now subject of busy plans for tourist development, revamping Heritage and recycling its portside. Perhaps her work will gain recognition in this way, although the places it celebrates hardly invite Postmodern attention.

In this light, the itinerary for the show is interesting. Having started at Salford, then the Royal Academy London, this exhibition tours Ayr, then Kendal (the Abbot Hall Art Gallery), until 28th April; thereafter it goes to the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, 11 May - 23 June; and the Bede Gallery Jarrow, 4th July - 11th August, 1991. In case you have missed the exhibition near you, there is a beautifully produced catalogue, available at £8.50, with many coloured plates. My only regret is that the plates are rather small, about 6 x 10cms, which gives the impression of cameos rather than the large, bold sizes of the canvasses, that themselves much more effectively express the mood of the paintings.

David Crouch

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks very much for your letter concerning mine to Carys Swanwich of 26th March last year. If you think it of interest to print in Landscape Research Extra please feel free to do so.

I was successful in completing my course and found my studies **attempting to connect wild nature with social work of great value.** It would have been more useful if what I came up with had simply been the foundation for further study. For example, other than wilderness experiences (such as in the USA) I found very little to argue the case for a need to feel a part of 'wilderness' or just to know that it will not all be subdued-dominated-tamed - regimented-'landscaped'!!

It is a difficult area, when stripped of religious or metaphysical concepts, to convey full meanings and values. To use an **analogy**, I feel in the deepest recesses of my being, that the destruction of nature is like watching children being killed and maimed or sacred deities being assaulted. I'm sure we need to develop a set of terms which conveys immense value without having to resort to monetary values; Prof. David Pearce in the 'Pearce Report' for example contains alarming statements such as what price one butterfly, Jesus Christ and so on.

From what I discovered from the LRG literature, it seems that many landscape architects share my awareness of the impacts of childhood experiences. However, I'm concerned that 'landscape' is about being distanced from nature, in the way an artist 'frames' a picture for its aesthetic qualities. My experience is about being **submerged in nature** not separated from it. This results in an 'emotional knowing' about nature and sense of 'place' which cannot be measured in conventional terms or according to hard 'facts'. What I cannot do is change the rules of the game or introduce the 'spiritual' meanings (to borrow again from religious concepts) which give such places their value. Such 'emotional knowing' cannot be weighted along with the scientific 'hard' data or price tags which are now demanded.

People from older cultures (for example North America and Australia) would probably laugh at my sense of disjointedness or inability to integrate the 'scientific' side of myself with the 'intuition' and sense of rootedness in nature. My sense of 'home' is in wild places - not where I was born or live. When I find a 'wilderness' it is like returning home but it is a place without walls. This cuts across western notions of 'home', to quote: "Australian Aborigines had no 'fix'd habitation' but 'moved about from place to place like wild Beasts in search of food' - implying for the British government that they had no claim on the land or title to it through cultivation, management or habitation."



Indigenous Indians of North America still talk of some animals as brothers and sisters. The point is not whether they literally believe this but what it says about connectedness or intimacy with nature. In our society we are becoming more and more alienated from nature - cut off in 'dead' houses in which nothing lives or moves unless we make it happen. We do not need to use our biological programming to be wary of danger or simply to sense changes in sounds, temperature and so on.

The evidence I found certainly points to our being healthier when we are closer to vegetation and nature, but this could easily lead to an argument that we do not need wilderness - lush gardens would suffice.

In my research I also looked at nostalgia, sense of time and place as a **part of oneself** rather than as an extension. Nostalgists are on a par in America with nouns of verbal abuse such as elitist and authoritarian - they are 'warped and dangerous'. The critics seemed to dismiss the importance of one's past as 'selective perception' and failure to live in the 'present'. I argued that our personalities are an accumulation of experience, based on memories (confused with fantasies) and

emotional investment in places (sense of 'home', neighbourhood etc). Those who have lost memory retention and recall, cause great distress to relatives, because their pasts have 'died' and they have no commonly shared memories for example of how relationships evolved.

It was frustrating to have to read so widely in an attempt to piece together something which might begin to explain my deeply felt concerns.

John Barker, Harrogate

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VILLE GIARDINI

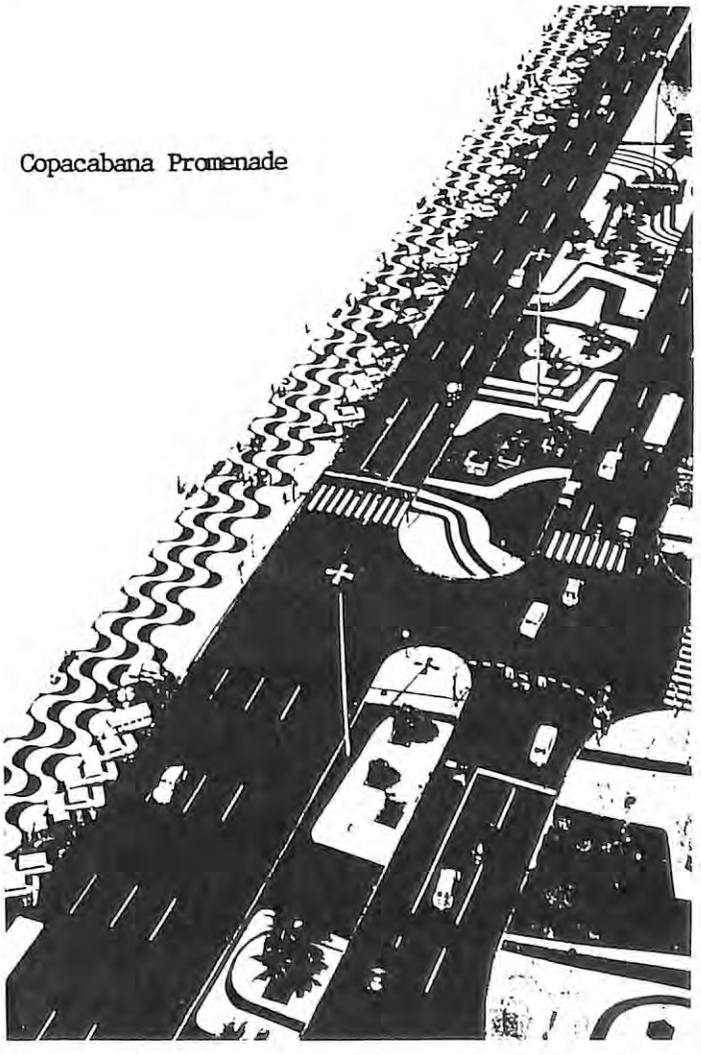
Ville Giardini - sent to us by the publishers for a possible exchange with LRG publications this monthly review in Italian of houses and gardens is seen from the point of view of designer and architect. Though we do not intend to exchange and will not be listing its contents we note its wealth of high quality coloured illustrations, and the intriguing differences it presents between Italianate housing and what we may more usually see in American or English publications. It can be obtained from **20134 Milano, Via Trentacoste 7, Italy**

BURLE MARX

The work and ideas of Brazilian design visionary Roberto Burle Marx are explored in a one hour documentary film, **"The Landscape Architecture of Roberto Burle Marx"** (1989) which is being released worldwide.

The film opens at Burle Marx and Associates' office in Rio, introducing the designer and the professional structure that he has built about his work. Through visits to a diverse selection of 11 projects, including Copacabana Promenade, IBM, Itamarity Palace and the Monteiro Residence, we learn something of his extraordinary range and virtuosity. In the final sequence, Burle Marx takes us to his own garden where his creativity is manifested in richly personal, experimental forms; He speaks eloquently and inspiringly about his work, revealing his creative approach.

Copacabana Promenade



The film's producer/director, Zara Pinfold Muren, is a landscape architect and former university professor with a long held interest in Burle Marx's work, having published and lectured on the subject. Drawing on this background, she has created a stimulating and substantial film. She has been

helped by excellent support: production manager, Jose Araujo, obtained permission to film at several private and generally inaccessible landscapes; state-of-the-art camera and recording equipment was used; the edited master tape was prepared at On Tape Productions, San Francisco and the sound mix was done at Lucasfilm. Partial funding was received from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Already in distribution in the United States, the film has been recognized as an important new educational and professional resource.

Muren believes that the moving imagery of film holds a great, but largely untapped potential for recording spaces, and that it affords a very direct means of capturing the creative genius of great living designers. She has made it her professional commitment to harness film to these ends. This film promises to be the first in a series of productions titled Master Design Series.

The film is available for purchase outside the U.S.A. on two alternative video formats: ½" NTSC VHS costs $390, and ½" PAL VHS costs $450. The price includes shipping by Federal Express. **Enquiries to: Master Design Series, 200 Crescent Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960 Tel: (415) 459-2255**

THE THREE BABOUCHKAS

How do you look after three Russian landscape architects visiting Britain for two weeks?

Three members of the Landscape Institute volunteered for this job guided by Peter Hayden from ICOMOS who is a frequent visitor to the Soviet Union. The idea is to start off a chain reaction of social exchanges that will encourage mutual understanding. When they appeared with little notice at the end of October we had then to arrange the hosting and make an impromptu programme. This included the Midlands, Scotland, York, Cambridge and Oxford. That this instant programme ran smoothly is largely due to the visitors themselves who never tired and were excellent company throughout - but then Russians are accustomed to improvise. One suspects that there may be a general rule: the fewer the arrangements the more invigorating the experience!

For us the hosts this was a learning experience par excellence. Our pre-conceived ideas could not have been more wrong - for a start we were not expecting three grandmothers! We called them the Babouchkas. Two of them had appointed the third as their spokeswoman - which made sense because her English was excellent as a result of three childhood years spent in America and considerable recent ICOMOS travel experience. Because of lack of houseroom we could only put up two grandmothers - so we relegated the English speaker to a friend. We looked after the other two who had never been outside the Soviet Union: one from Kiev who was totally tongue-tied in English and the other who could just get by. In spite of these handicaps they were extraordinarily appreciative and affectionate, determined to participate in breakfast-time conversations and not wanting to miss any opportunities for contact - this being in all probability a once-in-a-lifetime visit.

Although all three hold senior positions, each lives in a tiny flat shared with several other families; yet here they had to absorb the fact that the houses where they stayed had bedrooms to spare and five times the normal ratio of bathrooms to people. For us it raised plenty of questions about our assumptions and priorities in twentieth-century Britain.

The Babouchkas had been told to 'privatise' their work as much as possible but this seemed to them just another political slogan as there is little technical help to hand. Fortunately they had gathered some useful practical information in Scotland talking to representatives of semi-autonomous public authorities and this would stand them in good stead.

In the final weekend we covered a Department of Transport public consultation exhibition (entirely fortuitous and normally quite impossible to organise for such a trip) and we visited Oxford University (old and new), Blenheim Palace and Rousham House (Oxfordshire). All were walked thoroughly and their fresh reactions enriched our own travel-worn impressions.

All this still seemed to leave ample time for discussion, shopping and getting out and about. It is rare to have such energetic visitors, so full of questions and so forthcoming about their daily lives. Each had gone to great lengths to bring us presents from the land of empty shelves. Their descriptions of their homes and jobs remain unforgettable and the absence of any bitterness about the differences between us in life style left a permanent impression.

By the time we set off for Heathrow early on a grey Monday, winter had set in in Moscow and the morning news was reporting the agonies of Russians struggling with food distribution and ideas for reform. Although they had only long cold journeys ahead, their personal warmth, representing, one suspects, the whole of Russia, shone through to the end.

Simon and Anita Rendel
April 1991

WILDERNESS: MACHO CHALLENGE OR SPIRITUAL CONSULTATION

It's my opinion that we're in a bit of a dilemma about the value of landscape. We all appreciate (I presume) our green or less green and pleasant land, and especially the wilder areas, but we are not averse to altering the landscape to suit our own purposes. as we have done over a thousands of years and much more rapidly in this century.

But why do people value wild landscapes as they do? What is at the root of it all?

I believe the effect of viewing landscape (or seascape) on the human psyche is all pervasive: any scape has an effect on a person, whether that scape be mundane or magnificent in appearance. It is only the intensity of the effect that differs, not the effect itself. I would then suggest that any scape may be seen as an actual or latent challenge to the individual in one or an other contrasting ways.

One challenge is the purely macho physical one in which one tries to 'win' by reaching the top, or in some way by defeating a particular landscape. The other may be seen as a spiritual or inner one challenge in which landscape is allowed to change or refresh one's life. I explore these in more detail below.

* The macho power challenge is to conquer and tame, to show that humanity and not nature is in charge of the world. Humans have had to subdue the world in order simply to exist. The problem now is that the physical challenge which this subjugation has entailed continues to spill over into our current thinking on landscape: namely it is still regarded as something to be beaten into submission for our physical and material benefit. To prove this success to ourselves we need to establish a strong physical and visible presence. This can range from climbing mountains or sailing round the world (showing pictures of what you've done) to the building of roads, houses, leisure centres and places which make it easier for others to follow.

* The other way (is it a challenge) is to use the landscape for one's benefit in a spiritual sense. This is an internal, invisible consultation with the landscape. One's outlook on life can be changed or refreshed through absorbing what the landscape wilderness offers the psyche in terms of beauty and isolation. This spiritual feedback may be further enhanced if one has also achieved a physical challenge and then applied this as a confidence booster for future situations in life. It has echoes in Moses leaving his people on the plain and going up Mt Sinai to hear the ten commandments from God: he went to a remote and awe-inspiring place for inspiration. Jesus went alone into the desert for forty days and nights before embarking on his ministry.



The search for apt illustrations continues.

I believe that something of each of these macho and spiritual challenges is involved when one journeys in a wilderness and even mentally when one just looks at a landscape.

The different nature of these challenges gives rise to our dilemma in valuing landscape. Until now the need and demand for taming landscape has restricted our interest in its potential to offer spiritual feedback.

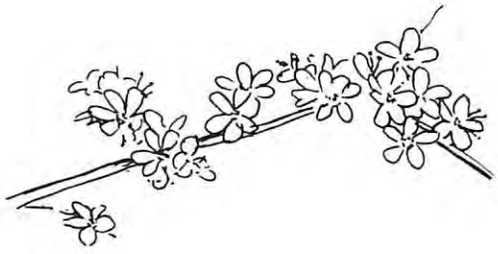
Of course, we don't stop trying to predict storm surges or hurricanes and protect ourselves from them. But we now need to look at least as much to our inner as to our outer selves, both as individuals and as society. If we don't, our greed and wish for macho superiority and power can have disastrous results (which are well documented). The way we use landscape can help us in this repect. It's a case of seeing it as a different challenge and obtaining a different sort of feedback from the one that we have sought in the past. We get a kick out of viewing and exploring landscape but instead of then kicking out and stamping on the landscape we need to absorb what it has to offer.

Peter Nias. Telford, Shropshire

GOOD BLACKTHORN THIS YEAR

Prunus spinosa has black bark and black thorns but in latest April as I write this, it is an ecstatic celebration of pure white blossom. Break off a spray a foot long and you have in your hand 500 immaculately formed small flowers five petalled and bristling with stamens. Here now at the edge of

Dartmoor it makes hedges interspersed with pale green willow and golden gorse in flower. Set off by a pediment of dry red brown bracken it is extraordinarily beautiful.



Around one pasture a hedge of pure blackthorn stands boundary to grass yellow with dandelions in the sun. And with the warmer weather the vision fades; leaves increase and bluebells cover the hedgebanks. Landscape, how shall I praise thee, let me count the ways!

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

16 May **Learning through Landscapes – National Forum** in London. Working together to bring about significant improvements to the quality of the nation's school grounds. Contact LTL, Technology House, Victoria Road, Winchester Hants SO23 7DU Tel: 0962 846258

24 May **Forest of Mercia, Energy Forest Symposium** at Shugborough Hall, Staffordshire Contact Graham Hunt 49 Park Road, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1JN

5-6 June **Landscape Industries '91** – international exhibition for the professional landscape and leisure industries at the National Agricultural Centre Free Contact: Melanie Hitch on 0203 696969

18-20 June **The second UK Conference on Urban Forestry.** Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Dudley Campus, West Midlands. Contact the conference organiser, Lea House, Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8QU

6-11 July **The Sunday Times Environment, Wildlife and Conservation Exhibition** Grand Hall, Olympia, London

21 September **Moats and Manors in the Landscape** Joint annual conference of the Medieval Settlement Research Group and the Society for Landscape Studies at Lecture Room 1, Faculty of Arts Building, The Univ of Birmingham. Contact School of Continuing Studies, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT 021-414 5606/7/8

25-27 September **Photography and the Landscape** LRG and the Visual Arts Dept of the University of Wales Gregynog Hall, Newtown Powys. Contact Peter Howard as shown in the write up on pages 1 and 2.

COURSES

16-17 May **Protecting the rural heritage: development control.** The purpose of this course is to examine, within the context of the official planning system, a range of current issues such as the reuse of agricultural buildings, infill design, development in areas of natural beauty, and catering for tourism. Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies, York. Course fee: £105

20-24 May **Landscape Conservation** Losehill Hall, Peak National Park Centre Bob Kenyon Tel 0433 20373

21-23 May **A three day course in the airphoto interpretation and investigation of river corridors** at The Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography The Mond Building Free School Lane Cambridge. Contact Bud Young 0647 40904

22-24 May **Conservation and the industrial heritage.** The visual legacy of the industrial Revolution is a significant fact in modern life. The course will examine its implications with particular reference to the UK. Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies York. Course fee: £132

15-16 June **The history and conservation of rock gardens,** contact: Susan E Schnare, Inst of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP Tel 0904 433987

15-17 October **A three day course in the airphoto interpretation and investigation of woodlands,** at The Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography contact Bud Young 0647 40653

5 and 7 November Two separate **one day airphoto courses in development control,** Cambridge; contact details as above.

The views and opinions voiced in this newsletter are those of the authors and the editor and do not necessarily represent those of LRG as a Group.

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