

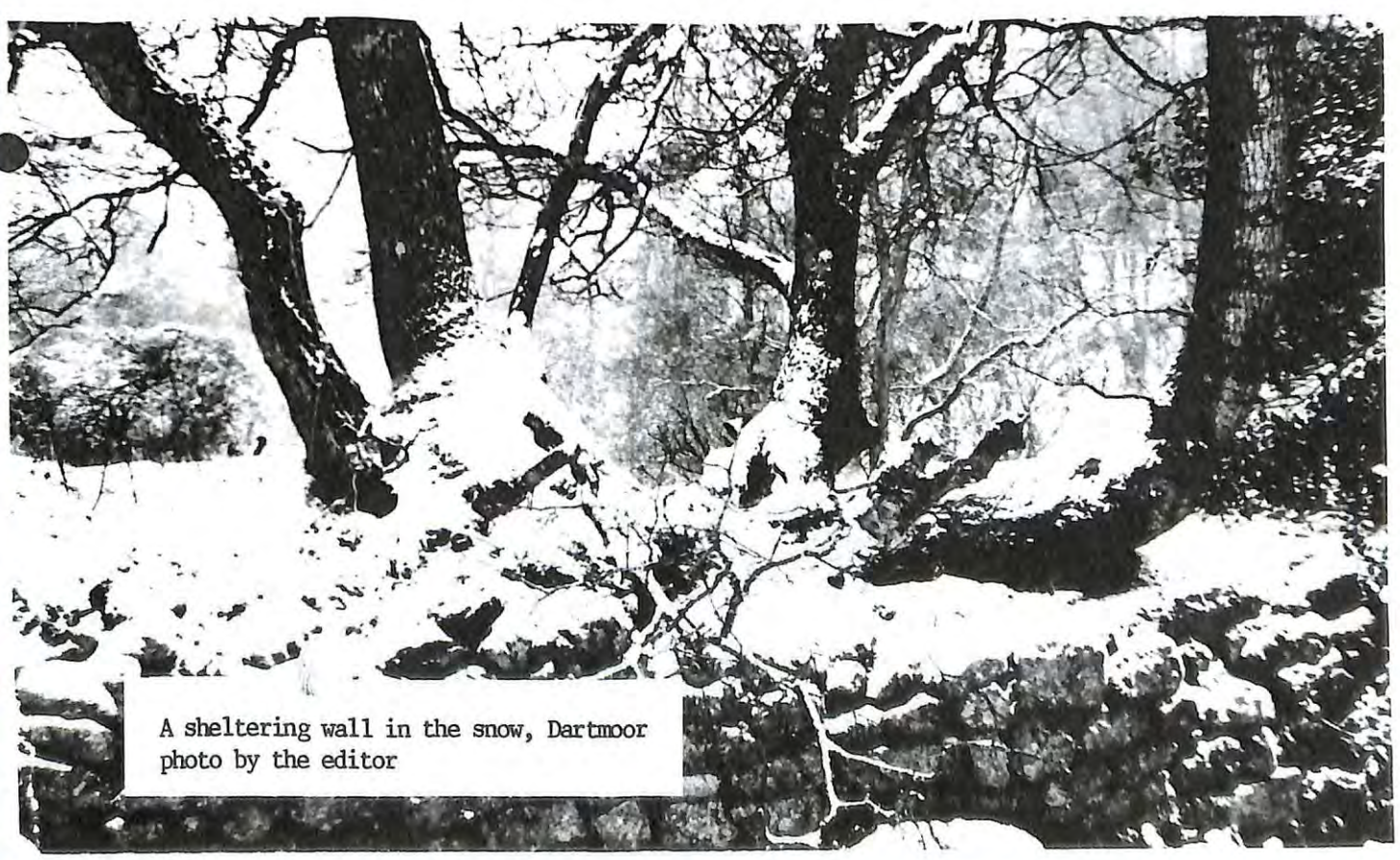
LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 14 Spring 1994

AND NOW THE SPRING

It has been a good year for floods and my diary records an enormous number of days since August when the rain poured down. One's outdoor preferences change: one seeks well drained ground and sheltered places out of the gusty wind, places by hedges and below comforting granite walls where a few dry sticks may still be found under the wild holly. We have had spectacular flooding in Britain and a low level airphoto on page 20 shows the result on part of the Thames. Hugh Prince has written about the much greater floods that affected the American Mid West bringing out the amazing imprecision with which their extent was identified in the newspaper of the day.

Braving rain snow and dense mists your stout hearted editor has been field checking those areas of Central Devon which he calls the forgotten interior, high rolling pastoral landscapes cut by fernlike patterns of wooded streams growing to rivers which make their way to Bideford and Barnstaple. Henry Williamson lived in this landscape. It is a place threaded by a network of open lanes with almost no traffic. The sheep are out in the fields, their little hooves impacting the early grass over wet yellow clays; the cattle are still in doors. Many pastures are thick with rushes giving them an old fashioned look. Everywhere there is water streaming off the fields into ditches and down rivers whose banks carry snowdrops and wild daffodills among the hazel and the oak. Now the spring! Outside my office a climbing hydrangea on the wall has broken into leaf and I am hopeful.



A sheltering wall in the snow, Dartmoor
photo by the editor

FLOODING IN THE AMERICAN MIDWEST FROM JUNE TO AUGUST 1993

During the past ten years, drought, hurricane, flood and fire have been reported almost daily from different parts of the world. Repeated exposure to disaster has numbed sensitivity to immediate shock and excitement about fresh incidents has diverted attention from the painful ordeal of recovery. Floods in the upper Mississippi valley last summer spread over a vast area, covering at one time or another more than 21,000 square miles, destroying an enormous amount of property, estimated at more than $10 billion, damaging 42,000 homes, displacing more than 100,000 people.

The onset of the flooding was drawn out over a long period. The winter of 1992–93 was abnormally wet, spring floods in April 1993 in Illinois and Wisconsin were deep and widespread. Rain continued to fall heavily in May and June, culminating in torrential downpours from late June to early August, extending westward into Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Minnesota. At the centre of the rainbelt, Iowa was hit by severe rainstorms on 17–18 June, 5, 8–9, 15–16 and again 22–24 July. Silty soils, soaked after months of rain, had turned to bottomless mud, farmyards were quagmires, banks of ditches and streams were dissolving. Stormwater from late June onwards covered the flat prairie surface to form a sixth "great lake", whose overspill poured into tributaries of the Mississippi and Missouri, raising their levels to unprecedented heights, peaking at over 46 feet at St Louis on 1 August.



Fig 1 Imagined area of flooding in the Midwest based on **The Times** 17 July 1993

In Britain, media coverage of the deluge was delayed and muted. Correspondents based in Washington, New York and Philadelphia were enduring a searing heatwave that killed 45 people, two more than the total death toll in the Midwest floods. Newspapers were alerted to the seriousness of the disaster in the interior of the continent when President Clinton decided to break his holiday and visit the stricken areas. On 15 July, he arrived in Des Moines, Iowa, and was pictured filling a sandbag to top a crumbling levee. On the following day, he went to St Louis to confer with governors of affected states about his offer to obtain federal aid. A report in **The Times** on 17 July was accompanied by a sketch map, wrongly indicating an area of flooding confined to the catchment area of the Mississippi (Fig. 1). By this date the Missouri and its tributaries were also under water. To give an impression of the magnitude of the flooded area a larger than true-to-scale outline of Great Britain was superimposed on the Mississippi valley in fact, the flooded area was much more extensive than depicted.

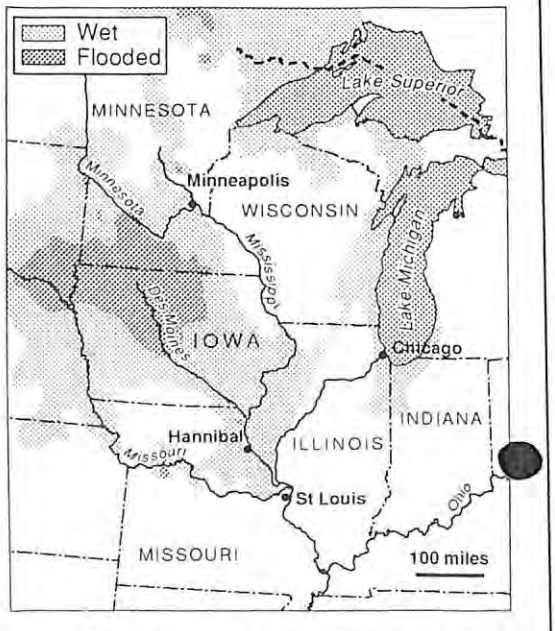


Fig 2 Wet and flooded land in the Midwest based on NOAA Satellite Image 14 July 1993

A great lake, covering over 10,000 square miles, was observed on a satellite image obtained on 14 July, when a veil of dense clouds that hung over the region momentarily parted (Fig 2). The image also recorded soils that were fully saturated some of which had been inundated earlier and some about to be submerged. The centre of the floods lay in northwest Iowa, southern Minnesota and corners of South Dakota and Nebraska, much further west than represented in earlier reports.

Interest in the media concentrated on threats to big cities and the spectacular, menacing rise in water levels in major rivers. The drowning of the

water purification plant at Des Moines, the breaching of a levee on the Missouri at St Charles and the closure to navigation of the Mississippi River above Cairo made news headlines around the world. Local newspapers and national magazines featured human interest stories, focussing on the self-sacrifice of people who filled sandbags; noting the foolhardiness of homeowners who refused to be evacuated because they feared looters; rejoicing at miraculous rescues of children, old folk and domestic animals.

Most vivid pictures were of "the mighty Mississippi turned into a raging monster of mud", carrying away giant elm trees, pianos, propane tanks and hunks of meat floating out of freezers. Mary Swander, who lived in Kalona, Iowa, at the heart of the flood region, reported in The New York Times Magazine that by mid-July "everywhere the ground was wet, sodden and soggy, with just a few dry spots surrounded by damp fields or swirling water. Wetlands that had been drained for decades and used to grow corn returned to swamps." Only when the water began to seep away was it recognized that "most of the inundation affected thinly populated farmland".

Farmers were in a desperate situation yet their plight received little attention from the media. Few had insured privately against flood losses and federal relief promised to do no more than get them through the immediate crisis, not restore their farms. In August, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared 419 counties disaster areas and directed $3 billion federal aid towards those areas (Fig. 3). The US Department of Agriculture



Fig 3 Disaster areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on 4 August 1993

areas (Fig. 3). The US Department of Agriculture estimated that 8 million acres of farmland had not been planted because of the wet spring or had lost all crops because of the floods; in addition, 12 million acres bore stunted crops. The outlook is extremely bleak. Everyone has been worn out by the struggle to cope with water everywhere. In thinly peopled rural areas, few volunteers are able to contribute much to the collossal task of clearing mud from farm buildings, fields and drainage ditches. The success or failure of this year's crops depends on unblocking drains and digging new ditches to lower the level of ground water. Looking ahead, clearing up the damage to farmland and retiring permanently waterlogged areas from agriculture will require at least as much thought and effort as repairing cities and rebuilding river banks.

The immensity of the flood was difficult to appreciate until the crisis had passed. Few lives were lost because people had time to escape and the bottomlands of the lower Mississippi were spared because less than average amounts of water were discharged from the Ohio River and its tributaries. The aftermath is agonizing because damage done to rural areas will take years to repair.

Hugh Prince

Acknowledgements: I am grateful to Malcolm Anderson of Bristol University for sending me a copy of the NOAA Satellite Image and to Carol Gersmehl of Macalester College, St Paul, Minnesota for providing data on the FEMA disaster areas. The maps have been drawn by Guy Baker in the Cartographic Unit at University College London.

RIVER LANDSCAPES AND PUBLIC PREFERENCES

Research over several years at Middlesex University, England, has investigated the perceptions the public have about river corridors and the scenic values that they contain. This is a part of on-going research into the interface between the public and river environments, with both a landscape/environment and an economic focus.

We have found that what the individual wants of the river corridor landscape and why they want it are interrelated. A site is a complex assemblage of characteristics, with different values for the public, and each is more or less a substitute for another. The way that these characteristics are used affects the way that they are valued, and the strength of this value affects the way that they are used.

A study in 1992 (Green and Tunstall 1992) showed that the most desired features were a combination of convenience as a place to visit (eg ease of access) and the natural environmental attractiveness of the corridor (eg many well-grown trees and plants). Features such as boating were not strongly desired, possibly because respondents believe that these would bring too many other visitors and disturb the desired tranquillity.

More detailed analysis shows that there were differences within the sample. The greatest differences concerned the desirability of facilities for children; those with children, not surprisingly, were more likely to desire these. But the next strongest component was the perceived richness of the place (emphasising the quality of the "green" environment), whereas the presence or absence of historic and other places to visit was of less significance.

In terms of the other components investigated the "convenience" and "facilities" features were less important. This reflects the desire to retain natural and tranquil environments - with an emphasis on play and picnicking - rather than an 'urbanised' scene with motor trips and car parks. The public would perhaps prefer the river landscapes not to be designed but to retain the freshness and richness that comes from benign neglect. Designers beware!

The research also shows that the public appears to bring - to choices about the environment - beliefs relating to moral duties to other people and species, reflecting their desire to pass to future generations an environment at least as rich as they themselves enjoyed. This means that we cannot value the environments such as river corridors just in terms of their uses, we must also recognise their more fundamental 'non-use' aspects. Economists will do well to take note of such values.

Edmund Penning-Rowsell, Colin Green and Sylvia Tunstall, Middlesex University Flood Hazard Research Centre - being a preview of their paper "The ecological and recreational value of river corridors: an economic perspective.

Reference: Green CH and Tunstall SM 1992. 'The amenity and environmental value of river corridors in Britain'. In: Boon PJ, Calow P and Petts GE (Eds) **River Conservation and Management.** Chichester: John Wiley

LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE STUDIES

New disciplines continue to be added to the portfolios of many British universities, old and new. There have been undergraduate programmes in Heritage Conservation in American universities for some years, and there are now six such programmes in the UK, ranging from the considerable provision at Bournemouth in Conservation Sciences, to elements within History degrees as at Kent.

A new course from the University of Plymouth, but run at its Exeter campus, offers a BA in Heritage & Landscape, and tries to break new ground by bringing together widely separate strands: those items of heritage, such as prehistoric artefacts, wild animals or paintings which are usually collected together in museums, and those such as houses, nature reserves or areas of landscape, which are usually conserved in situ, The advantage of such a view is that the Great Divide between landscape conservation and nature conservation becomes a minor, and easily bridged, gully. The difference between the national park, the nature reserve and the ancient monument can then be viewed as a difference in originating discipline (whether geography, biology or archaeology) rather than a fundamental rift in purpose.

Viewing the heritage as a whole creates an unusual view of landscape itself. The divisions within the heritage discipline - if that status has yet been achieved - lie within the purposes of its guardians. Curatorship is certainly one major area, with subdivisions such as conservation, restoration, recording and inventories; a second could be classed as heritage theory, largely drawn from cultural studies; interpretation is a third, with design, live interpretation and similar sub groups, and a fourth is concerned with the visitor, or market, drawing on market research, sociology and tourism studies. In all these cases landscape forms one wing of the field of study, with the museum at the other wing, the middle ground being occupied by buildings, gardens and industrial archaeology. In all cases ideas and even techniques from one area are found to have a much wider significance.

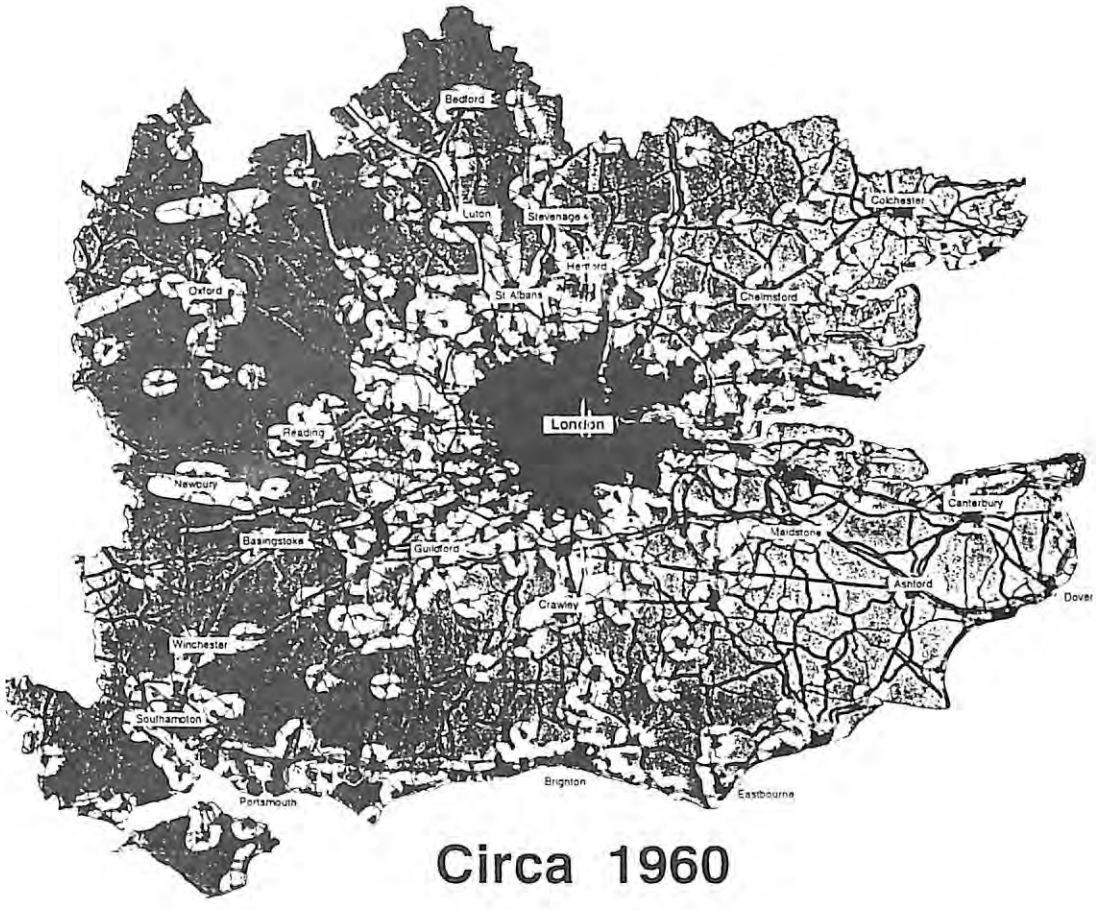
Studying the heritage also becomes a wonderful excuse to spend lots of time away from the classroom. The most rigid university financial officers cannot deny that studying museum collections demands that one visits them!

For further details of the course at Exeter contact: **Peter Howard**, Heritage and Landscape, University of Plymouth, Earl Richards Road North, Exeter EX2 6AS

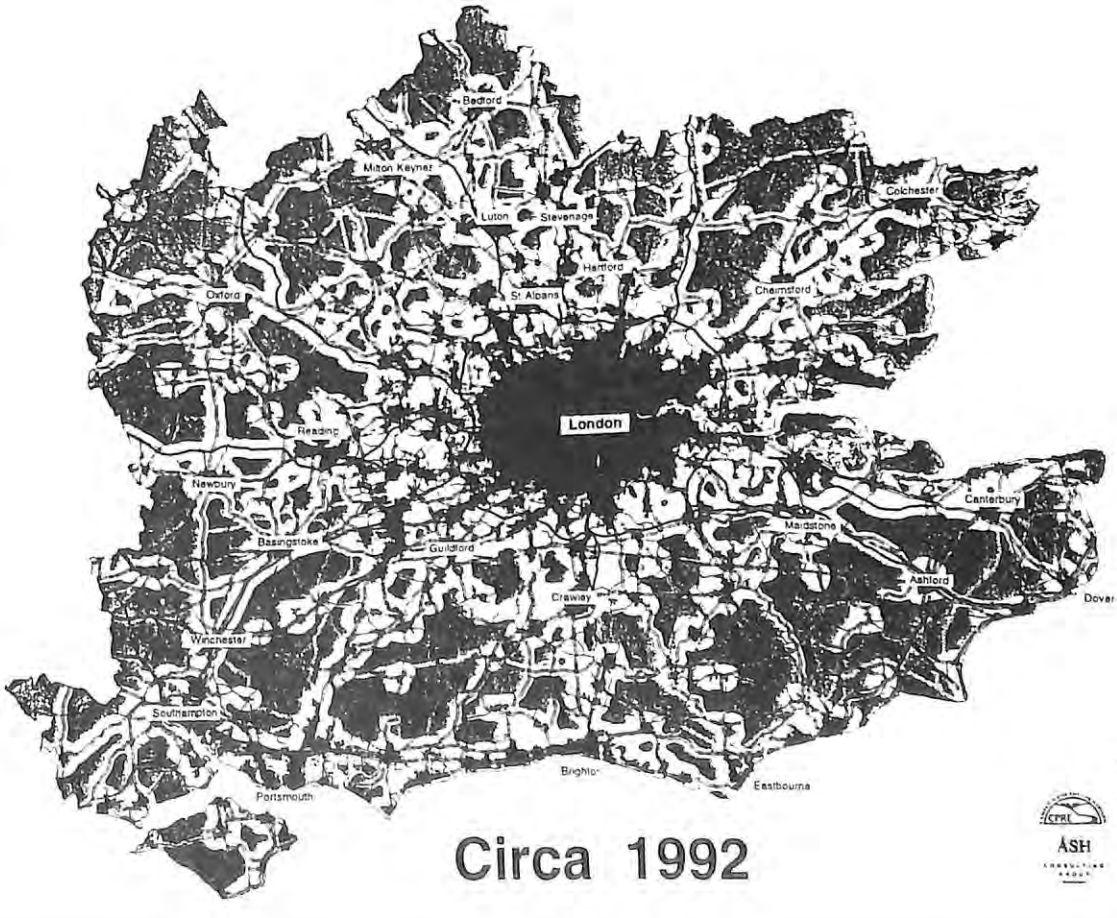
HAVE YOU HEARD OF 'TRANQUIL' AREAS?

In 1991 ASH Consulting Group were advising on the routing options for a major new trunk road north of London. Since over two thirds of the countryside was designated for landscape quality, this criterion was unhelpful for identifying corridors which were least intrusive on the landscape. Also

SOUTH EAST TRANQUIL AREAS



Circa 1960



Circa 1992

COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION

Council for the Protection of Rural England

ASH CONSULTING GROUP

Designed by the ASH Consulting Group

Mapping by SERIL, Bristol's College

CPRE & CC © Copyright 1992

there was a need to express the advantages of choosing options which follow existing lines of disturbance. The 'tranquil' area diagram was therefore devised showing those areas which are still relatively free from noise or visual disturbance with the implication that such areas should be avoided as far as possible.

The concept was introduced to CPRE and the Countryside Commission in 1992 and it was decided to produce diagrams for the whole of the the South-East region within an historical context. These have now been published and they show a dramatic fragmentation of the pattern of tranquillity over the last 30 years. Most of the fragmentation is caused by roads, airports (noise) and power lines (visual disturbance). New urban development is also a factor but relatively insignificant.

This process of fragmentation is particularly poignant for anyone who regularly plans a weekend walk in the country and has been doing so since 1960. To find a good walk it is now a process of confining it within quite limited zones in order to avoid major roads and other disturbing elements. In



THE ? OF THE DAY.—Should there be a speed (and dust) limit?

1960, if my memory is correct, all you had to do was get away from built up areas - beyond these, great swathes of countryside were quiet and undisturbed and this is indeed what shows up on the 1960 'tranquil' map.

The concept of tranquillity is particularly applicable to regions with a high population density because such regions generate a highly fragmented diagram showing areas of great fragility. Maps of the southeast (which we show here) and the northeast (Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland) are available from CPRE via Simon Rendel at ASH Consulting Group tel. 0235 511481.

Simon Rendel
ASH Consulting Group

THE AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

This group provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for all those actively engaged in aerial photography, photo interpretation, field archeology and landscape history. It claims to be an international platform for the presentation of new results. Their annual conference last year was in October at Abergavenny, Wales and was as pleasant socially as academically. Papers were being attended till late in the evening. Readers unfamiliar with ancient sites discovered from the air would have been astounded at the wealth of sites on display some of them seen for the first time in thousands of years - and all of this is apparently run of the mill daily work to AARG members. Most arresting of all were whole landscapes of habitation two and three thousand years old in Hungary: houses villages roads and graveyards - people who lived and worked, whose memory lives on in swarms of crop marks seen only by means of an aeroplane. Or do they live in the folk memory, the language the gene make up of Hungary today!

If you wish to join, membership is £7 annually for which one receives two substantial, well bound and interesting newsletters. Information from **Roger Palmer, 7 Edward Street Cambridge CB1 2LS, England** who edits the Newsletter. or **Dr Gillian Barrett, Membership, SHSS University of Wolverhampton Dudley Campus, Dudley DY1 3HR England**

'AIRCUTS': CANAL LANDSCAPE HISTORY ILLUSTRATED

It is surprising where you may find useful pieces of landscape history. Who would expect to look in Waterways World a special interest monthly magazine on sale in WH Smith's. And yet this magazine contains a detailed studies of some part of the canal system researched by Jon Simms of the Ordnance Survey. It is his personal column in which he writes about the history and background of 18th and 19th century canals. He relates each to a site specific airphoto matching technical details with documented history, and the airphotos come from his employer the Ordnance Survey. He and I attended the same primary school now demolished in favour of a car park - but only identified this common background forty years later! Jon Simms can be contacted on 0703 792584 at the Ordnance Survey (Airphoto Sales) Romsey Road, Maybush, Southampton.

ANTHOLOGY

People still go out of town on Sundays nowadays. The streets empty like a workshop. I spend the afternoon walking about, and there are some streets where you don't see a soul for half an hour. Roofs, pavements and walls, and sometimes the gardens, seem to have been made just for someone like me, who comes and goes and sees them coming closer and then getting away again, just as you do with hills and trees in the country. There's always some street that is emptier than others. At times I stop and have a good look because at that hour, in that desert, I don't seem to recognize it. It's enough for the sun, a slight breeze, the colour of the air to have changed and I don't know where I am any more. They never end, these streets.

One roof is not much; but it is often a study. Put a thousand roofs, say rather thousands of red-tiled roofs, and overlook them - not at a great altitude, but at a pleasant easy angle - and then you have the groundwork of the first view of London over Bermondsey from the railway. I say groundwork, because the roofs seem the level and surface of the earth, while the glimpses of streets are glimpses of catacombs. A city - as something to look at - depends very much on its roofs. If a city has no character in its roofs it stirs neither heart nor thought. These red-tiled roofs of Bermondsey, stretching away mile upon mile, and brought up at the extremity with thin masts rising above the mist - these red-tiled roofs have a distinctiveness, a character; they are something to think about. Nowhere else is there an entrance to a city like this.

It was a long way. Miles, it seemed to me, though really it wasn't a mile. Houses, shops, cinemas, chapels, football grounds - new all new. Again I had that feeling of an enemy invasion having happened behind my back. All these people flooding in...not even bothering to know the chief landmarks of the town by name....The kind of chilliness, the bright red brick everywhere, the temporary looking shop windows full of cut price chocolates and radio parts. It was just like that. But suddenly I swung into a street with older houses. Gosh! the High Street! After all my memory hadn't played tricks on me. I knew every inch of it now.

In the course of a ramble on foot in a remote district I came to a small ancient town set in a cup like depression amidst high wood grown hills.....and against that vivid green I saw the many-gabled tiled roofs and tall chimneys of the old timbered houses glowing red and warm brown in the brilliant sunshine - a scene of rare beauty and yet it produced no shock of pleasure; never in fact have I looked on a lovely scene for the first time so unemotionally .....The reason for this was that a great railway company had long been 'booming' this romantic spot, and large photographs plain and coloured of the town and its quaint buildings had for years been staring at me in every station and every railway carriage that I entered on that line. Photography degrades most things especially open air things .. something of the degradation in the advertising pictures seemed to attach itself to the very scene.

That was the day we came to the village, in the summer of the last year of the First World War. To a cottage that stood in a half acre of garden on a steep bank above a lake; a cottage with three floors and a cellar and a treasure in the walls, with a pump and apple trees, syringa and strawberries, rooks in the chimneys, frogs in the cellar, mushrooms on the ceiling and all for three and sixpence a week.

It is worth while to clamber up to Thiepval from our lines. The road runs through the site of the village in a deep cutting, which may once have been lovely. The road is reddish with the smashed bricks of the village. Here and there in the mud are perhaps three courses of brick where a house once stood, or some hideous hole bricked at the bottom for the vault of a cellar. Blasted, dead, pitted stumps of trees, with their bark in rags, grow here and there in a collection of vast holes, ten feet deep and fifteen feet across, with filthy water in them. There is nothing left of the church; a big reddish mound of brick, that seems mainly powder round a core of cement, still marks where the chateau stood. The chateau garden, the round village pond, the pine-tree which was once a landmark there, are all blown out of recognition.

It was after nine o'clock when he left the shop. The night was cold and gloomy. He entered the Park by the first gate and walked along under the gaunt trees. He walked through the bleak alleys where they had walked four years before. She seemed to be near him in the darkness. At moments he seemed to feel her voice touch his ear, her hand touch his. He stood still to listen. Why had he witheld life from her? Why had he sentenced her to death? He felt his moral nature falling to pieces. When he gained the crest of the Magazine Hill he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night.

The dusk obscured the outlines of the skyscraper city, covering its imperfections, blotting out the realities of its urban congestion and human vanities. I watched the lamps come on in the streets, forming a glittering web of silver and gold. The unlit gardens and the lake behind Ipanema became black holes; the crude sprawl of the favelas

on the hillsides faded from view; Guanabara Bay and the Atlantic became vast voids. Quietly Rio cast off and slid away into the dark, back into a world of illusions and dreams.



SHOULD YOU READ?

Physical Landscape

* **River Landscape Assessment - methods and procedures** Conservation Technical Handbook No 2 from National Rivers Authority, Distribution Centre, Washington, Newcastle upon Tyne NE85 4ET £10.00 50pp publ 1993 ISBN1873160453

* C R Thorne & K Easton **Geomorphological Reconnaissance of the River Sence, Leicestershire for river restoration** The East Midland Geographer 17/1 and 2 1994,p40-...

* David Davidson **The evaluation of land** Longman Scientific and Technical Harlow UK 206pp £13.00 Reviewed in Land Use Policy 10/4 1993

Policy and Future

* Philip Dearden and Lawrence Berg **Canada's National Parks: a model of administrative penetration** The Canadian Geographer 37/3 1993 194-212

* Clive Potter & Matt Lobley **Helping small farms and keeping Europe beautiful: a critical review of the environmental case for supporting the small family farm** Land Use Policy 10/4 1993 267-280

* D Colman, J Froud and L O Carroll **The tiering of conservation policies** Land Use Policy 10/4 1993 281-292

* Sarah Whitmore and Susan Boucher **Bargaining with nature: the discourse and practice of environmental planning gain** Trans Inst Brit Geographer 18/2 1993 166-178

* K D Bishop & A A C Phillips **Seven steps to market - the development of the market-led approach to countryside conservation and recreation** Journal of Rural Studies 9(4) 1993 315-338

* A S Mather **Protected areas in the periphery: conservation and controversy in northern Scotland** Journal of Rural Studies 9(4) 1993 371-384

* Tony Gattrell & David Howes **[Windfarms] Coming soon to your backyard [GIS and EIA]** Geographical [Magazine] RGS Dec 1993 30-33

Gardens

* Robert E Harrist Jr **Site names and their meanings in the garden of solitary enjoyment** Journal of Garden History 13(4) Winter 1993 199-212

Towns and urban form

P W Germeraad **Islamic traditions and contemporary open space design in Arab-Muslim settlements in the Middle East** Landscape & Urban Planning 23(2) 1993 97-106

* Harvey and Rubenstein **Pedestrian malls streetscapes and urban spaces Chichester and New York** John Wiley 1992 272pp £38.50

* Chua Beng Huat & Norman Edwards (editors) **Public space, design use and management Singapore centre for Advanced studies** Singapore Univ Press 1992 177pp (no price)

* Kent A Robinson **Pedestrians and the American downtown** Town Planning Review 64/3 1993 273-286

* G E Cherry, H Jordan and K Kafkoula **Gardens, civic art and town planning: the work of Thomas H Mawson (1861-1933)** Planning Perspectives 8/3 1993 308-332

Social Landscapes

* Anne Marie Seguin & Paul Villeneuve **The Saint Jean Baptiste Neighbourhood in Quebec City: A microcosm of the relations between the State and Civil Society** The Canadian Geographer 37/2 1993 167-173

* Glenda Laws **"The Land of Old Age" Society's changing attitudes towards urban built environments for elderly people** Annals of the Association of American Geographers 83/4 1993 672-693

* V C Topalo **The city as terra incognita: Charles Booth's poverty survey and the people of London 1886-1891**

Landscape Areas and Regions

* Marie Agnes Lanneaux & Robert Chapins **Les parcs regionaux francais** Annales de Geographie 573 1993 519-533

* **The Hampshire Landscape** Hants CC The Castle Winchester SO23 8ZB July 1993 £13.50 + £1.50 post. (Provides complete description of the county's 18 landscape types, reasons for concern and threats)

* Olivia Wilson **Common lands in the Durham Dales: management and policy issues** Area 25(3) 1993 237-245

Experiential

* Christopher Spencers & Mark Blades **Children's understanding of places: the world at hand** Geography 78/4 1993 367-373

* John R Gold, Martin S Haigh and Alan Jenkins **Ways of seeing: exploring media landscapes through a field based simulation** Journal of Geography 92/5 1993 213-216

Techniques

* M J McCullagh & R P Bradshaw **"Who goes there?": studies of pedestrian circulation in Nottingham City Centre** The East Midland Geographer 17/1 and 2 1994 28-39

Theory

* Anne Beer **Landscape planning and environmental sustainability** Town Planning Review 64/4 1993 pages v-xi

* Agnes Denes **Notes on eco-logic: environmental artwork, visual philosophy and global perspective** Leonardo 26(5) 1993 387-396

* John Sheall **Green history - the evolving agenda** Rural History 4(2) 1992 209-223

* H M Harrison & N Harrison **Shifting positions towards the earth: art and environmental awareness** Leonardo 26(5) 1993 371-378

Janet M Labrie **The depiction of women's farmwork in rural fiction** Agricultural History 67(2) 1993 119-133

Gill Bennett **Folklore studies and the English rural myth** Rural History 4(1) 1993 77-91

Art & Photography

* P Kinsman **Photography, Geography and Identity: the landscape imagery of John Blakemore** The East Midland Geographer 16/2 1993 17-26

* William Denevan **The 1931 Shippee-Johnson photography expedition to Peru** The Geographical Review 83/3 1993 238-251

Joan Brigham **Reclamation artists: a report from Boston** Leonardo 26(5) 1993 379-386

Historical Landscape

* D G Price **Dartmoor: the pattern of prehistoric settlement sites** Geographical Journal 159/3 1993 261-280

* Dale R Lightfoot & Frank W Eddy **The effects of environment and culture on the distribution of prehistoric dwellings at Chimney Rock Mesa Colorado** Geographical Journal 159/3 1993 291-305

Theme Issues & Collected Papers

* Editor M C Whitby **Land use change: the causes and consequences** ITE Symposium 26 HMSO London 1992 201pp £35.00 (reviewed in Land Use Policy 10/9 1993)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE READING LIST

The NPS of the US Department of the Interior has prepared an annotated reading list 'to improve the availability of guidance on the treatment of historic landscapes'. The foreword by H. Ward Jandl, Chief, Technical Preservation Services Branch refers to two other such lists: Bull 18 How to evaluate and nominate historic landscapes and Bull 30 How to identify, evaluate and register rural historic landscapes. The NPS admits that the list is not exhaustive and this is apparent by the eleven listings on 'Reading the Landscape' or the five on 'Visual Analysis'; a number of other sections appear to be better filled. Nevertheless it may be a very useful addition and cross checkto those in landscape research. The publication is free of copyright which will send many scurrying for the photocopier.

ANTHOLOGY ANSWERS

Houses by Cesare Pavese in Italian Short Stories Racconti Italiani Penguin Parallel texts page 31. From the biographical notes "Recurrent themes in Pavese's work are the antithesis between country and town". Here the story deals with the adolescent urban moochings of two boys.

The Open Air - the Red Roofs of London by Richard Jefferies published by Chatto and Windus, London 1909. Bermondsey lies on the south bank of the Thames just east of the Tower of London. Commuters to the London Bridge station might reflect on the noble quality of this entrance to London. Does it still look like this? Are the roofs really red?

Coming Up for Air by George Orwell originally published 1939 by Victor Gollancz, London. To my view a highly likeable author here bemoaning the vast changes brought about by suburban growth in the 1930's

Afoot in England Chapter 1. by W.H.Hudson, J.M. Dent and Sons London, undated. A series of pleasant, 'moral' or do I mean 'conservative' topographical essays that never seem to reach great heights but make an interesting picture of England before it became motorised.

Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee first published by the Hogarth Press 1959. Many are they who effuse over this rural idyll - so one day I really must finish it.

England in Picardy by John Masefield, from **The Old Front Line:** forming part of An Anthology of Modern Nature Writing edited by Henry Williamson, publisher Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd London 1936. To quote the author's opening lines: 'This description of the old front line, as it was when the Battle of the Somme began, may some day be of use'.

Dubliners - A Painful Case by James Joyce. Written in 1905 and originally published by Grant Richards 1914 this extract taken from Wordsworth Editions Limited 1993, Ware, Hertfordshire. Written when Joyce was in his early 20's - the sparing landscape detail is used to echo the writer's personal misery. Many of these stories refer to specific named streets in Dublin which is an added pleasure and of historic interest

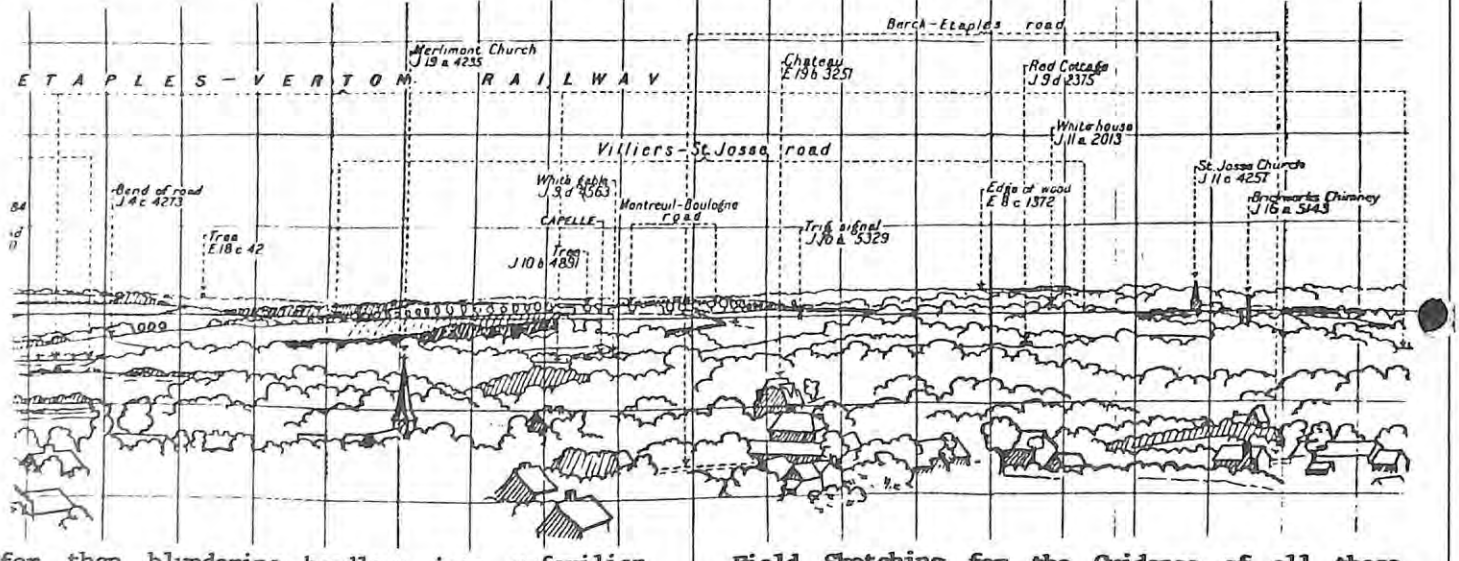
Rio de Janeiro by Douglas Botting [and the Editors of Time Life Books], Time Life Books Amsterdam 1977. This series known for its photo illustration may also have surprisingly good authors. Douglas Botting describes landscape beautifully and in a way that tells you he analyses, feels - a kind of interaction with the soul - and then sets down in words what others find difficult. 'Oh I wish I could describe that!'

TOPOGRAPHIC DRAWING

Of all aspects of landscape art, topographical painting has never achieved much status. Long regarded as inferior to the embellished or idealised landscape vision, topographical art has always been thought of as a mere report, an impartial, factual account of a place devoid of artistic interpretation.

Yet, to certain arms of the military, notably the engineers and the artillery, this was exactly what was required. Indeed, one training manual urged soldiers to always adopt a 'cold matter-of-fact eye' when sketching terrain: "a clear expression of facts having some military value should be the aim of every draughtsman in the field.... never attempt to make a picture".

On a battlefield every soldier must quickly familiarise himself with the key elements of the landscape. He must seek terrain that gives cover and concealment, identify the various points for safe observation, and estimate the direction of possible hazards. Such survival skills are largely worthless unless committed to paper. One of the most useful ways of describing any landscape is through drawing - it is more discriminating than photography, much quicker than map-making, and



safer than blundering headlong into unfamiliar territory.

It is not surprising, therefore, that ever since the establishment of a military academy at Woolwich in 1741, the engineer's science of survey and mapwork has been supplemented by lessons in landscape drawing. For 250 years infantry and artillery officers have been taught to analyse the lie of unfamiliar terrain, to record its key tactical features and make an accurate documentary record without resorting to what one manual described as 'artistic effect'. In the archaic language of the 18th century cadets were required to 'break ground and form the eye to the knowledge of it'.

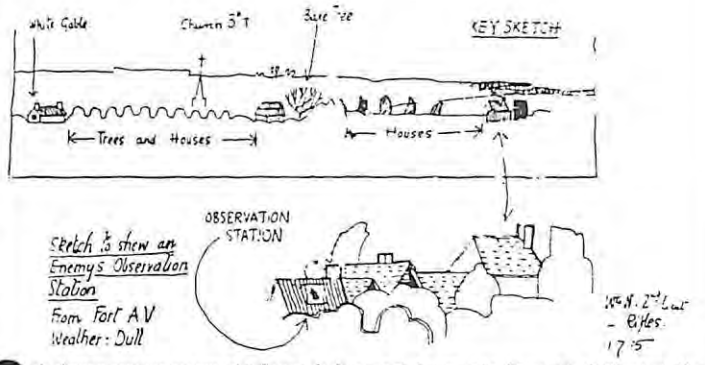
The importance of field sketching (later to become 'Panoramic Drawing') in the Wellington era was reinforced by the appointment, in 1768, of the artist Paul Sandby, then at the height of his fame as an innovative watercolourist painting tutor to the Royal family and founder member of the Royal Academy. During Sandby's long tenure, drawing was taught for 4 hours a week. Classes included 'Simple and easy drawing in black ink... Landscape and Military embellishments... Theory and Practice of Perspective'. Cadets were sent out on sketching trips around Woolwich until they advanced to more demanding classes in the Upper Academy such as 'Large and more difficult landscapes, coloured'.

Under his guidance many cadets went on to become quite accomplished landscape painters. Martin Hardie cites the work of several officers who learned to imitate Sandby's informal, picturesque style. Yet, in the following century military sketching lapsed into a dull mechanical style, dominated by the rule book and regarded as a mere adjunct to map reading. By the turn of the century drawing was relegated to a minor item of 'special study'.

The outbreak of war in 1914 saw the War office hurriedly reissuing its training books including the wonderfully titled **Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching for the Guidance of all those Concerned.** Other official and commercial manuals followed. Trench warfare on the Western Front saw a revival in the fortunes of military sketching; the static front meant that the landscape, however devastated, could be examined and analysed in detail. The military could also draw upon the talents of a large number of soldiers with an art school, or artistic, background.

One such soldier was the architect William Godfrey Newton. His guide **Military Landscape Sketching and Target Indication** (1916) became the authoritative training manual of the war. Newton, a lieutenant in the Artists Rifles, devised a course of study of

just one lecture and two days practical work in the field. He advocated a simple system of line separation, indication points and outline drawing within a regime of three golden rules - clarity, analysis, relevance. "A line should be as sharp and precise as a command. A wavering line dies away carrying no conviction or information because it is the product of a wavering mind"!



...ch demonstrating system of "Target Indication," designed by Lieut. W. G. Newton, M.C. (See Chapter XX.)

Even in the Second World War artistically inclined artillery soldiers were detailed to make panorama drawings as part of counter-battery intelligence. Bombardier Ray Evans, who went on to become a leading illustrator and watercolourist, recalled making highly detailed panoramas during the North African campaign using powerful mounted binoculars and drawing onto grid paper. His surviving battle panoramas, along with others in private and regimental collections, form a fascinating, but undervalued, part of the visual history of warfare. Military sketching, it seems, could be the point where terrain analysis, aesthetics and topography usefully overlap.

Further reading Military drawing is poorly served in most art and landscape histories. **Martin Hardie's Watercolour Painting in Britain (vol 3) The Victorian Period** (Batsford, London, 1966) is an exception. For Paul Sandby consult: Bruce Robertson, **The Art of Paul Sandby** (Yale UP, 1985) and Luke Hermann, **Paul and Thomas Sandby** (Batsford/V & A, 1986). There are many official and commercial training manuals, among them: **Manual of Field Sketching and Reconnaissance** (1889)
Active Service Pocket Book 2nd Lt Bertrand Stewart (1907)
Military Sketching and Map Reading Major RF Legge (Gale, Polden, 1916)
Military Panoramic Drawing in three Lessons Maj R Pearson (1916)
Military Landscape Sketching and Target Indication WG Newton (Hugh Rees, 1916)
Military Panorama Sketching EC Axe (1916)
Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching (War Office, 1921).

Dr Paul Gough
University of the West of England, Bristol

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Our Australian correspondent reports that the following research projects in landscape architecture were completed in 1992 at the School of Environmental Planning, University of Melbourne under the supervision of Jan Schapper:

Dean Thornton - Alphington: a sense of place Firstly, this necessitated defining the borders of Alphington, a locality without official recognition as a suburb. A variety of qualitative and quantitative methods, including investigation of the history of Alphington, a photographic survey and questionnaires, were used to ascertain the borders of the area. The components contributing to its sense of place were then identified using a phenomenological approach to sample residents in the area. The results identified borders for the Alphington area and physical components that contribute to its sense of place. These components included the paper mill, the river, the boathouse, the major road, the golf course and parklands.

Rob Snelling - Historic landscapes: attitudes of the broader community and heritage experts towards conserving historic landscapes. This research identified attitudes held by both heritage experts and by members of the broader community to conservation of historic landscapes. 'Heritage experts' included historians, archaeologists, engineers, architects, landscape architects, property managers, volunteer guides, head gardeners and conservation planners. The 'broader community' included visitors to the study sites ranging from people who knew very little about historic landscapes to those who knew a lot. Three case studies were used, Como, Rippon Lea and Gulf Station, all in Victoria. Standardised questionnaires were the principal means of investigation. Many aspects of historic conservation were investigated, including criteria for valuing and conserving the property, interpreting manageing and funding it. Historic value was the most highly prized attribute, with heritage experts a little more interested than the general community. Aesthetic value was valued more by the community than by the experts. Scientific value received a surprisingly high overall interest rating. The community valued good interpretation and asked for more to be provided. Overall, heritage professionals effectively represent the community views of hertitage but hold historic value in higher regard than the public at large. It was concluded that the public's need for better interpretation may even this out and the study indicates the need for better marketing of properties.

Matthew Berry - Places of meaning and memory: the cemetery as a therapeutic environment This research took the view that cemeteries should

respond to the needs of the living, and investigated the capacity of cemeteries to provide a therapeutic environment to the bereaved. In many cases the modern cemetery was found to do little to fulfil the needs of the bereaved and in some cases, ran counter to their needs. The research methods included investigation of the needs of the bereaved, using focussed interviews with a wide range of people associated with the funeral industry and bereavement counselling, and observation of cemetery layout and function. The research concluded that different types of environment were needed for different stages of the grieving process and to account for individual preferences. It was important to provide people with different types of places where they felt they could dwell with their grief. The early stages of grief revolve around activities at the gravesite, and the gravesite itself. The need to attend and tend the grave was emphasised and cemetery design needed to respect this. In later stages of the grieving process, the knowledge of the location of the site may be sufficient and although visits may diminish, its role does not.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS - A GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE

The Government's environmental policy is now firmly based on the principle of "sustainable development". It's policy statements make clear that Government sees planning authorities playing a major role in achieving this objective. Policy Planning Guide Notes 1 and 12 (1992) in particular emphasise this, and PPG12 states firmly that planning authorities should carry out an environmental appraisal of their emerging development (ie structure or local) plans to ensure they really do take sustainable development linked environmental issues fully into account.

Now, the Department of the Environment has published "Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans" - a good-practice guide to help planning authorities put PPG12 into effect. It offers guidance on a range of techniques and procedures, which can be easily used at each stage of the plan preparation process.

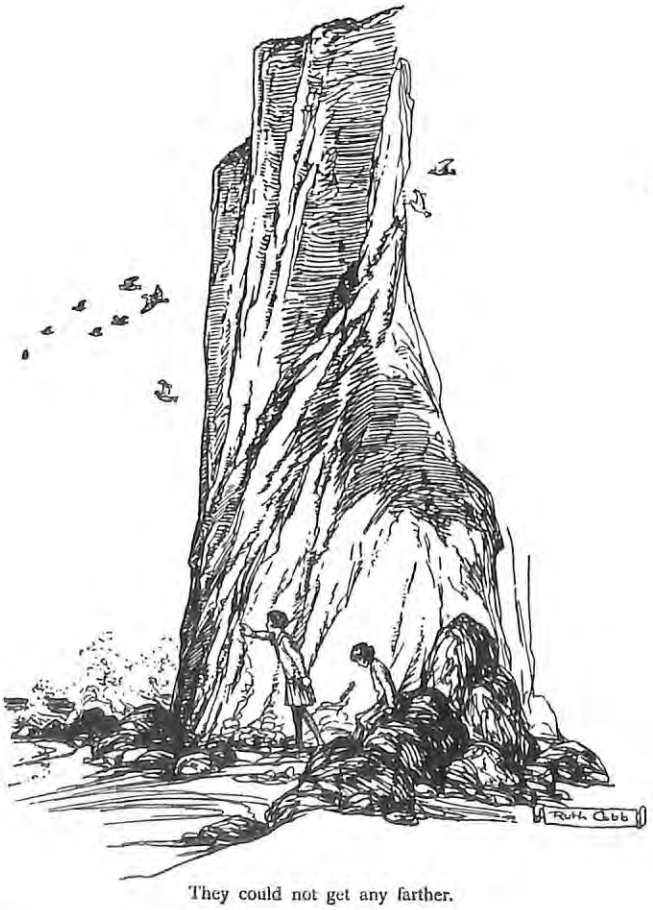
The guide is based on the results of a research project (to be published in due course) which looked at good practice in twelve planning authorities. Each of these authorities were judged to be well advanced in developing techniques to appraise the environmental content of plans. The twelve were Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Kent and Lancashire County Councils; Gateshead, Kirklees and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Councils; London Borough of Camden and Bristol City; Forest Heath and South Shropshire District Councils.

If you are interested in strategic (structure) planning, or local planning, and more generally in the way in which environmental issues can be integrated into land use policy formulation, this good practice guide is well worth a read. The results of the research project itself, and the work of the various local authorities involved, covering issues such as environmental capacity, state of the environment auditing, environmental scoping and policy appraisal, should make even better reading.

Steve Shuttleworth

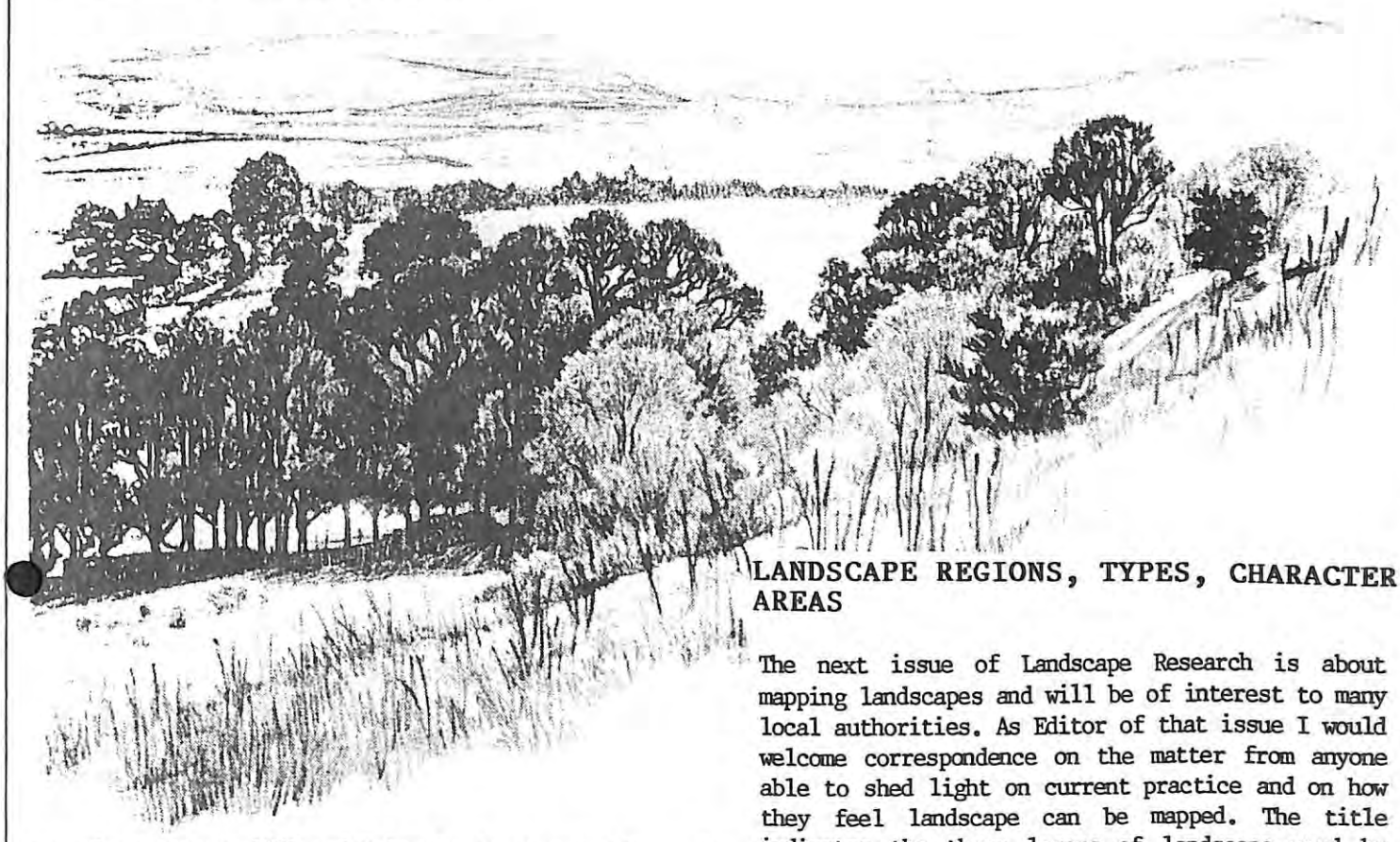
ILLUSTRATIONS

I have pleasure in acknowledging a number of illustrations. On page 13 by Ruth Cobb a view of Sussex from Travellers to the Town (The Epworth Press London 1953), which she both illustrated and wrote. Also by Ruth Cobb is the line drawing on page 12 of a cliff with the caption "They could not get any further". This time it is one of many attractive illustrations by several artists in the book Enthralling Stories for Girls, Thomas Nelson & Sons London 1931. This period piece of childrens' literature was presented to Amy Hext for perfect



They could not get any farther.

East Sussex: the Valley of the Ouse



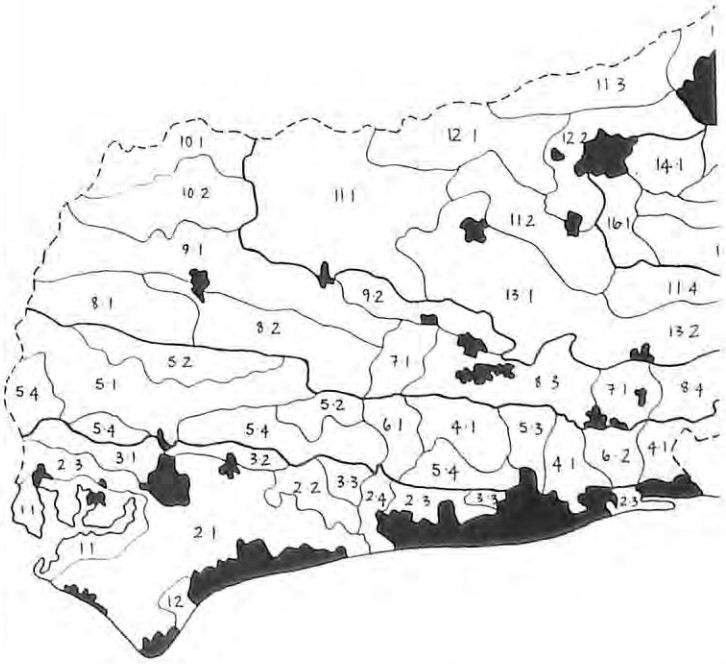
attendance Easter 1932 and I bought it at a jumble sale for line drawings and good design. From the same book I took the picture used to illustrate the Landscapes of Fear conference. The artist is Florence May Anderson. J A Labrousse is the 1930's artist who now embellishes the section 'Should You Read'. In 'Enthralling Stories for Girls' it heads the contents page.

The two small ink drawings within 'Other Journals' come from The Departed Village by RE Moreau (County Book Club, Readers Union Ltd, originally Oxford University Press 1968), the illustrator was David Gentleman. This carefully presented book records rural life in the village of Berrick Salome in Oxfordshire at the turn of the century. The cartoon entitled 'The Question (?) of the Day' seemed apt to illustrate Simon Rendel's piece on tranquil areas and is taken from 'Mr Punch Awheel'. This is one of a set of 25 volumes of the Punch Book of Humour published in about 1925 but not dated, 'by arrangement with the Proprietors of Punch, by Carmelite House London EC.' Within the text on pages 17 and 18 the engravings by John Parsons are taken from William Robinson The Wild Garden published by John Murray London 1903.

We live in an age of clip art I get pleasure raiding my bookshelf for illustrations which I present to you in a spirit of historical research. Sentimentally I feel pleased to show respect for and give a second viewing to the artists many now dead whom we publish here.

LANDSCAPE REGIONS, TYPES, CHARACTER AREAS

The next issue of Landscape Research is about mapping landscapes and will be of interest to many local authorities. As Editor of that issue I would welcome correspondence on the matter from anyone able to shed light on current practice and on how they feel landscape can be mapped. The title indicates the three layers of landscape used by West Sussex to map their county and I enclose a fragment of their manuscript analysis. And this tiny extract from the description of Landscape type 7. 'The slowly meandering rivers and wide floodplains of the Arun and the Adur generally undisturbed by prominent manmade features create simple and well balanced patterns and a landscape which appears tranquil and surprisingly remote. The Brooklands take on seasonal character variations as winter brings dramatic flooding, white frosts and lingering mists....'



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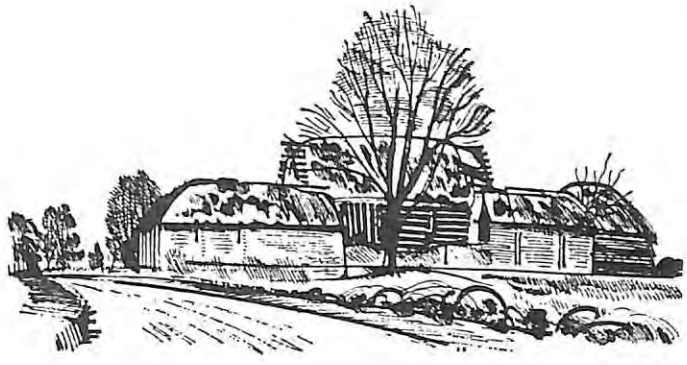
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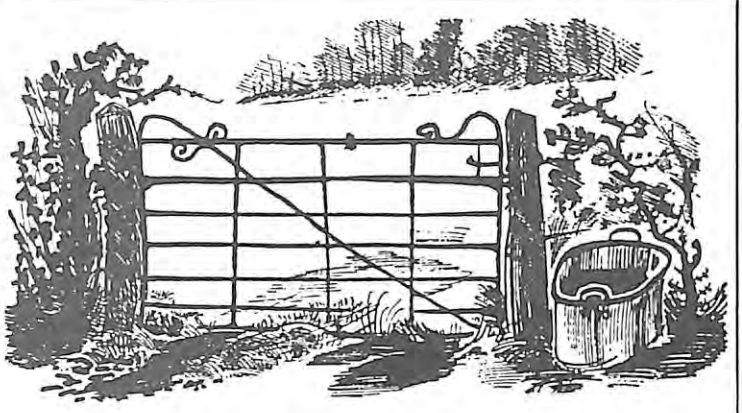
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ECUMENE

The first number of a new journal dealing with environment, culture and the meaning of the habitable earth appeared in January. It is



published by Edward Arnold four times a year at an annual subscription rate of £33 for individuals in UK and Europe. The joint editors, Denis Cosgrove, who has now moved to Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, and James Duncan, at Syracuse University, invite contributions on all aspects of landscape from accounts of landscape change to landscape in art, on the history of the scientific study of nature and on the cultural dimensions of environmentalism.

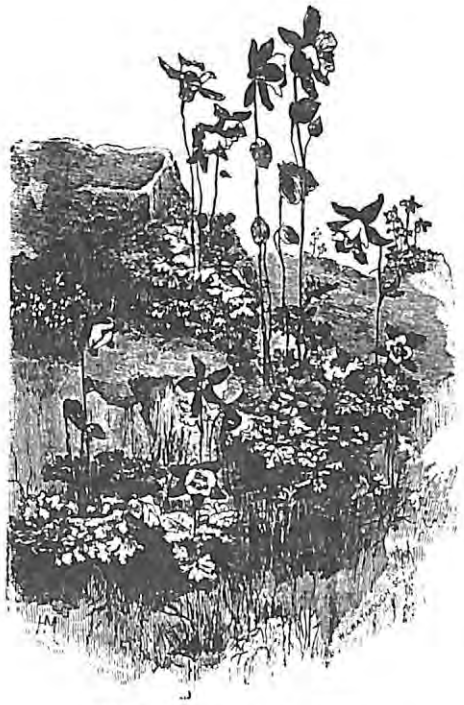
In the first number, a long article explores the Islamic tradition of agro-ecology, interpreting attitudes to physical environments and the development of agronomic science. In a study of a sense of geographical belonging, a sociologist attempts to bridge the gap between environmental psychology and cultural geography. Two papers deal with the construction of cultural and national identities: one examines the postcolonial condition of uprootedness and hybrid cultural identity expressed in Salman Rushdie's **Satanic Verses**; another reviews late nineteenth-century fears engendered by the first attempt to dig a Channel Tunnel. Future numbers promise articles on Baudrillard's America, romancing the sand in the Imperial Valley, California, moral geography in Broadland, visualising imperialist geography, environmental determinism in the city and dynastic representation in Mughal Lahore. A majority of authors so far are cultural geographers, but this is an exciting new venture which should raise many important questions for landscape research.

Hugh Prince

NEW NATIONAL GARDEN OF WALES - NEW CONSERVATION RESOURCE FOR EUROPE?

Since the late Middle Ages, botanic gardens have represented the cultural and scientific importance of plants in society. Each garden provides a reflection of the world in which its founders lived. Hence, two of our oldest Botanic Gardens - Oxford and the Chelsea Physic Garden - are relatively small in area, surrounded by walls and designed principally for the study of herbaceous plants in

the service of medicine. Both gardens were founded in the 17th century. Our most famous botanic garden, at Kew, reflects the world view of the Empire builders of the second half of the 18th century, perpetuated during the garden's expansion in the 19th century. Kew's dominant themes were plant taxonomy (the Linnean system dates from the 1750s), economic botany (turning plants to profit), and the cultivation of curious exotics (sent home by colonial explorers and settlers). Hitherto, the founding ethos of all our major botanic gardens has been the exploitation of nature, rather than conservation.



SIBERIAN COLUMBINE in rocky place

While all major gardens are now active in providing facilities for conservation and other ecological studies, the established collections do not have enough space and this, for example, restricts opportunities to study populations; this in its turn limits scope for various experimental approaches that are of importance in modern biology.

No one should dispute the significance of botany within the modern world. Although one might argue that botany is on the decline in scientific institutions, environmentalism is now more far-reaching in its social significance than botany ever was; and botany gave birth to ecology, which in turn spawned the environmental movement. In that botany is the fount of environmentalism, it remains supremely important. If its status has diminished in academic circles, it is because its significance has moved out of science and into society at large. Botany's children, ecology, environmentalism and molecular genetics, are now more vigorous than their ageing parent.

It is extraordinary that for more than 150 years, Britain has not seen the creation of a major botanic garden. Even more surprising none has ever been established in Wales. Given the widespread cultural adoption of principles of nature conservation and sustainable production, the time is surely right to establish a national institution which reflects, interprets and celebrates the ideology and the processes which underlie society's new-found environmental awareness. The opportunity to create such a significant witness to the legacy of late twentieth century ideology now exists in Southwest Wales.

The site at Middleton Hall, Llanarthne, Dyfed, is rural, free of pollution and plentifully supplied with water from springs and the celebrated Welsh weather. These qualities are essential when one considers the stresses which drought and environmental pollution can cause to plants in the urban conditions of other national Botanic Gardens, whether in Britain or in Western Europe. Although one might expect that such qualities would only be found in remote areas, the proposed entrance to the Middleton site lies within 400 metres of the A48 extension to the M4 motorway and can be reached



SNOWDROPS, by streamlet

within about one and a half hour's drive from the Severn Bridge. The proposed site, some 230 hectares of open parkland with a chain of late eighteenth-century ornamental lakes and cascades, is currently owned by Dyfed County Council. Dyfed has recognised the potential importance of recent initiatives to create a new botanic garden and has offered to make the site available when funding for the project has been secured.

The new approach to botany and environmental science focuses on interactions among organisms, the conservation of plants and habitats, the responses of plants to environmental change, the maintenance of genetic diversity, the use of plants in new, environmentally sensitive ways to provide fuel,

building materials and food - and other important concerns. The new botanic garden will reflect all of these concerns, presenting living systems and plant communities rather than a catalogue of unique 'exhibits'. It will be as much an environmental garden as a botanic garden.

The New Garden will have national and international roles to play. On the National level, it will provide a non-urban focus for Welsh culture in its original form: at present the rural and Welsh-speaking focus is provided by Eisteddfodau (the Welsh plural of Eisteddfod), and other festivals and agricultural shows, but there is no permanent focus of Welsh culture outsiden the anglo-welsh cities such as Cardiff. As at Kew and Edinburgh it would be capable of attracting very large numbers of visitors for several centuries. Internationally, the New Garden, will be capable of responding from the start to the needs of the scientific community. Available sites with Middleton's clean air, high rainfall and vast capacity to accomodate new planting are rare in Europe. Making full use of these special attributes the Garden will have facilities for much needed displays, demonstrations and research that existing over-committed botanic gardens have been unable to provide.

Environmentalism and Welsh culture will together form the basis for the design of the Garden. Exhibitions and interactive displays will be used to demonstrate the intricacy of biological systems, the fragility of some and the robustness of others, and to interpret the effects of disturbance on natural ecosystems. A 'Biosnoop' area will be created for remote viewing of natural processes. An associated 'Biotech Business Park', restricted to environmentally sound enterprises, is envisaged. The Garden will provide a unique opportunity to alter perceptions of Wales as 'backward'. Traditional husbandry in the Middleton area demonstrates how environmentally responsible rural Wales has been. The traditional practises have perpetuated a high degree of biodiversity and have had a greater influence on the landscape than contemporary conservation measures. Traditional husbandry will be represented alongside contemporary practise and the importance of both will be interpreted.

Two years ago, a major feasibility study recommended the establishment of the National Botanic Garden of Wales at Middleton. The project has the full backing of a number of Government agencies who contributed to the cost of the feasibility study. Welsh botanists are in favour, and many prominent individuals, including the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are actively supportive. Several weeks ago, the Secretary of State for Wales announced that a £60,000 independent study should be commissioned to test the base case for a National Botanic Garden of Wales, and to assess the site requirements. Although some £18m will be required to do justice to this great scientific and cultural undertaking, the investment will be worthwhile if only to show that Britain has taken the resolutions of the Earth Summit seriously. In what better way could the currents of science, culture and environmentalism be united to reflect the concerns of modern society? If the proposed National Botanic Garden of Wales is not brought into being, it will only be a matter of time before a more enlightened nation establishes a garden of the future which will stand as a memorial to the universal import of environmental awareness.

Andrew Sclater

About the author: Dr Sclater is a member of LRG, has special interests in the cultural meaning of landscapes, and runs the historic landscape consultancy Landskip and Prospect. He holds degrees in horticulture and physiological botany, and teaches in universities in Wales and England. He was the first chairman of the steering group for the National Botanic Garden of Wales: Middleton, and is developing the ethos of the garden to meet the needs of modern botany and to embody the environmental issues which characterise late twentieth century cultural practice and ideology. He can be contacted at his office in **Talley, Llandeilo, Dyfed, SA19 7YH, or via his associated office Rerumnovarumlaan 122, 2170 Merksem, Belgium.**



DOE RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Periodically the UK Department of the Environment announces major programmes of research it wishes to see carried out by research bodies,commercial practices, universities and individuals. They have now separated their announcements into two newsletters one entitled Minerals research programme and instability (unstable geologists only need apply!) and the other Land use planning and development, countryside and rural affairs. The first for example starts with a project monitoring of limestone replication field trials - quarry restoration on hard limestone and there are other projects on landscaping and reclamation. The second newsletter contains inter alia projects which have a strong landscape element - on urban forestry, landscape characterisation and habitat management.

Many will already know of these project opportunities but to be on their mailing list enquire to Brian Marker Minerals Division or Geoff Brown Planning Directorate at DOE 2, Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB



THE NEXT LRG CONFERENCE

Our next conference will be entitled **Landscapes of Fear** and will be held at University College London on Wednesday 25th May.

The aims of the conference are:

1. to bring together academic researchers, landscape practioners, architects, the police and local authority staff to discuss contemporary concerns about crime, and fear of crime in public spaces.
2. to review empirical research to establish the links between specific features in built environments, public spaces, and green areas, and fear of crime among different sections of the community.
3. to disseminate current examples of best practice in reducing crime/fear of crime through improved design, and changed policies of management of public spaces.

Programme for Landscapes of Fear Conference

We have an interesting and varied group of speakers:

Professor Bill Hillier, Architecture, UCL: (title to be agreed) to talk about space syntax and the work completed by his unit on fear of crime and architectural design.

Professor David Canter, Environmental Psychology, University of Surrey. CRIMINALS' PERSONAL GEOGRAPHIES

Dr Jacquie Burgess Geography, UCL. PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS IN RECREATIONAL WOODLANDS

Dr Gill Valentine Geography, University of Manchester STRANGER DANGER: WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS OF FEAR IN EVERYDAY SPACES

Chief Inspector Houlgate Community Affairs Branch, Metropolitan Police. DESIGNING OUT CRIME - THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Ms Kate Painter Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge: (title to be agreed). To discuss research on design and impact of lighting on fear/crime reduction.

Mr Meredith Evans Head of Urban Management, Leicester City Council: (title to be agreed) Recovering public spaces for the wider public.

The cost of the conference will be £75.00 (£40 for fulltime students, voluntary and community groups) including lunch. **Further details from David Coleman, Landscape Research Group, 49 Crediton Hill, London NW6 1HS**

EVENTS & CALL FOR PAPERS

Saturday 16 April 1994 **The Romance of Place** One day interdisciplinary conference Exeter University. Plenary speakers include Alison Light, Helen Dunmore and Raphael Samuel

Call for papers: Languages of Landscape Architecture 1995 Australian Educators in Landscape Architecture annual conference, Lincoln University, New Zealand. Abstracts due 28 February 1994 (We are a little late). Details: Dr S R Swaffield, LOLA Convenor, Dept of Landscape Architecture, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury NZ Fax: (0064)(3) 325-3854 Tel: (0064)(£) 325-3804 or 325-2811 Email: SWAFFIES@LINCOLN.AC.NZ

29-30 November 1994 **Market perceptions in the residential environment.** AN LRG CONFERENCE. This is a one day conference limited to 60 applicants which will congregate the evening before for discussion and relaxation at Rewley House, Oxford. We expect to have displays set up to stimulate thought. The aim of the conference is to encourage discussion on the physical and social result of different residential designs and layouts. It will investigate how these have changed over the years to give us the present housing stock, and whether imposed regulations from highways and planning or the cost of land, or public preference dictate the appearance of new house building. To what extent do late twentieth century lifestyles influence design and how will our children's children interpret present day housing. How do successful housebuilders read the public's preferences and what scope is there for developing distinctive housing. The conference will look for what is enduring and desirable in the present housing stock. Mapping residential areas using airphotos will give the discussion a spatial and historical context.

Simon Rendel of Ash Consulting Group, Didcot, Brian Goodey of Oxford Brookes University, Headington and Bud Young the editor of Landscape Research Extra invite participation and ideas which for convenience should be channelled please through the last named (address on page 20).

JANUARY FLOOD PHOTOGRAPHY

Floods in the first half of January dramatically but briefly altered many valley landscapes. On a long journey from Devon to North Wales it was wonderful to see the floodwaters asserting their domain, spreading over areas normally unsuspected, standing as lakes in old channels and as watery corduroy in the ridge and furrow; leaving my road causewayed to many bridges. It was the OGRE returning to hold villagers, farmers and travellers in fear and respect for another hundred years!



'Water in the landscape - add ten points'...well I don't know, how do people react to it when it also displays menace. Depends perhaps who you are and whether you are threatened inconvenienced or merely stimulated by it all (as I was). How was it in Missouri? For me it made sense of unseen landform levels, of wet place names and of landscape history, of alluvial plains and limitations on land use. I imagined greater post glacial floods rough modelling the landscape we now occupy. And the boy in me thought of exploring new capes and promontories, new wooded islands and stranded farmsteads by boat. As a child I walked in flooded meadows and there was then no greater delight. And there, unconfined the floods rose gently and stood quietly, but not so beneath the piers of the bridge when one begins to see the terror of it all.

From dreams of youth to commercial realities: Geonex UK Ltd (I declare an interest) were out flying the Thames. The results are technically brilliant; high quality, low altitude colour photography under the cloud in January is difficult to get right but can be done with good processing and the best new aerial cameras. I offer you a black and white printed example on the left but you really ought to see it in the colour original! It shows a high quality residential area along the Thames at Maidenhead - bet the inhabitants never expected that! Geonex can be contacted at 0455 844513 if you wish to explore their coverage of the floods which might make a very interesting basis for landscape research.



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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