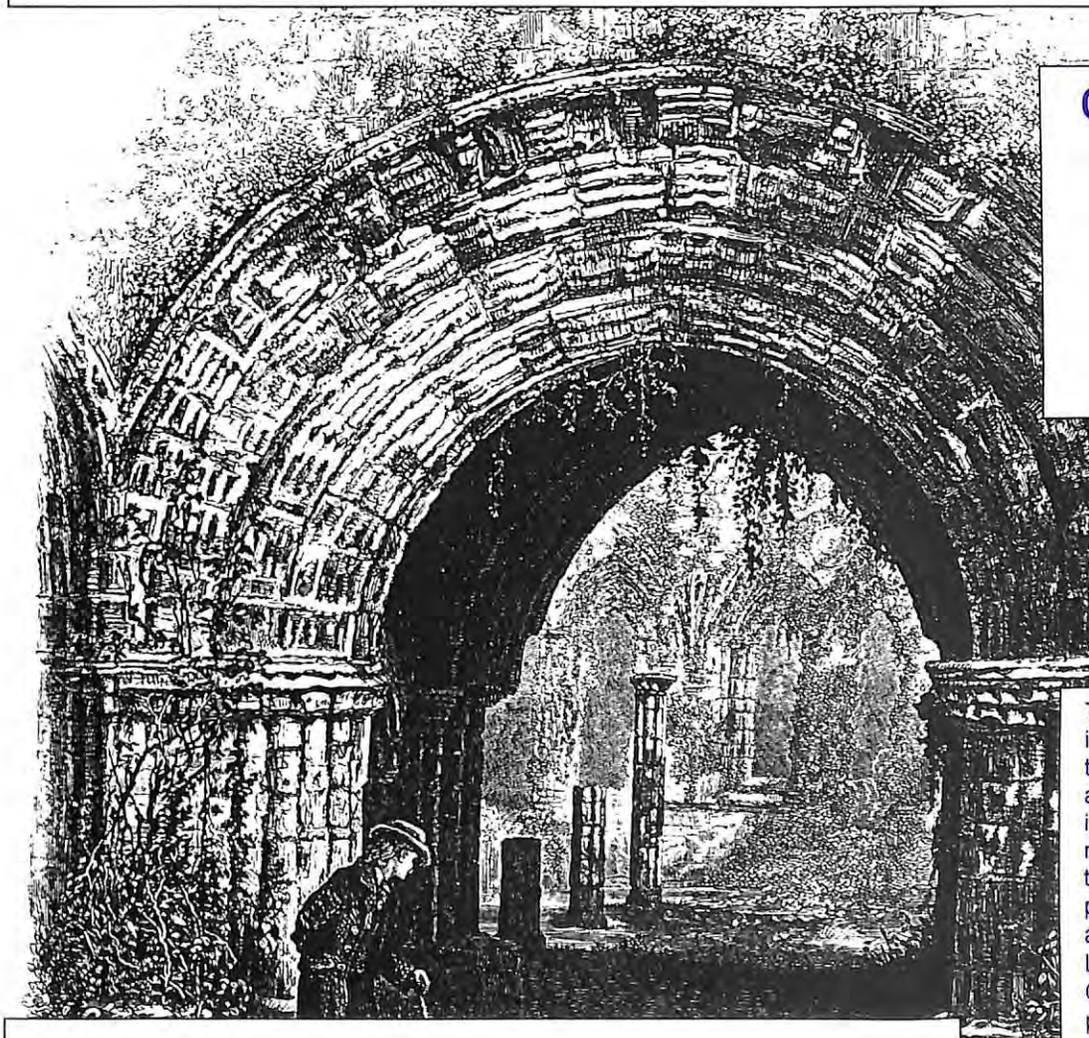
Busy all winter then breaking out into the sunshine of spring, daffodils Unpredictable, deliriously nice weather Blossoms and tree flowers. And as my deadline passes there is apple blossom and lilac in the garden. Now its going over.....

I continue to believe that you are out there. Why not exercise your writing talent in LRE 31: send me something!

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA 30 May 2002



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Philip Pacey
David Eagar
Paul Selman
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Picturesque Britain

Two books, red morocco bound tomes lie heavy on my office coffee table. My father bought them and I have known them for fifty five years. They are undated but published by Cassell Petter and Galpin, London, Paris and New York. "Picturesque Europe: the British Isles with illustrations on steel and wood by the most eminent artists"*.

What strange styles! Curving rooflines, beetling cliffs and pinnacles, savage skies and crumbling abbey gateways. Often though they

The views and opinions in this publication are those of the authors and the editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group. It is prepared by Rosemary and Bud Young for the Landscape Research Group and distributed periodically to members worldwide as companion to its refereed main journal Landscape Research.

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seem to mimic the strange styles of Chinese painting. Those of you who study the picturesque will be familiar with the kind of illustration I speak of. They contain a plethora of ancient gnarled and twisted trees, hermits' cells and caves, waterfalls and desperate shipwrecks; houses afflicted by decay and roofs that are twisted. And to think that this was once the height of taste.

It makes you wonder whether we, oh so modern, contort the landscape to fit our own predilections. Of course not! The naturalistic honesty of the camera lens has seen an end to all that. But hang on just think of the brutally distorted, angled monochromes that aim to dazzle us with that "style and the city" idea. The vivid green of country meadows o'erstood by purple skies. Happy families carrying picnic baskets, white horses prancing through lead-grey waves. Well, mmmmm, I wonder.

*Boot, Rowbotham, Scott, Skelton, Jones, Senior, Staniland, Wimperis, Harry Fenn, Harmsworth, May, Green, Leitch and others are among the engravers.

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH: 26/4 October 2001

'Landscape Research' reached an important landmark in 2001 when it went to quarterly publication. Gratifyingly, we ended the year with a very full issue consisting of five main articles, two short communications and a healthy clutch of book reviews. The introductory paper, which also supplied the enchanting cover photograph, was by **Brian Hudson of Queensland University of Technology** on *Wild Ways and Paths of Pleasure: access to British waterfalls, 1500-2000.* Hudson's topic is unusual but highly effective. It concentrates on the aesthetic appeal of waterfalls and their importance as tourist attractions, in particular the way in which improved access and provision of tourist amenities has altered the landscape and, consequently, the visitor's experience of it. Early visitors to waterfalls were lured by the growing taste for wild scenery during the Romantic era, although access was often difficult and hazardous. Guide books point to the roads and paths which could be taken to see spectacular and awesome falls, many of which have now become familiar destinations attracting coachloads of day trippers. Hudson's paper, though, provides an eloquent reminder of how these wild settings must have appeared to the first adventurous travellers.

Paul Dolman, Andrew Lovett, Tim O'Riordan and Dick Cobb of the University of East Anglia report on the outcome of a major ESRC research project in their paper, *Designing Whole Landscapes.* One of the dilemmas of landscape design is that it only has the tools to operate at the site level, whereas the recovery of the countryside depends on visionary planning on a broad scale. Similarly, biodiversity planning requires an approach which re-connects habitats in the wider countryside, yet generally has to content itself with action at the level of the nature reserve. There are three major challenges in responding to this dilemma: handling the sheer volume of information necessary for 'wider countryside' planning; enabling land managers to visualise re-designed future landscapes; and co-ordinating action amongst numerous, independent decision-takers. This paper attempts in some measure to do all three. Concentrating on a part of west Oxfordshire, the authors first survey the landscape resources of an extensive estate, then simulate future scenarios displaying future landscapes in terms of their appearance and management implications, and finally test the scenarios with local farmers to gauge their potential willingness to co-operate in realising the vision. Much of the paper is concerned with the technology of visualising alternative future landscape scenarios in terms which are comprehensible to the lay public, although it provides sufficient insight into people's attitudes and reactions to keep technophobes interested.

Mariette Julien and Jean Zmyslony of Quebec University ask the question, *Why do Landscape Clusters Emerge in an Organised Fashion in Anthropogenic Environments?* Their paper researches the apparent similarity of garden styles within neighbourhoods, applying a phenomenological approach to residents' actions within their 'front yard' landscapes. Thus, the use of plants and garden fixtures evidently does not occur randomly throughout the city; rather, distinct patterns emerge in local clusters. The authors explain this regularity in terms of residents' deductive behaviour (copying neighbours' practices) and inductive behaviour (imitation). This potentially has important practical implications for public policy, as urban 'greening' programmes are more likely to stimulate complementary neighbourhood planting if they are related to the 'encyclopaedias' of residents' previous gardening experience.

Clare Rishbeth of Sheffield University writes on *Ethnic Minority Groups and the Design of Public Open Space*, in a paper which examines the relationship between ethnicity, outdoor places and landscape architecture. A key assumption is that ethnicity is a significant influence on the perception and use of public landscapes, and Rishbeth explores how this factor might be embodied in the practice of landscape design. Much of the paper comprises a review of past experience on the use of open countryside and urban parks. Principles are then related to studies of particular landscape settings, including a 'Chinatown' district, a community garden and allotments. It is apparent that, whilst symbols of ethnicity have been incorporated into landscape design, these are not always effective, and can be insensitive if not designed in close co-

operation with user groups. The author concludes that there is a clear need to develop design theory for multi-cultural appreciation of urban and rural environments.

Sylvain Paquette and Gerald Domon of Montreal University provide a further insight into the Canadian landscape with their article on *Rural Domestic Landscape Changes: a survey of the residential practices of local and migrant populations*. The authors describe a process which is widespread in the developed world, namely, the urbanisation of the countryside as rural communities are progressively recomposed. Gradually, the farming landscape is transformed as the countryside becomes a place for living, rather than for making a living (to borrow from Lowenthal). Through their detailed examination of residential-scale practices and related domestic landscape changes, the authors characterise sites broadly in terms of their state of maintenance and degree of association with farming. Interesting variations are uncovered between the practices of different types of locals and migrants, suggesting that gentrification is a far from uniform process in landscape terms.

In the first of two short communications, **Daniel Auclair and his colleagues** from various French research institutes return to the problem of visualising future landscapes. The particular issue for this paper is the landscape transformations that occur through agro-forestry operations, including the creation of woodlots, alternative species compositions, maturation over time, and options for felling trees as they mature. Using innovative computer software to determine the three-dimensional effects of landscape change, the authors visualise their study area from a number of virtual viewpoints, and produce acceptably realistic simulations. The paper is of interest both from the technical point of view, and for the contribution which it makes to land management and planning policy. The final paper takes us for a third time to eastern Canada, with **Wendy McWilliam and Robert Brown's account** of *Effects of a Housing Development on Bird Species Diversity in a forest fragment in Ontario*. This article examines the impact of new housing on the presence of woodland interior birds as a substantial area of woodland is progressively eroded to make way for new development. The authors take as their starting point a bird survey undertaken by the developers as part of an *ex ante* environmental assessment in the late 1970s, and replicate the survey methodology to compile a list of present day bird species. The results indicate some impact on abundance, especially woodland interior species, and map out the changes on the integrity of the woodland blocks. However, perhaps the main interest of the paper lies in the methodological problems of conducting reliable ecological surveys within the time constraints of a planning application, and the subsequent difficulties of verifying actual impacts.

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SHOULD YOU READ

Kebrom Tekle. **Natural regeneration of degraded hillslopes in Southern Wello Ethiopia: a study based on permanent plots**. Applied Geography 21 pp275-300.

Duncan Wishart and Jegg Warburton. **An assessment of blanket mire degradation and peatland gully development in the Cheviot hills, Northumberand.** The Scottish Geographical Journal 117/3 2001 pp 185-206

Paul Robbins. **Tracking invasive land covers in India, or why our landscapes have never been modern.** Annals of the American Assoc of Geographers 91/4 pp637 – 659

John Harmer. **Place identity and copper mining in Sonora Mexico.** Annals of the American Assoc of Geographers 91/4 pp660-680

Hannes Palang **Sense of Place** IALE Bulletin 20/1 2002 pp 1and 2. IALE is the International Association for Landscape Ecology

John S Pipkin. **Hiding Places : Thoreau's Geographies.** Am Assoc of Geographers 91/3 pp527-545

Leif Sahlqvist. **Territorial behaviour and communication in a ritual landscape.** Geographifisca Annaler 82B/2 2002 pp82-102.

Wilbert M Gesler and Margaret Pearce. **Hindu Varanasi (-study of sacred spaces-)**. The Geographical Review 90/2 pp222-237

Doug Mercer. **Future histories of Hanford: the material and semiotic production of a landscape.** Cultural Geographies 9/1 2002 pp35-67.
*Note the website of this journal www.culturalgeographies.com

John Boardman. **Storms floods and soil erosion on the South Downs, East Sussex autumn and winter 2000-2001.** Geography 86/4 pp 346-355.

Philip T Giles and Martin C King. **Canadian landform examples - 41 Les sillons: a relict foredune plain.** Canadian Geographer

John Anthony Hellen **Temporary settlements and transient populations the legacy of Britain's prisoner of war camps: 1948-1948** (16 figures 7 tables and 3 photos). Erdekunde Band 53/3 1999

Maratin J Pasqualetti. **Morality, space and the power of wind energy landscapes.** The Geographical Review 90/3 pp 381-394

Peter B Urich, Michael J Day and Fiona Lynagh. **Policy and practice in karst landscape protection: Bohol the Phillipines.** The Geographical Journal 167/4 pp 305-323.

Richard Burden, Robert Watts and Bryan Brown. **The management of natural beauty: Challenges on Cranborne Chase.** Geography 87/1 pp 49-63.

The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management, coordinated by Sue Wilson at the LI **Guidelines for landscape and visual assessment: second edition** Publishers Spon Press, 2002 £35 hb

Laurence Pattacini **Landscape and landscape guidance: Saint Gervais les Bain, a case study.** (a typo-morphological analysis of landscapes in a tourist development area) Journal of Urban Design 6/3, 2001 pp 317- 325

CY Jin and HT Liu . **Patterns and dynamics of urban forests in relation to land use and development history in Guangzhou City, China.** The Geographical Journal 167/4 pp 358-375.

Michael Pacione. **The future of the city - cities of the future**. Geography 86/4 pp 275-286.

John R Gold. **Under darkened skies: the city in science fiction film.** Geography 86/4 pp 337-345.

ANTHOLOGY

The rules of the game here are not to look at the answers until you have tried to guess the date, style, author, book and intention of the passage. Test yourself. The authors are listed after the passages, try not to look.

It is almost hopeless to describe the prospect which greets the eye as you step forth upon the leads. Surely the earthly paradise by the "Rivers of Damascus" can scarce be more fair. Yet one should not compare it with foreign scenes. There is no danger here of thinking of the gardens of Abana, or the purple distances of the Lombard Plain; no memory arises of that carpet of verdure which, from the crags of the Drachenfels, seems to melt into the far-off mists beyond the Towers of Cologne, or even of those endless undulations of field and forest that shelve away gently from the Odenwald Hills towards the Danube Valley. The scenery is English - thoroughly English - such as you find nowhere in such perfection as in our Southern Counties. To describe it is a hopeless task; I can see it before my eyes, but I cannot picture it in words. Beneath our feet the wooded hills sink rapidly down the valley; through a break in the trees Virginia Water is seen, calm in the sheltered glade, reflecting as in a mirror, the little "Fishing Temple" on its opposite shore. Behind it a wide expanse of woodland shelves gently upwards. Here the sombre foliage of Scotch firs seems like a broad shadow on the landscape; there the larch raises its lighter spires and brighter tints, and then again the graceful birch still more relieves the scene. Line after line the groves recede into the distance; broken now by a stretch of sward, now by one gleaming sheet of distant water, till at last the eye passes across a level belt of trees to rest on some distant hills low down on the horizon, part of the northern limit of the valley of the Thames. The Castle of Windsor cannot be seen, as it is hidden.....

We in the West, who have spent much of our life in a countryside which has been slowly and laboriously transformed over countless generations, whose soils and trees and hedgerows were cherished because they were the result of labours of those who went before us and must be handed on as a legacy to those yet to come, we often forget how exceptional the humanised and domesticated landscape of our earth really are.... We regard such landscapes as the normal type of landscape and the values that go with it as the normal values. In fact such intensely humanised landscapes exist on any scale in only two areas of our globe, at the two extremities of Eurasia: in the Mediterranean -derived culture world of Western Europe and in the Chinese culture world. Only in these two areas.....do we find landscapes that have been transformed by the labours of untold generations of men.....in the shape of medieval town patterns and the hedged fields of western Europe, the hill top town and the dry stone terracing of the Mediterranean or the curving lines and the curving mirror surface of the South China ricefield.

Sunday 22nd We went with them to the Blacksmiths and returned by Butterslip How -- a frost and wind with bright moonshine. The vale looked spacious and very beautiful -- the level meadows seemed very large, and some nearer us unequal ground heaving like sand, the cottages beautiful and quiet. We passed one, near which stood a cropped ash with upright forked Branches like the Devil's horns frightening a guilty conscience. We were happy and cheerful when we got home -- we went early to bed

JULY' (poem) Naught moves but clouds, and in the glassy lake/ their doubles and the shadow of my boat/The boat itself stirs only when I break/this drowse of heat and solitude afloat/ to prove if what I see be bird or mote,/or learn if yet the shore woods be awake.



On the Thames, near Pangbourne.

Long hours since dawn grew, -- spread --and passed on high/ and deep below, -- I have watched the cool reeds hung/ over images more cool in imaged sky:/ nothing there was worth thinking of so long:/all that the ring doves say, far leaves among,/ brims my mind with content thus still to lie.

On the road to Barnsley the stone walls began, settling any possible doubts. The North of England is the region of stone walls. They run from the edges of towns to the highest and widest places on the moors, firmly binding the landscape. You never see anybody building them or repairing them, but there they are, unbroken and continuous from every tram terminus to the last wilderness of bog and cloud. No slope is too steep for them. No place is too remote. They will accurately define pieces of ground that do not even know a rabbit and only hear the cry of curlews. Who built these walls, and why they were ever thought worth building, these are mysteries to me. But when I see them I know that I am home again; and no landscape looks quite right to me without them. If there are not a few thousand leagues of them framing the bright fields of asphodel, it will be no Elysium for me.

YOU MAY NOW TURN OVER FOR ---
"The Authors, the Answers ....."!

T.G.Bonney. *"Picturesque Europe: the British Isles v 1" "Windsor" page 18 Published by Cassell Petter and Galpin London undated but perhaps 1885. Smashing piece of snobbery with so many Grand Tour allusions for their grandly travelled readership. As for the allusive bits I do it myself. And as for that bit starting 'It is almost hopeless to describe the prospect'--'to describe it is a hopeless task' we know how you feel Mr Bonney. I refer elsewhere in this issue to these red leather bound tomes -- see Picturesque Britain. If anyone has a handle on the date or the engravers I would be glad to hear from them.*

Keith Buchanan *"The Transformation of the Chinese Earth." Introduction. Publ G Bell and Sons Ltd London 1970. An interesting and disputable idea which leaves aside those areas which have seen intense farming but grow over in two years or don't have 'permanent' hedge banks and terraces. I feel apologetic about generations or men when women have contributed equally. However this book gives a view of China and its land use reported in the time of Mao and is a very good geographical synoptic for one about to embark who has only travel stereotypes in his travel literature.*

Dorothy Wordsworth *in "The Journals of Dorothy Wordsworth." Editor Mary Moorman with an introduction by Helen Darbishire. Published as an Oxford paperback, Oxford University Press 1971. The year in which she made this diary entry was 1801 and they had just written to Coleridge and Mr and Miss Simpson came in at tea time (!) There is a wealth of small personal observation of landscape in her diaries for she walked regularly of necessity and liked to commit her experiences to the diary on her return. They are therefore fresh thoughts and it will be interesting to discover how they are affected by the moods of the day and the modes of the decade.*

Edward Thomas *from "The Collected Poems of Edward Thomas" page 66. Edited by R. George Thomas. Publisher Oxford University Press 1981. Thomas born 1878 died in the Great War 1917. He was a man who loved and fought for the soil of England. He writes a lot about nature for which one might substitute the expression 'small personally observed landscapes'. This one is full of drowsy, hot, mirrored cloud reflections as he finds content on a lake. Those who want to explore might also look out Jan Marsh's biography Edward Thomas A poet for his country. Publisher Paul Elek London 1978 ISBN 0 236 40122 X. One comment in that biography is, and I quote: 'As he grew up Thomas was conscious of the steady growth of the built up areas (in South London and around Balham) as the open areas where the children played gradually disappeared. This became a recurrent theme in his essays, where literary regret at the encroachment of town on country is combined with a half-disclosed nostalgia for vanished childhood.'*

J.B Priestley *"English Journey" William Heinemann Ltd London in association with Victor Gollanncz Ltd 1934. This book is subtitled as follows: "Being a rambling but truthful account of what one man saw and heard and felt and thought during a journey through England during the Autumn of the Year 1933." It is to my mind a great book and a most enjoyable one, of an important time for the English landscape and the English. One should be impressed at the way Priestley who was also novelist and playwright (and remembered with a statue in his home city of Bradford), encapsulates the idea of historicity, scope ('only hear the cry of curlews'), location ('from every tram terminus'), and human meaning. The words 'asphodel' and 'Elysium' referring to the heavenly places seem to come straight from his non conformist hymn book. Masterful. [I note that Barnsley is in the news today for daring to compare itself with a Tuscan Hill Town. The reporters seemed to have missed the notion behind the town planner's conceptual model.]*

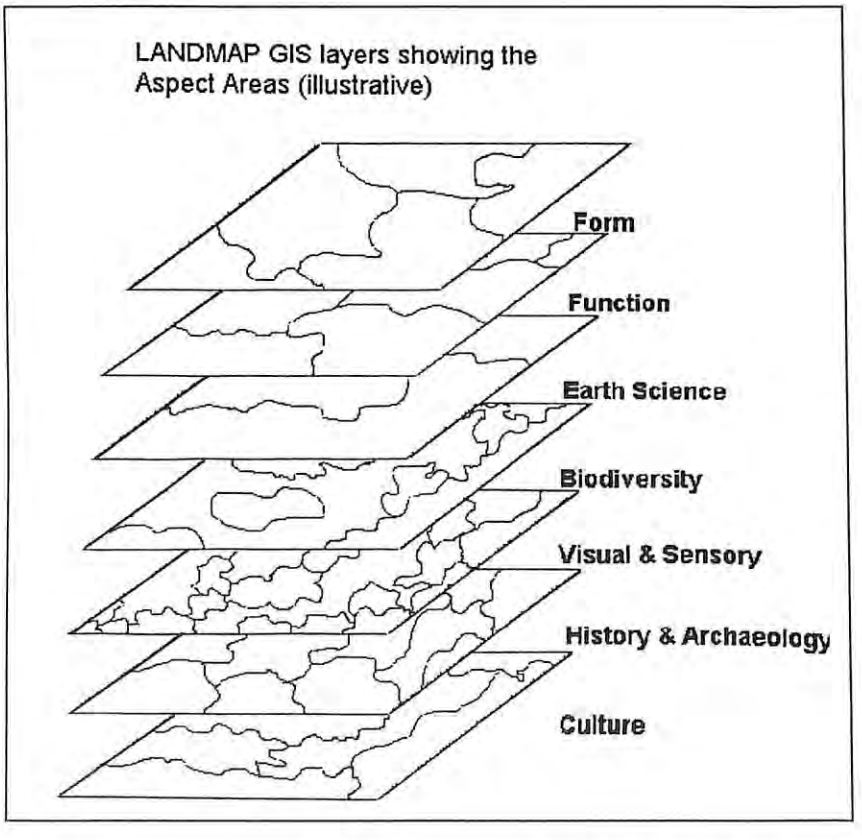
THE WELSH LANDSCAPE : 'LANDMAP AND LM GIS'

Check the internet for 'landmap' and you'll find a fair number of entries. Some relate to the LANDMAP Information System (LIS) devised by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). Many readers will have wrestled with thoughts of how best to describe a landscape faithfully, or have attempted to record and communicate that record to others. There seems to be a consensus that it's a relatively complex task to perform, and one that some allied professionals apparently dismiss as subjective, impossible or irrelevant. CCW has been surprisingly reticent about LANDMAP (LM); despite its two important awards, most landscape professionals outside Wales are relatively unfamiliar with it. It's easy to get the wrong idea about LM: to suggest that it is just another way to do character assessment; CCW landscape policies drafts from 1966 featured characterisation as an integral part of the method. So did it change and by how much?

Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Countryside Commission was publishing its landscape assessments of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In Bangor, Gwynedd, where I'm writing this, CCW was a fledgling countryside agency. David White, CCW's first head of landscape, and an analytical geographer - one of the first out of University College of London's 1960's Conservation Diploma course - was unconvinced by these publications and by the notion of character. As a scientist of the components of landscape and great admirer of landscape, character alone just didn't get to the various hearts of the matter. He saw landscape as a three-way cube -- on one axis, the earth heritage and man-made habitats; axis two represented the different professional perceptions of landscape and the third axis denoted the passage of time.

Clear though his analysis was, it was hard for me, having been a midwife to the Countryside Commission's Midlands character method, to shake off the idea that landscape analysis lay in synthesis. Much later I recalled that the Warwickshire Project's disarmingly simple brief was to discriminate between areas of landscape. Reasonable enough you might think, because, however small, everywhere is an area.

But that brief set the Warwickshire project (Simon Evans and Steven Warnock) on an almost inevitable course in search of 'comprehensive areas' that encapsulated all the various qualities that apparently differentiated one area from the next. Because all the aspects of landscape are not deterministically related to one another, compromise in the identification of such areas would be a consequence. Had that Midlands work started with a quest for the various important qualities that make up a landscape, I believe that the last few years of landscape assessment in Britain might have been different.



So what exactly is LM? Several things: fundamentally it is a method for landscape assessment. It is a "Landscape Assessment aNd Decision-MAking Process". So the product of the assessment's information is an Information System, it is the management structure which ensures that

information is correctly generated and maintained in readiness for access by anyone needing it. Was this at that time a defiantly independent method and system?

The essence and recipe for LM are as simple:

"Take the holistic, geographical definition of landscape. Define the key parts that make it up. Divide the work between national and local government, and involve several consultants. Involve various potential users of the information, both nationally and locally. Then collect information about each part, by identifying, and locating geographically, the particular qualities that need to be 'taken into account' by anyone subsequently managing – in the widest sense of the word – that landscape. Record the resulting information in a GIS. Systematically add a measure of public perception. Quality assure the information nationally. And demonstrate how the information can be used".

In Wales it was not only CCW who saw the need for a new method to serve a host of needs. In summer 1994, CCW convened the first meeting of central government agencies that, early the next year, with the addition of local government representatives, became the Wales Landscape Partnership Group (WLPG). Crucial in its establishment was the role of Tim Dorken who had taken up the role of landscape adviser to the then Welsh Office in succession to Charles Smart – who had himself commissioned a qualitative landscape methodology for Wales.

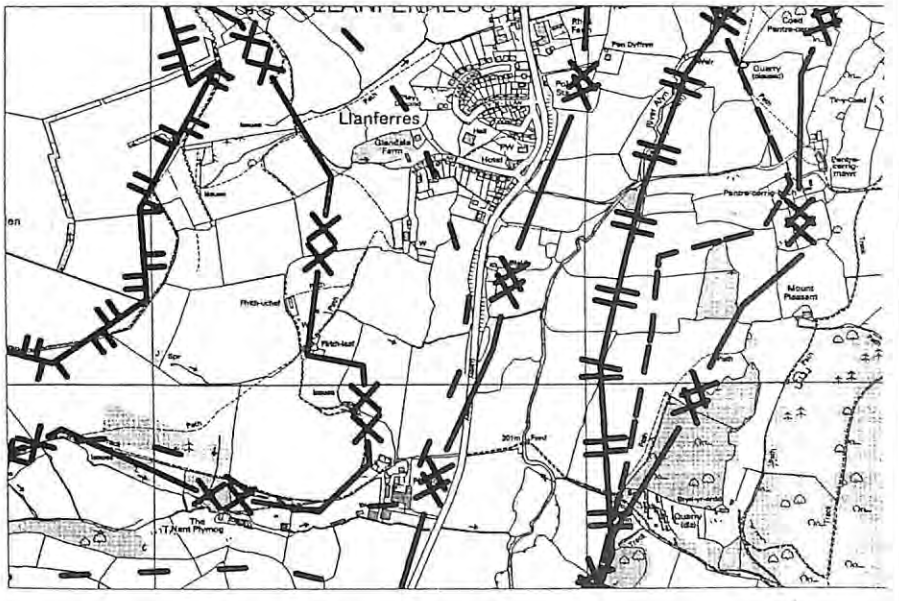
The Group set out to devise, test and promote a multiple-use method of landscape assessment. *It soon identified that what most organisations wanted was not so much an assessment (and here you may think I am splitting hairs) as information about landscape for decision-making.* There was also an emphasis on what was important in a landscape.

CCW and the WLPG also learnt two important lessons from work elsewhere. One was that, apparently, the Southwest of England 'New Map of England' (the pilot for the Character Map of England) was not generally seen as able to deliver the level and kind of detail that everyday land use decision-makers need. A second lead from England (beyond Offa's Dyke) was the notion that environmental capital (now called 'quality of life') was focussing on environmental qualities. That fitted neatly into our thinking about the emerging technique.

In Landmap the different components are termed

AN EXAMPLE OF THE LANDMAP DATA:

The Earth Science, Biodiversity and Visual & Sensory layers combined



'Aspects', and the geographical areas that system specialists identify are known, simply, as 'Aspect Areas'. They are the currency of LM. Each contains a particular quality of one of the following five aspects: Earth Science, and Biodiversity (the twin foci of CCW's main parent body); Visual and Sensory (strictly Sensory, mainly Visual), History and Archaeology and Cultural Associations. The history and archaeology builds on the earliest work in the Warwickshire study, and on the much-praised Historic Landscapes Register prepared

jointly for CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments Executive Agency) and CCW by Richard Kelly who is now a senior staff member of CCW. (*This register for those interested was reported briefly at page 5 of LRExtra 29).*

The nature and evaluation of each Aspect Area's interest is recorded on a scale between Low and Outstanding. Identification of Aspect Areas, the delineation of the boundaries, and their rating, are all justified. A quality assurance panel is appointed to ensure that there will be comparability in the creation of the database between Aspects, within an Aspect, and between different LM studies. This was achieved by a combination of CCW lead Aspect advisers, discussions between Aspect specialists, through the work of the so-called Information Co-ordinators (who co-ordinate the work of the Aspect specialists in each study), and through bespoke guidance by a commissioned LM advisory service.

It was not straightforward, but through discussion, confidence in the comparability of the evaluations, even for relatively 'soft' information, was achieved. The current LANDMAP data is seen as interim, until it has been through the QA process and accepted for the prospective website. That should be achieved for the eight local and national park authority areas in the EU project by April 2003. Where possible the condition of an aspect area is recorded, and a recommendation made for its management. We attempt where possible to estimate its potential tolerance of a range of typical change scenarios is attempted where possible.

LM was piloted in 1997 across four areas, each of about a hundred square kilometres. Two areas had previously and recently had character assessments, which offered a comparison, and one developed a GIS format for the Aspect information. Rebecca Warren (who had worked on the High Weald AONB assessment) and Angus Parker, an independent Kent-based landscape architect, led that GIS study. Simon White, of White Consultants, (who went on to win a Landscape Institute's landscape planning award in 1999 for his Vale of Glamorgan county application of the LM method) led the two south Wales pilots; I myself Visual and Sensory evaluation and looked after the methods used. Fiona Cloke, then Cardiff-based with the consultancy TACP, led the Lleyn Peninsula pilot.

The Vale of Glamorgan County Council were quick to see the potential of LM for development planning purposes. Their study was also nominated as one of two British entries for a Council of Europe landscape planning award in December 2000 and they won it. Meanwhile, several other county councils had been persuaded to participate. They included Cardiff City, Newport (one of the new city authorities), Monmouthshire, and a trio of former Mid Glamorgan County Council new counties; Ynys Mon (Isle of Anglesey), Gwynedd and Denbighshire also produced studies. The three national parks (who were at first anxious about any sense of quality ranking) have since participated. The period 2002-03 should see the last five local authority areas in Wales begin to get LM coverage.

LANDMAP Information was designed to serve various purposes: development, environmental enhancement, forestry, river basin and rural land management. Today it difficult to see how environmental 'information' about landscape was being used before the advent of LANDMAP.

Although coverage is progressing across Wales, it is as yet only at the recommended 'level three' of four levels of detail prescribed in the method manual. *It is a common misconception that landscape is a factor at an extensive scale, as in the idea of 'a landscape' rather than 'a site'. But, experience of landscape decision-making suggests that it is usually only at the more detailed scales that some of the more important facets of a landscape are revealed and recorded.* That said, LM Information has already been used to revise special landscape areas in development plans, and to counter inappropriate proposals.

Those involved with the development of the system (LIS), fully expect there to be challenges to LM information. That said, the landscape is far too important an asset to Wales to leave its planning and management to inefficient chance. LM is in a most interesting phase. The Wales Assembly Government's 'TASK 1' Programme under the European Union's 'ERDF' Innovative Actions initiative was ranked high in the bidding for projects in 2002 and 2003. TASK is the acronym for 'Towards a sustainable knowledge based region'.

Although originally a central government initiative, the partnership with local authorities has been vital to its wide adoption and their commitment to use its ouput for a range of secondary purposes. The funding for the LM Information System has come from several public sector sources: CCW, the county councils and national parks, the European Union and the WDA (Welsh Development Agency. LM information is presented in two complementary formats: map and written schedule. For more information,
email LANDMAP@ccw.gov.uk.

David Eagar Senior Landscape Policy Officer with assistance from **Jenny Kamp**
Countryside Council for Wales.

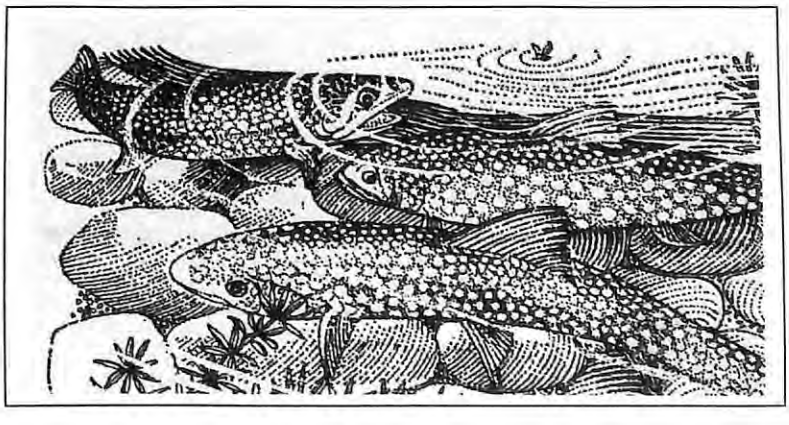
Landmap -- comment
Readers may wish to think on the value of, and the difficulties attending, the construction of such a set of layers. Is it a welcome bit of common sense? Does its success lie in its GIS presentation? Its apparent acceptability? If you have had any experience of this or cpmparable methods I would welcome your ideas.
Editor

LANDSCAPES FOR ANIMALS

Entering the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, it is impossible not to stop short to take in the vastness, lightness and height of the interior space of the entrance hall, with its white-painted cast iron arches and galleries rising up to the arcades, clerestory and triforium of an impossibly delicate cathedral. Having done that, on scanning the immediate foreground before proceeding, the visitor is confronted with two long, low, rectangular shapes of the utmost simplicity, filled with water, in which swim a number of strikingly large fish.

The height and width of the walls of these tanks is such as to invite one to sit on them, to watch and even stroke the fish (they seem to like it). But apart from the water and fish - and invariably some coins tossed in by particularly idiotic visitors (it would be hard to imagine anything *less* like a wishing well!), the tanks are empty. Their very starkness is undoubtedly pleasing to the eye; it *displays the fish, like other exhibits in their glass cases; yet it makes me want to add objects* and plants to make life more interesting for the fish and, not least, to give them places to hide. It brings back a memory, from many years ago, when for a time a tank of fish was deposited in the staffroom where I worked; it too seemed to be stark in its emptiness, and I went to some trouble to find what I thought were suitable objects, of which the best was probably a short length of terracotta pipe with a bend of 90 degrees. Think what could be found in a big museum!

It occurs to me that the production of habitats for animals may be an overlooked area of landscape design; whether or not that is so, it surely merits attention, and, I would suggest, offers particular satisfaction to its practitioners. Few people are given the opportunity to design enclosures for zoo animals, but many of us enjoy the results when they are successful, not least because we can see that the animals themselves feel at home. (I hope I can avoid controversy here; for the sake of this essay I am going to accept that zoos are a fact of life. I have no great fondness for the practice of keeping living things in captivity, but if it must be done, then let it be done well). But many of us, too, do share some of the same satisfactions in shaping environments for pets. I spent some time just the other day putting together a box which I hope will help keep our cats warm on cold winter nights. This hardly qualifies as a *landscape* in itself; it is just part of the larger world of house and garden which they inhabit. But in other instances - including aquariums, but also, for example vivariums, and accommodation for smaller mammals such as guinea pigs and gerbils - pet



owners create, from scratch or with the aid of products from pet shops, complete worlds for their pets, and then, all being well, enjoy watching the pet adapt to the habitat it has been presented with. In the case of gerbils at least, this is likely to involve turning everything upside down and shredding anything which can be shredded..

While so many human activities make the world less hospitable to wild creatures, we can sometimes make some small amends by enhancing an environment for their benefit. In our gardens we provide ponds for birds to drink from and bathe in, and for frogs and newts to breed in; we construct and install bat-- and bird--boxes, and bird tables; sometimes our imaginations get the better of us, and we produce fanciful constructions remarkable in themselves but hardly likely to appeal to wildlife. On a larger scale, managers of nature reserves adapt the landscape under their control to suit wildlife in general and, often, favoured species in particular, cutting reeds to make areas of open water, maintaining clearings in woodland, and so on. In much the same way, but to attract creatures in order to more easily kill them, hunters and gamekeepers shape or adapt particular landscapes. In the Baic de Somme in Picardy, hunters known as *huttiers* construct low hides, roofed with turf, facing pools on which they float wooden (and sometimes real, but tethered) ducks; they can sometimes be seen cutting back nearby reeds with strimmers, ensuring that the reeds provide cover for themselves rather than their prey.

It goes without saying that to successfully design a habitat for another species, an intimate knowledge of the needs and habits of that species is essential; the designer must be able to see it through the eyes of the creatures themselves. Now, the 'habitat theory' of landscape, put forward more than twenty years ago by Jay Appleton, will be well known to most readers of *Landscape Research Extra*; I note that Jay Appleton is a former Chairman of the Landscape Research Group. Since I am not professionally involved in geography or landscape design, perhaps I can confess without embarrassment that I have only recently discovered Jay Appleton's books, the revised 1986 edition of *The Experience of Landscape* leading me on to the perhaps lesser known but even more accessible *How I Made the World*, an autobiographical account of the formation of the author's view of landscape. Like Jay Appleton I spent some of my childhood concealed in a hedge, seeing without being seen. His argument, that in our human perception of landscape we may be influenced by 'some inherited ground-rules similar to those which influence the behavioural responses of other creatures towards their habitat', makes a good deal of sense to me. The experience of pausing on the edge of cover, to assess the possibilities (including potential dangers) before venturing into the open, which, described by Konrad Lorenz, was an eye-opener for Jay Appleton, surely is instinctive in the human psyche as in other living creatures; indeed, I began this essay by describing this same phenomenon as experienced in the built environment: an almost obligatory pause before entering an open space. In other essays, including one or two in *Landscape Research Extra,* I have written of my fascination with the archetypal picturesque landscape, in itself and as a source of images of apparently universal appeal; 'habitat theory' surely helps to explain the universality of this appeal, for example by pointing out that landscapes of this kind combine shelter with open ground and distant prospects - and, crucially, with a source of water - thus offering in the one place possibilities for inhabiting, hiding, foraging, hunting, and exploring.

As I write I have no idea of the present status of 'habitat theory' among landscape professionals. But it seems to me indisputable that it sheds light on the satisfactions to be gained from designing or managing landscapes for animals. To do so satisfactorily, it is necessary to see the habitat from the animal's point of view; we can do so the more easily, and with deeper satisfaction to ourselves, because our approach to landscape as human beings is not so very different, and because we have similar needs to animals. Although the aesthetic of the simple, rectilinear fish tanks is pleasing to my eye, it *is* so as an element of a larger environment in which I am free to move; I am not confined within it; it is by no means my entire world. I want to provide the fish with shelter, and objects to play hide and seek among, because I too have need of shelter and of interest and variety in my surroundings. Nor should we forget that the distant prospect of the picturesque landscape speaks to us of freedom, the very antithesis of captivity.

Philip Pacey
University of Central Lancashire

GETTING CLOSER TO LANDSCAPE

There are frequent references to detailed and scenic landscapes. Scenes grand and distant may contain unnoticed foreground detail. The paysagiste (landscape person fr.) is constantly aware of this dichotomy: it sits in the mind rather as fire, earth, wind and water sat in the minds of the ancients. It is a matter of frequent debate as we try to define our relationship to landscape and how we feel landscape should be defined. On one hand we walk with the naturalist and on the other we stare with the landscape painter into distant balanced forms.



An attractive illustration of this came to me last Saturday. It being spring, with the sense of exhilarating distant view to blue-smudged woodlands and whitened blackthorn drifts strong in our heads, we two editors got out our bicycles. Free saturdays do not come so often that one can pass up the chance to get out, so we embarked to see the same sunny farmed uplands that we had planned.....And we rolled out into thick fog that dripped off the trees! I had already packed binoculars for spotting redwings in stubble fields, and to condense the delights of the bluish alder buds and the purple twigs of silver birch. And I had taken a pocket camera to capture the shape of the land and the sunshine filled images.

We found ourselves enchanted but it was not with distant views or scenery. Instead it was with detail which is mostly how plants so artfully arrange themselves. Were we exploring the landscape or falling into the naturalist's trap? Is it a trap? Larch flowers and cones on twigs with the stubble of bright green needles. Wet spiders webs; moss feathering up between cut stems in the hedge. The sound of rivulets everywhere and barely a bird singing.

We stopped in what naturalists confidently call a willow carr: it was deep-sinking mire, in which like groups of tipsy partygoers, moss coated willow trunks stood at many angles. An ancient pollard oak ruled from a stony mound. The oak had reassuring age, the willows were phantasmic.

We pedalled and pushed as the lane rose and then swooped through the fog. Woody debris lay in the centre of the lane. At an ancient crossroads, an elephantine gray beech tree which overstood our cocoa break (yes cocoa), had smothered its grey stonewall. We sat on dry roots; I



pondered whether to write up 'The thermos flask as a tool in place research!' The fog fell from the twigs in big heavy drops.



There was also quite a lot to do with speed in this landscape excursion. We travelled slowly, like children and we lingered. A re-enactment of times past. We cocoa'ed for fifteen minutes. We snapped beech twigs and collected moss, I took photos. And through the full length of this landscape excursion we saw no further than fifty yards. I have always thought that children react to landscape in this way. For them it is a close and sensory thing a magical space, a place thing with nothing to do with panoramas and artistic form. Place is a word much in currency as I write this.

But what do Sue Wilson and the committee compilers of 'Guidelines for landscape and visual assessment: second edition' have to say about this. *See 'Should You Read'.

Bud Young

Landscape Research: Volume 27/1 January 2002

The first issue of 2002 was a theme issue on Imperial Landscapes, **guest edited by Mark Brayshay and Mark Cleary of the University of Plymouth.** The papers comprise selected presentations given to a symposium of the Historical Geography Research Group and the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society held in the University of Plymouth, January 2001. As the guest editors note, vast tracts of the world's landscapes have been dramatically changed by the exercise of imperial rule by a range of colonial powers. Landscapes were moulded and fashioned to serve new purposes and to afford livelihoods to people who emigrated from the 'mother country' or who invested their capital in the new territories.

The papers start, appropriately, with a reflection by **Roger Kain** on the importance of the accurate surveying and mapping of Britain's colonial realm. Here, the task of the surveyor was to explore and appraise landscapes in order to facilitate the imposition of an entirely new economic and spatial order. Maps, as Kain observes, were the instruments that enabled the settlement ideals of colonial governments to be realised. These ranged from the encouragement of large plantations, as on the southern seaboard of North America, to individual proprietorship of the grid, as with the federal land disposals of the USA. They also encompassed the strict limitations of land availability in order to establish a capitalist society with farmers and wage labourers, as in certain settlements of Australia and New Zealand. In all this, the cartographer was thus not a mere technician, but 'explorer, resource appraiser, town planner, delineator of routeways and the moulder of rural cadasters and landscapes'.

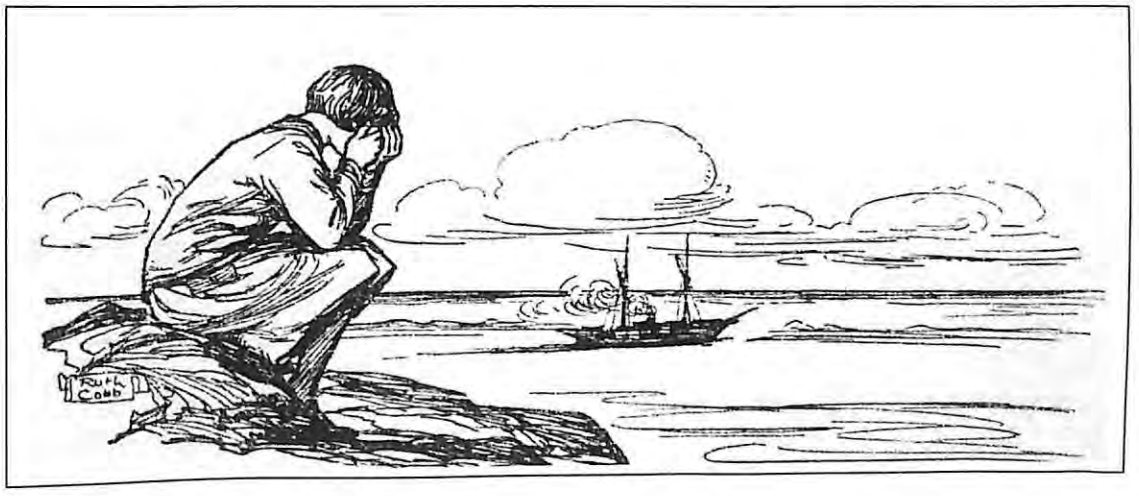
Colonisation almost invariably meant a contest for the possession of landscapes and their attendant resources. The changing landscapes created as a result of such contests often bear physical witness to the gradual victory of Western capitalist interests over those of indigenous economies. This was not a simple or immediate process, as **Mark Cleary's** account of land codification in British Borneo reveals. Here, land codes were used to allocate indigenous lands to colonial developers. This allocation of individual rights, in principle, ensured the retention of some communal rights to traditional users, but the evidence suggests a progressive tipping of the balance in favour of colonial interests. The expansion of rubber and tobacco plantations, coupled with prevailing colonial attitudes to shifting cultivation, were important catalysts in the alienation of land from indigenous peoples. Cleary cites the words of an official in 1937: 'the process of merging and of hemming in the native races in these places...is too far advanced to permit evolution of the aboriginal native on his own lines and the retention for long of his distinctive character'.

Alan Lester's paper focuses on the landscapes of South Africa's Cape Colony, the Australian colonies and New Zealand. In particular, he emphasises the importance of competing views between notions of cultural and racial superiority, and more humanitarian ones of 'protectors' of indigenous cultures and land rights. Thus, imperial landscapes were produced as much by ideological debate, conflict and representation, as they were by sweat and toil of practical action. Lester notes the progressive triumph of the 'superiority' discourse, albeit moderated by more acceptable terms of rendering 'native' populations more 'productive', which in turn eased the granting of self-government to settler communities.

For British commerce, an expanding colonial market, with its growing demands for the industrial products of the mother country, provided a range of exploitable opportunities. **Gareth Shaw and Paul Hudson** illustrate some of the ways in which British capitalism was extended throughout the colonies. Using the medium of trade directories, especially those established by Kelly and Wise in New Zealand, the authors reveal how British commerce established a strong and lasting identity. These publications were one significant part of the commercial linkages that bound together different parts of empire, and provided for many colonial cities a window on the landscapes of production and consumption in the 'metropole' (the seat of colonial power). The paper is of interest both for its explanation of the commercial landscape, and for its methodological development in using trade directories as a source of evidence.

Keith Lilley writes about the 'gold rush geographies' of New South Wales and Victoria in the 1850s, drawing on emigrants' guides, penny-press articles and travel books. These sources, both consciously and unconsciously, shaped the nature of emigration and the reactions of settlers to the changing colonial landscape they encountered. The author contends that these accounts were important in shaping popular perception of colonial Australia in imperial Britain, and creating an image of the 'ideal' emigrant. Indeed, the contemporary accounts of gold rushes sent back 'home' from the colonies to Britain not only tell us something about the shaping of landscapes and life in those colonies, they also tell us about the experience of imperialism within Britain itself.

It is possible, sometimes, to imagine that the typical settler had a cosseted life, in an imperial land where British migrants held the trump cards. Such a rosy image is wonderfully dispelled by **Mark Brayshay and John Selwood's** paper dealing with the 1920s group settlements in Western Australia. Propaganda materials - leaflets, lectures, lantern slides - extolled the image of a bountiful land where small family farms could readily be established. This paper unravels the experiences of one well-defined group of migrants settled under these programmes, from the south-west of England. Far from the bucolic images of the promoters, settlers found a landscape of heavy tingle, jarrah and karri forest, few roads, no community provision and an inadequate administration, leading many setters to emotional and financial ruin. The eventual transformation of this territory, whilst admittedly reflecting imperial dominion, nevertheless also confirms the triumph of the human spirit.



In the final paper of the set, **Matthew Tonts** argues that the images promoted by the 'group settlement' propagandists were, essentially, a perpetuation of the 'yeoman ideal' which was already well established in Western Australia by the late 19th century. This account points to the strength and tenacity of romantic European ideas about farm sizes and approaches to the establishment of holdings that were too small to be viable in a landscape where rainfall totals are low, the soil is poor and saline, and the native flora include noxious weeds. However, despite the inadequacy of the 'yeoman' model, Tonts argues that it contributed much to modern Australian character. Thus, constructions of Australian identity continue to present the nation's farmers as hard working and self-reliant in their battle against the elements and economic forces.

Paul Selman
Editor, Landscape Research

Untimely death of KEN FIELDHOUSE Editor of Landscape design

From two of my correspondents I hear of the death of this very effective editor and am saddened that a person should dies so young and so unexpectedly. There is an accompanying recognition of one's own mortality. LRG board members had met with Ken some years back to see if there could be a fusion of LRExtra and Landscape Design. Of late it had been suggested that he join the Board of LRG. We extend our sympathies.

This notice stands in the journal listings, which have always been dominated by his publication. I hope he would approve.

JOURNALS RECEIVED



LANDSCAPE DESIGN 305 November 2001
Special Issue: Landscape Institute Awards 2001
LANDSCAPE DESIGN 306 Dec 01/Jan02
Special Issue: Groundwork
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Graham Duxbury **Groundwork at 21** 21-23
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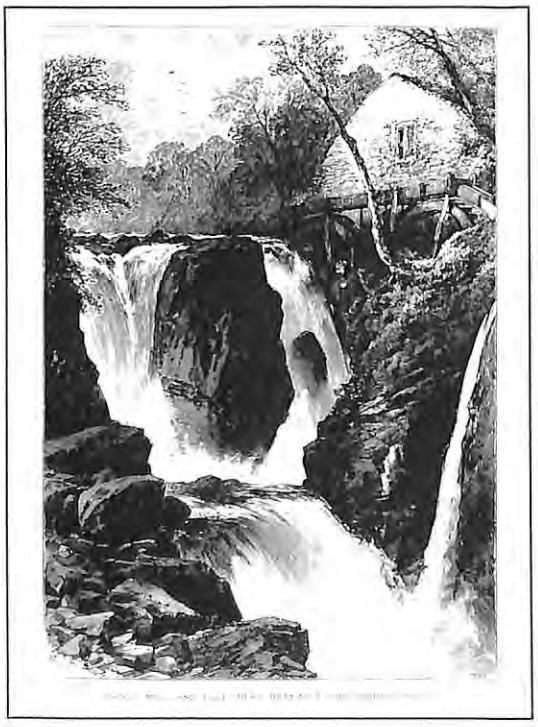
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Creating habitats for animals??: a picturesque Welsh waterfall for my LRG friend Gareth Roberts who shows a collector's passion for such features. Better than a tank. See those salmon leaping! The front page article gives the source of engravings in this issue.



URBAN TREES IN CHINA

In 'Should you read' the editor lists a paper on the urban trees of a large city in Guandong Province South China. **(CY Jin and HT Liu Patterns and dynamics of urban forests in relation to land use and development history in Guangzhou City, China).** CY Jin has written many papers on the trees of Hong Kong. Such studies become more relevant the moment you become in some way involved and I am assuming that some of your readers have been to China, may work in China, have even visited this city or have interest or responsibility for trees in cities elsewhere. My own experience is slight indeed, but during a recent fofur month working stay in Beijing the trees were the redeeming feature of an urban landscape full of



interest which at the same time some might find frequently harsh and overwhelmingly large in scale.

Of trees, I was most particularly struck by the leafy, vernacular, village-like quality of the Houtong areas (single-storey old quarters many of seriously historic origin), in which trees have been incorporated into houses and pass through their tiled roofs (or more correctly have been built around their trunks). Adjacent to one houtong, I saw lines of trees occupying the middle of an unmade street, so creating visual and climatic relief to the dingy (but socially respectable) five storey concrete frame brick apartments to either side.

Many streets are planted on both sides and trees afford a delicious shade. They become *a place to be.* A photo of a leafy all but confuses it with a woodland. Long stretches of the road to the airport are flanked by woodland poplar belts as many as ten trees deep.



Trees, in my opinion, give streets a metropolitan air. In the city of Xian (5.6 million) 900 kms south of Beijing, one might be in parts of Paris. However roads such as Beijing's second internal ring road are brutally bare despite a narrow line of trees for they are immensely wide corridors, lined by power statement buildings and often heavy with cars.





Because of the space given to trees, narrower sidewalks tend to be obstructed by the ample kerbed soil areas surrounding the trees. For this reason one walks in the street. And what also of underground services? Acacias, cypresses gingkos and poplars seemed to be those trees most planted. Gingkos are very fine, and look to be in their element; poplars are the most widespread and there are some plane trees.

Cypresses figure as groves in some of the Imperial parks. They are curious lifeless trees but of religious significance and of course they do not lose their leaves in winter. But they do get dusty. In the gardens of the Palace of Heaven



they display exciting sculptural burls and twisted trunks, one of these is shown here. This one, judging by its patina, is an object of popular veneration in any sense and I took great pleasure touching it as have millions of tourists before me.

(Visitor numbers to these sites are huge and mostly from China). Trees of this species *(Oriental arborvitae*? said the display), may be 800 years old. A greater spotted woodpecker irreverently hammering away at a bare upper branch sent out a ringing note. An avid bird watcher, I carry binoculars!

Outside of Beijing city area, large areas 'scientifically identified as dust generation sites' are subject to massive tree planting schemes (a figure



of five million trees is mentioned in China Daily). My ayi or maid had to leave working with me to take part in a communal tree planting effort. She lives in a new suburb an hour and a half out by bus. The amount of dust in the atmosphere, much I think agricultural, and the periodic calamitous sandstorms in Beijing, that clog every moving thing, all add to the need to reduce wind speed over the ground and the uptake of dust. Chinese cities provide an object lesson which no urban forester will wish to disregard.

Lily Roberts
London N5.

And where did you go for your holidays -- write about it in LRE 31! If you have been and seen any landscape that stimulated your imagination I would be glad to publish your account. Photos are always appreciated.
Next issue in three months, gives you just enough time to get back.

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