Landscape Research Extra 86

landscape research group

Little Bear
Steven Shuttleworth
Pip Howard
Nigel Young

Copy deadline for LRE
20th August

Little Bear goes to the City of London

Look , there's the River Walbrook under the street on the right. Rivers are nice. I like the old offices, the nice red London buses. Daddy Bear is showing me this from the Bloomberg office in London. He works there.

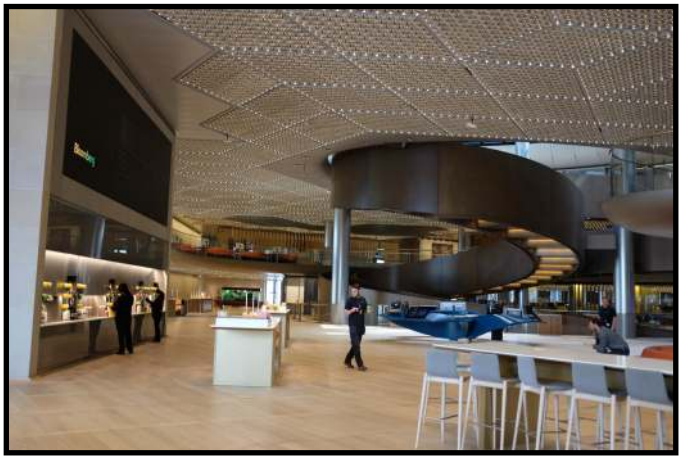


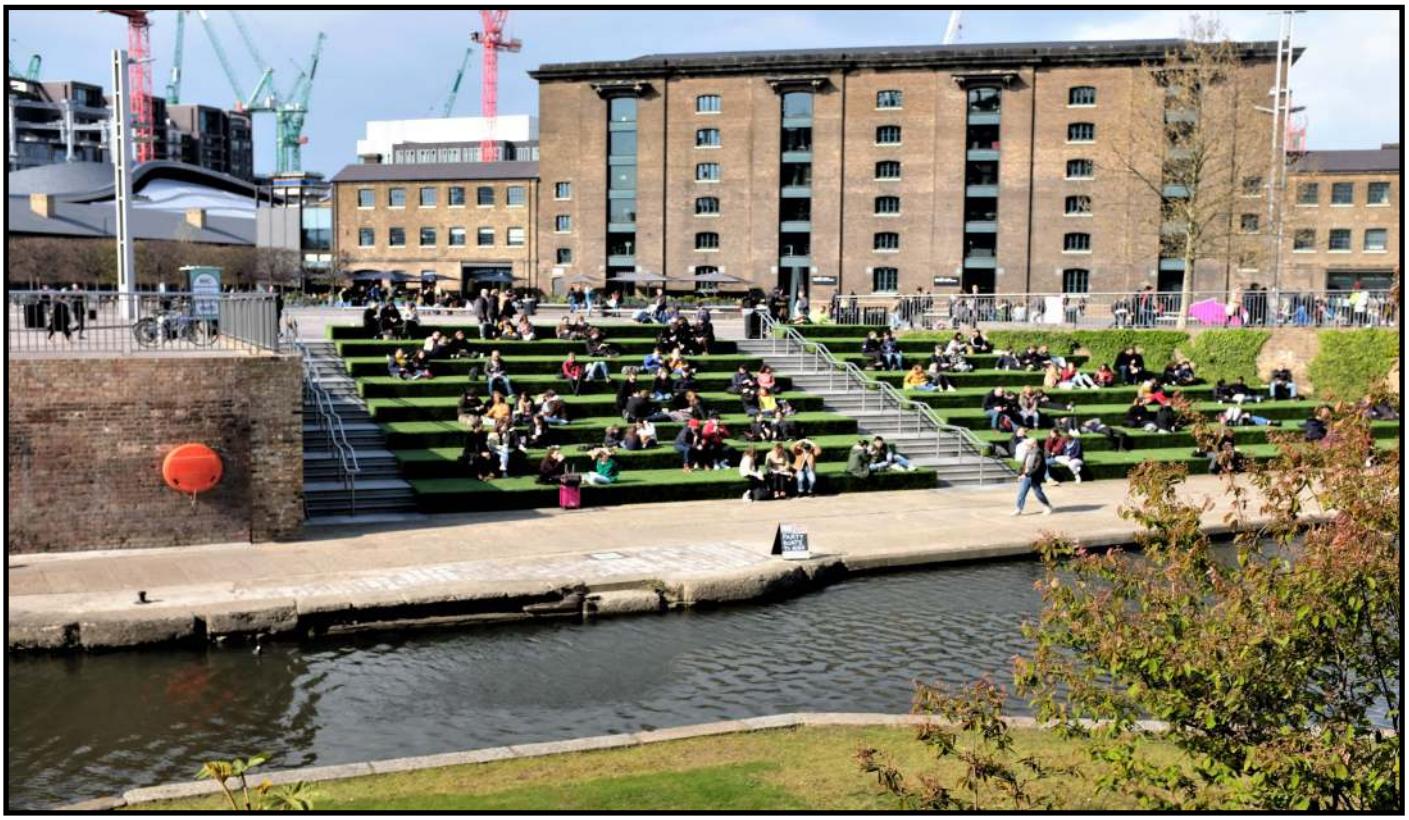




He takes me and Mummy to have lunch at a nice garden restaurant on the 6th floor. Look at the hedges. Living here can be so much fun. Whoosh goes the lift! There's a guard there to stop people jumping down the central well if they are feeling sad. He doesn't look very happy. I would not like to do that.

We visit one of Daddy Bear's friends who has a flat 9 floors up. He has a lift and puts his bike in it. I quite like the little stream along the street down below. I don't think I'd like to live here. There are trees there and they're nice.





Daddy Bear says his office is ever so modern, and he has given me a picture of it. His bit is much smaller than this room. Wow! He says they give you free biscuits and free coffee or orange juice! The lifts are ever so fast and made of glass.



Now we are going past Kings Cross Station to a canal and we sit on the grassy steps but it didn't feel like grass. But it was lovely and open and I liked the Canal. There seemed to be a lot of people there having Sunday off. I wonder where they live.



Its not like the little town where I live. Daddy bear reminds me that its just an exciting illusion but one you get used to. We look at the mirrors and I see what he means.

But look, Daddy Bear, there are apartments in that far one! Isn't that a gasometer? **LB**

The River Walbrook—a note from Daddy Bear.

John Stow, the most famous of all historians of London wrote of the Walbrook in 1598: 'This watercourse, having divers bridges, was afterwards vaulted over with brick, and paved level with the streets and lanes where through it passed; and since that, also houses have been built thereon so that the course of the Walbrook is now hidden underground, and thereby hardly known'. The Walbrook rose in a large swamp called Moorfields, lying immediately to the north of the City Wall.

From *The Lost Rivers of London* by Nicholas Barton Publ. Phoenix House Ltd, London, Leicester University Press 1962.

"LONDON'S URBAN LANDSCAPE: ANOTHER WAY OF TELLING"

UCL Press is delighted to announce the publication of a brand new open access book that is likely to be of interest to list subscribers: *London's Urban Landscape: Another Way of Telling*, edited by Christopher Tilley. Download it free from http://bit.ly/2V9y8tJ

And now for something rather different!

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME: SOME VERY DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES

By Steven Shuttleworth

A couple of weeks after finally handing over my



long-standing role as LRG Treasurer to Paul Tabbush, I set out on my 'trip of a lifetime' to somewhere that I have wanted to see since I was a 12-year old boy. I had then read Ernest Shackleton's *South*, and apart from being inspired by its story of heroics and bravery against the odds, my imagination was gripped by the landscapes conjured up in my mind. Sometime, I dared hope that perhaps I might get to see South Georgia, Elephant Island and Antarctica. And later, after my eldest daughter spent time working in the Falklands in her gap year, I thought perhaps I could combine that





hope with a trip there too.

My trip included time in Buenos Aires [a good place for a city break] and a visit to Iguazu Falls – the like of which I have never seen in terms of the Falls' sheer scale and power. It was all a bit odd in that my wife Julie decided not to come – the idea of risking the misery of sea-sickness that might result from a stormy South Atlantic and Southern Ocean was not worth-while for her, so she took herself off to Italy in-stead

After Brazil we sailed from Puerto Madryn (Argentina) to the Falklands, then on to South Georgia, then the South Shetland Islands in-cluding Elephant Island, then down to the Ant-arctic Peninsula through its many passages be-tween islands as far south as the British base at Port Lockroy. We then returned northward via Deception Island (Google it! what an amazing flooded caldera!) where we took a polar dip (surprisingly not as bone-chilling as I feared) then across Drake Passage to Ushuaia. Lots of landings and Zodiac rides from the various is-lands and mainland of Antarctica; and alt-hough the sea conditions did not permit a land-ing we got close enough to Elephant Island to get a good view of the small shingle ridge where Shackleton's men survived for four months while he and his companions sailed to South Georgia to seek help.

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly South Georgia. Everyone who writes or speaks about the island talks about its dramatic scen-ery – I can only describe it as being like the most spectacularly glacier-filled parts of the Alps falling straight into the sea. But the power of the landscape is not just in its stunning ap-pearance at the large scale. At the tiniest scale details of shape and colour take the breath away – who knew that ice and bare rock could come in so many shades of black, white and blue. And then there is the wildlife – of course some very rare plants and birds, but most spec-tacularly albatrosses and petrels, and the huge colonies of penguins, fur seals and elephant seal. One can get very up-close and personal of

course while being very careful to respect their personal space - who wants to get chased by an angry fur or elephant seal!

Amongst all this natural wonder is the incongruity of the industrial dereliction and archaeology of the whaling stations at Stromness,



Leith and Grytviken – you can only visit the last of these, for safety reasons, but the place has a haunting quality, not least because of the recall of the carnage that was wrought in these places.

'It is difficult to recover the frame of mind in which the destruction of so many of the greatest animals on earth seemed like a good idea. About 1.6 million whales were killed in the Southern Ocean in about six decades.'

From: **South Georgia: The lost whaling station at the end of the world**. A BBC production 9th June 2014

Finally, as a Shackleton devotee I was thrilled to walk the very final section of Shackleton's trek into Stromness after he had crossed the mountainous interior of the island – I had hoped to be able to cover rather more, but winter conditions had not receded so had to make do with a very small part of the trek route.

All in all 2018 was not a bad year for travelling, since Julie and I went to Chile and Peru (including Easter Island – see LRE83) in March and April. However, 2019 will be a different holiday strategy. Rather than long-distance travel, we aim to visit lots of those places in the UK which we never quite got to – or at least have only seen on business trips or on the way to somewhere else. For example, we gather there may be more to Kent than the Channel Tunnel! This holiday strategy should make good use of our National Trust and English Heritage memberships and recalls Ros Codling's mapping out of whole areas to visit in her article 'Micro Explorations – doing England' (LRE 83).

SS

A LANDSCAPE FOR BEES

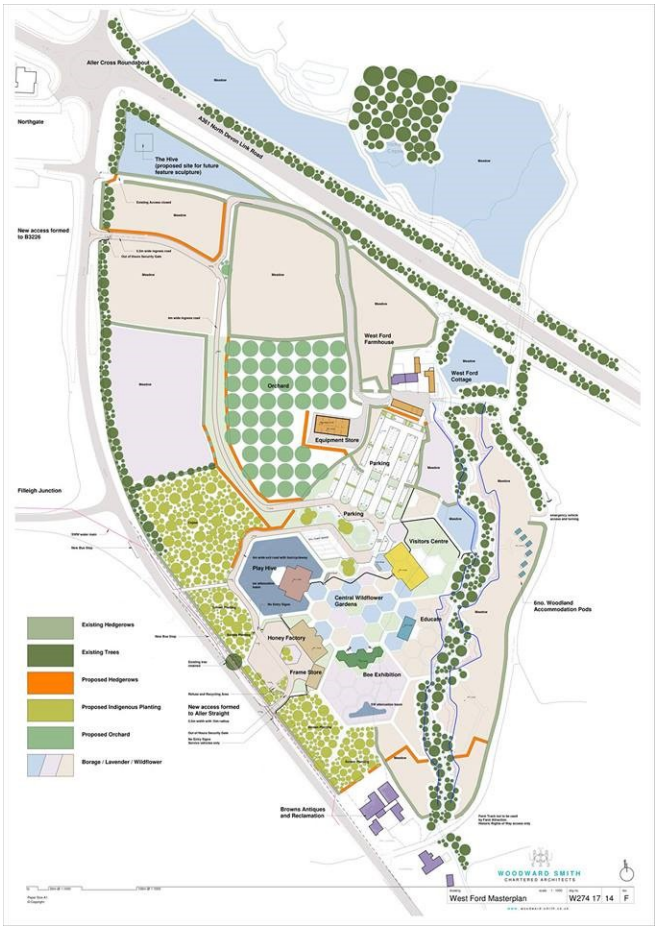
By Pip Howard and Kacper Zrabkowski

The new Quince Honey Farm, (QHF), development in South Molton, North Devon, has developed the first bee-specific designed landscape for bees in the UK, spread across 53 acres.

The decline of insects internationally is an issue which threatens us all as it is a precursor to the collapse of all ecosystems everywhere. To seek solutions towards reversing this trend in a managed landscape is imperative. This project is not merely a case of 'getting it right for bees equals getting it right for all' - but there is also a clear need to do everything to ensure an overall increase in biodiversity, not least in the soil.

In the UK there have been numerous factors which have helped towards the decline in pollinating insects, principally, but not exhaustively pesticide usage, excessive nitrogen in soil (which is not suitable for many wildflower species), decline in beneficial trees (particularly the demise of Elms) and trends in home gardens (the trend of close cut lawns and hard landscaping or 'maintenance free' gardens).

There has more recently been considerable attention given towards planting with bees in mind, due to the loss of bees of all species but until the QHF project there has been no single large landscape project where bees come first. The new QHF bee landscape has to be an attractive landscape for humans to wish to visit



but the principle aim is to create conditions to ensure the optimal landscape for bees to thrive and to produce honey. Several branches of land management are involved; agriculture, silviculture, and horticulture and it was clear from the outset of the project that the plethora of information available in the UK media was still deficient so that there was no possibility of the project linking to any particular single source of research or guidance.



Hexagonal schema for flower rich gardens

We have tried not to be too critical of good advice online, but such information is largely useless in landscaping terms for several reasons and we try to highlight problem factors below. Media led advice gives rise to problems in much of the land industry, particularly in horticulture — where such coverage influences an army of amateurs hoping to achieve what they see on TV or in magazines.

These factors include:

- Localised factors of soil, climate and other edaphic factors make any 'national' guidance unsuitable except in certain locations. Media supported sales particularly of seed, promotes homogenised habitats to such an extent that it may threaten the very animals it purports to help 'save'. The habits of these animals will be in tune with localised factors.
- The plants cited as bee friendly, (and a little Googling will highlight many 'lists of top ten plants for bees') have no standard classification to award them the status of bee friendly. In some popular brands of plant and seed sales 'bee friendly' logos appear on plants which may be F1 hybrids and other varieties, which are completely unsuitable.
- A single but critical piece of advice is that it is wrong to remove dandelions and other weeds of high value to pollinators to make way for 'bee friendly' plants of considerably less value. The more dandelions and clover in your lawn the better for bees.
- As with so much in the UK land industry the desire to follow the most innovative has led to destruction of the traditional to the detriment of sustainability of a landscape or garden. To plough up existing headlands or dig out weeds in a garden bed to make way for 'bee friendly' plants is bizarre considering the existing vegetation is often far more suitable.
- Habitat is vitally important; it is simply pointless to just plant flowers without considering whether the wider area is suitable for a bee's other needs, including water. A good rule of thumb is to consider the surface area of the landscape – a single mature field tree can have as much surface area as several football fields, often more than the field the tree is within. Increasing the surface area within a landscape allows for an increase in

bee and other wildlife.

Often cited as an axiom, 'build it (or 'plant it') and they will come' is only true if more research is done on local factors and should not be used as a 'get out clause' – an 'offset' of sorts.

The wealth of existing knowledge from an established successful honey producing firm was not only the primary source of information for the QHF project, but the most vital in ensuring that the project was fundamentally successful. Many of the existing areas and landscape features will be maintained and when possible expanded. Much of the core design was based on local anecdotal knowledge. This was then expanded in a manner to enable a huge range of additional plants and habitat types. These we will watch and study.

W D J Kirk & F N Howes' *Plants for Bees* [1], which has a large, comprehensive list of garden plant species and some of the more common native plants and trees, is a good source for those seeking to help bees. This book helped us select many species for the nectar gardens - the principle horticultural area of the project. The growing conditions, particularly the slightly acidic and heavy clay reduces our choice of species significantly. The book also raises questions as regards land management, and the QHF project hopes to provide answers for this part of North Devon.

The other important factor is how to determine what exactly are the most attractive plants for all species of bees? Is it possible to segregate planting areas to appeal to any single bee species? Any and all information on honey-yield quantities is therefore very useful. On the other hand for Bumblebees and other native (non honey producing) bee species we are reliant on trials of plants recommended through existing research. We, therefore, have also turned to European sources of information, where much more work towards definitive lists of plants has been produced. In France a comprehensive guide, published by the Government[2] allows for quick cross referencing against a much wider selection of plant species. Particularly interesting is the list of trees. Good research from Poland, where some of the most comprehensive yield data can be found, has further helped us to add many plant species onto QHF land.

There are several plants and trees of high value to pollinators, but which are also highly invasive in the UK landscape to the detriment of the wider environment. Just because they are attractive to bees does not make them 'wildlife friendly', These include Rosebay Willowherb, Robinia and Impatiens (an abundantly flowering plant one of the balsam family including 'Bizzy Lizzy') .

Plants, the food source for the bees, are only a part of the needs of any bee species. The honeybee is of course lucky to have all its nesting requirements, as well as supplementary food, supplied by beekeepers. For other species the preferred habitat required is not a wild landscape but a managed, traditional landscape. Whilst there is no evidence that a more complex landscape matrix is beneficial to bees, it is true for much other wildlife.

Hedgerows are the most valuable of landscape features for bees that we are lucky to have in abundance in North Devon. Although hedgerows continue to be our most effective element in the farmed landscape, dividing land into use parcels, they continue to be removed and are often at risk. Hedgerows were often planted to separate different qualities of land, and for water management purposes, rather than simply as boundaries. The surface area of a hedgerow can often effectively quadruple the field it surrounds and will enrich the plant species mix by several hundred percent. The range of potential bird nesting sites within a hedgerow is vast with a guarantee of little disturbance. At QHF we have extended the existing hedgerow network and also included a sample of each of the six main hedgerow types found in Devon, from the coastal drystone-faced hedgerows to the Elm based hedgerows of South Devon. Hedgerows are relatively easy to build, although labour intensive – but the rewards are huge.

Woodland There exists on the land a significant amount of riparian woodland, principally Alder, Willow, Hazel (coppiced) and Ash. The ground cover for this woodland has been

diminished due to a lack of management in the last 20 years. Selective thinning and coppicing is now allowing a more beneficial native ground flora to thrive. The woodland is to be extended by well over an acre – but planting includes an unusual range of native trees, including much Small Leaved-Lime (*Tilia cordata*). Lime trees are of significantly high value to bees and in the South Molton vicinity there exist a number of mature lime trees, indeed most of the mature street trees in the town are large leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos).* The landscape matrix with plenty of small woodland is clearly of significant benefit to all bee species, but more research is required to understand optimum conditions within a bee's range.

Woodland trees provide a stable source of nectar and a large and vital source of pollen. The adoption of management techniques which work alongside the bee's annual cycle has never been deliberately carried out before, neither on existing woodland or new planting. At QHF we are planting all species in clumps to ensure further study of the usefulness of these species for bees.

Farmland & Headland Cropping for bees is rarely considered beyond headland planting, (the buffer zone between the field boundary and principal crop). In order to ensure maximum effectiveness for honey production the whole field is used is planted as headland together with a sufficient range of plant species to encourage a wider range of pollinators. At QHF the large scale planting will also allow for research into the economics of planting solely for honey production in this area of North Devon.

Riparian Areas It is wrongly believed that riparian areas and watercourses as a whole are of lesser importance to bees, however not only are many water and riparian plant species of high nectar value, bees clearly utilise open sources of water every day using the water not least to make honey the right consistency. The existing watercourse on the estate is a fast flowing stream, of little benefit for bees seeking to collect water. To remedy this, a substantial new lake, with slow flowing stream and an additional shallow 'wildlife' pond have been created, which will provide numerous opportunities for water collection as well as increasing the biodiversity of the estate considerably.

Meadow and Parkland The majority of land at the project will be planted with crops high yielding in nectar and pollen for honeybees. A substantial additional area will be grassland sown with a large percentage of perennial plants of high yield for bees, predominantly Dandelion, Vetch, White Clover and Black Medick. A bi-annual cutting regime will need to be timed in order to enable maximum flowering potential. So that the public can access the grass areas, pathways will be mown.

Other Landscape Features Non-woodland trees: our work includes substantial planting of standalone trees of high value to bees. These trees will mature to provide an increase in surface area without affecting any ground flora of high value.They will at the same time enable a wider range of ground flora species because of the shade they cast and how they affect the surrounding soil. We are trialling a quantity of unusual international tree species and these include Mimosa, Eucalyptus species and fruiting trees.

Drystone Walling: much of the construction of hard landscaping has been done using drystone, (quarried from site). These walls are



of huge benefit to insects and other beneficial animals, (toads, newts, lizards, slow worms and cavities constructed for hedgehogs). The surface area of a dry stone wall is claimed to be 230 times greater than a mortared wall. Wildlife tends to move in rapidly and the walls will allow us and visitors easily to monitor the biodiversity of the site.

Clumps: planting in clumps has proven to be better for the longevity of many tree species as well as enabling better resistance to pests and diseases, largely due, it's believed, to interactions in the rhizosphere. **Deadwood**: the placement of deadwood and other organic waste material allows for a rich habitat for microfauna instantly. We have buried deadwood in many areas as a form of innoculant to the heavy clay soil. Deadwood will also be left above ground in places, principally as a habitat for microfauna and insects – which in turn will invite in other larger animals to initiate and maintain an ecosystem. This we predict will add to a matrix of ecosystems across the whole project.

There is money in honey and the QHF project aims to promote the financial rewards of apiculture against agriculture in the North Devon landscape. The initial results should be in within 18 months, with significant consequences for the benefit of all and proof that a truly sustainable managed landscape need not be reliant on grant funding. It will also re-introduce supportive incomes back into this particular farmed area not least as a visitor attraction.

https://www.quincehoneyfarm.co.uk/

[1] http://www.plantsforbees.org/

[2] https://www.jardiner-autrement.fr/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/liste-des-plantes-attractives-pour-les-abeilles.pdf

About the authors Pip Howard is head of landscaping and also a silvilcultural surveyor. Kacper is head of beekeeping (Apiculturalist) and studied Apiculture at University in Poland. The project has been in planning for more than 2 years, works commenced in August 2018. It then opened in April 2019 as a visitor attraction. However the primary objective is for nectar/honey production and the main aim of the farm is to maximise that, so as to lead to farming principally for honey. Other crops will be subsidiary.

Important words missed out of Issue 85

Jim Russell has asked me to add in missing attributions for his account of **the Noosa Biosphere Reservc:**

The first refers to Paul Smith's photo from the air of the lower Noosa River estuary complex and Noosa Beach and surrounds, including the Noosa Sound canal development on what was previously the mangrove-clad Hays Island. It will read: *Photo: courtesy Paul Smith, Paul Smith Images Gallery, Noosa Heads.*

The second is the Noosa National Park map (headland section), reproduced from Michael Gloster's 1997 book, as listed in the article notes. It should read: *Map courtesy Michael Gloster from 'The Shaping of Noosa'; map credits: Glen Gloster.*

Sorry about that Jim.

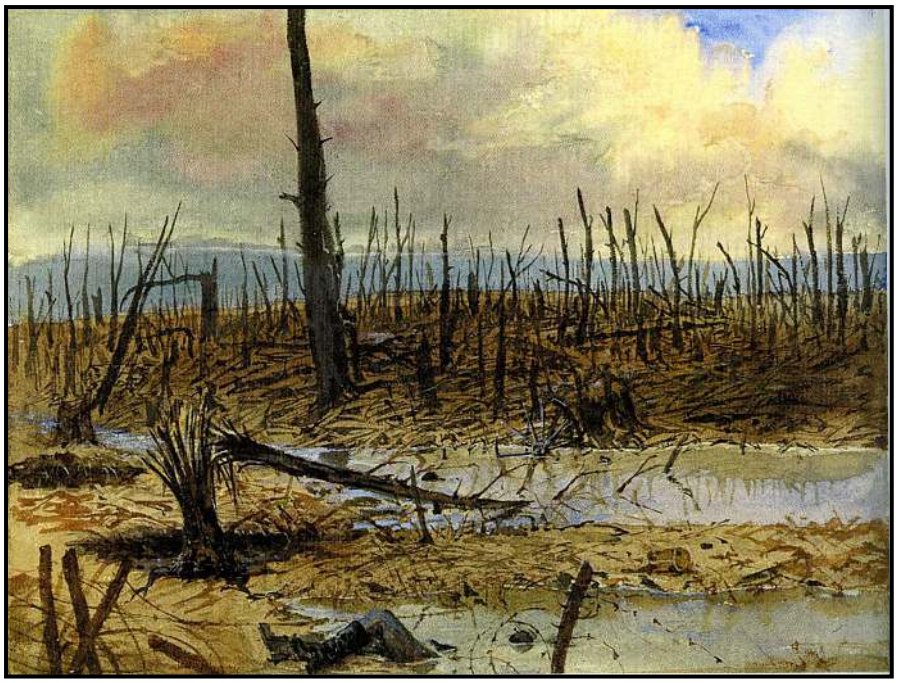
And a signal error

IN LRE 85 the poem *Christmas Child (Prologue)* should have been attributed to Colin Price (lately of Bangor University) not to Jim Dening. Whatever was I thinking of!

DEAD GROUND A book by Paul Gough

"Dead Ground is a tract of terrain militaria hidden from view; an unreachable land in a given battlefield, a zone of opportunity obscured from direct observation by the terrain at the limitations of weaponry".

The book remembers the First World War through spaces of traumatic memory, places peppered with plaques and memorials, terrain connected by countless military cemeteries and Silent Cities of a war that ended a century ago but which reverberates in our imagination.



time available on the Group's website within LRE back numbers.

Editor

The above image is from 'Dead Ground' p24.

John B Morral "The abomination of desolation" c.1916. Watercolour on paper.

Publisher Sansom and Company 2018

ISBN 978-1-911408-45-1

Through a series of illustrated essays, Paul - who has written for LRExtra and who appears twice in our recent book *A Bedside Landscape Reader,* revisits the battle torn land of Belgium, France, Macedonia and Turkey to investigate a terrain torn apart by war and then rebuilt by memory. He examines the visual representations of 'dead ground': how the vast emptiness of the deserted battlefields was recreated in paint and film".

This a beautifully produced, (spaciously set) and much illustrated book.

Paul also contributed an article for LRE entitled Topographic Drawing (LRE 14, pp 10-11) and compiled an anthology on the landscapes of War (LRE 17, p11). These last are for the first

DEFINING AND MANAGING RIVER BOUNDARIES

By Nigel Young

I have a friend, LRG member Jim Dening, who created a publishing business (an imprint?) which he later sold to CUP and recently did a lot of work *pro bono* designing and typesetting the LRG book *A Bedtime Landscape Reader*. He tells me that one of his earlier accomplishments was the creation of IBRU the Centre for Borders Research at Durham University. He has sent me the advance notice of that organisation's training workshop which was held in Addis Ababa in May.



I attach here (base of P11) the illustration they offer of a contestable river border. Geomorphically but at geological time scale it has been a highly unstable river winding and looping through what is now a sahelian landscape and is located at the border between Niger and Nigeria. I say 'what is now a sahelian landscape' because my experience suggests that we have here a fossilised or prior landscape from a Pleistocene fluvial period. The meander belt coincides for a short way with the international border. Look it up as I have done on Google Maps (to whom I am indebted for this image). But go on screen to the image itself and you will find that you can zoom in to hut/village / footpath level. Astonishing! It resembles a western Mali landscape on the fringe of Guinean and Sahel zones — a landscape in which I worked as diamond prospector. Where also I contracted Bilharzia.

In a remote part of my mind this relates to landscapes of justice, but it more likely relates to landscape of dispute. At a detailed ground level it is populated by villagers who perhaps care little whether they are Nigerians or people of Niger. But should oil be found it might give rise to a political contest.

In another part of my mind I wish to promote this examination of the wider landscape within Landscape Research. (LR the Journal). A quick scan of the contents of LR does not seem to reveal this huge field of opportunity. 'Earth scale' landscapes are perhaps apportioned to geographic researchers or those involved with agriculture. But this is most certainly landscape. I have made this point before on the last page of LRE 62; triggered then by Google Maps satellite imagery of Siberia.

Do any LRG members have a view on this? Helpful comments for publication.

Editor

MERE WILTSHIRE

Anyone travelling around England may be enticed into small town churchyards which are normally at the focus point of the 'old town' - that part built before Victoria came to the throne. Scrutinize the church interior —how Massingham 1930s! In some churchyards the delight may be seeing a notable tree like this



huge yew. I can recommend Mere as a stopping point on the A303 road to the South West. But even more so for its situation at the edge of some of the most dramatic often steep Chalk Landscapes in the UK. Packed with pre-Roman earthworks field boundaries and ancient settlements. Very O.G. S. Crawford.

A recommended route would begin in the so called Deverills — a string of small settlements leading via the B3095 down from the general direction of Warminster.

BY

'YELVERTON COMMONS'

Take a journey from Plymouth northwards to Yelverton and in a southward lobe of Dartmoor National Park you will travel a very



straight road across what is an extraordinary landscape. It is mostly flat so much so that near Yelverton, the Wartime RAF located an aerodrome on it. That is landscape history. The airfield never got converted to industry or storage, perhaps because it was established on an area of common land as a matter of War defence emergency to protect Plymouth. But at this time of





the year note the most unusual land cover. For 2 or 3 miles you see land that resembles a treed savanna. It is made up almost exclusively of mature hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) And because it has been the most amazing year for many flowers, those trees are a mass of blossom. I have driven this road many times and this never registered. It is the blossom that makes the difference. It is clearly a well used recreation area, a green lung for Plymouth.



On soil maps it is the shallow soils Manod Series 611c over paleozoic slate. Not granite.

My gratitude to Google Earth for the aerial view (not blossom time) The panorama photo and others were taken at the balloon shaped car park just to the east of the main road.
Editor.

THE BEE RICH LAND-SCAPE



Bees are very much in the news at present for at a world wide scale pollinating insects are being destroyed by insecticides. I am therefore pleased to include Pip Howard's article about the Devon Bee Farm. I have asked him to refine the notion that 'F1 hybrids' are of dubious value for bees, and it seems to me that many of our garden flowers come into the hybridised category.

I include (top right) one example of a garden **honeysuckle** whose name is indicative. But is this a cultivated hybrid? Observation shows me that it **is** visited by bees. Further down my garden (actually in next door's) is this magnificent Laburnam tree. That it is staggeringly attractive to bees is evidenced by the continuous sunny day hum of perhaps 100 of them. It is itself a glorious sight. A one time a suburban favourite— check out London A-Z for Laburnum Avenue, Close, Court, Crescent, Gardens, Grove, House, Road, Street and Way. It recently suffered from paranoid warnings about its poisonous seeds.

And recall then those hawthorn (May blossoms) south of Yelverton: an immense source of pollen and nectar at least for six weeks of the year. And red berries for birds through the winter.

Editor



The views and opinions in this publication are those of the contributing authors and the senior editor individually and do not necessarily agree with those of the Group.

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