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### contributors

Jan Goddard  
Paul Tabbush  
Owen Manning  
Kenneth Olwig  
Philip Pacey  
Bud Young  
Sheffield Hallam—  
2010 conference  
author abstracts

## La Gomera – cut, read and burn

In February this year, I spent a week with my athletic husband walking on the unique and beautiful island of La Gomera, the second smallest of the Canary Islands, situated in the Atlantic off the northwest coast of Africa. The climate is warm all year round and it is relatively unspoilt by tourism, reached only by ferry from nearby Tenerife. It is roughly circular and about 22 km in diameter, with a surface area of 378 square kilometres and a population of about 22,000. The island is volcanic, rising to nearly 5000 feet in the centre. Two million years of erosion of the volcanic forms has resulted in the formation of deep ravines (in Spanish 'barrancos'), which radiate



from the centre, branching down to the coast, where the flat land has allowed for the development of the island's major settlements.

These facts and figures do little to convey the quality of the landscape. To travel on foot over the island surface is challenging, usually involving a steep climb up a barranco towards the centre of the island and a steep climb down another, so that it may take most of a day to cover only a few miles as the crow flies. However, the beauty and variety, the distant views of the sea and lush unusual vegetation makes walking a pleasure.

In contrast to the normal way of things, the highest part of the island is not rocky and barren but cool, misty and covered in dense vegetation. This is the Garahonay National Park, an atmospheric place which has retained its original flora, a luxuriant evergreen forest, known as *Laurisilva*: this is a magical place, quiet, mossy and timeless. From the small clearing at Alto de Garahonay, the island's summit, a break in the cloud revealed spectacular views of El Hierro, La Palma and Tenerife. If one needs help understanding this, there is an excellent interpretation centre at the edge of the National Park.

'Roques', are an exciting feature of the area; they are tall rock outcrops which are the chimneys or vents through which volcanic lava escaped and solidified; they are later revealed by erosion of softer material around them.

Although the seasons are less differentiated than in the England, we were just too early for most spring flowers. Trees were beginning to blossom and we saw large cacti and palm trees giving the place a sub tropical feel. And there is a delightful cultural landscape — the small farmsteads, and villages are surrounded by terracing, some overgrown as many of the population have left the island or found employment in tourism. Bananas are grown in plantations for export and vines are grown for wine for home consumption. Farming was the main activity until the 1970's.

The Gomerans were (and still are) a resourceful and hardworking people: the remains of old water courses still cling to the sides of the ravines and there are settlements in the deepest and steepest of places. Coming down to Santiago on the coast, from Chipude (the highest village on the mountain), a section of our route followed an old mule path cut into the side of a deep vertical ravine. An enormous effort of mind over matter got me through, but it was an amazing experience to look back on.

Since Roman times, it is said, Gomerans have used a special type of whistled speech, known as Silbo, to

enable communication across the barrancos. The local government now require this language to be taught in schools to prevent it dying out. We didn't hear 'Silbo' across the ravines but we did see zip wires strung



across them, buckets attached, for taking building materials. One of them was fixed up with a seat — for a thrilling shortcut home! Some of the smaller ravines above the coastal settlements have been blocked by dams to form reservoirs. Near to the coast, development remains low key — roads are quiet but well maintained and tunnels have been built recently for some of the more important ones. Whilst the past is evident everywhere, La Gomera has moved into the present with pride, care and respect for its own unique character: it would be a crime for this Island to lose any of its specialness, so may I suggest you destroy this article after reading it as I myself will definitely be returning to what is probably the best island in the world.

**Jan Goddard.**

**'Keen Dartmoor walker stepping out'**

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Rosamunde Codling's fascinating piece on Norfolk runways prompted the following reflections.

The first, entirely unhelpful, is that although as a child in Thetford in the war I must have been surrounded by airfields, I never saw one of them, let alone a runway, since they were of course forbidden territory and anyway no-one went anywhere during the war. I remember Americans vaguely (even a black choir who amazed a local audience in the town hall), and planes definitely, especially the dark hordes of heavy bombers low above our garden on their way to pound German cities. But the first airfield I ever saw was probably in the opening shots from an under-rated post-war film "The Way to the Stars" (forget the cut-glass ac-



cents: actually a damned good film), when significantly it appeared already a ghost, a sad derelict haunted by memories of the men who had flown from there, on missions from which many did not return.

But a more cheerful reflection was prompted by Codling's account of the screen planting imposed on Bernard Matthews' turkey factories, which reminded me immediately of the large-scale landscape work imposed on various Electricity Generating Boards by Brenda Colvin in the 50's and 60's, including swathes of screen planting to frame their new power stations as well as policies for proper use of vast areas of farmland the 'boards' had acquired with little idea what it was for.

I was Brenda Colvin's assistant, running her London branch (half of one room in Sylvia Crowe's office) and visiting these huge projects for her (zooming across England eating 100 mph breakfasts in British Railways' first high-speed intercity trains). On one occasion I was confronted by a blunt Yorkshireman, Brenda Colvin's favourite site-manager, who just said "Can you ride a bike?" — which I then did, in a dark suit, in a snowstorm, all round the largest power station of them all. I came to realise something which her power generating clients perhaps did not recognise: that this great lady was using their pet projects as an opportunity to establish powerful landscapes; and that these might far outlive the power stations themselves, creating new landscape patterns, which if successful, would influence land uses far into the future.

It was a wonderful notion which has inspired me ever since. Was something of this kind in the minds of the gallant landscape team dealing with Bernard Matthews and those derelict airfield strips, so full of associations (where not full of turkeys); and how far has it been successful?

Yours sincerely

**Owen Manning**

Editor's Note

For those who do not remember Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe you may wish to look first at: Sylvia Crowe **The Landscape of Power**. *Publisher The Architectural Press: London 1956* and Brenda Colvin **Land and Landscape: Evolution, Design and Control**. *Publisher John Murray 1947 enlarged and reset by John Murray 1970*. My copies were picked up second hand — one from the British Council Mexico City in 1976. Interesting to older LRG members, the diagrams in Crowe's book were drawn by Michael Laurie; a Google search reveals that he died in 2002 and had been a Landscape Professor Emeritus at Berkeley University.

## THE OWNERSHIP OF ENGLISH FORESTS

By Paul Tabbush

Opposition to forest privatisation may not only be about access as has been reported in the press. It may be also about public perceptions of landscape, which is nowadays defined not just in terms of aesthetics, but of sustainability, recognising social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions — the provision of a range of 'ecosystem services', in the language of economics. Inasmuch as these services are provided free of charge, they can be described as public benefits, and the government has been keen to emphasise its commitment to protecting these benefits. Benefits deriving from forest land include the aesthetic (visual and sensory) and cultural landscape, but also health and well-being including psychological effects deriving from a sense of identity and belonging; non-timber products like berries and mushrooms, and also the largely unexplored world of educational and cultural benefits.

The Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), which is responsible for forestry matters in England through the Forestry Commission has backed down on its plans to sell off the publicly owned forests, in the face of massive public opposition. In Scotland and Wales, forestry policy is the responsibility of the devolved administrations, so that the privatisation plans apply only in England. Although the government has now removed the forestry clauses from the public bodies bill, it has set up an 'independent' panel, representing a broad range of interested groups, to consider the future of the Forestry Commission's holding of publicly owned woodland in England. This amounts to some 18% of England's woodland, but 44% of its **accessible** woodland, according to the Rambler's Association.

The government: *"believes that there are other sectors of society which may be better placed to own or manage the public forest estate"* (as stated in its consultation), and is/was seeking to sell the land to the private sector, or to transfer it (for nothing) to charities like the Woodland Trust or the National Trust. The environmental crisis has led to an understanding, at least in academic circles, that land ownership is about stewardship, and it is axiomatic that land is not 'owned', to dispose of at will, but held in trust for future generations. Why are people so concerned to support national land ownership, rather than ownership by private trusts and charities? Do these organisations hold the land in trust for future generations, **or for the benefit of their members in pursuit of their charitable aims?**

The Forestry Commission, as a Department of Government, is charged with managing the land in the



public interest, if not explicitly, then because it operates on behalf of an elected government that itself is supposed to govern in the public interest. It would be possible to have a long debate on whether or not this is the case. Governments do get it wrong as the environment minister has now freely admitted; there never was a democratic mandate of any sort for the sale of publicly owned land. Many will remember that the Forestry Commission, in pursuit of government policies, has also been on the wrong side of public opinion, in fact for much of the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The unacceptable face of commercial afforestation (uniform ranks of dark softwoods planted in regiments ignoring the lie of the land), and the landscape that it produced, famously in the Lake District, was the result of a top-down national policy based on the urgent need to be self-sufficient in pit-props for coal mining so that coal could be extracted and energy supplies safeguarded in the event of another U-boat blockade. Once it was clear, that with the advent of nuclear weapons, this was unlikely, a new top-down policy was brought in, based on the achievement of economic targets (based on discounting and 'Net Present Value'). This resulted in more problems for the landscape, including the poisoning of large areas of young oak in Northamptonshire, so as to replace them with "economic crops" of Norway spruce.

More recently, policies of multiple purpose forestry and 'Sustainable Forest Management' have been pursued, by a generation with a tendency to the post-modern, post-utilitarian (Williams, 2002) or post-

enlightenment turn. This reform may not be complete, but the Forestry Commission has shown itself to be much more communicative than in the past, and through its commitment to sustainable forest management, much more aware of public benefits and public interest. On the other hand, I can see land-based charities repeating the old mistakes. A (modernist) top-down policy of allowing only "native" species, sometimes from only local seed-sources, (in which sycamore has been constructed as an "undesirable alien") or of creating lowland heath habitat according to a supposedly repeatable recipe whenever the opportunity arises, and whatever the locals think — is no more likely to result in a sustainable landscape than the economic policies of the 1960s. Why then should we imagine that transfer of land ownership to charities will be in the public interest? It seems to me that the Forestry Commission has proved itself competent to broker environmental decisions, in communication with local and national stakeholders, and so to establish what is most likely to be in the public interest. The countryside charities, on the other hand, have to pursue their charitable aims and please their members, and have no need to consider the public interest. This might be fine for the conservation of particular woodlands, but is unlikely to make for a more inclusive and accessible countryside. Of course, private owners and charities have to work within an environment of regulation, but regulations are blunt instruments and expensive to police.

The extraordinary map published with the consulta-



tion took the courageous step of classifying the public woods into 1. Large Commercial; 2. Small Commercial; 3. Multipurpose; and 4. Heritage. All these woods are managed by the FC according to the “UK Forestry Standard”, and all are certified as **sustainably** managed under the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme by the Forestry Stewardship Council (only 16% of private woodlands are so designated). It seems strange, then that any of the Forestry Commission

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woodlands could be described as “purely commercial” in the present century.

As an example, let me take, for instance, the “small commercial” woods surrounding the Dorset town of Blandford Forum. Focus groups were conducted in 2004 in Blandford Forum, drawn from the local population (Tabbush, 2004). According to one male respondent:

*“I’m keen on exercising like walking, running, camping or whatever it is and I think that in the present day and age we read about obese children and obese adults and I think to get people out in to the fresh air is very good. Therefore I think we should use the forest more but I’ve lived in Blandford since 1967 and I can’t remember seeing any leaflets or anything that would encourage me to go and walk in the forest or where it is around Blandford.”*

The message from this is one of high demand for woodland access, including positive encouragement of access through information, signage and arranging activities. Forestry Commission resources have been limited, and with the present round of cuts will be even more limited; it has not been possible to make these provisions in small woods like those around Blandford to the same extent as in the larger forests. However, the categorisation of “small commercial” certainly does not do justice to these woodlands. The need to provide and positively encourage access to woodlands in all parts of the country, especially by under-represented groups, has never been more pressing. The public forest estate offers this potential.

PT

## References

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Williams, D. R. (2002). *Post-utilitarian forestry: what's place got to do with it?* *Human Dimensions of Natural Resources in the West, Alta, WY*. Fort Collins, CO, Human Dimensions Unit, College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University .

*The Editor offer a prize of £10 for the first reader to identify the wooded landscape shown in this article and its possible ownership.*

## CONTENTS OF LANDSCAPE RESEARCH 36/1

### Designing Farmland for Multifunctionality

Christine Haaland, Gary Fry and Anna Peterson

Despite the fact that versatility of use has become a major objective of European agricultural policy, recent research has paid less attention to landscape, social and biotic aspects of agriculture than to economic, production or abiotic factors. In addition, relationships in the form of trade-offs between different landscape values such as biodiversity, cultural heritage, recreation and aesthetics have been little studied. This paper explores the synergies and conflicts that can arise between these landscape values when planning at the farm scale, using a case study of a farm in Sweden. From the case study, the authors develop some general relationships between biodiversity, cultural heritage, recreation and aesthetics that can occur when improving multifunctionality on farmland, and make use of methods from the natural sciences and the design traditions of landscape architecture to analyse and develop assessments of landscape values. They discuss how the design approach of landscape architects can contribute to developing multifunctional farm plans and how the design process results in farm-specific solutions.

### Indicators for the identification of cultural landscape hotspots in Europe

Katalin Solymosi.

This paper looks at the characteristics that identify European hotspots of traditional cultural landscapes. Indicators for such hotspots seem to be geographic, economic, infrastructural and political isolation, marginal agricultural land and often a population that differs from the surrounding mainstream. Based on field work in two such areas — Las Hurdes in Spain and Gyimes in Romania — Solymosi argues that the factors that once enabled unique cultural landscapes to emerge are those that now help to preserve them as

islands or hotspots in a globalised and increasingly uniform world. The indicators for identifying hotspots presented here can be seen as a first step for systematically studying and eventually protecting such regions.

### The creation of play spaces in 20th century Amsterdam: from an intervention of civil actors to a public policy

Lianne Verstrate and Lia Karsten

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the creation of play spaces in Amsterdam used to be the primary responsibility of civil society but this began to change after World War II. Between 1947 and 1970, the Amsterdam Urban Planning (AUP) Department created over 700 public play spaces. These spaces were little niches in the urban public domain, designed and constructed to enable city children’s play. This remarkable change from a predominantly private to a public intervention is explained through a rapid increase of the number of children (the post-war baby-boom), the existence of the (AUP) General Extension Plan with its detailed age specific approach and the fruitful collaboration between powerful urban planners and politically dominant socialist politicians.

### Exploring the Heterogeneity of Cultural Landscape Preferences: A Visual-Based Latent Class Approach

Arne Arnberger and Renate Eder

Effects of depopulation, farm family income and changes in agricultural practices have resulted in the abandonment or destruction of traditional mountainous landscapes. This paper explores the effects of various landscape change processes on the preferences of a mostly urban population sample, using an image-based/ stated-choice survey of 128 digitally generated landscape scenarios. These images represented various kinds and intensities of use for agriculture and tourism of a historic terraced landscape in Austria. Four segments of the sample were identified who expressed different preferences for natural, managed and social landscape features, indicating that landscape change can affect humans in different ways, and that evolutionary and cultural preference theories are useful in explaining landscape preferences.

### Amenities, Affluence, and Ideology: Comparing rural restructuring processes in the US and Norway

Paul M. Van Auken and Johan Fredrik Aye

This paper looks at rural communities in Bayfield County, Wisconsin USA and Hitra/Frøya in Norway to analyse how ideas of nature and rural space, combined with broader structural influences — particularly rural restructuring and neoliberal ideology — have an impact community on development in rural amenity areas. The authors conclude that while

amenity-led development occurs because of rural contrast, the trappings of urban life are growing in importance. Consumption may be the driving force behind growth and change in many ‘post-productivist’ rural areas, but landscapes are actively produced to capitalize on local amenities. The rural communities themselves are in different phases of maturation, and in Norway social attitudes about land seem to be shifting from a ‘traditional’ mentality towards a more ‘American’ mentality.

Short Communication:

### Diversity Indices as "magic" tools in landscape planning: a cautionary note on their uncritical use

Corrado Battisti and Longino Contoli

This short communication aims to promote a critical use of biodiversity indices. Diversity indices are often considered by landscape planners as easy to calculate and informative for planning procedures, their main objective being “to obtain the magic number”. However, the misinterpretation of the real significance of diversity values could induce conceptual traps and the promotion of poor strategies for ecosystem and landscape management. This may result in serious ecological, economic and political implications. The paper highlights the need to plan reliable diversity analysis based on a good understanding of the relevant theory, with quantitative values of indices used as the basis for planning only after a critical interpretation by professional ecologists, and others who consider local features, history, constraints and the human disturbances affecting the ecological units studied.

Compiled and written for LRE by **Crista Ermiya** School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, Newcastle University, UK

## HORIZONS MATTER

Sitting under an apple tree in my garden I have a small but sharp thought. Curious Newtonian replay! It’s coffee time and there is a veil of misty rain coming in over the hugeness of the Moor. Clouds wisp and vanish over the far distance. And then it’s gone. Away to the west the landscape from this garden bench is changing, grey yes but also wholly agricultural, a landscape tamed by small pastures and hedges laid over gentle folds. At an instant I feel bleak and have lost something that I value. Is it the far distant view all of a sudden obscured by cloud — something about distance; or is it that that distant view includes a lessened height to horizon — the angle at which I tilt my head that informs my unconscious that I live not within low land but among hills. Alternatively is it the fact that the layer of landscape that is missing this misty coffee time is

the bare distant moorland that tells me that I live at the margin of agriculture (reassuringly next to Waste — no people, no menace). The changed horizon is only a matter of a few degrees of elevation, for the Moor is three miles distant but it matters hugely to my mood. Cloud obscured, this view is so ordinary, not the kind of place I chose to live in.

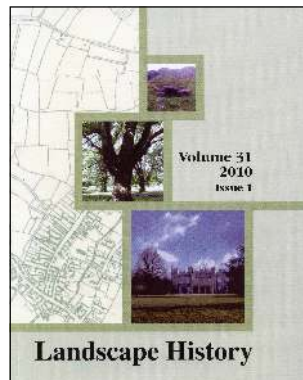
Is it worth extending this observation to think of 'mountain men' who have to raise their heads as much as sixty degrees to take in the view; whose dawn or sunset is delayed and their days made shorter because of their mountainous horizon; who view the land surface inclined to them like a book held up to the face; whose legs develop one longer and one shorter to cross the slopes!

BY

## AN HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE JOURNAL — MANY REVIEWS

You say you are interested in landscape and so am I. You are interested in esthetics and I revel in the cultural use of land. Others look at the despoiled landscapes of mining and still others (bless them) in hedonistic pricing. So many facets to this subject of ours! It is delightful that those who study, follow, walk in and enjoy the historical landscape are all part of this remarkably wide brotherhood. The editors of

Landscape History kindly send me their journal (that of the Society of Landscape Studies). Many of its titles are very much landscape ones. Here is a list. What do you think? I note in passing that Hugh Prince (UCL) was until retirement a valued Board member of LRG:



From Volume 30 issue 2, 2009

- **Oliver Creighton.** Castle studies and the European medieval landscape traditions, trends and future research directions.
- **Jordo Boulios.** Landscape formation in a Mediterranean country of the middle ages: change and continuity in Catalonia between the sixth and fifteenth centuries.
- **Invoid Oye.** Settlement patterns and field systems in medieval Norway
- **Birgitta Roeck Hansen.** Landownership and capitalism in eighteenth century Sweden.

- *From Volume 31 Issue 1 2010.*
- **Helena Hamerow** The development of Anglo-Saxon rural settlement forms
- **Patsy Dallas.** Sustainable environments: common wood pastures in Norfolk
- **David Johnson.** Hushes, delfs and river stonary: alternative methods of obtaining lime in the Gritstone Pennines in the early modern period
- **Hugh Prince.** Land use and land ownership: a recent history of parks in Hertfordshire.

Both issues contain long book review sections — 38 reviews in vol 30/2, 19 reviews in vol 31/1. An attractive way of getting a handle on another branch of the subject and worth browsing or the subscription just for that. Recommended.

BY

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF TOWN COMMONS

**Mark Bowden, English Heritage**

The presentation will discuss research from the recent book *An Archaeology of Town Commons in England: "a very fair field indeed"* by Graham Brown, Nicky Smith and Mark Bowden. This is the culmination of a 5-year study. Town commons have been largely disregarded by historians and archaeologists (with a few honourable exceptions, such as: French 2000; 2003; Giles 1950; and Hammond 1931). The few remaining urban commons are under threat and are not adequately protected, despite recognition of their wildlife and recreational value. In 2002 English Heritage embarked upon a project to study town commons in England, to match its existing initiatives in other aspects of the urban scene — EH had highlighted in Power of Place (HERSG 2000) and other policy documents place an emphasis on issues of urban conservation and regeneration — as a matter of high level government strategy. The aim of the project was to investigate, through taking a representative sample, the archaeological content and historic environment value of urban commons in England, and to prompt appropriate conservation strategies for them. The objectives were to research and survey a representative sample of urban commons in England, to make available the results of that work in the most appropriate ways to the widest constituency, and if possible to promote local community conservation initiatives.

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*From Aspects of Commons and Cultural Severance in the Landscape Conference, Sheffield Sept. 2, 2010*

## A RECIPE FOR LANDSCAPE Æbleflæsk: a Landscape Recipe

By Kenneth R. Olwig

A movement at the very grass roots of landscape is taking place which, for want of an official name, I have elected to call "Eat The Landscape" (ETL), or "Eat and Drink The Landscape" (E&DTL). This movement is taking place in various fora. It ranges from home kitchens to local food fairs, and from the Italy based slow food movement (which has inspired many local restaurants), to the ethereal level of international gourmet eating, as represented by the Copenhagen Restaurant Noma that sends staff out into the landscape armed with GPS devices and cameras in order to locate the best sources for wild edibles. Noma won first place in the S. Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants 2010. Evidence of ETL can be found in recent books ranging from Duncan Mackay's *Eat Wild to Elena Kostioukovitch's Why the Italian's Love to Talk About Food*. ETL might be called a recipe for landscape because there is a growing recognition that both biodiversity and landscape character are dependent upon the heritage of human use which helped create many of our richest landscape environments, but this unfortunately is a heritage which is losing out to agricultural specialization and monoculture, on the one hand, and the building industry on the other. An appropriate motto for this landscape might be "use it or lose it" or "eat it or deplete it," because if people do not make use of its variety of produce, both wild and domesticated, the motivation to care for and nurture it will disappear, and other interests will be free to exploit it. In order to exemplify the way ETL can provide a recipe for landscape I will here present a landscape recipe for a Danish heritage dish called æbleflæsk.

Æbleflæsk means apple pork, but the most felicitous translation is probably apple bacon, even if the cut of pork used can be fresh, and need not be smoked and cured like bacon. I have called this a landscape recipe because the exact character of the recipe is determined by the landscape itself, not by an expert cookbook writer. It is thus determined by what is customarily available in the rural Danish landscape in a certain season. There are many regional and personal variations so I will distinguish here between basic ingredients and optional ingredients. This is also a dish that, like the landscape itself, might be characterized by the French term ensemble, or the German gestalt. It thus involves not just the two basic ingredients, apples and bacon, but also an ensemble of Danish rye bread, beer and aquavit or, as it is also called in Danish, snaps.

Apples are clearly core to the landscape — even God knew that, as can be seen by apple tree in Eden. The rich landscape heritage of apples is under severe

threat, with acres and acres of traditional variety rich apple orchards in northern regions and uplands (e.g. Scandinavia and parts of Britain) being cut down and ploughed-under to be replaced by mass production in apple plantations with few varieties (basically red or green) grown in places with milder climatic conditions (e.g. France). This development is not just problematic for the landscape, but for the taste of apple itself. Apples grown in colder environments taste of more than those grown in mild environments, which, as a friend of mine once put it, "taste like sticking your tongue out the window." The problem, however, is that the apples grown in the colder northern and upland environments also are more susceptible to various maladies that can reduce production and raise costs. The consumer can help counter this tendency by demanding locally grown varieties from traditional apple growing regions, but one can also short circuit the system by going from being a consumer to being a producer oneself. It is a relatively simple matter to plant apples, or restore an older tree through pruning, then one has a ready supply of apples of the variety of one's choosing. If one plants apple trees, however, one will soon discover that one is likely to have more apples than one normally would consume, and this is where heritage dishes like æbleflæsk come in. Dishes like this have come about because the landscape involves not just scenery in space, but place and season, and when things are in season you are likely to have an abundance of them that cry out to be either consumed or preserved (e.g. as cider). Æbleflæsk is the sort of dish that is made to order for the time of year, the autumn, when most apple varieties are in season. Autumn officially ends with the winter solstice, and with proper storage the apples will last until the end of this season, thus making æbleflæsk a popular candidate for the customary Danish Julebord or Yuletide Table. The main optional ingredient in æbleflæsk is onions, which are, like apples, an autumnal crop, and which, like apples, can be stored for some time under cool conditions.

Whereas the core relation of apples to the landscape is rather clear-cut, it might be difficult to see how the bacon fits into a recipe for landscape. The pig has historically played a key role in the landscape as a kind of living garbage disposal unit because it will eat that which is left over from the production and human consumption of food and produce meat and manure in exchange. The pig, when used for this purpose, will be fattened up during the growing season, and thus be ready to be eaten in the autumn, just in time for use in æbleflæsk. This is why one can still find a household pig in many places in the world where people need to make maximum use of their resources. Peter Howard, a former editor of *Landscape Research*, who prompted me to write this article by asking for my æbleflæsk recipe, tells me that: "Certainly up to, and especially during WW2, the household pig was commonplace in



UK. In CZ there is a big day when the whole village gathers to slaughter the pig, and the whole pig must be eaten during the day..... lots of chitterlings, black pudding etc. Washed down with Czech beer and slivovice.” Most of us today do not have the space, or zoning permission, for a household pig, but it is possible to buy pork from pigs that have been raised organically and which are thus still likely to contribute to a multi-functional and bio-diverse use of the landscape.

**Preparing Æbleflæsk** To prepare æbleflæsk for about four persons I use two skillets. There should be enough bacon, cut into relatively thick slices, to cover the bottom of both frying pans. When the bacon is fried crisp and brown it is placed over low heat in one of the frying pans. The fat remaining in the other skillet is then be used to fry some sliced onions (optional) until they are clear (the amount of onions used is a question of taste, but I usually use half of a medium sized onion). The onions are then transferred to a



separate dish. The apples, depending on the size, should be cut down the core into about eight boat shaped sections like those of an orange, and the core should be removed. The pan is filled up with several layers of apples and the apple sections are fried in the remaining fat until they are soft and tender, but still retain their recognizable shape. They must be turned regularly so as not to burn or stick to the pan, and they should not become apple sauce. If you think you need more fat, so as to avoid them sticking to the pan, you can pour some from the pan with the bacon. Once the apples are soft you can mix in the optional onions. It is also possible to stir in fresh thyme (optional) at this point. You can use any variety, or combination of varieties, of apples to make this dish, but if the apples are very tart you might want to add some sugar (optional) to the dish. The æbleflæsk is served with the bacon on top of the apples. Enjoy!

**KO**

## A TREE ARCHIVE OF LOST TRADITIONS

**Rikard Andersson, Geological Survey of Sweden,** Trees can preserve traces from traditional uses of forest ecosystems for centuries. In northern Sweden two main types of traces, or culturally modified trees (CMTs), have been studied: marks from bark extraction and carvings in a landscape of livestock herding. First, there was a Sami tradition of peeling and preparing Scots pine inner bark for various purposes described in written sources dating back to the 17th century. Larger sheets of inner bark were dried and ground into flour, roasted or eaten fresh. Smaller sheets were used as wrappings for sinews to keep them soft. Hundreds of peeled trees from this tradition are preserved in national parks and reserves. Second, in close relation to traditional livestock herding, it was a custom to carve text and symbols on Scots pine trees and use them as ‘notice boards’. Hundreds of these tree carvings dating back to the 17th century are preserved in managed forest landscapes along streams and close to, sometimes on, wetlands. Both these traditional practices diminished rapidly in the second half of the 19th century and have now been totally lost due to new forms of land use. Through living trees though, certain details of these customs have been preserved, which gives us a second chance to study them.

Rikard.Andersson@sgu.se

*From Aspects of Commons and Cultural Severance in the Landscape Conference, Sheffield Hallam Sept. 2, 2010, with this editor's thanks.*

## NUTWOOD AND BEYOND: EXPLORING LANDSCAPE WITH RUPERT BEAR

By Philip Pacey

When we arrived on an October morning the sun had probably not been high enough to shine into the village of Beddgelert for very long. All was quiet and peaceful; soon the village would be bustling with its daily quota of visitors. I would have liked to linger awhile, knowing that Alfred Bestall, author and illustrator of *Rupert*, spent his last years here. But a walk had been planned and there was a schedule to keep to, with steam trains to observe on their passage through the Aberglaslyn Pass. Setting out from the triangular green which is dedicated to Bestall's memory, our attention was distracted by the sound of a helicopter which we then caught sight of, hovering just feet above a distant peak, probably engaged in a mountain rescue exercise but perhaps actually lifting an injured climber to safety. An intrusion which, curiously

enough, would not seem out of place in a Rupert story.

As a child I loved Rupert, encountering him not in his everyday appearances in a cartoon strip in the *Daily Express* but in the beautifully coloured pages of the *Rupert Annual*; in later life I have been delighted to receive a copy of the new *Rupert Annual* as a gift every Christmas morning. Every story (there are half a dozen or so in each annual) is a variation on a theme: Rupert sets out on an adventure — with or without the permission of his extraordinarily laid back parents — into another land — with or without some of his friends. Meeting the inhabitants of this other place, whoever they might be, Rupert has to overcome their initial suspicions (which sometimes result in him being imprisoned or otherwise constrained). He is then instrumental in helping them out, generally through the resolution of a particular problem, symptoms of which are likely to have been evident from the beginning of the story. After which he is thanked and assisted on his way home, where his sudden return provokes no consternation whatsoever.

Severn Valley, and Snowdonia. I think it would be true to say that his landscape repertoire was nourished by all of these and also by memories of journeys abroad, while also owing a great deal to his imagination. Each adventure begins in Nutwood; each is also the occasion for Rupert to explore further afield and indeed, to enter other worlds. Nutwood, Rupert's home, comfortable and safe, scarcely ever even troubled by bad weather, is also, paradoxically, his launch pad into all manner of strange and far away places.

Nutwood is a quintessentially, timeless (1930s-ish) English village set in a landscape of cropped grass and well behaved woodland, entirely lacking in visible agriculture. This is a landscape which is clearly *pastoral*; it is also *picturesque*, and thus it is not surprising that it is dotted with follies — the Professor lives in a crenellated tower, the Wise Old Goat rather surprisingly occupies a castle, while the Chinese Conjuror inhabits a pagoda — an exotic touch of *chinoiserie*! From inside these buildings trap doors and secret passages are entrances to other worlds But also, in Bestall's enchanted landscape (and seascape — the coast is not far away) almost anything can reveal itself



For me, at least, the joy of Rupert adventures arises not so much from the adventures themselves, as from the landscapes they take place in. Bestall said that his landscapes drew on favourite places – the Weald, the

as a means of transformation and travel, through time and space — rabbit holes and hollow trees conceal entrances to tunnels burrowing deep in the earth; by means of flying machines and hot air balloons, or on



the backs of giant birds, Rupert travels through the clouds to worlds far above and beyond. How 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape gardeners such as Capability Brown would have loved to build into their landscapes similar devices! As it is they had to make do with temples and grottoes — spectacular in a limited sort of way, but not actually going anywhere.

In the endpapers to the annuals, which offered more scope to Bestall the artist than the cartoon strips, he sometimes portrayed Nutwood as a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century artist might (Claude, Poussin, Richard Wilson), with a distant, receding prospect, typically including a lake and a folly, framed by trees, or in some cases with a lonely Scots pine on one side. This landscape formula, with its balance of 'prospect and refuge', seems to appeal strongly to the human psyche; it is, I would dare to suggest, archetypal, an Eden, Paradise or Arcady which invites humans to inhabit it, but does not oblige them to work it. It is a landscape which accommodates human need for both home and adventure, a theme of the Rupert stories and of much children's and travel literature. The beautiful endpapers of the 1973 annual, featuring Rupert and friends in the foreground, sitting on a fence, gazing out over a distant lake with a boathouse, is a fine example. In another of Bestall's finest endpaper paintings, for the 1967 annual — the closest he ever got to producing a map of Nutwood — some of Rupert's friends look out from craggy high ground in the foreground; a Scots pine frames the scene on the left hand side; we share their point of view, looking out over a well wooded landscape in which the village, the professor's tower, the castle and the pagoda are not quite hidden among the trees. It is a classic, picturesque landscape composition. But are our eyes drawn into the distance? Certainly not at first, because — yes — that really is Rupert! in a *helicopter*, hovering just yards away from us.

And here's another curious thing about Nutwood. It is inhabited; at first glance it may seem to be inhabited by human beings (they stand on two legs, and wear human clothes). But look again! Rupert is a bear, albeit with hands instead of paws. Most of his friends are animals of various kinds, though some are human, and others are mythical (Santa features on a regular basis). There are a few humans, including a group of girl guides, but they are in a minority and have no special status. Despite the existence of mischief, pardonable crime, and evil which is clearly not sustainable, Rupert's world — Bestall's creation (building on the work of his predecessor, Mary Tourtel, and subsequently superbly continued by John Harrold) — is a 'Peaceable Kingdom', a landscape in which the lion and the lamb lie down (and stand up) together, and nobody is threatened by the human race.

PP

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## ABANDONED LANDSCAPES OF FORMER GERMAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVENIA

**Petr Mares & Primoz Pipan, Institute For Environmental Studies, Charles University in Prague, and Robin Raisin, Slovenia**

The paper presents a comparative study focused on Czech and Slovenian landscapes, where German communities used to live. Though Germans of the Czech borderland were transferred to Germany and Austria as a result of post war political development, Germans who lived in the Slovenian karst territory of Kocevje were moved by Hitler's order to more fertile places in the Pannonian lowlands during WWII. Currently, both types of landscape are empty and abandoned, which gives them a high interest especially from an historical and environmental point of view. Another feature we followed was the long-term land use development: thanks to the unique historical datasets, collected and processed for both countries in fully comparable ways, we were able to catch and define those impacts that crucial political decisions can bring about to the landscape.

**PM,PP & RR**

*With this editor's thanks. From Aspects of Commons and Cultural Severance in the Landscape Conference, Sheffield Sept. 2, 2010*

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Editorial enquiries:

**Bud Young**

**Airphoto Interpretation,**

26 Cross Street Moretonhampstead Devon

TQ13 8NL

or emails to: [young@airphotointerpretation.com](mailto:young@airphotointerpretation.com)

## FLOODS VARIOUS

There was a lot going on in Queensland Australia when we went to Exeter to pass an afternoon walking along the River Exe. The Exe drains hill land down from Exmoor and West Somerset and at Exe-



ter's northern outskirts and also south beyond the city, is given additional channels, concrete lined, places where one might skateboard in dry times. But these are carefully conceived flood channels



and today we see them in action. Where normally we would walk the urban river bank we cannot, for the water has risen hugely. Swans ducks and sea-gulls crowd the shore. The town's Quay with its 18th and 19th century one time warehouses, is lapping over, another two feet and it would reach the foot of the buildings. The pull across the ferry's

aerial cable normally 'shoulder height to the ferryman' is a now only few inches from the water surface. Further down river we see a man wheeling sandbags: out from watching the news, Queensland is uppermost in his mind. We look at the brown water and the occasional rooted stumps lodged across Trews Weir. The roar of water is impressive. The bridge we cross seems to tremble with the force of the current. Beyond this the river filled relief channel is nearly one hundred metres wide. At a time of flooded foreground, the view is just not the same.

But that was all very trivial as *Queensland comes to terms* with its huge flood. My wife's relative in Toowoomba was well above flood level but we watched the river line (interestingly there is said to be no river perhaps just a valley) as cars floated past to hit a bridge. For some years it had been droughty.

Now all this seems **and** is small stuff compared with the tidal wave that hit northeast Japan. Tsunamis are the stuff of geology which is exciting when looking at unusual boulder rampart deposits high



on a shore but horrifying for the millions of people around the World who will have watched that dramatic TV footage. A black wave 10m high, full of sediment roaring into every bay and fishing town inlet. God-awful (I say that respectfully) for the poor inhabitants. A life-changing, Nation-changing and landscape changing event. We are full of admiration for the noble fortitude of the survivors.

**BY**

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