

landscape
research
extra 68

February 2014



Copy deadline for
LRE 69
April 24th 2014

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Image, instinct and imagination: landscape as sign-language

Forthcoming exhibition with Jay Appleton at Royal Geographical Society

Members will know the name of Professor Jay Appleton, not only for his seminal work *The Experience of Landscape* (1975) but also for his chairmanship of LRG from 1976-78 and again from 1981-84. I worked as a landscape photographer for many years without hearing of him, but as part of a move away from scenic photography towards a more research-based interest in landscape history and cultural geography I came across Simon Schama's remark in *Landscape and Memory* (1995) crediting Jay Appleton as one of the two thinkers largely responsible for the revival of cultural geography in Britain. I decided to investigate, wrested a copy of *The Experience of Landscape* from the clutches of Leeds University Library, and immediately realized Prospect-Refuge theory was something I'd been looking for. Further enquiries revealed that Jay was still active in retirement from Hull University, in touch with a range of thinkers, specialists and former colleagues, and enjoying a second career as a published poet. The University holds a biennial Appleton Lecture in his honour.

I think the idea of a joint exhibition was in Jay's mind even before our first meeting. In 2005 he made a scholarly intervention at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, writing discursive commentaries on 20 paintings from the collection (including works by Ruysdael, Canaletto and Constable) in terms of Prospect, Refuge and Hazard symbolism. Doing something similar with contemporary photographs seemed a logical step. We spent several fascinating sessions going through my stocks of UK landscapes, from which Jay has selected a range of pictures that tell a story about environmental perception. He has written a new narrative complementing descriptive captions for the landscapes that range geographically from the Isle of Lewis to Dorset.

We are delighted that this exhibition, a photographer's guide to Prospect-Refuge theory, opens at the Royal Geographical Society's Pavilion in London on 31 March for a 2-week run, before travelling to Dean Clough Galleries, Halifax (7 June - 7 September) and Matthew Gallery, University of Edinburgh in October. Other touring venues are being sought, with a possible Seattle showing under discussion.



If Jay's environmental aesthetics have seemed to hover just below many people's radar, they have also been taken up in some diverse and unexpected quarters. Landscape architects were quick to see the significance of ideas that offered a universal explanation for people's landscape preferences. In the USA Prospect-Refuge theory had a big

cies display for their natural habitat (*The Art Instinct* 2009). It may be that his ideas are seeing a wider revival.

Our exhibition opens with the question posed at the beginning of *The Experience of Landscape*: 'What do we like about landscape, and why do we like it?' and answers the question by show-



influence on the environmentalist/philanthropist Prentice Bloedel, and his Reserve on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound near Seattle was developed with Jay's theories very much in mind. Meanwhile the American architectural historian Grant Hildebrand demonstrated that Jay's landscape model applies equally to the domestic interiors of Frank Lloyd Wright. And more recently the philosopher of art Denis Dutton credits Jay with re-initiating 'in its contemporary incarnation' an enquiry into the pervasive attachment all spe-

ing how aesthetic taste in landscape and landscape art derives from primitive, hunter-gatherer instincts for vantage (*Prospect*) and shelter or concealment (*Refuge*). Humans, as well as other animals, select environments that contain a favourable balance of these two elements. With the advance of civilization our survival instincts have evolved into feelings of pleasure at landscapes (or pictures of them) that would make good habitats if we had to depend on them.

My photographs illustrate the various types of Prospect, Refuge and Hazard, following Jay's original classifications in the book. Hazard is particularly crucial to the theory; all places of refuge involve hiding or sheltering from something and environmental perception is all about weighing up risk and advantage. With Hazard we touch on the Sublime, the urge to probe the uncomfortable and dangerous, that is such a cornerstone of Romanticism. The exhibition also includes sections on Light,

and on Ecology, and it closes with a group of pictures on which visitors can try out their own newly-acquired skills of landscape interpretation.

Needless to say, it has been a fascinating (and pleasurable) experience to offer up my landscape work to such specialized analysis. And I am proud to play a part in re-presenting Jay Appleton's ideas to a new generation and new audiences. We have taken the opportunity to display extracts from Jay's landscape poetry on the back wall of the RGS Pavilion, offering a literary perspective on his theories and underlining the essential cross-disciplinarity



of his thought.

Captions to the photos:

Gate to woodland, Powerstock, Dorset
Gates, walls and fences (if closed) all send out the message 'No Admittance' and are classed as Impediment Hazards, but here the message is reversed as the open gate invites us in, arousing our curiosity as to what may lie deeper into the wood, around the corner. The 'edge of the wood' is always an important threshold, a natural and symbolic transition between open space and concealment.

River Wharfe in spate, Ghaistrill's Strid, Grassington, Yorkshire Dales
Water bodies may also be Impediment Hazards, especially in times of flood. But they discharge ambivalent functions: if you have a boat they become lines of communication, and with a bridge (so long as you have control of it) their importance can be reduced to

the merely ornamental. However the symbolism and iconography of river crossings works at a deep level, and rivers remind us that nature can never be tamed or recruited wholly to human purposes.

Croft, Torrin, Isle of Skye

The house here is protected by a shelter belt, and the mountain too seems to offer a sheltering wing. The loch may serve the function of a moat, keeping unwanted visitors away from the traditionally-capped hay stooks (indicating plenty) in the foreground. These potent Refuge symbols reduplicate each other visually to create the strong suggestion of a desirable habitat.

Panorama on page 1

Julian's Bower, Alkborough, North Lincolnshire

A striking example of a Panorama with a reach or 'fetch' of over 45 miles. The picture here relies on the clarity of the light and illustrates the advantage of 'falling ground'. The immediate foreground is free of vegetation that might impede the prospect, but we are assured of the proximity of refuge by the line of the tree-tops, high enough to catch our attention but not to interfere with the prospect.

The tidal River Trent enters from the left in the middle distance, joining the Yorkshire Ouse at Trent Falls (a misleading name, as there are no 'falls' as such) to form the Humber. Until the opening of the Humber Bridge, some 7 miles downstream in 1981, this waterbody interposed a formidable barrier between Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

The panorama illustrates well how landscape is a product of the interaction between nature and man operating over an immensely long and very short period respectively. The fields bordering the rivers are natural floodplains reclaimed as productive farmland by human effort and divided by hedgerows providing linear pathways for the movement of wildlife. Since this picture was taken in 2003 the whole middle distance has been given back to the estuary and restored as floodplain in the Environment Agency's largest 'managed realignment' project, providing a cushion against tidal surges. However the storm surge of 5 December last year caused severe damage to

the infrastructure of the site, with fences being carried up to 1km from their positions by the force of the water.

The foreground platform showcases a rare example of a mystery puzzle to challenge our curiosity. Julian's Bower is one of a number of turf mazes in England, but its origin, date of construction and function is uncertain. What we can be sure of is that instinct demands we carry on questioning.

age, Instinct and Imagination: Landscape as sign-language

by Jay Appleton and Simon Warner
Supported by the Landscape Research Group and Colvin & Moggridge Exhibition Pavilion, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

31 March – 11 April 2014, daily including Sat & Sun 10.00 – 17.00
Free entry (Exhibition Road entrance)

EU. RESEARCH PROJECT HERCULES'

A Heads Up Report from Steve Shuttleworth and Laurence le Dû-Blayo

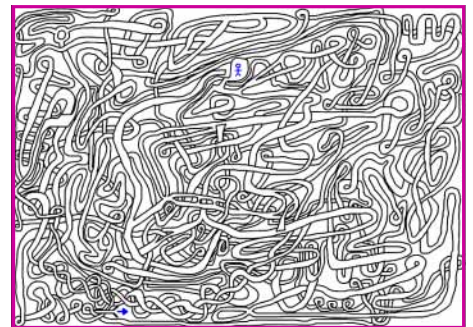
Members will be interested to hear that Landscape Research Group is one of 13 partners in a major new EU-funded research project called project HERCULES. That is an acronym for **HERitage in CULTural landscapes**. The European Union requires advice on how best to deal with landscape issues - or, as the long text reads: "the development of sustainable futures for Europe's landscapes: tools for understanding, managing, and protecting landscape functions and values". A lot of money has been allocated to it.

Hercules started in December 2013 and runs for 36 months. The EU funding for the project is nearly 3 million Euros, and our share is a small but significant 48,410 Euros. We believe that ours is a key role. The partners in the project can be viewed on our website at www.landscape-research.org. The Project Director is Dr Tobias Pleininger who at the time the project proposal was submitted was at Humboldt University, but is now with the University of Copenhagen. Laurence le Dû-Blayo our International Officer is leading our 'scientific' involvement in the project, and Steven

Shuttleworth finds himself doing a lot of the organisational and business end of the work. The project will be undertaken as a series of work programmes (WPs), to which the different partners will contribute in varying proportions according to their expertise.

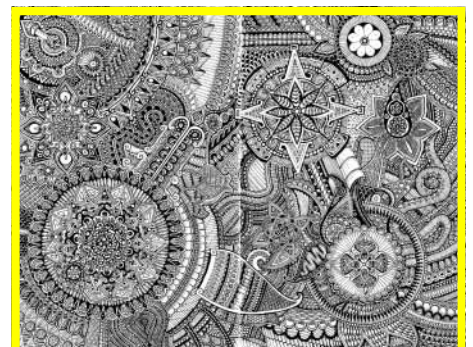
Who is involved?

A combination of European researchers, entrepreneurs, and activists, 13 in all (see the list on our website for details) will afford a broad perspective avoiding arcane or academic bias. The project will focus on cultural landscapes in rural areas – including the periurban fringe – aiming to understand the 'drivers' that have shaped these landscapes in both the long and the short term, and the culture and ecosystem-based landscape services generated in each landscape. It will go on to test the impact of the wide range of present policies and strategies which can have such a profound effect on landscapes. Resilience, in an era where climate appears to be changing, is seen as all important. Resilience is a key new term in landscape studies.



How will success be measured?

How, when all the money has been invested, do we ensure that the accumulated research results inform the refinement of present policies, and those policies embodied as aims of the ELC. The project intention is that the insight, technologies, and strategies developed will be tested and applied in 5 to 6 regional case studies, purposefully selected to span major environmental and land use history 'gradients' throughout Europe. There will be a number of supplementary case studies to ensure that the broad range of cul-



tural landscape types is fully considered. The project results, with supporting information and data, will be available online in a ‘Knowledge Hub’ – see boxed text – so that researchers, landscape professionals and local communities can make practical use of them.

Our involvement

These elements in the boxed text require LRG input at the start — setting up the stakeholder process — at the middle — reporting on stakeholder workshops and elaborating a communi-

asked to assist in this. It is crucial that anybody involved in this work maintains confidentiality during the project.

A research project such as HERCULES will clearly lead to a number of academic papers. It is hoped that some of these will be published in *Landscape Research* in due course – obviously subject to the usual editorial approval processes required for a peer-reviewed journal.

involved in shaping the future landscape research agenda; this will complement our substantial involvement in a range of international research and policy networks.

The next important step will be to agree a strategy which will give specific direction to LRG’s activities intended to advance research for the public benefit. The Board, led by Chris Dalglish, is now working on this, and it is intended to be able to report progress and seek member views later this year.

SS & LLDB

THE PROJECT ABSTRACT

European cultural landscapes are valued as everyday living environment, countryside, heritage, scenery with aesthetic and recreational qualities and unique biodiversity, and as a source of ecosystem services that they provide to society. Cultural landscapes, however, are undergoing rapid and fundamental transformations across Europe, mainly as a result of an on-going polarization of land use, with abandonment and rural exodus on the one hand, and intensification and (peri-) urbanisation on the other. So far, substantial challenges have inhibited the design of effective responses to safeguard cultural landscape values. The proposed HERCULES project strives for the empowerment of public and private actors to protect, manage, and plan for sustainable landscapes of significant cultural, historical, and archaeological value at local, national, and pan-European scales. By applying and developing innovative technologies and tools for assessing and mapping cultural landscapes, the project will (a) synthesise existing knowledge on drivers, patterns, and outcomes of persistence and change in Europe’s cultural landscapes; (b) perform targeted case studies to develop in-depth insights on dynamics and values of cultural landscapes; (c) develop a typology of cultural landscapes and scale-up case study insights using observations and landscape modelling; (d) develop visions for re-coupling social and ecological components in cultural landscapes and translate them into policy and management options; and (e) design and implement a community-based Knowledge Hub for Good Landscape Practice and demonstrate it with land users, agencies, SMEs, and citizen associations. HERCULES comprises European universities, SMEs, NGOs, and a research institute that are leaders in landscape science and practice. The project follows the European Landscape Convention’s call for transdisciplinary research and involves all actors with stakes in cultural landscapes of historical and archaeological value.

Landscape Research Group’s contribution

...is formally part of ‘Work Package 9’: Design of recommendations for landscape policy and practice, communication, and dissemination’. We see that is hugely important. The publicity and dissemination activities will exemplify examples of good landscape practices and suggest relevant policy recommendations; it will also address post-project implementation and sustainability plans.

The Work Package has the following aims:

- to set up a stakeholder engagement strategy and organise stakeholder meetings at EU level;
- to elaborate a communication strategy to disseminate findings in a concise and reader-friendly way;
- to create ad hoc communication tools (website, social networking tools) around the ‘Knowledge Hub for Good Landscape Practice’;
- to design recommendations for landscape policy and practice at EU level; and
- to organise a final conference in Brussels.

cation strategy — and at the end — organising the final conference of the project. In addition to Laurence le Dû-Blayo and Steven Shuttleworth, the LRG personnel formally named as contributing to this work are Paul Tabbush, Peter Howard and Gareth Roberts. We hope also to involve the wider membership in various ways as the work develops, especially so as to disseminate findings clearly and concisely.

In the program, the deliverables will mostly be reviewed internally by HERCULES members who are not directly linked to the various Work Packages. So, in addition to its formal role in WP 9, LRG will also make a wider contribution by acting in the role of ‘critical friend’ for other WPs. A small number of LRG individuals additional to the five named above may therefore be

Is this the right role for LRG?

LRG’s key charitable purpose is ‘*To advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields*’.

We do this in many ways, not least through publishing papers in *Landscape Research* and by organising and participating in conferences and other research-related events. However, it is many years since LRG has been able to be directly involved in undertaking or commissioning research – the last time we did so in any substantive way was promoting and managing the ‘Nature-Experience Research Program’ in 1984-88. Involvement in Project HERCULES therefore represents an important step for LRG in getting proactively

A EUROPEAN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, 1936

There is a quality of gladness — the 'riant' of the Guide Bleu and the Baedeker — about the Pays Basque and the Basses Pyrenees in the early summer which makes you wonder why you waste your time living in any other place. When I drove up to Bayonne that day and then eastward along the Route 117 to Pau and Tarbes I saw nothing, for mile after mile, but the vineyards framed in the white trunks of the plane trees; and beyond this, to the south, the Pyrenees. Every village was swarming carelessly with farm animals, every peasant's cart was piled high with bright vegetables and fruit. It is this abundance in the sunshine — the sense that there is always enough and something to spare — that makes the gladness.

.... Since I drove parallel to the Pyrenees all day I found myself constantly shifting my eyes from the minutiae of the villages to that fabulous horizon of white peaks in the distance, a sort of heaven on earth experience. In the villages everything is brought up in fine detail, the yellow dog lying asleep in the roadway, the peasant women plonking their baskets of washing on the river stone, the duck with wings outstretched standing like a ballet dancer on the water, the farmer's boy pissing against the red brick wall. Each petty thing is significant, temporary, imperfect and intimate. Then you lift your eyes to the mountains.

Alan Moorhead

A Late Education: Episodes in a Life.
Publisher: Slightly Foxed Editions No 19, pp 142-3. First published by Hamish Hamilton 1970.

Letters to the Editor

From Brian Goodey

Dear Bud

So good to see LRE editor venturing into the fields of Essex. As usual enjoyed LRE 67 cover to cover and found Essex extolled — it always needs help. The impact of the Wethersfield base

was significant in cultural landscape terms. It brought my generation face to face with the multi-cultural array of American servicemen who populated well-known venues in Braintree and Chelmsford where 'gum' might be requested by children like me who should have known better. More important I believe that, over a long period, American residents of traditional cottages in the area quietly spearheaded restoration and embellishment, evidence of which you remarked on in your note. The nationally picturesque village of Finch- ingfield nearby benefited from US cash.

Best wishes, Brian

From Graham Fairclough

Hi Bud

Issue 67 arrived this week while I was away, just read it. Some good stuff in there. Thanks for putting in the piece about 'my' *Landscapes* journal. Interested to see the very last words on the back page (C. Henry Warren etc) — for we published an article about him by his great nephew in a recent volume, which you may not have seen and which I didn't mention in the note I wrote for you (it's attached). There was more to his writing than rose-tintedness, I think.

Meanwhile let's see who answers your invite to MSRG types. Without looking at maps (eg 1st Ed OS), and just from general memories of North Essex, my first guess is that the character of the large-fielded zone arises from late re-enclosure and (or?) 20th century modernisation and rationalisation from which the smaller areas within the valley were for reasons (eg 'infield' issues, topography, difficult access for large machines) immune. It seems to be a general pattern in this region and there's also the question at issue of the medieval settlement pattern round here being 'non-villagey' — instead it's dispersed settlement with occasional market centres (hence the broad high-streets). I think also that your red line perhaps should turn back to the east to take in the northern part of your Google extract, too. But just a guess!
Yours etc, Graham

From Owen Manning

Dear Bud

Many thanks for the appearance of my *Hot Day* piece, looking as good as could be — enlivened as it is by a hot

orange panel which I took to be one of your incidental illustrations like 'the alpenhorn' accompanying *Noises Off* — but which wasn't. Appropriate all the same.

But seriously I must say how privileged I feel to be published so prominently in the company of the other writers and articles in this most excellent latest issue — Philip Pacey's wonderful piece on Ransome and the Lake District, for instance, which strikes so many chords with me personally, having had virtually the same childhood experience and later discovery of that landscape for myself. And Rosemary Codling's *Surprise Landscapes* with its fascinating historical reflections, and your own evocation of the 'spirit' of arable Essex (splendid imagined dialogue!) with the aerial photo which took me straight back to my first revelatory reading of Hoskins years ago — also my own excursions by train and bike from London in the hot summer of 1959, riding along roads which corkscrewed through a landscape of blazing cornfields. I really love this magazine of yours.
Best wishes, Owen

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING, THE WIDER LANDSCAPE AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

by Peter Howard

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State concerning Biodiversity Offsetting (BO), the media seem to be full of the threat to our ancient woodlands. These ancient woodlands are of undoubted ecological and historical significance, but they are few, and small in area. There would be little difficulty in declaring them sacrosanct. The wider landscape of England is equally under threat, and the most difficult phrase in the announcement is that an offset might be up to an hour's drive away — perhaps in the next county. Here lies the greater menace.

This obviously implies that a worthy biodiverse landscape worth experienc-

ing is not expected to be everywhere: on the contrary it is something that we get in our cars to go and visit, assuming, of course, that we have a car to get into, as the places likely to benefit from the offset are not often accessible by public transport. The landscape thus becomes something to visit, not a place to live. This is the government which has promised more localism, but seem determined to destroy their own policy. If all offsets were to be restricted to the parish where the development was proposed, this problem of the wider landscape would largely be resolved.

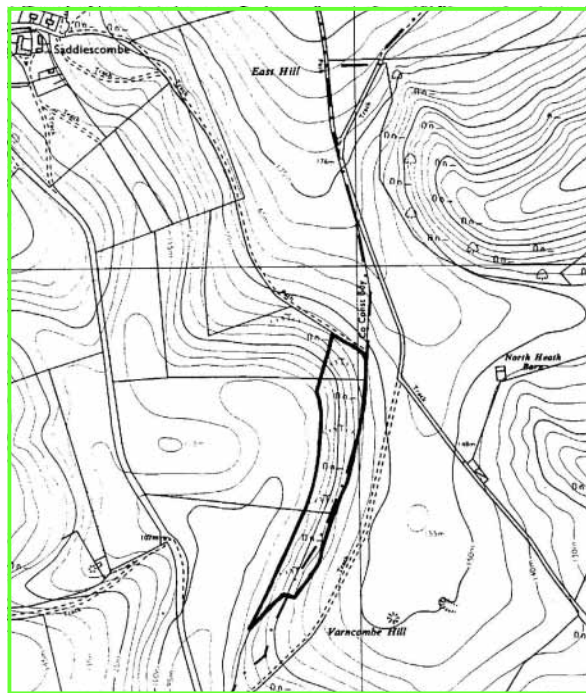
This is not likely to happen because there is deeper process at work, which amounts to slow creation of the division between Protected Landscapes, managed by Conservation Officers and inhabited by the middle-class, and recipients of Offsetting, and non-protected landscapes where development will take place.

But is this an exaggeration? In the 1950s and 1960s when National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (and Green Belts) were designated, there was surely no expectation, or intention, that they would significantly alter the social composition of the countryside, but Blacksell and Gilg long ago (see notes) showed the effect of the 'gentrification' of the AONBs and estate agents throughout the country will be very well aware of the premium on house prices in Protected Areas. The process is already well established, and offsetting can only exacerbate it, not least because many conservationists will find it difficult to oppose an income stream into the areas where they are already employed.

This process of designation coupled with gentrification is very powerful, and is unquestionably responsible for having saved many natural and landscape sites of real importance from deleterious development, but this may be at the cost of the ordinary or everyday landscape where most people live. The opposing force is the European Landscape Convention, which is

now part of UK law, but is written in such vague terms that it is never easy to demonstrate that it is being broken. Nevertheless the Convention applies to all landscapes, and is very clear that ordinary or everyday landscapes are significant, and of special value to their residents. A process that continually favours the protected against the ordinary landscape could reasonably be understood as in breach of the Convention.

This chimes with ideas coming from critical heritage theory, notably the concept of the Authorised Heritage



Discourse (Laurajane Smith). Conservationists may wish to be viewed as neutral, objective experts who can arbitrate between the demands of other stakeholders, but we now understand that this is certainly not the case. They too have an agenda, and their wish for power and control is no less than others, especially when their jobs are threatened by cutbacks. When they are employed to manage sites within Protected Areas, they will clearly support those sites. Thus we are seeing the hesitant emergence of a strange alliance between developers and conservationists, with their own territories — the ordinary landscapes where most people live controlled by developers as against protected middle-class landscapes with conservationist control.

Even our District Councils are far too broad a territory to resist this movement. Most districts have protected areas, of which there are many different designations, and also large areas of ordinary landscapes. My own village, Winkleigh in mid-Devon is surrounded by many miles of 'ordinary landscapes' though much loved by locals. Already it is obvious that wind-power developments will be accepted in these areas but not in the coastal AONB. In future we can await more development offset against improvements to our National Parks, the AONBs and the core area of the Biosphere Reserve in 'nearby' Braunton Burrows.

Not only is this process socially divisive, it is also inefficient. Few doubt the value of multi-functionality in the use of land resources in our crowded island. This is commonly applied to farmland, and the ecosystem services we can expect, but is true of all land. Our residential land should be doubling as nature reserve and energy generation. This needs to be true also of our Protected Areas, including the nature reserves, not only nature protection but also recreation. Biodiversity offsetting offers a different prospect, some areas for nature alone, some for concrete alone.

So BO* really does come tainted with an unpleasant

aroma, and a threat to all of our ordinary landscapes and to all who live outside the palisades of the protected areas. One is tempted to wonder what percentage of our law-makers live within such protections?

PH

Notes

Mark Blacksell and Andrew Gilg
Countryside: Planning and Change.
Harper Collins Publishers 1981.

* The initials 'BO' an English language abbreviation for Body Odour originally from a deodorant advert.



Regents Canal at Paddington Branch only 3 minutes out of Paddington Station. Cultural complexity. Never a dull moment in London!

BY Notes

I often go to **The London Encyclopaedia**, edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert. Published by Book Club Associates 1983 and 1985 for background on places streets and areas in London. Another book rather briefer and not helpful in this case is **London Street Names** author Gillian Bebbington. Published by BT Batsford Ltd, London 1972. Dated OS maps also helpful but only to show the spread of built London. By far the best is to walk areas, but close second is to take a virtual tour using **Google Streetview**. That is exceptional.

PADDINGTON FACADES

by Bud Young

All these contrasted images lie within 500m of Paddington station. I was timing my departure to Heathrow and took a walk with oh-so-observant Rosemary Young, suitcases in left luggage. The images are a mere sampling of dozens of styles and conditions. They make for the fascination which is London, the sheer variety of ages, origins and aspirations; aspirations of the 19th century and later rich developers, the future landlord or property fund, the local authority and the present day purchaser. Stimulating to wander round admiring, speculating



and trying to work out how these buildings were built, for whom and when. Why in such a particular style each of its own era. Of the long ornate terraces imagine how so many bricks lie behind the uniformity of the white stucco; how many bricklayers, plasterers carpenters



glaziers and plumbers. There are 80 bow-fronted windows in the view of Gloucester Terrace (top) and 60 or so for the same number of units across the road where the terrace is one storey lower. Under what GLC authority or equivalent were the 1960s brick built oblong blocks in Leinster Gardens (now shrouded in a haze of blue netting scaffolding below) come into being and why land use wise was there any space left to accommodate them. And that quiet but rather shabby service road paralleling Westbourne Terrace its huge trees horribly shading the house fronts — but urban trees good. Alternatively get out into village green landscapes down the

THE FOREST IS MOVING:

A 'Future-Forest' workshop in
Kinloch Rannoch

A report by Tim Collins and Reiko Goto

November 21-23, 2013. An invitation only/local conference that ran over three days focused on the social and cultural values that attend the Black Wood of Rannoch, an iconic Caledonian Forest Reserve. Conservation policies have protected the forest for forty years but have also led to a management plan that references the legal requirement of Scottish public access with enabling awareness, understanding or in any way facilitating human access to that forest.

The programme was organized as a result of work of an artist residency within the Forest and in relationship to the Rannoch community, where questions about art and design were swiftly overshadowed by tensions about core paths, public awareness, access, use and signage which were considered detrimental to the bio-diverse ecosystem. The planned conference would provide make a case for cultural values and cultural access to iconic woodlands. It was hoped that the three-day workshop would make a case where all parties might rediscover the

common ground that was getting lost in the intransigence of conflicted positions.

Assessment process. Much of the critical discourse to date focuses on a tension between cultural facts (material

process. Philosopher Emily Brady started off the afternoon arts and humanities sessions with an overview of environmental aesthetics and the social benefits of ecosystems based on her own work on the National Ecosystem Assessment 'culture' team. The social archeologist Jo Vergunst asked us to consider 'the politics of footsteps', the aesthetic, ethical and political roles played by Scotland's walkers; an example of embodied values. Chris Freeman, a cultural historian provided a cogent review of ideas at the workshop suggesting that cultural values were an essential means of getting at more than facts and information. He suggested that rather than serving as an element of an ecosystem assessment process, cultural work needed to predate instrumental assessment to get at the ephemeral aspects that would otherwise drop out of the ecosystem method. The independent forester Jamie MacIntyre reporting on the Sunart Oakwood, helped everyone to think about relationship between ideas and ideals, process and method when working with both public and private landowners and why he had begun to think that a community owned and managed wood was essential to the health and well being of his own community.

The workshop resulted in three key ideas about cultural ecosystems. First the idea that cultural values are much more than anyone might reveal by studying on-the-ground material artifacts. Secondly that cultural values are dynamic and emergent and in some cases remnant like the forest itself; they need attention (and expansion) if they are to prosper. Finally, the key idea that the Black Wood is considered by some member of the Forestry Commission to be the finest of the Caledonian Forest Reserves, due to the complexity and conditions of its ecosystem. Many argued that these conditions also result in an experientially rich and aesthetically complex experience that needs further attention and strategic research to be properly fulfilled.

In January and February the artists will work with partners to prepare a report from ideas discussed at the workshop. Working within the purview of their 'Creative Scotland' funding, they are producing various sound and video based artworks. The first 'The Forest is



The workshop was developed through discussion with Rannoch community trail interests, a planner from the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, rangers from the Forestry Commission and two forest research experts. We formulated and agreed an overarching question. Do the Caledonian forests of Scotland provide a higher level of cultural value because of their ecosystem complexity and iconic status? If so how important is it that the public has access to and/or awareness of this 'type' of forest.

All more or less agreed that the Black Wood of Rannoch is an 'essential historical ecology', by comparison its potential value as a cultural icon is currently unrealized.

The questions embedded in the workshop, were framed by recent ideas about cultural values in relationship to the emergent UK National Ecosystem

culture) that can be identified mapped and enumerated by experts (see notes below) versus social and cultural values, that may be more ephemeral. LRG Chair Paul Tabbush speaking on the evening of the first day, suggested that cultural values could be objectified as commonly understood, but they could also become part of communal thinking as language, stories, art, music or literature. Ephemeral values also become embodied in users or in practices, in memories that occur in a place or in some aesthetic relationship or condition within the forest itself.

Thursday morning began with ecologist Rob Cooper providing insight into the complex ecological community that exists in the Black Wood, and why it is so important. He was followed by the social scientist Dave Edwards who provided a rigorous review of ecosystem services and the tension between facts and values, and what is lost in the

Moving / Tha a' Choille a' Gluasad' was shown in the lobby of the Perth Museum in December 2013. They are currently working on ideas about a mapping and translation process that will result in a video that explores the lyrical complexity and descriptive import of Scotts Gaelic in the valleys of Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon.

Notes

1 The Workshop was sponsored by the Landscape Research Group along with Forestry Commission Scotland Community Seedcorn Fund and Creative Scotland's Imagining Natural Scotland programme.

2 The UK National Ecosystem Assessment process aims to create 'A generic framework for incorporating the holistic consideration of Ecosystem Services and their value into policy, plan and decision making at all levels of Government.' (Defra 2010).

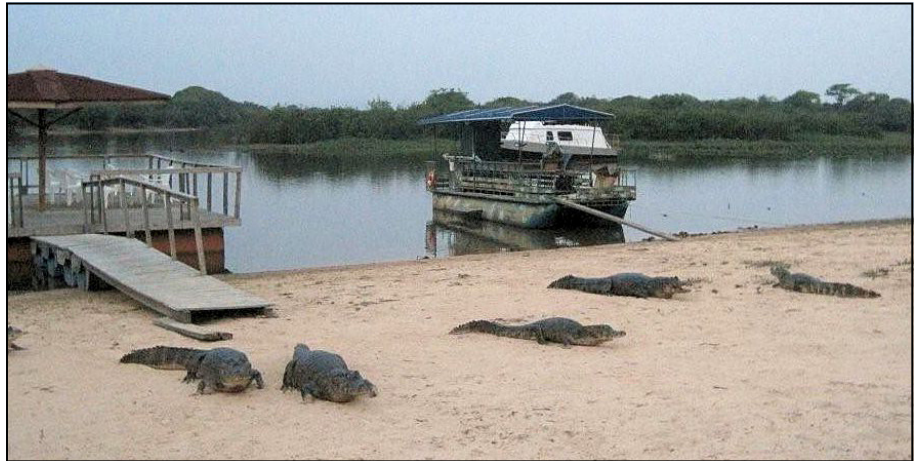
3 See Bieling and Plieninger's paper on Cultural Ecosystem Services in Vol 38, Number 5, October 2013 of LRJ.

4 For details on the workshop see <http://collinsandgoto.com/FutureForest>

PANTANAL BRAZIL: by Roger Dalton

I am enjoying a few days as an ecotourist by the Rio Mutum, a tributary of the Cuiaba River, here in the north of the Pantanal region of western Brazil. The Pantanal, which is about two thirds of the area of the UK, has remarkably low relief and is drained slowly southwards as part of the Paraguay system. Here wildlife is globally important and adapted to a regime of two distinct seasons: wet when vast areas are inundated and dry during which water level falls and life becomes concentrated around residual water courses and lakes. In early October I am experiencing the end of the dry season with the first heavy thundery showers.

By the Rio Mutum two distinct landscape types are evident. First there are silt laden, nutrient rich water courses and shallow lakes fringed by gallery



forest where the trees show clearly the muddy high mark of the last flood season. The diverse life forms include numerous fish species, many types of bird, groups of capybara and large numbers of jacare caimen. Secondly, and beyond the ribbons of gallery forest, the local savannah comprises clumps of trees set in the seasonal dry grasslands where termite mounds are ubiquitous. Here deer, ant eaters and foxes are to be seen and one is aware that out there somewhere are jaguars and amongst the largest of world snakes.

While the landscape gives strong feeling of wildness this is by no means pristine wildscape. Small groups of white zebu / charolais cross cattle search for grazing and these bear witness to the Pantanal as a low density meat producing area. Since the nineteenth century the Pantanal has been divided into estates or ranches, often of many thousands of hectares in extent. Along the Rio Mutum there are occasional weekend residences for boating, fishing and swimming. Families cooling in the water show confidence that piranha and caimen are not as danger-

ous as we Europeans might perceive them to be. However residences like these do not threaten water quality as do urban development and mineral exploitation within and beyond the Pantanal margins. However Improvement of the Paraguay River navigation, scattered gold mining and the possibility of hydrocarbons raise particular concerns.

One aim of tourism policy is to increase awareness among the estates and



their employees of the Pantanal as a world wildlife resource and the need for sensitive environmental management. Employment is also created not least for those who develop expertise as guides and through whom research projects can be launched and sustained.

The eco-lodge system is adapted for long haul travellers mainly from Europe, Australasia and North America who are provided with air conditioned en suite accommodation and bar and restaurant facilities thus enabling immediate movement from expected comforts to a seemingly natural world.

Hence as an ecotourist I am but one small element in the diversification of the economy and the dissemination of awareness of the need for conservation in the Pantanal. The landscape experiences, although brief and localised, are varied and striking. On arrival the colours were brought out by the intense midday light in 40 degree heat but in the early cool of the next morning and sitting in a canoe the gallery forest is silhouetted against a cloudy sky broken by an intensifying streak of pink to the east while to the north lightning flickers and there are hints of thunder. The grassland explored on foot, on horse-back or by jeep speaks of partial dessiccation and evidence of grazing. A wet season visitor experiences would be very different. With higher water levels the grassland would be substantially inundated; wildlife either disperses or becomes concentrated around islands and the ecolodge becomes only accessible by water. The caiman now resting by the landing stage 400m away from the lodge would be somewhat nearer....

RG

Note

Roger tells me that the Rio Mutum lies in the Pantanal Norte approx 70 miles south of the city of Cuiaba. His stay and photos were at the edge of the Pantanal and on Page 12, I present a Google image of one of several types of pantanal of that area. Investigation of these type landscapes leads to a whole range of studies — of alluvial and lacustrine sedimentation; of ‘near-unusable’ land. And onwards to the laying down of organically rich mudstones for fracking (shale gas) some date in the future (like 50 million years hence). I would encourage readers to look at a different Pantanal landscape to the East of Rosario in Argentina. Do it. Astonishing and hugely extensive.

Final Meeting of the EU Interreg [ional] project CORDIALE.

Brittany 26th -28th June 2013

A note by Paul Tabbush and Laurence Le Du-Blayo

Paul Tabbush attended this meeting to represent LRG, and to find out a bit more about the content of the project which seems directly relevant to LRG's aims. The LRG International Officer (Dr Laurence Le Du-Blayo from the University of Rennes) was deeply involved in the meeting and made two presentations, one: ‘Introducing Cross-Channel landscape character and

tives ‘across the border’ — which in this case was the English Channel/La Manche are displayed in the green box.

The project involves a partnership made up of experts from Normandy, Brittany, Devon and Cornwall. Those bringing their expertise include ‘Protected Landscape practitioners’ (specifically SWPLF, PNR Armorique, PNR Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin, North Devon AONB and Tamar valley AONB) and experts on traditional building (Plymouth University) and sustainable agriculture (CIVAM du Finistère, Chambre d’Agriculture du Finistère). The lead partner is Devon County Council.

These nine partners to either side of the



challenges’ and one: ‘a project to set up a regional platform for all landscape photographic observatories’. The University of Rennes and the Regional Council of Brittany were involved in the meeting, presenting some of the results of 8 years’ partnership in landscape research and planning. The meeting coincided in 2013 with the celebration of 20 years of the so called **Loi Paysage de 1993** in France.

Our purpose here is not to report on the meeting in detail, but to introduce the Cordiale project, and to make its outputs available to a wider audience. Cordiale is a 3-year international project concerned with sustainable landscape management. The key objec-

Its vision is ‘to adopt a common standard for informing and assisting the management of protected landscapes in furtherance of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and do so in the context of climate change.’

‘To build deeper understanding of the distinctive character of landscapes in the cross-border region; similarly to inspire stakeholders and communities to engage with landscapes; to promote the multiple benefits provided by landscapes and to support integrated decision-making. All of this considered in a cross border context.’

Channel are working on 3 ideas which are being called 'studios': sustainable farming; mapping and traditional building. In each case, the studios are being researched as sustainable landscape projects. Cordiale has produced a 'toolkit' which is online at www.cordialeproject.eu/en.

This provides advice, case studies and tools for sustainable landscape management, based on the work of the landscape studios and is very easy to navigate from the project website using the selections *>find the right tools for you*. Two project examples and best suited tools (see below) should serve to illustrate the quality and scope of the numerous case studies.

agement and site-based projects to support productive woodlands which feed the local eco-building industry while conserving the ecological and cultural values of the local landscapes.

Tool 28 Community supported woodlands and hedgerows. Guidance on processes as well as legal and organisational issues for community groups and landowners to work together on the management of private hedges and wood for woodfuel. This includes useful tools for assessing the volume of wood in hedgerows. See: <http://www.tamarvalley.org.uk/projects/cordiale/toolkits/>.

Paul Tabbush writes that he found the toolkit impressive and felt it should

2 LRG was active at the 1993 conference in Blois, which is regarded as the conference at which the ELC was founded.

AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS 28-29 APRIL 2014

LRG Board have asked me to post the following conference notice from Prof. Marie-Françoise Godart:

On behalf of the Institute for Environmental Management and Land-Use Planning (IGEAT-ULB), with the support of the History Department (UNmur) and the Standing Conference on Territorial Development (CPDT), we are pleased to invite you to Brussels for a Conference on:

“Combining scientific expertise with participation: the challenge of the European landscape convention”

at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels-Belgium. The programme which is available and regularly updated can be found on the conference website

<http://igeat.ulb.ac.be/en/elc2014>.



CS03 Assessing landscape value from the perspective of local people: the South Devon experience. “An exploration of the value of technology to widen the range of people voicing their views and reflecting on their local landscapes for more broadly rooted landscape stewardship”.

CS10 How thermally efficient is your cob building? A research focused project to better understand the impact of available insulation techniques on the thermal performance of cob buildings in Normandy.

The appropriate tools are exemplified as below:

Tool 07 Mapping landscape sensitivity to commercial woodlands – landscape scale. Combining expertly led analysis, stakeholder en-

find practical applications for land-owners and managers both sides of the Channel. One of Cordiale's concerns has been to democratise landscapes — making local landscape information available to local people. This makes it easier to engage local communities in decision making processes concerning landscape - surely a direction that LRG would whole-heartedly support.

PT & LLDB

Notes.

1 http://www.bretagne.fr/internet/jcms/prod_188915/un-nouveau-livret-sur-les-paysages-de-bretagne?lg=fr

<http://evolution-paysage.bretagne-environnement.org/>

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Kensington Gardens early morning sun rise with the mist sitting on the dewy turf. Camera Model iPhone 45, date 20th December at 8.29 and 53 seconds. I am looking for captions for this image. I am convinced that it has a relevance to how we see and interact with landscape; how we make choices in our lives; write well known poems by Robert Frost or marvel at the technology that allows one to stitch images and see landscapes in panorama. On an iPhone! My son William Young who took this photo notes that it captures early morning runners heading off in two directions. View image at 200% to verify! I have since then bought myself a very up to date camera that does panoramas — but can't yet work out how.



To the left a Google Maps image of a small part of the Pantanal Norte south west of Cuiaba, Brazil — size about 15 km north to south — and there's an awful lot more there.

Obituary

Hugh Prince founding Editor of Area and one time member of the LRG Board and lecturer at UCL, University College London died in February of last year. I came across his obituary only last month in an issue of the *Geographical Journal* 179/4 pp 382 & 383, written by Hugh Clout whom I quote *"Hugh Prince will be remembered for his remarkable personal qualities and for his scholarly contributions to our discipline."*

Inter alia he researched and wrote about perceptions and attitudes to flooding in the American Mid-West.— relevant today in the Somerset Levels. He was a quiet man at Board meetings, a person to rely on, probably a wonderful tutor and with a nice sense of fun. I recall that he was the second person ever to write an appreciative letter to me as editor of LRE. It is too late now but I would have liked to know him better. I am sad to have missed such an opportunity

Editor BY

... AND THEN THERE WAS A LITTLE FLOOD JUST DOWN THE ROAD [STOP WHINGEING LITTLE MAN!]

In the seriously soggy weather which has been a feature of the last few months (after the most astonishingly sunny summer), traffic was blocked just south of the editor's office by the overflowing of a truly insignificant stream called Wadley Brook. On 'Fun Days' it is where the town races yellow plastic ducks. It has its headwater



collectors only a mile away. Below, the 'river' is the road and the lake is the stream field. It nearly overtopped a five barred field gate. Beat that Brazil!

Flood photo by Hilary Biggins

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For disclaimer and addresses for editorial enquiries and administrative correspondence see the light blue box on page 11.

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