

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH EXTRA
No 10 SPRING 1992

ROYAL PARKS IN NEW HANDS

The first team of private maintenance contractors, dressed in bright green overalls, started work in St James's Park and Green Park on Monday morning 2nd March, according to a report in London's Evening Standard. The 16 gardeners are employed by Glendale Industries of Chorley, Lancashire, a firm that carries out contracts all over Britain, cutting down trees for the Forestry Commission, cutting grass in the Welsh uplands, planting trees on the sides of motorways as well as digging graves and supplying floral decorations for civic receptions. The company submitted a successful £500,000 tender for a three-year contract to cut grass, plant bulbs and do other work in St James's and Green Parks. It has also won contracts to maintain Richmond and Bushy Parks.

deterioration in standards of upkeep. "The contractors have a very keen interest in maintaining good standards," he said. "They're working in the most prestigious parks in the world."

Another initiative taken by UK Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, has been to review the management aims of the royal parks. The review group, chaired by Dame Jennifer Jenkins, recommends drastic measures to restore Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens to their former glory (Department of Environment, Royal Parks Review, published 20 February 1992). The principal objectives are to reduce traffic and increase access for pedestrians. Specific proposals include holding a competition for schemes to reintegrate Marble Arch with Speakers' Corner to revive one of Europe's "great meeting places"; the reconstruction of the Italian gardens in Hyde Park and improvements to the gardens and precincts of Kensington Palace.

The review rejected a proposal to build a permanent auditorium for outdoor musical performances because of the damage done to surrounding trees and grass. No more than one big event, festival or exhibition should be held in Hyde Park in any one year, and no additional sports facilities should be provided. Childrens' playgrounds should be moved to less obtrusive sites and dogs should be kept on leads everywhere in Kensington Gardens. The Serpentine Restaurant should be rebuilt up to a cost of £2 million and the Lido should be improved at a cost of £750,000. The major works called for include plans to reduce the volume and speed of traffic across Hyde Park. The North Carriage Drive in Hyde Park and Horse Guards Road in St James's Park should be closed. The underground car park off Park Lane should be deepened to accommodate coaches and a study should be made of the possibility of sinking the West Carriage Drive in Hyde Park in a cut-and-cover tunnel. Extension of cycle ways, resurfacing of footpaths, provision of stabling, renovation of bandstands and improvements to the entrances at



C.F. Tunnicliffe RA

Glendale and other contractors will be under the control of a newly-appointed chief executive for the Royal Parks, Mr David Welch, who is responsible to Lady Blatch, Minister of State at the Department of Environment. Mr Welch has come from local government service. For 22 years he was director of leisure services in Aberdeen, a city which has won ten national awards for its floral displays and landscape designs. Mr Welch announced that the new contracts are intended to cut the DOE's present costs of £20 million a year and would not lead to a

Orme Square Gate and Marlborough Gate would cost an additional £1.2 million. Some of these costs would be offset by revenue from parking charges estimated at £750,000 a year. The main aim of the proposals is to restore peace and tranquility to the parks. People came not just to enjoy trees and greenery, Dame Jennifer said, but also to get away from the roar of London's traffic.

Hugh Clamp, President of the Landscape Institute, and Michael Welbank, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, welcome the proposals in the review (letter to *The Times*, 9th March 1992). They call for the report to be openly and positively endorsed by the present and any incoming government. They recommend that the proposed royal parks agency operate "at arm's length from the government", that the agency be given sufficient funds to carry out an agreed programme of works and improvements, and that an annual report be published. They also ask that "the leader of the design team implementing the study must have a key role in the agency. It matters not from which profession he or she is drawn ... strong creative design leadership is essential."

That should make a strong appeal to members of the Landscape Research Group.

Hugh Prince

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES FROM THE AIR

In January, landscape historians and archaeologists were saddened by the death of W G Hoskins - the man whose *Making of the English Landscape* opened the eyes of a generation to the role of the past in shaping the modern countryside.

Today the historic environment has become big business and a major political concern, both in Britain and around the world. Prompted by a flood of books, television programmes and other trappings of the new heritage industry, visitors to the English countryside have become aware that the past is indeed all around them. From the grassy mounds of Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts to the ruins of medieval abbeys and castles, history is suddenly everywhere.

Popular awareness of the physical survival of the past has never been greater, nor has that survival ever been more strongly appreciated and valued. Yet for those of us brought up under the shadow of Hoskins, all is not yet as it should be. The problem is that the majority of guide books and Ordnance Survey maps (with a few honourable exceptions) continue to be obsessed by solitary 'sites'. By concentrating on the visible and

upstanding, guide books make it too easy to forget that today's isolated historical monuments were once integral components of landscapes as complicated and extensive as our own.

Some of those landscapes, as Hoskins and his successors have shown, remain partly fossilised within our own modern systems of villages, roads and fields and are relatively easily reconstructed. Others - especially those belonging to the more distant Roman and prehistoric periods - have been the subject of much greater re-modelling and are thus more difficult to see. Very often, no trace of them survives above the ground and their recovery becomes the specialised province of archaeologists. Their work has in turn been revolutionised by the contribution of aerial photography - a technique that allows the outlines of long-buried walls, boundary ditches and roadways to be recorded as marks in bare plough soil and growing crops.

During the last fifty years, aerial archaeologists have photographed buried archaeological structures at more than 40,000 different locations in England alone. What is more, every new flying season brings hundreds of further discoveries - even in parts of the country that have been the subject of intensive aerial reconnaissance for more than 30 years.

Making sense of the archaeological data contained in these photographs is like solving a jigsaw puzzle. Each separate photograph contains just a few fragments of information and it is only through the painstaking interpretation and mapping of hundreds of separate images that a clearer picture starts to emerge. At first it seems to show little more than a random scatter of prehistoric burial sites and farmsteads. However, as time goes on the scene becomes more complicated. Gradually, blank areas on the map fill up and start to show that individual settlements and funerary monuments are actually components of complex landscapes, linked together by patterned networks of contemporary roads, lanes, fields and land boundaries.

Buried landscapes of this kind were first identified on the chalklands of Wessex and on the gravel terraces of the Thames, Trent, Ouse and other major river valleys in which light freely drained soils provide optimum conditions for the formation of crop marks. More recently it has been shown that many other regions, for example the lowlands of Devon, the valleys and hillslopes of the Welsh borderland and the sandy soils of north Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire possess Iron Age and Romano-British landscapes of hitherto unsuspected density and complexity.

A particularly impressive example is provided by an air photographic survey of the Yorkshire Wolds recently completed by our organisation. Today, only a handful of archaeological sites survive above

ground level on the intensively cultivated chalkland of the Wolds. In the course of thirty years of aerial reconnaissance, however, literally thousands of others have been identified as plough-levelled crop marks. Through the computer-aided digital mapping of information contained in more than 30,000 different aerial photographs it has been possible to reconstruct the outlines of an astonishingly rich and complex 40km x 50km landscape that evolved between the Bronze Age and Roman periods and which now lies entirely hidden beneath its modern arable successor.

Mapping and interpreting these buried landscapes has become a key concern for archaeologists throughout the country, not only as a contribution to academic research but to help ensure the protection of at least a representative sample of Britain's hidden past for the benefit of future generations. Aerial photography has already changed our interpretation of many historic periods but the work stretches on. At a rough estimate Britain's air photographic libraries hold 10 million aerial photographs, the majority of which have still to be read by aerial historians.

Rowan Whimster

Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England

CONTAMINATED AND SPOILED LAND

Preoccupied with the identification from aerial photographs of pollution source sites along rivers I find the topic jumping out at me in every publication I read. I know little about pollution and wish I knew more as it is literally of vital importance (and one by which many people should be able to earn their livelihood in the years to come). Few subjects seem to bring together so well such themes as the history of industry, the geography of distribution, chemistry, groundwater studies, soils, land shaping, topography and human well being. The list does not stop there for it has undercurrents full of politics and economics - I have just watched the story of the Soviet Union's atom bomb manufacture at an elegant but unpublicised town in Siberia. What you don't know won't harm you! And today, news from St Petersburg.

We receive a lot of information from CIRIA the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (6 Storey's Gate London SW1P 3AU) who have published research reports about coastal protection, the use of vegetation in civil engineering, building on waste land and other matters. Much of this goes unreported in LRExtra as lying a little away from landscape but a recent

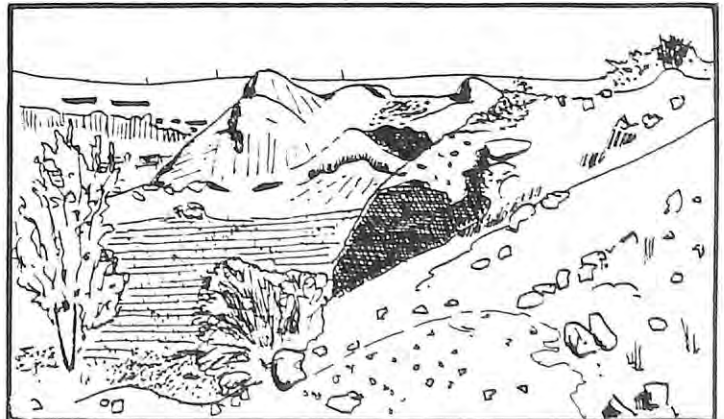
press release reads 'CIRIA starts £300,000 project on remedial treatment for reclaiming contaminated land' and lies within the boundaries of the landscape profession. The reasoning behind this research is given in a subsequent sentence: 'Over 50% of all land available for development in the UK is secondhand and requires remedial treatment before redevelopment.'

Richard Moorehead and Laing, the North Wales environmental firm get more than their fair share of exposure in this newsletter: they are active in sending us press releases. At present they are studying the problems of derelict and despoiled land caused by coal and steel industries in all EC member countries. The job is funded by the European Coal and Steel Community through Brussels - an enviably wide geographical enquiry.

In the UK there has of course been a recent directive from the Department of the Environment making it compulsory for local authorities to record all contaminated land within their areas of responsibility and perhaps that has given a push to the number of references in the literature and the press.

In that regard a geo-referenced raster based airphoto display system now available from Geonex could be a valuable aid. I should say that I declare an interest and an enthusiasm for this and have been demonstrating it around the country. Geonex is a major supplier of colour airphoto cover and has developed the system in cooperation with Kingston Polytechnic. As derelict land or land of no defined use is inadequately depicted on Ordnance Survey maps it is often the airphoto that shows it best and a dated series of airphotos that give the history.

RML's press release photo of two tips which are to be reclaimed in Methyr Tydfil, South Wales seems to



show a terrain of exceptional topographic interest which when flattened and smoothed will result in great visual loss... perhaps someone will write and correct me. But do landscape architects struggle with conscience before converting robust (if dangerous), craggy (if diseconomic) interesting,

historic real places to usable designed landscapes? There is a discussion about this in *Garten und Landschaft* 10/1991 Stephan Reis-Schmidt **The role of history in the industrial landscape** 35-41.

To quote from the RML press release the local borough council (Merthyr) describe the tip as constituting 'serious visual dereliction' prominently visible to the west of town. Apparently its steep barren sides dominate the surrounding area and contain an estimated 1,000,000m cubic metres of slag from former iron and steel works. Transformation of the area, says the press release, will change its size and shape to create level plateaux for building, plus softer profiles for vegetation. Oh dear. It happens that the photo reminds me of a attractive wadi in Oman even down to the sparse specialised vegetation. What an interesting place!

How can we need less variety and more average quality useful places in the landscape? To what extent should we efface the surroundings of our industrial past if they are not toxic or threatening to move? Is it that we feel compelled to bring landscapes into management and that derelict landscapes openly defy us so we smash them? Is it simply gain in site value that drives the process? Who says it is serious visual dereliction? And what does this cliché mean?

As a final note on contamination and land management I see that the National Association of Agricultural Contractors who support fully the need to prevent chemical pollution of ground water resources, are urging their members to use herbicides at reduced concentrations in a three year rotation. Nice to think we are going back to traditional ways!



BLOWING IN THE WIND

This title appears both in *Landscape Design* 206 and in *Garten und Landschaft* 2/92. John Houston has something to say that one can approve of: that those with dune coasts should worry less about fixing them; instead they should manage them as the dynamic forms they are. He refers to the extensive dune system at Ainsdale in Lancashire and his observations have great relevance for the dunes along North Sea (Holland, Jutland) and Baltic coasts.

John Houston is Coast Management Officer at Sefton Borough Council, Vermont House, 375 Stanley Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3RY Tel 051 922 4040

Sand hills, Wilsons Promontory. By John Turner.



From the obituary to John Stewart Turner (1908-1991) *Landscape Australia* 3/1991

BAHAMIAN DUNE SEQUENCES

A chance meeting with the Oxford Professor of Geography in Cambridge last year suggests that there is currently an interest in coastal dune landforms and it is my opinion that there is scope in LRG's publications for landscape work that has its origins in the earth sciences. Let me give you an example.

Reference to coastal dunes ("Blowing in the wind") reminds me of research I once did into the dune sequences of islands in the Bahamas, specifically Cat Island. This was a land resource mapping exercise carried out for the Bahamas Government between 1969 and 1974 and great use was made of the airphotos then available. Seven different pulses or epochs of dune building were mapped and each had its particular and characteristic sedimentary type (or lithofacies) though all these types were shallow marine carbonates.

Not only did the lithofacies indicate the provenance (for example broad exposed shelf, narrow coralline lagoon) it also controlled the dune form and its mobility. Following deposition sediments turned into limestones creating a landscape of veritable rockdunes whose form in the emerging landscape was dependent on their sedimentary type. Coralline sediments lithified and weathered in distinctly different ways from purely oolitic sediments and this controlled soil formation and land use. Even cavernous terrain related directly to the kind of limestone.

This information appeared in *The Land Resources of the Bahamas* (Ministry of Overseas Development) and at an early stage as a paper given to the 6th Caribbean Geological Conference in Venezuela. .

Bud Young Contact address at the end of this newsletter.

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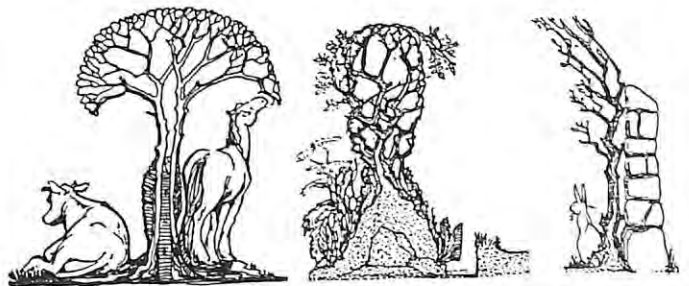
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MOTORWAY CONSTRUCTION CLASHES WITH NATURE CONSERVATION

Conflicts between the bulldozer and environmentalists have reached crisis point at two crucial sites: Oxleas Wood in south-east London and Twyford Down near Winchester. In financial terms and in terms of political power the road builders are set to win. On the opposing side, conservationists have never enjoyed so much support both locally and nationally and are hoping to persuade the Minister of Transport to change his plans.

The advantages of routing motorways through open spaces are that no householders are disturbed, no buildings have to be pulled down and no compensation has to be paid for losses of homes or businesses. The market value of open space is much lower than that of farmland or building land and owners often spend more on upkeep than they receive from rents, wayleaves or sales of firewood. In profit and loss accounts, open spaces are likely to

show losses and road builders can claim to turn these loss-making spaces into highways carrying profitable traffic in goods and passengers. Economic gain is the strongest argument, but the defenders of Oxleas Wood and Twyford Down are unusually powerful. They are resolute, articulate, well-organized and are appealing to a wider range of political opinion than previous anti-motorway campaigners. They also have the backing of European Commissioner, Carlo Ripa di Meana. He has ruled that these two highway proposals have not been assessed to determine their environmental impacts under British legislation implementing a European directive.

Oxleas Wood The government claims that no environmental impact assessment is required for Oxleas Wood because the planning **application** was received before the directive came into force on 3 July 1988. The Commissioner contends that planning **permission** was granted after the directive had come into force and that approval should be withdrawn until an environmental impact assessment has been carried out. Former transport minister and MP for Woolwich West, Peter Bottomley, has asked in the House of Commons: "Would it not be legally wise and politically sensible not to go ahead with compulsory order to bring in bulldozers until difficulties with the European Commission and local people have been resolved?" Local people believe that the assault on Oxleas Wood can be stopped and are planning to turn up in their thousands to voice their protest if the contractors attempt to move in.

Oxleas Wood is a truly ancient wood, having been continuously covered by trees since the end of the last Ice Age. Although it has been extensively surveyed, a full inventory of its flora and fauna has not been completed. Among trees and shrubs recorded in Britain 400 years ago, 47 species are represented in the present flora of Oxleas Wood. In addition, the wood contains 127 types of flowering plant, 420 types of beetle, 34 species of breeding birds and some very rare spiders. Because of the



diversity of its wildlife, it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is also greatly valued as a recreational area by large numbers of Londoners. Local resident and weekend visitors are deeply attached to the wood and feel

strongly protective about its plants, animals and birds. Royal Society for Nature Conservation spokesman on roads, Rupert Harwood, says: "The long battle for Oxleas Wood is reaching its climax. People involved in the campaign are actively optimistic. With enough support in the next few weeks, we are convinced that the road proposal will be ditched for good." (Rupert Harwood's address is London Wildlife Trust, 80 York Way, London N2 9AG).

Twyford Down A twenty-year battle to prevent Twyford Down being cut in two by the M3 extension ended at midnight on 29th February, when the last legal impediment in the UK was removed. A further dispute over the jurisdiction of the European Commission remains to be settled. Work on the 400-foot wide trench will destroy an area of quite exceptional natural and archaeological value, including two Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two scheduled ancient monuments and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This route was chosen after two alternatives had been inquired into and rejected. A line near the city of Winchester would have destroyed precious watermeadows (designated as an SSSI), caused the Itchen Canal to be diverted and required a huge noisy interchange to be carved out of St Catherine's Hill. Another option to widen the present A33 would have cut into the side of St Catherine's Hill, interfered with the canal and would not have provided a high-speed road. The Twyford Down alignment is a last resort.

Martin Biddle, President of the Twyford Down Association (whose address is The Old Farm House, Lower Preshaw Farm, Upham, Hampshire), together with members of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Friends of the Earth, Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Nature Conservancy Council agree that the M3 should be completed between Southampton and London, but claim that "the damage that will be done by the current route far outweighs the benefits to be derived from it". By tunnelling **under** the Down rather than cutting through it, the extent and severity of the injury would be less.

That is the course of action recommended by the Twyford Down Association with an appeal to the Minister of Transport "to demonstrate **in practice** that the government's claim to be the best protector of the environment has some validity in this most important case." (letter to The Times, 29th February 1992). In reply, the Minister for Road and Traffic, Christopher Chope, admits that "it is impossible to complete the M3 on any route without some effect on environmentally sensitive areas". He considers it would not be reasonable to spend a further £85 or £100 million on a tunnel and he does not want to hold "a fifth controversial public enquiry" that would "prevent the completion of this vital road link until beyond the year 2000", (letter to The Times, 5th March 1992).

Other commentators highlight political attitudes to the dispute. Road users, including the Director of the British Road Federation, claim that they have legitimately won their case and call for work to start without further costly delays. Objectors, including a member of Earth First! complain that they have been stigmatized unjustly as militant activists, acting against the wishes of the local community. In a broader political context, road hauliers, motoring organizations, car manufacturers, and the construction industry make pronouncements and offer advice in the national interest, whereas objectors may be dismissed as favouring local or private interests or being narrowly concerned with butterflies, spiders and prehistoric burial grounds. As this goes to press Twyford Down is swarming with protestors.

A nationwide conflict

The battles for Oxleas Wood and Twyford Down are notable incidents in a long drawn out and wide ranging conflict. A new active phase in the struggle opened in May 1989 when the Ministry of Transport's White Paper, **'Roads for Prosperity'** announced the largest road building programme in our history, estimated to cost £6 billion for expanding and widening motorways and trunk roads in rural England alone. It did not cover roads within the M25 or in other major urban areas. The main justification for the programme was economic: road transport is essential for growth and prosperity stimulates demand for vehicles, leading to a doubling of road traffic by the end of the century. Road transport carries twelve times as many passengers and ten times as much freight as rail. A 50% increase in rail traffic would reduce road traffic by less than 5%. Quantifiable economic gains from road schemes are on average nearly twice the cost of construction.

The White Paper has been fiercely debated. The assumptions underlying the government's method of cost benefit analysis has been questioned. The benefits claimed for increased mobility, wider car ownership and heavier dependence on road transport have been challenged. More importantly, the costs of damage to the countryside are grossly underestimated. The long-term consequences of burning petrol, consuming steel and other non-renewable resources, the loss of land to road construction and quarrying, the social and cultural impacts including effects on health and irreversible losses suffered by natural habitats and ecosystems are either not costed at all or seriously discounted.

Local Wildlife Trusts in the south of England have forecast the effects of the programme on specific localities. In nine south-east counties 54 major road schemes put at risk no fewer than 372

important wildlife sites. In six south-west counties another 220 sites are threatened. This is a minimum number for the south because not every Trust has been able to check thoroughly all the road schemes or the wildlife sites under threat. Many of the sites are among the last remnants of ancient woodland, heath and unimproved grassland; such habitats cannot be artificially restored.



Over Christmas 1989, in a six-week official consultation period, the Department of Transport received over 100,000 objections. In April 1990, proposals worth £3.5 billion were cancelled. The Department of Transport at last began to yield to pressure from environmentalists, but structurally it remains constituted to build roads and ignore other means of transport. At present only 10% of its staff deal with rail, air and sea transport combine.

In March 1992, the Council for the Protection of Rural England published a report [based on research by Peter Kay, edited by Penny Evan] entitled **'Where Motor-car is Master: How the Department of Transport became bewitched by Roads'**, which presented a detailed history of the role of the Department. It concludes: "It has developed in isolation from land-use planning, focused on road construction rather than overall transport planning, divorced (itself) from railway development or operation but has successfully built and justified substantial public investment in the Trunk Road network." (p68). It lists the major issues that the Department must address in order to establish a sustainable and sensitive direction for transport. Finally, "the new dimension in transport, the environment, is now an explicitly stated concern of the government, the private sector and the public. Reform of the Department of Transport must take place to ensure that this new dimension is fully addressed in all future transport, policy, planning and projects." (p72) The outcome of the election may influence that decision.

Hugh Prince, **University College of London.**

LRG does not fight issues and holds no political opinions. We are pleased to have this factual article from our correspondent. Any opinion inferred from it are his.

ANTHOLOGY

The next few issues of LR Extra will have extracts of topographic writing from the editor's bookshelf. You are invited to guess the date, the context, the author, and to consider the style.

1

About Persan and Beaumont on the Northern line, or Epernay on the Eastern, the change in the landscape is equally striking. Hitherto, on either route, you have been crossing bare, level uplands with rapid alternations of verdant depressions; the horizon is continually bounded by the next height or woodland. At Epernay the valley of the Marne broadens suddenly and seems to lose itself in a boundless plain. Ascend the vine-clad hills, and the view extends eastwards to the most monotonous and dreary of horizons. You are looking over the plain of Champagne. The effect is the same when the steep sides of the valley of the Oise, gashed by quarries near Creil, suddenly disappear. From the wooded hills that overlook Pont Sainte Maxence your eye meets a treeless stretch of country, mounting in broad and gentle swells to the horizon. You will find the same monotonous landscape as far as Arras and beyond. That is Picardy.

2

Driving out towards this big bleak community one passes some unpleasant conversions, a row of bungalows, a knackers yard cum scrap dump of exceptional horror even in this landscape and a decayed great house (still retaining a range of magnificent barns). Approaching the airfield from the opposite (London) end is even more dispiriting, past a lime works, a gravel pit complete with Heath Robinson joke machinery and guard dogs, a 'Transport Command Examining Unit' of truly Kafkaesque menace and a choice piece of multiple subtopia on the crest of Beggarbush Hill (including a sawn off Tudorbethan pub).

3

Nearer the Wash, from King's Lynn to Wisbech and on to Boston, the country was doubtless regularly flooded by the muddy estuarine waters, and thick deposits of silt have been built up by a process of natural warping: this soil is not black, but has the character of ordinary alluvial marsh land. Monotonous as the fenland may seem, with its endless succession of cornfields and long reed-bordered dykes, it cannot be denied a certain grandeur, if only for its vast canopy of sky and unbroken horizon. Looking over it as we did from its edge on the Ely road on that bright morning in late July, when a stately procession of huge thunderclouds and their attendant shadows marched across sky and plain, when the glittering levels stretched at our feet into blue and yet bluer distances, we could feel how the heimweh must grow in the Fenman, for few countries possess such a measure of character as his own.

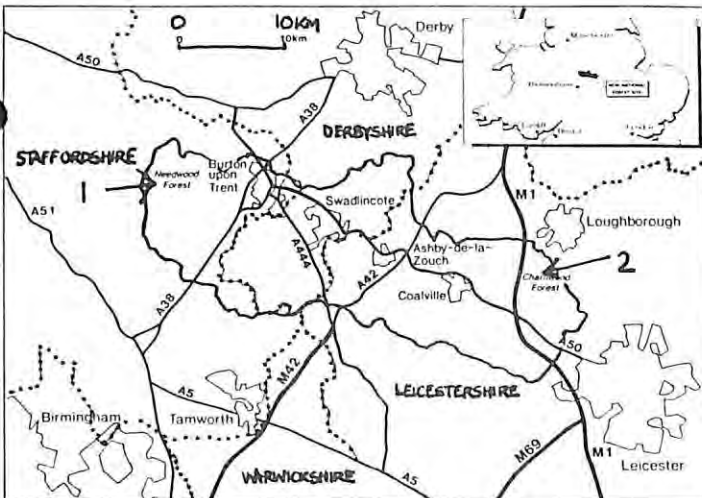
4

We soon came in view of the beautiful and picturesque plateau which now replaces the low hot plain through which we lately travelled. Thickly dotted with massive granite blocks piled up in rugged knolls and hills, rose up in rounded clumps [sic], while between and all around were well cultivated fields, herds of cattle grazing on the short sweet grass - it was a scene of scope and beauty that we had not met before, and it made a vivid impression on us all for its novelty and beauty. Villages were numerous, and all surrounded by milkweed hedges leaving lanes to which clung the sweet breath of the cattle whose route to graze lay between them.



312 SQUARE KILOMETRES - WATCH THIS SPACE

In issue 7 of LR Extra we drew attention to the location of the United Kingdom's New National Forest. Its final boundaries have now been decided and enclose 312 sq kms. We show a map. It includes the sites of the ancient forests of Needwood and Charnwood the latter famous in geological circles for its Pre Cambrian volcanic rocks some of which are explosion agglomerates with blocks up to five feet in diameter (meaning the volcano was pretty damned close). Mountsorrel granite is widely distributed as a cobblestone. How I digress.



1 NEEDWOOD FOREST ; 2 CHARNWOOD FOREST

The director of the project is Susan Bell whose name appears in my 1982 address book as economics and land use adviser to the Country Landowners Association.

Those reading these 'small scale local initiatives' in the United States and elsewhere may wonder at their relevance. Yet to me the forests initiative (which could become the forests movement) has wide significance indeed, inasmuch as it represents directed landscape change and a widespread popular recognition that trees and open wooded landscapes are desirable. It may not show much change in the next ten years but eventually it has the potential to transform a small region. An organised relinquishment of visually marginal land at a time of crop surplus.

As well as the New National Forest twelve much smaller Community Forests are now in the process of being established. Could all this be a new British export: you out there - will it fit your rundown landscape and your local aspirations?

Those wishing to investigate the idea may contact Susan Bell at The New National Forest, Stanleigh House, Chapel Street, Donisthorpe, Swadlincote Derbyshire DE12 7PS

DROUGHT DAMAGING HEALTHIEST TREES

The long summer droughts in 1989 and 1990 have severely damaged Britain's healthiest trees. In December 1991 the Forestry Commission published results of a nation-wide survey of 9000 trees. Of the five species surveyed, beech has been worse affected than oak, Scots pine, Sitka or Norway spruce. In 1990 over 15% of the trees examined were given top rating for health, but in 1991 only 6% attained that rating. The deterioration was greatest in southern Britain where drought was most intense. Woodlands in the south also suffered extensive storm damage in 1987 and 1989 and heavy snow brought down drought-weakened trees. The dry winter of 1991-92 and falls of acid rain are likely to cause further damage. Meteorologists say this is a very serious situation. A notable feature of the results reported is that trees previously regarded as exceptionally vigorous have suffered more than weaker specimens.

Hugh Prince

ON NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE THE TREES FOR THE WOOD: A MEDITATION ON WIND POWER

Remember the poor old sitka spruce? Whatever happened to make it so unpopular? Why did it become the principal baddy of the forest?

The sitka spruce is actually a very attractive tree. If allowed to do so it grows into a pleasing shape. Its bark has an interesting texture, and the contrast between the green upper and the blue-grey lower sides of its leaves is enjoyably fascinating. Plant one in a garden or an arboretum and only irrational prejudice can deprive it of its right to admiration.

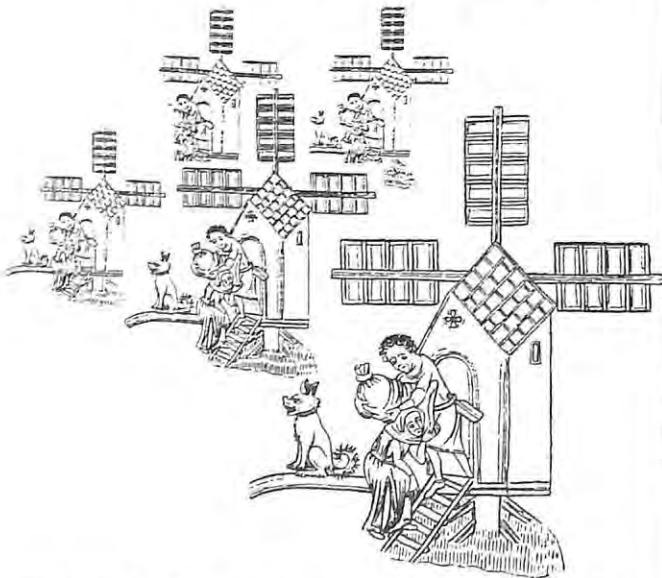
It is, of course, that prejudice which is the problem. Most of us are acquainted with the sitka spruce only as a component of the sitka forest. The nice guy, as an individual, becomes the nasty guy in the mass.

Now what has all this to do with wind power? A rhetorical question, not requiring an answer, because, of course, you know already! The windmill, like the sitka spruce, is not intrinsically unaesthetic. Though it features less prominently in the art of seventeenth-century Holland than is sometimes supposed, its occurrence is frequent enough to suggest that it was then regarded as an object of aesthetic interest. But, you will say, the seventeenth-century Dutch windmill, (usually,

in fact, a wind-pump), is a very different object from the machines which may be expected to proliferate if the search for an economically viable source of wind energy is to be more than lip-service, and if the engineers can get their act together - and you would be right.

There are some who do dislike the modern windmill for a variety of reasons. But many people, myself included, see it as an aesthetically stimulating symbol of power, a huge piece of dynamic sculpture rising majestically out of a rural landscape. Furthermore, if we aim to conserve we ought to have an early bias in favour of windmills which enable us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and lessen our output of the noxious fumes we are only now beginning to take seriously. True the windmill has certain limitations which ideally we could do without. It will only work when the wind blows! But what producer of energy has an efficiency of a hundred percent anyhow?

No! The real problem confronting the modern hi-tech windmill is our old friend the sitka syndrome. Of course the problems are different in detail. In the sitka forest light starvation has reduced the lower branches to a gloomy matrix of dead wood. The windmill could never do this. But on the other hand each individual component of the windmill-forest would be far larger, far more prominent, than even a fully mature sitka, and as if it were not conspicuous enough, it would be waving its arms about to make sure of attracting our attention.



It's no use trying to placate public opinion by extolling the aesthetic virtues of the modern windmill as a visually exciting object. That it may be; but the same could be said of that isosceles pyramid known as the pylon. One of the largest pylons in the world has become hallowed as the Ayers Rock of the Paris Basin. The question is what would happen if large areas of rural France were plastered with Eiffel Towers? Would such areas still be perceived as rural? We can see, on a

smaller scale what happens when we arrange pylons in a long line and connect them together with high-voltage cables. The pylons are no longer perceived as individual structures but as components of a larger unit, the electricity transmission line or "power-line". This challenges the very integrity of a rural landscape: it asks it to accommodate an industrial symbol larger than any of its other components, and most people don't very much like this.

It is therefore not only the engineers, the economists and the accountants who have to do their homework. We have to convince a sceptical public that this smart, quiet, good-looking young gentleman of clean habits and impeccable reputation is not, when he gets among a crowd of his peers, potentially a rapist of that same rural landscape to which we have become emotionally attached. But before we attempt a campaign of persuasion perhaps we had better ask ourselves whether the sceptical public may not have got it right.

Jay Appleton



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT: A JOURNAL

The titles listed below in Volume 1/5 of European Environment were sent to us as a review copy.

Brian Walker **Field science, the environment and non-governmental organisations** 1-5

Chris Sheldon **The development of the British standard for environmental management systems** 6-8

Peter Bailey **Environmental policy in a rural area** 9-13

John Palmer **A review of UK methods of rehabilitating contaminated land** 14-15

Michael Edwards & Allan Ruff **Environmental management training** 16-18

Brendan Quirke **Accounting for the environment: current issues** 19-22

This is serious journal produced by the European Research Press Ltd, Tayson House 34-38 Chapel St, Little Germany Bradford BD1 5DN England. Its editorial board is wholly european and includes eleven members from the UK, 14 from other countries including Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. It has no member from Germany. The copy viewed had no illustrations.

Enquiries to **Andrew Gouldson** Telephone 0274 729315.

SHOULD YOU READ

* Elizabeth Kenworthy Teather **Visions and realities: images of early postwar Australia** Trans Inst Brit Geog NS16 1991 p470-483

* William G Hamilton **The experience of place in the spy novels of John le Carre** The Canadian Geographer 35/4 1991 p404-411

* Douglas K Fleming & Richard Roth **Place in Advertising** The Geographical Review 81/3 1991 p281-291

* James Buzard **The uses of Romanticism: Byron and the Victorian Continental Tour** Victorian Studies Vol135/1 1991 p29-49

* Robert Venturi and Denise-Scott Brown **Architecture as elemental shelter, city as valid decor.** Architectural Design Vol 94, 1991 p8-13

* Michiganscapes 1991 - a student publication of the Program in Landscape Architecture, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor incl: Robert E Grese **Nature as inspiration** p6-8

* Steven C Bourassa **The Aesthetics of Landscape** Belhaven Press London & New York 1991 ISBN 1 85293 0713

* **The East Hampshire landscape: An assessment of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** CCP 358 £7.00 ISBN 0 86170 3197

* E J Blackson (Kumasi, Ghana) & B H Green (Ashford, Kent) **Use of landscape classification as an essential prerequisite to landscape evaluation** Landscape and Urban Planning 21/3 1991 p149-162

* G D Garrod & K G Willis **Assessing the impacts and values of agricultural and rural landscapes: an application of non parametric methods** Planning Outlook 34/2 1991 p68-71

* Suki Pryce **Community control of landscape management** Planning Outlook 34/2 1991 p75-82

* A selection of papers presented at a symposium as **Landscape ecology, planning and design implications** held at Arizona State Univ. 15-17 Feb 1990 comprises Landscape and Urban Planning 21/1 & 2 1991

* P H Selman & N R Doar **An ecological approach to countryside planning** Planning Outlook 34/2 1991 p83-88

* **Landscape change in the National Parks** CCP 359 £15.00 ISBN 0 86170 320 0

* Andrew W Gilg Univ of Exeter (editor) **Countryside planning policies for the 1990s** £40.00 CAB International ISBN 0 85198 744 3

* George Mulvagh, Brian Evans & Magnus Fladmark **Tomorrows Architectural Heritage** Mainstream Publishing £14.99

* Edward Relph **Suburban downtowns of Greater Toronto area** The Canadian Geographer 35/4 1991 p412-419

* Johanna Gibbons & Bernard Oberholzer **Urban Streetscapes - a workbook for designers** £25.00 Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd Contact: Vikki Milner 0865 240201

* **Landscape Architecture Europe** a new Yearbook publ by Landscape Design Trust, 5a West Street, Reigate, Surrey, UK RH2 9BL

* Roger Bennett **Amenity Horticulture** £11.99 ISBN 0 333 53 656 8, Publ Macmillan Education Ltd, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS

* **The Green Book - plants and landscape materials price guide** Publ by Buildings Materials Market Research, Baden House, 7 St Peter's Place, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 6TB Tel:0273 680041/2

* H J Read **Pollarding the Beeches** Tree News May 1991

* P J Boon, P Calow & G E Petts **River conservation and management** £65.00 ISBN 047 1929 46 8 Publ: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Baffins Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1UD Tel:0243 770328

* A Brookes **Channelized rivers** £55.00 Publ: John Wiley & Sons Ltd ISBN 047 1919 79 9

* S G Walesh **Urban surface water management** £64.00 Publ: John Wiley & Sons Ltd ISBN 047 183 719 9

* K Nordstrom, N Psuty and B Carter (editors) **Coastal Dunes - forms and process** £60 Publ: John Wiley and sons Ltd ISBN 0471 918 42 3

*Michael Pacione **Development pressure and the production of the built environment in the urban fringe** Scottish Geog Mag 107/3 1991 p162-169

* John Gerard **Mountains under pressure** Scottish Geog Mag 107/2 1991 p75-83

* Gordon Dickinson **National Parks - Scottish needs and Spanish experience** Scottish Geog Mag 107/2 p124-129

* **Reclamation diversity** Proceedings: ASLA Open Committee on Reclamation, San Diego, California 1990

* **Reclamation visions and realities** Proceedings: ASLA Open Committee on Reclamation, Kansas City, Missouri 1991

* Department of the Environment **Occurence and utilisation of mineral and construction wastes - Final Report** August 1991 [very important study by Arup Assoc's into potential use of secondary aggregates - thereby avoiding tipping and also lessening need for quarrying primary sources, of great landscape importance!]

* V Woolley **Quarrying and conservation - conflict or cooperation** Minerals Planning No 49 (Dec 1991) pp17-18

* R T Arguile **Minerals, the environment and economics** Minerals Planning No 49 (Dec 1991) pp22-24

HOLLOW VILLAGES





Some villages are centred on cross roads, others on village greens. One at least is hollow. Vehicles travel round the edge or up cul-de-sacs and do not see the hollow bits but walkers can cross through the centre in many different directions. They see small fields and paddocks of an acre or two, streams, thatched walls and the backs of sizeable gardens - buildings are subsidiary except round the churchyard.

The plan shows the extent of open land today. Until 1960 there was a great deal more but two paddocks, being ripe for infill, were lost to new estates. In recent times some open land has been fruit orchards but there is a tradition that the internal paddocks with their thatched walls were originally cattle enclosure, each with its own access to a watercourse.

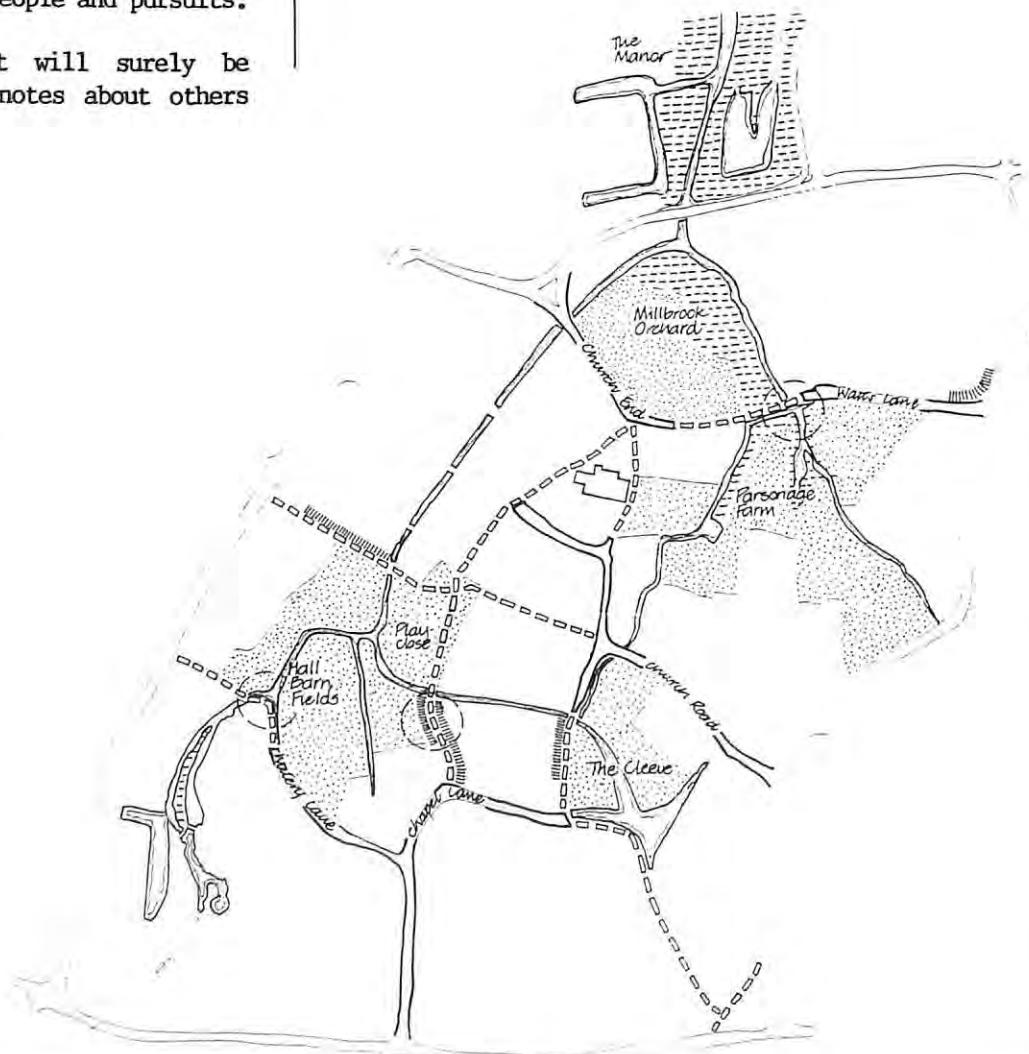
Today the core of the village makes for a very special kind of landscape experience where the appearance of the medieval farming community can easily be summoned up - at any rate the spaces seem medieval and there are no cars, itself a rare enough occurrence in the late 20th century village given over to non-agricultural people and pursuits.

If you know this village it will surely be recognisable. I would welcome notes about others with hollow characteristics.

Simon Rendel

-  Cul-de-sacs
-  Footpaths
-  Open Land
-  Uncultivated Marshland
-  Streams/Springs
-  Cob Walls
-  Areas of Special Character

0 100m 200m
SR JUN 85



LANDSCAPE TEACHING IN PARIS

Professor Philippe NYS of the College International de Philosophie, 1 Rue Descart 75005 Paris has supplied us with the following description of six sessions he recently taught on the subject:

The theory of imitation in the art of gardens, the landscape and architecture in the 18th century.

The aim of the course is to present certain ideas about the theory of imitation ("mimesis") in the 18th century in so far that it determines theories of Fine Art and guides their relationship with the practice (themselves interrelated) of architecture and landscape.

Mimesis is embodied in and gives a structure to the idea of relationship between art and nature from the time of Plato and Aristotle until its break up in the 18th century. A crisis opened up from which we have not yet emerged and provoked the progressive abandonment of the classical theory of

imitation in fine art in favour of a romantic esthetic of the expression of creative genius. This crisis shows itself at a number of levels:- esthetic research into a unique principle of perception of natural or ideal beauty, (Batteau, Diderot), the theory of fine art and architecture (Bondel, Langier, Quatremere de Quincy), garden art and landscape (Girardin) and painting.

We will give pride of place to the art of the garden in so far as it stands rather problematically at the crossroads between the utilitarian and artistic, but also at the point at which architecture and landscape (particularly 18th century landscape) meet. The art of the garden is generally omitted, undervalued or placed at the lowest level in the fine art hierarchy (Kant, Hegel) and in esthetic theory. We propose to show that when all the component topics of garden art are taken into account it is precisely the best point of departure for an examination and re-evaluation of the process of imitation in as much as it occupies a place both within plant development (nature) and the development of materials /architecture.

Garden art will also be defined as an imitating art and an art "a deux temps" (Goutiers) as well as a creative rather than simply repetitive process.

The theory and concepts of hermeneutics* (Ricoeur, Gadamer) as well as the fundamental writing Quatremere de Quincy will allow us to re interpret the theory of imitation, the reasons and results of its abandonment, to review the hierarchical structure of Fine Art and the place of architecture and gardens within the system.

Starting thus with the 18th Century scene we will try to establish a link with contemporary theoretical and practical engagement about the rapport between nature and art.

Philippe Nys.



* **Hermeneutics** - for those like your editor who are still learning! - an explanation of this obviously important but ugly word:

"Today, hermeneutic's field of application is comprised of all those situations in which we encounter meanings that are not immediately understandable but require interpretive effort. It attempts to integrate bodies of knowledge through finding "places" of commonality and agreement. Furthermore, because hermeneutics is an intuitive-practical form of reasoning, it give strength and validity to those bodies of knowledge - the experiences of art, landscape, poetry, and philosophy, for example - that cannot be verified by the methodological standards of science."

James Corner in Landscape Journal 10(2) 1991 p127

LANDSCAPE AUSTRALIA

Three articles caught the eye in Issue 3/1991. One concerns the creation of a carpark roof garden and its intriguing combination of technical solutions and special constraints. The photographs which shows the mouth of the car park beneath an innocent and unknowing garden resonates in my mind with the kind of habitable cave which children so love in Robinson Crusoe and the fabulous self concealing structures that they themselves make as underground hideouts. Prospect - refuge!

A second article by Vladimir Sitta describes the process and design of garden creation from farmland around an old homestead. He describes a series of roomlike places .."Further away from the central building cluster, the garden changes into a world of its own making. While each room serves its own specific need and exists on its own, together they form a cohesive but varied setting full of unexpected incidents and experiences." What say you - An implausible, expensive and disconnected series of contrived set pieces appealing only to those outside the profession or a fun creation to enliven the imagination?

The third article, by Allan Rackham, is concerned with landscape of Christchurch New Zealand and particularly with its river which is becoming progressively salinised from estuarine waters after the cutting in 1986 of a flood relief channel. I was particularly interested in the role of mud crabs and sodium ions in transforming the river bank into creek bank. "What we are witnessing is a freshwater river becoming an estuary" says Dr Judith-Roper Lindsay the ecological studies group leader. The processes, she explains, are not ecological problems. "If anything the river is diversifying and its indigenous components are increasing. The problem is a consequence of the

proximity of the adjacent land uses and the perception and values of the public. Quite simply if the river continued to widen and gradually turn into a typical open estuary environment the natural values of the area would increase...[but].. there is a very strong preference among residents for a return to the pre-Cut 'English landscape'. Good stuff! and how is rising sea level treating you?

ALLOTMENTS AS A SOCIAL LANDSCAPE

David Crouch, author with Colin Ward of **The Allotment; its landscape and culture**, acted as consultant to the programme Earth Wind and Fire made by Uden Associates for BBC Channel Four. He has also written the booklet that goes with the programme.

The programme was broadcast on the Channel Four 'Cutting Edge' on February 24th. It explored the workings of one landscape and the people who use it, and centres on one allotment site in north London, surrounded by the trappings of an urban place [still gasometers; three generations of housing types], and closed in on the very different world of allotment holding and the way the people have made a specialised landscape.

A later programme 'The Ballad of the Ten Rod Plot', also about allotments was commissioned by Anglia TV for transmission later this year. This one explores the **art of allotments**, and includes music written specially for the programme by the Albion Band.

David Crouch, Senior Lecturer in rural change, landscape and cultural studies at Anglia Polytechnic, Cambridge and Chelmsford.

GREENING BEAUTIFUL BERKSHIRE

Environmental issues are of growing importance to public and politicians alike, and many local authorities - especially county councils and the unitary authorities in our main urban areas - are treating them very seriously. Berkshire County Council is no exception.

A joint working group of Berkshire County Councillors and officers has examined what a County Council could really do in terms of environmental initiatives. Berkshire has adopted a themed programme of action under the slogan "Greening Beautiful Berkshire", and now has an environmental "charter" which sets out its aims. It identifies four broad themes of action, the slogans for which are "Beautiful Berkshire", "Green Berkshire", "Clean Berkshire", and "The Green County Council".

Berkshire is suffering from severe local government financial restrictions, so its efforts are designed not to be dependent on major financial inputs; for example there has been no county-wide audit of the "state of the environment". But by collating existing data sources onto a Geographical Information System and linking that with specialist databases, a valuable picture of the environmental resource and its problems can be built and then used as the basis for action. Similarly, the efforts are being achieved with existing staff rather than new resources. The Council's response is therefore one of steady but cumulative effort; it is not a "big bang" approach.

Steven Shuttleworth

Environment Branch Manager, Highways and Planning Department, Royal County of Berkshire, Shire Hall, Reading RG2 9XG

(Any views expressed are personal and not necessarily those of the County Council)

LRG FIELD TRIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Letter from the organiser of the trip

Dear Editor

I have recently returned from Czechoslovakia where I have been preparing for this summer's planned visit of LRG and National Park staff members. I can recommend Czechoslovakia to LRG members in that it offers a wonderful variety of landscape, cultural and gastronomic experiences.

Prague itself is amongst the finest European cities. It contains some exceptionally beautiful gothic, renaissance and baroque buildings which suffered little from war-time bombing and have, as yet, not been blighted by neon advertising. A great deal of dreadful socialist realist architecture abounds and this legacy of communism is most evident in the squalid and brash tenement blocks that surround most large towns.

It is in the little towns of Bohemia and the mountains of Slovakia that one learns what this country is all about. Travelling north eastwards on our way to the Krkonose National Park we will pass through the Cesky Raj (Bohemian Paradise) a region of castles, towering rock outcrops and bizarre rock formations - the very stuff of the "sublime and picturesque". **Krkonose** (Giant Mountains) is an area of 800 square kilometres which straddles the Polish border in Northern Bohemia. Harrachov (715m), the village where we will be staying, is a popular skiing resort and provides an excellent base from which to explore the Park. The Krkonose are rolling hills offering gradual ascents along broad ridges and spectacular drops off into adjacent valleys. Snezka the highest point stands at 1602m.

Krkonoše forms part of the Carpathian mountain chain. Designated a National Park in 1963, it is by today, one of the areas worst effected by acid rain in Europe with over 10,000ha of the semi natural pine forests suffering from the combined ravages of acidification and the spruce bark beetle. The varied geology, (limestones, schists, granites etc), altitude and geographical location combine to make Krkonoše a particularly interesting place for environmental conservationists. It displays a rich diversity of habitats particularly so in south facing glacial valleys where arctic alpine and southern European species can be found in close proximity.

Krkonoše is relatively accessible to the industrial areas of eastern Germany, southern Poland and Prague hence its popularity with over 8 million visitors a year the majority of whom come here to ski in the winter months. Many hotels were built by the Communists to cater for these and school children who, every February/March, were packed off from the more polluted areas of Bohemia and Silesia for a few weeks fresh air.

Accommodation in Harrachov will be at the "Fit and Fun" hotel which offers ensuite accommodation, indoor swimming pool, sauna etc. I have visited this hotel and would compare it to a three star establishment in Great Britain. There are facilities and rooms ideally suited to families, with games rooms (table tennis and pool) and mountain bikes for hire. After five days in Harrachov we will journey onto western Slovakia by coach.

Slovakia is the least touristy part of Czechoslovakia. Slovaks are intensely proud of their culture and ancient folk traditions are more obviously evident than amongst the urbane Czechs. Although mutually comprehensible, Czech and Slovak are separate Slav languages. In other ways too, the differences between Slovakia, Bohemia and Moravia (in central southern Czechoslovakia) are evident and nowhere more so than in the variety of the food and drink. The Czechs serve meat dishes with knedliky (dumplings) and sauerkraut while the Slovaks favour paprika and a pasta called halusky. Fish dishes are very popular (trout or carp) and vegetarian dishes include smazeny syr (fried cheese) and knedliky s vejci (scrambled eggs with dumplings). Bohemian beer is regarded by many to be the best in the world, and southern Slovakia and Moravia are famous for their wines.

Trečianske Teplice a historic spa town in the Biele Karpaty protected landscape district will be our base in Slovakia. Here our guide will be Jan Sandora Head of the Government Department responsible for environmental protection in western Slovakia. Day visits will be planned to the Mala Fatra and Nízke Tatry National Parks. We will also

visit Trenčín a town famed for its glass-making and its castle overlooking the Váh river which dates from the 11th century. Trenčín has in its time been on the border of both the Roman and Turkish empires.

Mala Fatra mountain range in central Slovakia demonstrates in a relatively small area, spectacular scenery including Vrátna Dolina said to be the most beautiful valley in Slovakia. Mala Fatra was designated a National Park in 1985 and the National Park Office at Gbelany contains excellent displays describing the work of the Park. It is proposed to visit Gbelany and Terchová a village at the entrance to the Mala Fatra which was the birth place of Juro Janosik, the Slovak folk hero who stole from the rich to give to the poor and was their equivalent of our Robin Hood.



"Albanian woman" From *Countries of the World* 1890
Published by Cassell, Petter, Galpin and Co.

Nízke Tatry (Low Tatras) This is the largest mountain range in Czechoslovakia. I am planning a day excursion to allow those who wish to take the chair lift to Chopok (2024m) and then follow the ridge walk to Dumbier (2043m) - the highest point in the Low Tatras. An alternative for those not wishing to take this walk will be a visit to the extensive ice cave of Demonovská Dolina.

The return journey from Trečianske Teplice to Prague will take about five hours by coach. There will be two full days in Prague for exploration and shopping. Arrangements will be made for those members of the group who so wish, to meet up in the daytime for excursions and for social evenings.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA JULY 1992

FACT SHEET Accomodation The group will be accommodated together in hotels in Harrachov and Trecianske Teplice and divided into smaller groups in Prague where we will stay, as last year, in guest houses, with local families. Accomodation will be on a bed and breakfast basis in Prague and Trecianske Teplice and on a half board basis in Harrachov.

Transport British Airways flight to and from London (Heathrow) and Prague (Ruzyně) airports. all internal travel in Czechoslovakia will be by coach, which will be available at our beck and call.

Organisation Guides will accompany the group throughout. There will be ample opportunity to walk in the National Parks and to meet with Park officers and their staff. Excellent contacts have already been established. This is not a "packaged" visit and it is perfectly feasible for minority interests to be accommodated within the broad framework planned. Persons of all ages are welcome.

Cost The cost of the visit will be £350.00 (to include accomodation as described above, air-travel to and from Czechoslovakia and guides). Internal travel will be extra and the charge for this will depend on the demands made by the group. This is not expected to amount to more than £20.00 per person.

Other information The cost of living is relatively inexpensive in Czechoslovakia for British people. Visas are no longer required and there is no compulsory exchange rate. The cost of accomodation is higher for foreign nationals than Czechoslovak citizens.

Booking Confirmation of bookings must be made before 12 April. Please reply directly to Gareth Roberts enclosing a deposit of £35.00 made payable to the Landscape Research Group. His address is Dolwen Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd, Wales LL41 4SP or telephone him on 0766 87 403.

COMMON GROUND's 'NEW MILESTONES'

"is about what places mean to the people who live in them, and about how to express that meaning in an imaginative and accessible way through sculpture. In encouraging people - landholders or communities- to commission craftspeople and sculptors to crystallise feelings about a place in a public and permanent way, we are trying to liberate sculpture into the wild and give anyone courage to commission art, however modest, to help communicate their caring. We are emphasising that our feelings about our everyday landscapes are important and should be taken seriously; that our moment in history has something to offer and that in setting our imagination free to explore places we can help initiate new cultural touchstones worthy of our time."... I like it (Editor)

A WAY OF WALKING

Artist Garry Fabian Miller lives in the beautiful granite village of Manaton five miles from where I sit here at the wordprocessor. We do not know of each others' existence! but I read that he is a successful artist and has organised a series of seven walks (blessed seven) through particular ways in Dartmoor. Each 'walk' spans a week. He will be assisted in this by other notables - artists archeologists and renaissance men (one, Tom Greaves of Common Ground has contributed to LRExtra) who have a strong affinity with Dartmoor. His intention is to offer a distinct approach to land, the leaflet talks of the many ways of interpreting and experiencing land and those cultural associations which it generates. It is hoped "that the collective experience will stimulate lively dialogue - each day's activity bringing forth new ideas".

"As time has passed our desire to set roots and create more permanent structures and systems to live within has gained ascendance. With this an imbalance has arisen, bringing with it a sense of loss. This is manifest in the notion of our being apart from nature, separate not co-existing, when in fact we are nature, and in us nature is changing."

He may be contacted at **Homeland, Manaton, Dartmoor Devon TQ13 9UH Tel:0647 22387**

The Hawthorn, Lowfield Farm, Autumn 1986 Garry G Miller (from an original in colour)



RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1-5 April **Historic gardens & landscapes** at Univ of Keele, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire run by The Assoc of Conservation Officers Annual School Contact: Mrs Heather Emery Tel 0625 500500 Ext 350

3-5 April Course **Landscape History - its application in conservation management** Tutor Andrew Poore at The Kingcombe Centre, Lower Kingcombe, Toller Porcorum, Dorchester DT2 0EQ Tel: 0300 20684

25-26 April **Stowe: Past, present and future** Univ of Oxford Dept for Continuing Education in assoc with Stowe School and The National Trust. Contact: Archaeology/Local History Course Secretary, OUDCE, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA

5 May **Rivers of life** The last of four one day conferences on **Conserving natural resources in Britain** presented by The Royal Society, London Contact: RSA, 8 John Adam St, London WC2N 6EZ

11-13 May **Protecting the rural heritage: landscape** Contact: Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP Tel: 0904 433987

18-19 May Course **Public parks and gardens and their conservation** Contact: Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, The King's Manor, York YO1 2EP Tel: 0904 433987

9-12 June Course **The conservation and management of grassland** Tutor: Derek Wells at The Kingcombe Centre, Lower Kingcombe, Toller Porcorum, Dorchester DT2 0EQ Tel: 0300 20684

16-23 July **Landscape Approaches** at Calaceite, Spain. Organised by Noesis Foundation. Contact: Madame Françoise Chenet, 37-39, boulevard Murat, 75016 Paris, France. Tel: 46 51 02 17

7-10 September **Cultural aspects of landscape** at Svratka, Czechoslovakia. Contact: Dr Hana Swouden-Svobodova, PO Box 75020, 1007 AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands Tel: (0)20-662-5243

7-14 September **Landscapes? Landscape?** at Cerisy-la-Salle International Conference Centre (Normandy). Contact: CCIC, 50210 Cerisy-la-Salle, France Tel: 33 46 91 66

22-25 October **Second European congress of popular architecture and granaries** Contact Sociedad de Ciencias Aranzadi, Plaza Ignacio Zuloaga (Museo de San Telmo) Departamento de Etnografía, 20003 Donostia-San Sebastian Tel 943-42 29 45

14 November **Castles and their landscapes** at Rewley House, Oxford Fee: 23.50 Contact: Archaeology/Local

History Course Secretary, Oxford Univ. Dept for Continuing Education, Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA

Sarah Zarmati our 'colleague' in Paris suggests that Landscape Approaches appears to be dealing with how geographers, writers, painters, film makers and art historians represent landscapes and how these representations and cultural 'codes' transform sites and regions. Regarding Paysages? Paysage? she suggests this is for geographers and philosophers. Sarah, qu'est-ce que c'est un philosophe?

MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPES: GRANADA

29th September-3 October Granada Spain
International Congress on Mediterranean Landscapes

News of this conference comes to us both from Jay Appleton and from our correspondent F.G.Bernaldez LRG member in Madrid. Professor Appleton will give an opening paper. The organisers are **calling for papers by the 1st May 1992.**

The conference will focus on Mediterranean landscapes and be connected with the Universal Exhibition in Seville. The organisers of the conference include the Spanish-French institution "Casa de Velasquez", the Council of Granada, and the local governments of the CEE regions: Andalusia, Languedoc-Roussillo and Venice.

The official languages are spanish, french, italian and english. The address for registration is Francis Fourneau, Expositcion Paisaje Mediterraneo C/Adriano 24 2 D - 41001 Seville Tel and Fax: 95-421-67-47. Those communicating about papers and submissions should contact Francisco Roderiguez Martinez, Instituto de Desarrollo Regional, C/Rector Lopez Argueta s/n, Anexo Facultad de Ciencias Politicas y Sociologicas, 18001 Granada, Espana. Tel: 958-243083, Fax: 958-243094

ANTHOLOGY - THE ANSWERS

1910; an agricultural journey in Lincolnshire and Norfolk fenland; written as one of a series of land economic commentaries appearing in the London Times and collected in a book "Pilgrimage of British Farming" written by A.D.Hall MA FRS, publisher John Murray 1913. Interestingly obscure but fascinating topographic account.

1933; a regional geography "Geographical Regions of France"; author Emmanuel de Martonne, Professor of geography, the Sorbonne; publishers William Heinemann Ltd; edition of 1948.

1965; from *Landscape in Distress* by Lionel Brett Architectural Press describing the area around Benson in South Oxfordshire. "We set out to record in intimate detail the post war changes and present state of the landscape of a typical sample of green countryside in the southeast of Britain".

1875; from *The Exploration Diaries of H.M. Stanley*, edited by Richard Stanley and Alan Neame; published by William Kimber London 1961. The passage describes the crossing of the plain of the Wonanga River about 25 miles from Lake Victoria at Kagehi, East Africa.

THE BLOIS CONFERENCE: LANDSCAPES IN A NEW EUROPE

5th-7th October Blois, France **Landscapes in a new Europe: Unity in Diversity**

The Blois Conference has been organised jointly by LRG and the french society Paysage y Aménagement and is an important European conference. It has strong support from the French Government and honorary patrons include five Government Ministers. Details of the conference (in either english or french can be obtained from Communication, Colloque de Blois, BP 30-78511 Rambouillet cedex, France Tel:(33-1) 3484-70-60 Fax: (33-1)-3484-70-55. The conference languages are french and english and there will be simultaneous translation in both languages. There will be five half day conference sessions. Those wishing to display work at the conference may do so by booking a panel before 30th June 1992.

Conference objectives

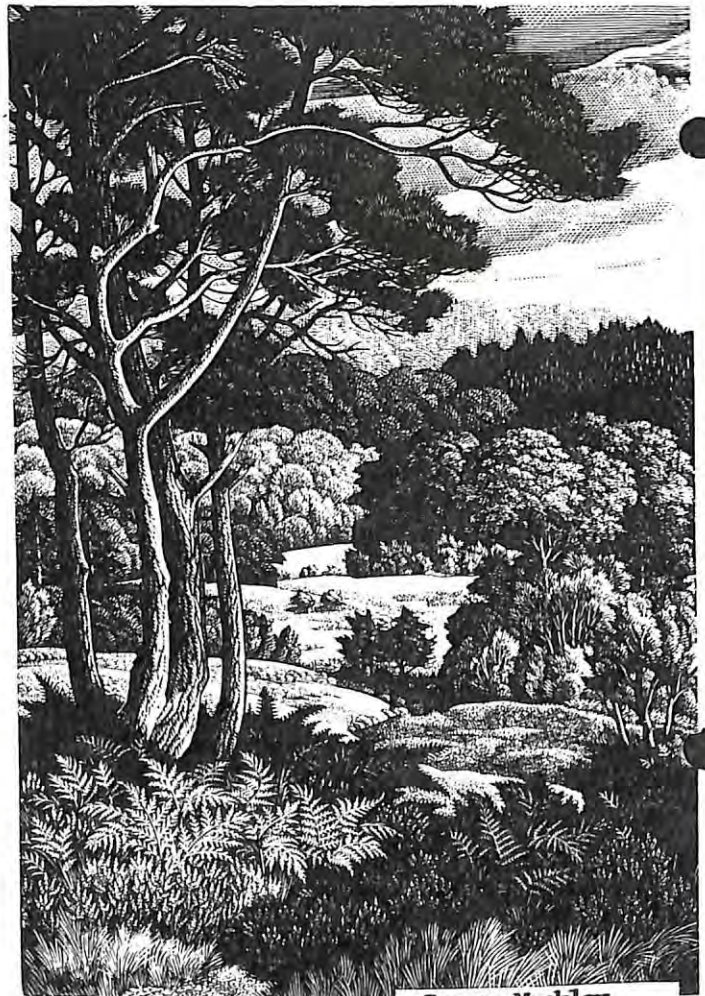
The landscapes in which we work and live are to become the setting for the development of a united Europe. The implications of a changing political and economic order for the way in which we see, create and conserve our landscapes are considerable. Our national and regional landscapes will have to adapt to a new political configuration - and the maintenance of the rich landscape diversity, so important to local loyalties, but also part of the attraction of Europe as a whole may be threatened. The numerous great symbols of European culture (eg Piazza San Marco, Versailles, Stourhead) may not be at risk but the dense and layered texture of European landscapes will need careful management if it is to survive the inevitable homogenising effects of international corporations, inter European regulations and tourism. The central objective of the conference will be to enable participants involved in landscape planning, design and research to exchange ideas, and learn from the experience of others and begin the process of exploring a common

European landscape culture. It will seek to establish a common understanding of problems and purposes and so agree on a series of principles for the formulation of a landscape policy for Europe.

Session themes

Opening remarks

European landscapes today: perceptions and realities
European landscape images in space time and society
Landscape diversity in Europe
Cherished landscapes of Europe, natural areas and historic sites
Conclusions and propositions.



George Mackley
The Open Forest

The views and opinions voiced in this newsletter are those of the authors and the editor and do not necessarily represent those of LRG as a Group.

This newsletter was prepared and edited by Rosemary and Bud Young. It is published by The Landscape Research Group Ltd, Leuric, North Road, South Kilworth, near Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

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