

LANDSCAPE FORWARD: POLICY, PRACTICE, RESEARCH

Panel 1 – All Landscapes Matter



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LANDSCAPE FORWARD?

WHICH WAY FORWARD?

- I want to emphasise
 - a) the human and cultural aspects, uses and relevance of landscape, and
 - b) landscape as a unifying idea and frame.
- Are we still too hung up on the idea of beauty and nature? Neither are the be-all-and-end all of landscape.
- Images like this imply that landscape is about consumption. But landscapes are produced and constructed, not consumed.



What does 'All landscapes matter' mean?

Taken literally, it might mean—

- Everywhere matters to someone, usually(?) those who live there, sometimes others;

Or

- All types / categories of landscape matter

But why, how do they matter?



Neither of those meanings really say *why* landscape matters

- So we resort (as for example in the consortium document) to formulations such as its benefits for health, recreation etc, and other affordances and uses, its aesthetic value, and so on.
- But policy focuses on special areas, which are not *everywhere*; nor are they *everywhen*, but merely holidays, days off.
- Do people not live in landscapes the rest of the time? Which matters most, everyday or a few days?

Understanding what 'every landscape matters' means should also include more everyday experiences:

- Senses of belonging, identity, place etc that are usually collective, shared
- The simple fact that people create landscape physically and perceptually wherever they are, i.e. landscapes matter because in a way they *are* us.
- If global (and local) problems have cultural causes, then the solutions must be cultural; in other words the solutions are found within the arena of landscape not of environment



Landscape as object or as subject

Might it be more productive, politically and philosophically, to move from outside to inside?

The outside view, consumption



Inside views, production, whether romanticised or not



We no longer labour day in day out on the land, but we still use it, profit from it, work it, whether its green or covered in buildings.

- The link between people and land through collectivity, through work, through perceptions adds the ‘-scape’ to land
- In so doing it gives the concept of landscape a power of action and persuasion that exceeds that of other approaches
- Should we aim for action ‘within or around landscape’, not action *about* landscape; as others have said, planning, action ‘*through*’ not ‘*for*’ landscape
- We should move ‘inside’

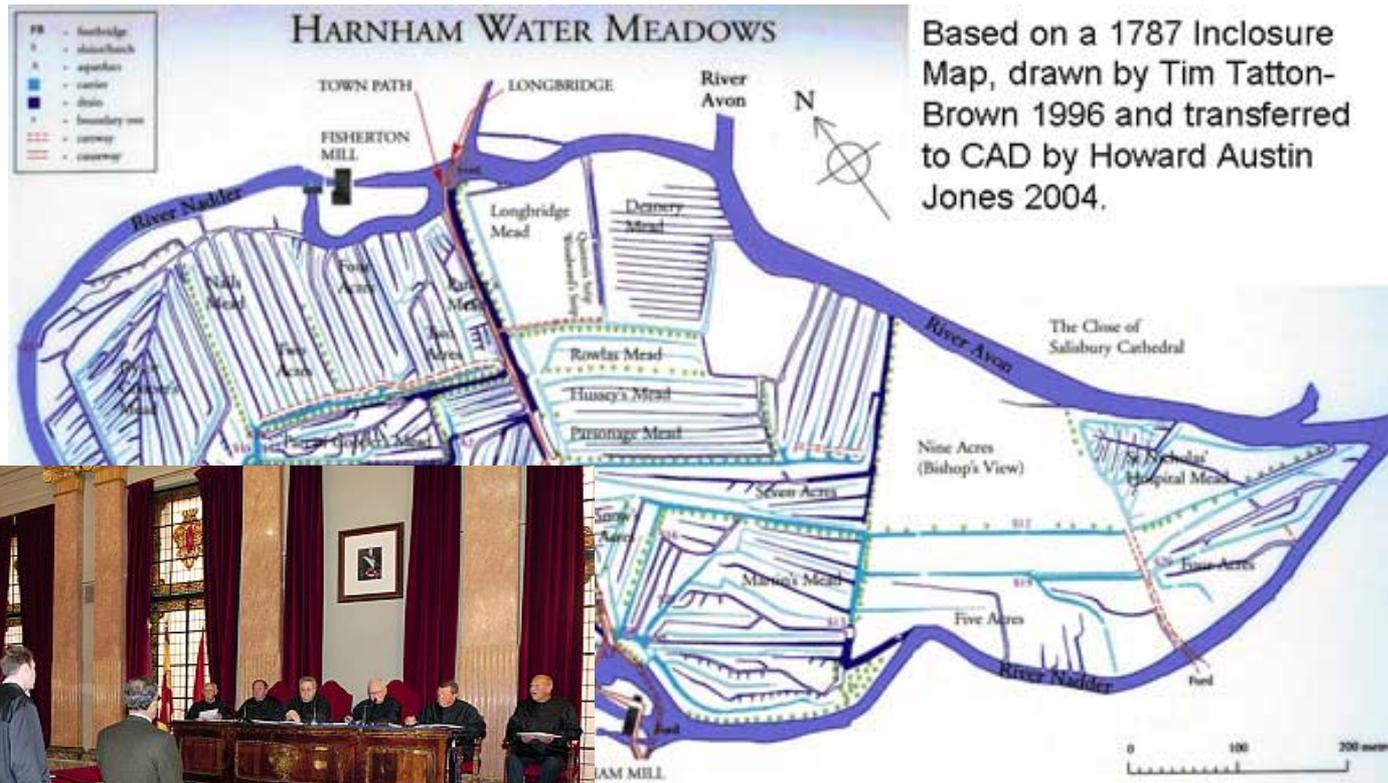
And inside not as individuals but as a society or a community

- Commons; community

Landscape defined as communal and collective organisation, the oldest conception of landscape (Ken Olwig's 'substantive nature of landscape'), landscape as community, to set alongside our conception of landscape as picture, or more recently as other species' habitat

- Commoning was a way to share resources; why not still? Commons still exists, it's what the 'public realm' is to landscape in towns and cities.
- Partnership is the key word in the HLF's 'Landscape Partnerships' and 'landscape' might be said to be 'simply' the medium or the mechanism

Imagine the collectivity that produced this system for sharing scarce water -



Conversely, too much water but no landscape approach ...



Somerset Levels and the Thames, 2014, when things go wrong, as they often do without landscape (sustainable, culturally- as well environmentally-informed, collective with conflicts confronted) approaches

Landscape is cultural in the widest senses of that word.
It can be used to show realities and possibilities, to
change ideas

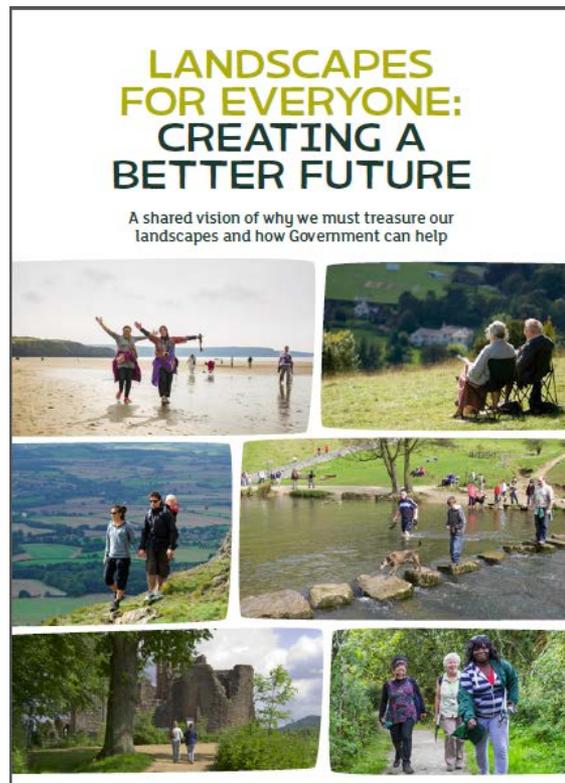


'The Allegory of Good and Bad Government', Ambrogio Lorenzetti, 1338 - 1339, Siena.

Untitled (?), Anonymous, Cordoba pre-2010



And yet, in 2015, the message to (incoming) governments, couched mainly in terms of protecting nature by another name



Back in 2011 –
POSTNOTE 380
 (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology)

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
 PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

POSTNOTE
 Number 380 June 2011

Landscapes of the Future



Land underpins the whole economy, through provision of food and other goods and its use for housing, business, transport, energy, tourism and recreation.¹ The UK faces major challenges addressing projected population increases, climate change and economic growth with limited land and natural resources. This POSTnote examines how policy structures, including planning reforms, might deliver land use systems that meet these challenges.

Background
 Land and natural resources are finite (POSTnote 376) and increasing demand can cause conflicts between different land users. Land use and planning is complex with multiple layers of legislation, conventions and policy (Box 1). Some commentators feel the public administration of land management is lacking in clarity of purpose and is inefficient.

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) defines landscape as "an area, as perceived by people, whose (sic) character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". Historical changes in land use such as deforestation, industrial development and intensive agriculture, are evident in landscapes today and will continue to shape their use. Most of the landscape is in private ownership and managed to deliver benefits with market value (POSTnote 377). Society gains essential benefits or services from the natural environment, known as ecosystem services, such as food, fuel, clean water, flood protection and recreation. The UK "National Ecosystem Assessment" (UK NEA), due to be published in June 2011, is the first analysis of these services, how they might change, and the effects of change and policy options to

Overview

Competition for land will be exacerbated by many pressures in the next few decades. Prevailing patterns of land use may not be viable in the long term and may not match the future needs of society.

Strategic planning policy should include consideration of green infrastructure, landscape character and provision of multiple ecosystem services. Balancing competing demands for land through complementary uses in a single area will help adaptation to environmental change.

This will require integration across policy areas, such as the Innovative Land Use Strategy for Scotland, and other pioneering governance approaches, such as the ecosystem approach. The Natural Environment White Paper aims to address this in England.

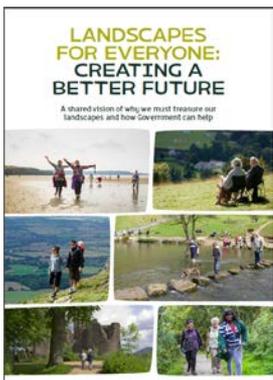
secure and improve delivery under plausible future scenarios.² As a similar time the government will outline an ambitious vision in the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP).

Impacts of Land Use Patterns
 Traditional approaches to land use have focussed on single, mono-functional purposes, often with negative consequences. For example:

- many food production systems will not be viable in the long term due to heavy reliance on fertilisers and fossil fuels, soil degradation and emissions of greenhouse gases. A recent government report, "The Future of Food and Farming", detailed how urgent action is needed to redesign the global food system;
- a recent review of England's wildlife sites and connections between them, "Making Space for Nature", recognised their contribution to ecosystem services but concluded that they are highly fragmented, mostly too small, insufficiently protected and under-managed;³
- Green Belts are designated to prevent urban sprawl but have been criticised by some commentators for promoting "leap frogging" of development, thereby increasing commuting distances and carbon emissions.⁴

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, Tel: 020 7219 3840; email: post@parliament.uk www.parliament.uk/post

- No. 376 Natural Capital Accounting
- No. 377 Ecosystem Approach
- No. 378 Ecosystems Service Valuation
- No. 379 Evidence Based Conservation
- No. 380 Landscapes of the Future



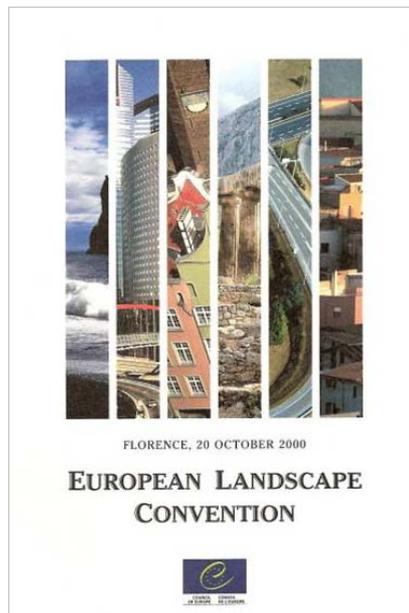
The terminology in the consortium leaflet does not fit the, everyday, living, active, transforming view of landscape I've mentioned; instead landscape is portrayed as:

- a) fragile - '(to) treasure our landscape', 'unique', 'threat'
- b) elsewhere - 'mountains (etc) ..to ... parks in urban areas'
- c) other (external to us) - 'what action (is needed) to achieve' the valuation of landscape
- d) an object not a process - 'planning for landscape' – why not 'landscape planning for .. social cohesion, human development, employment etc'

I worry that the assumptions behind such words are not helpful. They separate people from 'all' landscapes; are we arguing back to front? Hence, an uphill struggle?

ELC, 2000

Coming from people ;
Communities;
A tool not an object;
Into mainstream policy.

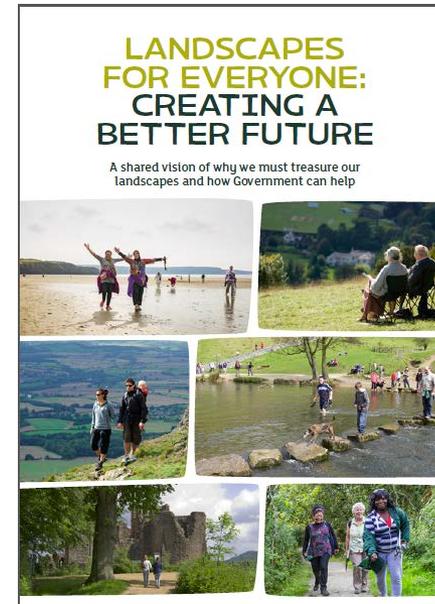
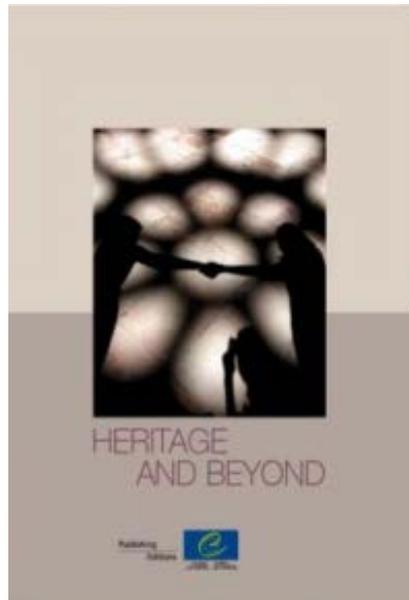


SPB Landscape,
2010
Landscape's
(potential)
integrative
power in
research

Faro Convention,
2005

'.. The value of
cultural heritage for
society'

Heritage as process;
Heritage as rights
and responsibility;
Communities of
heritage.



2015

Landscape as a unifying frame?

- How does landscape relate to ecosystem services, sustainability, or even the old standby, 'countryside'?
- Does landscape offer something that they don't?
- Is it more useful than those?
- Is it stronger because it is concerned firstly with people, with society and with cultures?

In terms of
'policy' is this
the closest the
UK has got?
From the
*Scottish
Landscape
Forum*
(?) 2010



places for people

SCOTLAND'S LIVING LANDSCAPES

3



places for people

SCOTLAND'S LIVING LANDSCAPES

“Landscape, therefore, encompasses all the physical elements of the environment that surrounds us – but it is people’s experiences and perceptions that turn surroundings into landscape.”

Ultimately, landscape is not about nature, or environment, or beauty, ... it's about people, their past and future actions, imagination and aspirations - their culture, in other words

... and as Raymond Williams wrote, culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in English usage