

EDWARD FAWCETT

The ICOMOS Landscape Working Group

This Group was formed in the UK in 1991, with David Jacques as its coordinator, and chaired by Edward Fawcett. The ICOMOS International Gardens Committee has said that it does not wish to extend its brief to cover landscape, but wishes the Landscapes Working Group to keep it informed.

The formation of the Group was further propelled by the difficulty experienced by the ICOMOS World Heritage Committee in assessing the UK's nomination of the Lake District for inscription as a World Heritage Site. It was considered in 1987 as a mixed site, in September 1989 as a cultural site, and in 1990 at Banff in Canada, when the nomination was again deferred,

due to the different views taken on natural and cultural sites by IUCN and ICOMOS. The ICOMOS secretariat was asked to consider and develop its criteria for cultural landscapes and to report to UNESCO. This task has been deputed to the ICOMOS Landscapes Working Group.

The work of the Group has so far been carried out at meetings of the ICOMOS UK Historic Gardens and Landscapes Committee, and by correspondence with some fifteen other countries. This paper is an attempt to bring together the tentative conclusions reached so far, with expressions of opinion on some of the outstanding issues.

TIMOTHY DARVILL

Heritage Landscape Sites

An Introduction to the Work of the Group of Experts

The purpose of this short presentation is two-fold. Firstly to introduce you to the nature and scope of the important international project on the subject of Heritage Landscape Sites which is currently being carried out under the auspices of the Cultural Heritage Committee of the Council of Europe. And secondly, briefly to outline for you some of the initiatives currently being considered by the Group of Experts.

Turning first to the nature and scope of the project itself, it is worth remembering that since the European Architectural Heritage Year in 1975, the work of the Council of Europe has related mainly to monuments and townscapes, with rather less attention to the issues of safeguarding, managing and enhancing heritage landscape sites. Such sites were, however, one of the components of heritage defined by the *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe*, the 1985 Granada Convention, and accordingly, in the later part of 1990, work began on the assembly of a Group of Experts from European countries to address this very matter on a wide front. The objectives of the project may be summarized as a consideration

of the issues connected with the identification, protection, management, conservation, development, and promotion of Heritage Landscape Sites.

The first colloquy was held in Luxembourg in May 1991 and a second meeting took place in Dublin in September 1991. In addition to this gathering here in Cologne, it is proposed to hold a number of further sessions, the next being in Stockholm in September 1992.

As you will all appreciate, the very idea of a Heritage Landscape Site is a complicated concept and one that is not easily defined. It is, however, widely recognized that perceptions of the development of the countryside and townscape are becoming more sophisticated and that a more holistic understanding of the relationships between the natural and the man-made environment is becoming widespread.

The current phenomenon of opening-up and explaining the countryside and historic townscapes has the corollary of increasing social demand. The difficulty we face in assessing this

Schloßpark von Sceaux, Treppe zum Pavillon d'Aurore ▷