

The General Significance of Historic Landscapes

Because mankind lives in the world, he is part of it and it is part of him. The two are inextricably linked. But because of his exceptional ability to interact with his surroundings and exploit them, mankind's place in the world is a special one. This ability to interact and exploit is at the root of his cultural development. It has enabled him to develop not only in relation to the material and economic aspects of his life but also in relation to the spiritual and intellectual. It would seem that mankind's engagement with his surroundings is an essential aspect of his nature.

This engagement has taken place, and still takes place, in different ways. It may for example be the result of winning a living through husbandry, commerce or industry. It may take the form of religious or artistic experience giving rise in the latter case to poetry, literature, pictorial art or music. It manifests itself through the pleasure and relaxation that it can give. It may also take the form of intellectual enquiry such as scientific or historical investigation.

Mankind's curiosity about the world, his intellect, his religious and aesthetic experience and his need for periods of relaxation or recreation are all essential to him. His environment, if it is to remain a healthy one, must provide for all of these. In this respect historic landscapes make a very important contribution because of their diversity – a diversity that can be maintained by recognising and conserving the particular character given to places by their particular history.

Historic landscapes are also a very important resource because they enable mankind to explore the history of his own development and to some extent they enable him to experience it. They provide important evidence through which he can attempt to understand himself and see himself in the broader context of history.

Reasons for Conserving Historic Landscapes:

In the more developed parts of the world, the older types of historic landscape are an increasingly scarce and threatened resource. They must be conserved because:

1. they are an important and integral part of the cultural heritage; their existence helps to define the nature of that heritage: they are reference points or landmarks by which it can be understood and they provide significant and actual experience of it even when they are not in prime condition;
2. they provide physical and archaeological evidence of the history of the cultural heritage;
3. they contribute to the continuing development of cultural life because they exist and can be visited, discussed, written about or re-examined; they can be an active ingredient of present day and future cultural life by being visited or by being explained to the public by a range of interpretive techniques;
4. they contribute to the diversity of experience that is available;
5. they can provide a public amenity, a place where people can

relax, recreate themselves, refresh their spirits or find inspiration;

6. they can be of economic importance as public amenities and because they can generate and support tourism.

In summary, historic landscapes are a resource and need to be properly managed, especially in areas of rapid and extensive development.

Definitions

The UNESCO approach to definition was that these landscapes should be "a testimony of an outstandingly harmonious balance between nature and human beings", but ICOMOS considers this idea too vague, unsuitable for highly developed landscapes, and points out that harmony cannot be defined, measured or monitored. The ICOMOS definition of a 'site' says:

"The term 'site' shall include all topographical areas and landscapes, the works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, including historic parks and gardens, which are of value from the archaeological, historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view?"

Given this definition of a site, cultural landscapes can be included within the agreed criteria of the ICOMOS World Heritage Committee, provided a few alterations (italicised) are made.

World Heritage Criteria

A monument, group of buildings or sites – as defined above – which is nominated for inclusion in the World Heritage List will be considered to be of outstanding universal value for the purposes of the convention when the Committee finds that it meets one or more of the following criteria and the test of authenticity. Each property should therefore:

1. represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of creative genius; or
2. have exerted great influence over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on architecture, monumental arts, town planning, *gardening* and landscaping, *pictorial art, literature or other aspects of art and culture*; or
3. bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilisation *or culture* which has disappeared; or
4. be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural ensemble, or *site* which illustrates a significant stage in history; or
5. be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement *or site* which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
6. be directly or tangibly associated with events or ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstance or in conjunction with other criteria).

Cultural Heritage Land
Land of Cultural Value

Cultural Landscapes

Built Areas

Gardens & Parks

Cultural Landscapes
of Historic Interest

- Historic Man-made Landscapes (i.e. Rural, Urban & Industrial Landscapes of Historic Interest)
- Historic Associative Landscapes
- Historic Adjoining Landscapes

Historic Gardens & Parks

- Historic Domestic Gardens & Park
- Historic Institutional Gardens and Parks
- Historic Public Gardens and Parks

Types of Historic Man-made Landscapes

In general types of historic cultural landscapes can be designated as:

1. *Historic Man-made Landscapes* which can be sub-divided into:
 - 1.1 Rural Landscapes, i.e. landscapes that demonstrate aspects of the rural economy and rural life.
 - 1.2 Urban Landscapes, i.e. landscapes that are associated with urban development and urban life.
 - 1.3 Industrial Landscapes, i.e. landscapes that demonstrate aspects of industry, industrial processes and manufacturing.
2. *Historic Associative Landscapes*
Landscapes associated with people, events or ideas of outstanding interest, for example places associated with painters, poets, battles or legends. This category also includes places historically celebrated for their scenery.
3. *Historic Settings*
Historic landscapes where there is a significant relationship between the adjoining landscape and the item to which it is attached.

Identification

English Heritage sees the historic environment as consisting of "a wide range of features". A concentration of these features indicates an historic landscape. This method is deficient as it does not take into account associative landscape of any sort. The ICOMOS approach is to recognise a landscape of one of the types described above, having characteristics, a composition, or an assemblage or features, that make it recognisable as such. We are dealing with landscapes, not individual features.

Management

Unless cultural, lived-in landscapes are to some degree managed, the processes of definition, identification, listing, etc. will be academic. Although it is considered by many that these landscapes must be dynamic, the only way in which they can move, without intervention, is downwards. The identified cultural landscape will be overlaid by modern development until the original reasons for its identification are lost or obscured.

As this is so important and emotive a question, the remainder of this paper, is devoted to reactions to the Working Group's question, in its Newsletter No. 1: *Is it unrealistic to try to preserve cultural landscapes in their traditional state, given*

that this may require economic restrictions? On this subject, there have been replies from:

Canada

There has been fairly limited work to date on the specific identification of cultural landscape in terms of clearly expressed values for protection and management or their explicit recognition in planning processes. The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act is one example where legislation and regulatory processes have been applied. Zoning has also been used in a few jurisdictions, primarily to regulate land use and development in historic districts (eg. control of building heights and masses, open space, and vegetation). The National Capital Commission has explicitly included cultural landscapes in its new heritage policy, and much is done through policy in Canada, particularly at the federal level, which is done elsewhere through legislation and regulation; however, the NCC has yet to develop an implementation strategy for its policy. The primary facility in Canada for managing cultural landscapes is the municipal planning process and its accompanying by-laws.

The practice of freezing a site at a moment in time is now generally outdated. We welcome the additional layers that time has brought to a site, and we undertake to respect the evolution of a place through time. As part of the management of cultural landscapes, we expect such change to continue in the future. Heritage tourism may provide an alternative course of economic action, as the above programs have concluded.

The Commonwealth of Independent States

Of course it is difficult to stop the development of some areas, particularly when landscape improvement would lead to a higher standard of living. But looking back, the cultural losses may become obvious. Then it would be useful to compare the state of the historic landscape with how it was previously. The losses can be the main reason for conserving old kinds of landscape in 'experimental areas'. In this situation one should take measures to arouse the owner's interest in conserving the traditional way of life within the boundaries of these areas and give them real help.

Slovenia

Determining an appropriate preservation regime is a problem as well, and so is choosing a mode of management in the area of interest that is acceptable to all parties, choosing an ap-



appropriate agricultural technology etc. The agriculture of a few decades ago helped to create the characteristic landscapes of today, but today's agriculture is essentially different.

The United Kingdom

Any attempt at protection or conservation seems to imply restrictions. There are building regulations in the British national parks and the urban conservation areas are strictly controlled. Rather than presuming, therefore, that there will be a need for agreement to change within a designated landscape, the presumption should be the reverse, namely that there will be no change allowed unless it is essential to the welfare of that landscape.

To use the Lake District as an example, the National Trust imposes a number of regulations on its farmers to control their activities and preserve the traditional way of life and farming practice. These restrictions mean that farmers are unable to go in for factory farming, for example, and therefore may not be able to maximise their incomes. This is recognised by the National Trust and their rents are therefore lower than they would otherwise be. Nothing can be done without cost, and we must face the fact that conserving the landscape will have to be paid for in some way or another.

In practice there may be less conflict than would seem likely, for most of the farmers wish to preserve their old ways and the ways of the countryside in which they were brought up, and are therefore ready to accept restrictions if these are explained to them. Evidently all change cannot be excluded. The tractor has now replaced the horse, much to the countryside's detriment, and the horse will not return. What we need to try to prevent is the rape of these landscapes by large scale tourist developments, new roads, etc. What we are trying to preserve is the old way of life and its attendant landscape.

The United States of America

Should traditional systems be preserved if the people remain impoverished? This question is a particularly difficult one, involving changing technologies and economic conditions. There are several possibilities for conservation strategies of significant landscapes, from public ownership to continued private ownership with special designation, that provides subsidies or other incentives for certain types of management including 'rehabilitation' or allowing change which does not alter historic character (National Register Bulletin 30 addresses this issue of change in the historic landscape). Some work in this area has begun to interface with the idea of 'green tourism' in areas such as Vermont, for example. This issue of 'lived-in landscapes' is a very current concern in the US and will undoubtedly continue to be a challenging area of landscape preservation from identification and evaluation of important areas to management/preservation strategies.

◁ *Schloßpark von Saint-Cloud*