



RESEARCH STRATEGY

DRAFT

circulated for critical feedback

10th June 2014

Background

The production of this draft research strategy represents an important moment for the Landscape Research Group, as part of a wider ongoing effort to enhance the charity's role in advancing research and education, encouraging interest and exchanging information in the field of landscape.

In reviewing the Group's activities and organisational arrangements in 2012, the LRG Board concluded that the Group is financially sound and that a more focused vision would help to ensure the consolidation and gradual expansion of LRG's activity in future years. In May 2013, the Board agreed that a research strategy should form part of this focused vision, giving specific direction to the Group's work to advance landscape research.

Over the last 12 months, members of the Board have worked to develop the strategy. This has involved reflecting on the LRG's charitable purpose and its established concerns and reviewing current priorities in research, policy and practice more widely. In seeking to identify priorities which will guide the Group's future efforts to advance landscape research, the Board has considered a wide range of possibilities. After much deliberation, and considering the LRG's public benefit role, the strategy has come to focus on a clear central message:

the LRG will seek to advance research which will help society to develop responses to the major changes and challenges it faces, in the interests of securing more just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape.

You are invited to give critical feedback on the draft strategy

The LRG Board is now seeking critical feedback on the draft strategy from LRG members. The Group has a membership characterised by a rich diversity of knowledge, understanding, perspective, experience and skills and we wish for the further development of the strategy to benefit from that.

Please send any comments you might have by email or post to:

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The feedback period will run from 15th June to 15th September 2014, after which a final version of the strategy will be produced. The final version will be submitted to the Board for adoption in December 2014 and, subject to adoption, published soon thereafter.

Questions to consider in responding to the draft strategy

1. Do you think it is a good idea for LRG to have a published strategy for advancing landscape research?
2. Do you agree with the main principles and priorities outlined in the Introduction and in Part 1 of the draft strategy?
3. Are there important points of principle that the Landscape Research Group, as a charity engaged in advancing landscape research, should adhere to but which are not already covered in the draft strategy?
4. Are there initiatives or activities which you would like to see the Landscape Research Group developing and which are not already listed under 'measures' in Part 2 of the Strategy?

RESEARCH STRATEGY

DRAFT, 10TH June 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Landscape Research Group (LRG)¹ is a charity which works to advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields. The LRG meets this charitable aim by delivering and supporting particular activities and the purpose of this Strategy is to provide direction for the LRG's work in advancing landscape research, although it also addresses our other three aims – advancing education, encouraging interest and exchanging information – wherever these connect with research.

Interpreting our charitable purpose for the present time requires a definition of landscape and of the kinds of research we wish to advance.

Following the European Landscape Convention, we define landscape as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors' (Article 1a)². This definition reflects a tradition in research, practice and policy which seeks to connect the human and non-human aspects of landscape and to consider landscapes as complex wholes formed through the dynamic interactions and relationships between people, other beings and the physical environment. Landscapes can be perceived and experienced in multiple ways and there are tensions inherent in this. We value discussion, debate and challenge and allow space for difference.

In the present context, the Landscape Research Group's over-arching priority is *to advance research which helps society to develop responses to the major changes and challenges it faces, in the interests of securing more just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape.*

Research informs, supports and catalyses positive responses to the major changes and challenges we face. Challenges arise from historic problems and from emerging and more-or-less predictable changes driven, for instance, by population growth, major economic shifts, large-scale migration and mobility, growth in per capita consumption and Climate Change. The LRG is concerned about embedded and emerging problems including social and cultural dislocation; environmental and social exploitation and instability; and inequity in the distribution of power and of the resources, goods, services and agencies arising from landscape. In seeking to fulfil its public benefit role, the LRG seeks to advance research which can contribute to new ways of thinking about, understanding, governing, managing and developing landscapes and new settlements in the allocation of the goods and benefits arising from landscape.

In working to achieve its charitable purpose, the Landscape Research Group promotes open-minded inquiry; the judicious, informed and evidence-based evaluation of current theory and knowledge, practice and policy; and innovative research-and-development work. We seek to push knowledge, understanding and practice beyond their current state. We foster new and transformative ways of thinking and acting in relation to landscape and our ultimate purpose is to help effect change for an expanding idea of public benefit, in the interests of well-being, social justice and environmental sustainability. We value these things over a production-consumption view of resource economics.

¹ <http://www.landscape-research.org>

² http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp

The LRG is an open and collaborative organisation. We were established in the United Kingdom in 1967 and retain a UK and European bias in our membership and activities, but we have been actively expanding our international presence. While we draw particular inspiration from the European Landscape Convention, we see this Convention as an expression of globally current and relevant concepts and principles³. Landscape is common to diverse disciplines and practices: archaeology and history, anthropology, art, forestry, ecology and geography, philosophy, planning and landscape architecture, open space activism and many more. Membership of the LRG is open to all those with an interest in landscape and the Group is concerned to catalyse exchange and collaboration between researchers, educators, practitioners, administrators, public representatives and citizens.

This Strategy interprets the charitable purpose of the Group in a way which is relevant to the thinking, priorities, problems and challenges of the current time. It provides the Trustees of the Group with a framework for decision-making and for planning the Group's activities. The Strategy is also outward-facing. Our aims are ambitious and we cannot achieve them alone; in presenting our ethos, strategic direction and specific plans here, we are inviting collaboration.

The first part of the Strategy provides a statement of our approach to landscape research and outlines specific fields of interest which we have chosen to prioritise. The second part of the Strategy outlines the specific measures through which we will advance research in these fields. These measures include direct actions (activities undertaken by LRG itself) and indirect actions (funding and support given to others).

This Strategy is a live document which will be subject to periodic review to ensure that it responds to developments and remains relevant to changing circumstances.

PART 1: PRIORITIES

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH: THE LRG'S PERSPECTIVE AND APPROACH

Landscape research has an important role to play in delivering transformational change. It improves our knowledge of the world and our capacity for critical and reflective engagement with that world. It can surprise us, changing the way we think about ourselves and about our relationships with each other, the places we inhabit and the natural environment. Landscape research can generate and crystallise new ideas, philosophies and ethics. It can support and integrate the protection, management and planning of landscapes, informing the development of government and non-governmental policy and delivering practical innovations. Landscape research can translate sustainable development – an aspiration for dialogue, balance and synergy between culture, society, economy and environment and for their integrated development – into action in particular places. Landscape research can develop the ideas and insights, actions and working practices, policies and measures, methods and tools needed to transcend disciplinary, sectorial and public/professional divides in the interests of achieving public benefits in the cultural, social, economic and environmental domains.

The LRG's charitable purpose refers to the 'field of landscape and any related fields' and this phrase is to be interpreted as implying a broad, inclusive and complex definition of landscape, such as that

³ The ELC has been ratified by 38 countries (as of 19 March 2014) and it has much in common with other international statements on landscape, e.g. the Florence Declaration on Landscape, 2012 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/943/>) and UNESCO's definition of 'cultural landscape' (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>), the IUCN definition of Protected Landscape/Seascape (http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_quality/gpap_categories/) and the ESF-COST Science Policy Briefing *Landscape in a Changing World: Bridging Divides, Integrating Disciplines, Serving Society*, 2010 (<http://www.esf.org/?id=8738>).

found in the European Landscape Convention. Landscapes are co-produced, formed of and arising from dynamic relationships and interactions between people, plants, animals and the physical environment. Where landscape was once considered to be an area of land that could be perceived with a single view or experienced through a day's walk, it is now better understood as a field of social, cultural, economic and environmental interactions extending across space and through time.

Adopting a relational understanding of landscape is consistent with the objective of sustainable development. This is defined in the 1987 Brundtland Report as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'⁴ and in the 2005 UN *World Summit Outcome* as the 'integration of . . . economic development, social development and environmental protection – as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars'⁵; to this we would add the fourth pillar of cultural development⁶. In its focus on relationships, interactions and mutual dependency, the 'landscape' concept has much in common with the idea of the 'ecosystem'. However, it is important to recognise a distinction between the two concepts – sometimes subtle, sometimes stark – which lies in the way they handle human relationships with the natural world. People are separate from the ecosystem, standing outside of it, although there is clearly a relationship between culture and nature in this context as society is seen to impact upon the environment or benefit from it (e.g. in the 'ecosystem services' model, where culture is treated as a service provided by the environment). Landscape thinking, on the other hand, sees humans as embedded in landscape, just as geology, flora and fauna are. It recognises human impacts upon and exploitation of the natural world but sees the interaction between culture and nature in more than conflictual terms. Landscape thinking sees our relationships with our world as more than a series of transactions, understood in quantifiable and rational terms. Landscape is also a concept which is more readily applicable across the full range of territories with which people interact, including the urban and peri-urban, the rural and the coastal.

'Landscape' is an integrated and integrative concept and a complex field of enquiry, practice and action. Landscape transcends individual disciplines, yet yields to all interests. It is a topic which benefits from collaboration; a common ground and a site of dialogue; the source of multiple, interconnected experiences, values, challenges and opportunities. The LRG understands the diversity and the dispersed nature of research, recognising that innovative and creative work takes place in the academy, in private practice, in the public and third sectors, and in the process of living the landscape from day-to-day. Good ideas, knowledge, insights, theories and practices can be generated in all of these domains and each can benefit from awareness of and interaction with the others. The LRG seeks to promote dialogue, interaction and collaboration between disciplines and between researchers, practitioners, governing authorities and citizens.

The Landscape Research Group's *Research Strategy* is framed by the understanding that landscapes are complex, interactive and relational entities, and by the resulting conviction that it is necessary to pursue collaborative, integrated and trans-disciplinary approaches to landscape research.

The LRG's *Research Strategy* is also framed by the Group's charitable purpose and status. The research aspect of this purpose is to be met by developing and supporting initiatives which are particularly aligned with the Group's concern to achieve public benefits.

⁴ World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED). *Our common future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987 p. 43

⁵ <http://www.who.int/hiv/universalaccess2010/worldsummit.pdf>

⁶ See COST action SI1007 *Investigating Cultural Sustainability* (<http://www.culturalsustainability.eu/>)

PRIORITY FIELDS

The Landscape Research Group's over-arching priority is *to advance research which helps society to develop responses to the major changes and challenges it faces, in the interests of securing more just and sustainable relationships between people and landscape.*

In order to make progress in relation to this aim, we have adopted a series of specific fields of interest, outlined below. We have reviewed a wide range of possible research priorities⁷ but, in doing this, we have not sought to identify all-encompassing themes. Although the LRG will continue to support work across the broad sweep of landscape research, it is necessary for us to focus our energy and resources on particular problems and questions. We wish to prioritise research relevant to pressing societal challenges with a landscape dimension and research which can contribute to the development of society's responses to these challenges.

The fields outlined below are not neatly bounded, but overlap and connect with each other, approaching common questions and problems from different perspectives. We have defined these fields so as to provide specific direction in relation to our over-arching priority of advancing landscape research, but always in balance with our desire not to needlessly and narrowly restrict the kinds of research we will support. The fields cut across and connect individual disciplinary and sectorial domains; they highlight fundamental problems which need to be addressed; and they emphasise the value of creative thought and the importance of enhanced research capacity and capability in meeting the challenges, responding to the changes and taking up the opportunities before us.

The Landscape Research Group will advance research which addresses the challenge of injustice in landscape contexts

Environmental justice and social justice are well-recognised terms. In order to promote a more integrated approach to issues of social and environmental equity, landscape justice and landscape ethics have emerged as distinct cross-disciplinary areas of research⁸. This development has taken place in parallel with a shift in public discourse and public policy relating to environmental and landscape issues, with a growing emphasis on problems of power, exclusion and inequity in decision-making contexts⁹.

Landscape justice is concerned with matters of fairness relating to landscapes and the distribution of benefits and burdens, goods, services and agencies arising from them: fairness within and across communities, societies and generations and across species. It concerns issues of access and exclusion, ownership and dispossession, connection and disconnection. It concerns decision-making power and disenfranchisement, fairness and lack of fairness in relation to the potential well-being and quality of life benefits deriving from landscape.

⁷ e.g. those identified in the *Lund Declaration* of 2009 (<http://www.vr.se/download/18.7dac901212646d84fd38000336/>); the European Commission's *Horizon 2020* research and innovation funding framework (http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm); the ESF-COST Science Policy Briefing *Landscape in a Changing World* (<http://www.esf.org/?id=8738>) and report on the Forward Look/Frontiers of Science initiative *Responses to Environmental and Societal Challenges for our Unstable Earth (RESCUE)* (http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/rescue.pdf)

⁸ See e.g. Setten, G & Brown, K M 2013 'Landscape and social justice', in Howard, P, Thompson, I & Waterton, E (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge, 243-252; Thompson, I 2013 'Landscape and environmental ethics', in Howard, P, Thompson, I & Waterton, E (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge, 450-460; Dalglish, C 2012 'Archaeology and landscape ethics', *World Archaeology* 44:3, 327-341.

⁹ See e.g. the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (1998); the European Landscape Convention (2000); the UNCED Rio Declaration on Environment & Development (1992)

The challenge is to tackle injustice relating to the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits and burdens, goods, services and agencies arising from landscape.

The LRG will advance research which contributes to the awareness and recognition, documentation, analysis and understanding of landscape-related injustice and to the development of transformative responses to such injustice.

This will include research into the character, conditions and circumstances of injustice which are historically-embedded in the landscape, which are emerging now or which might emerge in the future through changes to society and the environment. It will include research into the circumstances under which injustice is generated and sustained in landscape contexts. It will include research which helps to address injustice by developing conceptual frameworks and principles and by informing, enabling and otherwise contributing to the development and implementation of particular policies, practices and actions. It will include research which contributes to the equitable realisation of people's aspirations for higher quality landscapes and landscape relationships.

The Landscape Research Group will advance research which addresses the challenge of rapid environmental change by developing human responses to change at the landscape level

There is a pressing need to reflect upon human-nature relations, to think them anew and to act to secure more sustainable ways of living in the context of a radically changing environment. Environmental change alters landscapes through its direct effects (e.g. on species, habitat, agricultural management practices) and, indirectly, through our responses to it (e.g. renewable energy development in response to Climate Change).

Landscapes are complex interactions between people and place, between humans, other living things, natural forces and the physical environment – a relational point of view now established across a wide range of disciplines¹⁰ and embedded in international policy¹¹. Understanding this, we see that environmental change requires a 'landscape' response which integrates the consideration of cultural, social, economic and environmental questions, problems and opportunities. Yet environmental change and responses to it are often handled at the global scale or otherwise in abstraction from particular situations and circumstances. There is a need for research which connects environmental change with particular places and particular lives, and for research which moves debate and action beyond single interests or perspectives: involving environmental science but not limited to it; considering energy needs, but not in isolation; moving beyond technological responses to consider integrated cultural-social-economic-environmental development.

The challenge to address is the potential for environmental change to radically transform our landscapes and our lives.

Change is inherent in landscape and the LRG supports an active approach to the promotion of landscape quality, human well-being and environmental sustainability in changing circumstances. The LRG will advance research which identifies and understands the transforming landscape effects of environmental change; recognises and develops the opportunities inherent in change for positive landscape development; and helps to deliver paths to the future which are both environmentally and socially sound.

¹⁰ See e.g. Cassar 2013 'Landscape and ecology: the need for an holistic approach to the conservation of habitats and biota', in Howard, P., Thompson, I & Waterton, E (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge, 395-404; Krauss, W. 2013 'The anthropology of postenvironmental landscapes', in Howard, P., Thompson, I. & Waterton, E. (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge, 76-86; Head, L. 2012 'Cultural landscapes', in Beaudry, M.C. & Hicks, D. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Material Culture Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 427-439; Plumwood, V. 2006. The concept of a cultural landscape: nature, culture and agency in the land. *Ethics & the Environment*, 11(2): 115-150.

¹¹ E.g. the European Landscape Convention (2000); the Florence Declaration on Landscape, 2012; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition of Protected Landscape/Seascape; UNESCO's definition of 'cultural landscape' (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>)

In seeking to advance research which contributes to a 'landscape response' to environmental change, the LRG will favour collaborative approaches which transcend disciplinary and sectorial divides and single interests. We will help to progress the shift from environment- to sustainability-centred thinking and action (linking culture, society, economy and environment). We will support work which articulates the global and the local – the local drivers of environmental change and the way such change manifests and is responded to in particular landscapes, with specific characteristics, constraints, needs, resources, opportunities and capacities. At the present time, we are particularly concerned to advance research relating to biodiversity & landscape and to the human response to Climate Change.

The Landscape Research Group will advance research which addresses the challenges of short-termism and a narrow franchise in the governance and development of landscapes

In working to address injustice and to respond positively to environmental change, it is necessary to consider the ways in which landscapes are governed and developed. Governance issues have come to the fore in recent years as 'participation' in landscape and environmental characterisation, assessment, evaluation, management, planning and decision-making has become a prominent concern in research and practice contexts¹² and in public policy¹³.

This field concerns the questions of who has voice, and of how justice, democracy and citizenship, dialogue, interaction and collaboration are exercised in landscape contexts. We are interested in how advocacy might work across sectors and interests to achieve newly effective decision-making that delivers public benefit. We wish to promote research which helps to strengthen the connections between governance and the ongoing processes of living and developing the landscape. The aim is to achieve a situation where strategies, objectives and decisions are more closely linked to people's lived experiences and the problems, challenges and opportunities they face, and where governance is squarely connected to the creation and sustenance of mutually-beneficial relationships between diverse individuals and social groups, and between people, nature and place.

The challenge to address is disenfranchisement from landscape governance and the connected problem of short-termism in landscape development.

The LRG will advance research which contributes to the realisation of embedded participation, where decision-making, planning and landscape management are closely tied to ongoing processes of public discourse and action in the interests of improving and sustaining well-being and landscape quality over the long-term and for the public benefit.

There exists a substantial body of research and of practice-based case-studies which relate to the principles of participation and to the design and trialling of new participation methods, tools and techniques. Much of this work has treated participation as a narrowly-defined socio-political activity arising from the need to formulate particular plans and take particular decisions: time-limited and often with short-term goals¹⁴. Critical evaluation of historic and current landscape governance and development regimes is needed, including the evaluation of past and present participation measures and their results.

The LRG considers that time-limited, late-stage and short-term actions can disenfranchise people, or at least do little to address real or perceived problems of participation. The LRG will seek to advance

¹² See e.g. Roe, M 2013 'Landscape and participation', in Howard, P, Thompson, I & Waterton, E (eds) *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge, 335-352; Jones, M & Stenseke, M. (eds) 2011 *The European Landscape Convention: Challenges of Participation*. Dordrecht: Springer; Glucker, A N, Driessen, P P J, Kolhoff, A & Runhaar, H A C 2013 'Public participation in environmental impact assessment: why, who and how?', *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 43, 104-111.

¹³ e.g. the *European Landscape Convention* (2000); the *Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society* (2005); the 1998 *Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters*; Principle 10 of the 1992 *UNCED Rio Declaration on Environment & Development*

¹⁴ See Roe 2013 *op. cit.*

research which develops new ways of thinking, practising and acting in relation to the question of 'participation'. We wish to help forge solid links between the socio-political sense of participation (in planning, decision-making, management) and the cultural sense of participation as the ongoing process of living the landscape, where people shape and are shaped by the landscape and their participation in it. In this we recognise that landscapes matter at different scales (they can be valued locally, regionally, nationally, globally) and that people realise their connection with a landscape in different ways (e.g. by working, learning, visiting). The point is to shift attention away from participation as time-limited and narrow process intended to define stable outcomes, and towards participation as a matter of building positive relationships between diverse actors, sustaining those relationships over the longer-term and firmly linking them to the ways in which the landscape is governed and developed¹⁵.

The Landscape Research Group will advance theoretical and creative research which questions conventional modes of thought and develops new ways of thinking concerning landscape

In pursuing a more just and sustainable future, alongside the need to improve and transform our approach to landscape governance and development stands the need to question conventional thinking, and to think creatively and differently both about 'landscape' as a general concept and in terms of our visions for the future(s) of particular landscapes.

The theory of landscape is diverse and has a long history of development in both the East and the West¹⁶. It is characterised not by absolute unity but by the tensions between differing concepts and ideas¹⁷. Whether in research, practice or policy contexts and whether in formal or informal, private or public discourse, landscape is a concept which is bound to a wide range of cultural positions, philosophies and interests. Landscape is a resource to be exploited; heritage to be curated; a natural world worth conserving and supporting as an end in itself; a physical space with quantifiable elements and features or a matter of subjective and qualitative experience; a site of aesthetic encounter and ethical debate and deliberation. Landscape is a contested field.

These issues of theory and philosophy are not divorced from action in the world, but grow from it and, in return, drive and direct it. Think of the significance in discourse, policy and practice of concepts such as 'sustainability', 'eco-system' and 'cultural landscape'. Much landscape research has come to focus on the practical and technical aspects of landscape investigation, assessment, protection, management and planning but, if we are to address the major challenges facing society and capitalise on the cultural, social, economic and environmental potential of our landscapes, we must question the philosophies and ideologies which have contributed to injustice and non-sustainable modes of landscape development, value creative thought, allow ourselves to be surprised and to imagine the yet-to-be-imagined.

The challenge is critically to scrutinise the philosophies which help to generate pressing landscape problems and to promote theoretical and creative responses to such problems, creating the space for in-depth philosophes to emerge.

The LRG will advance research which helps society to realise more just and sustainable landscapes by developing new ways of thinking about 'landscape' and the lives and agencies embedded within landscapes.

We need radical thinking on what we understand 'landscape' to mean – as a concept and as an ethical position – and we need to challenge all those with an interest in a particular landscape to

¹⁵ See e.g. Selman, P 2012 *Sustainable Landscape Planning: the Reconnection Agenda*. London: Routledge; Berque, A 1997 *Japan: Nature, Artifice and Japanese Culture*, Yelvertoft Manor, Pilkington.

¹⁶ See e.g. Howard, P, Thompson, I & Waterton, E (eds) 2013 *The Routledge Companion to Landscape Studies*. London: Routledge.

¹⁷ Wylie, J 2007 *Landscape*. London: Routledge.

question received wisdom and current thinking and to develop ambitious, long-term visions for the landscape's future(s). The LRG will promote approaches to the thinking and re-thinking of landscape which seek to contribute to a more just and sustainable future and which seek to create visions for particular landscapes which are collaborative, participatory and integrated in their outlook.

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

In order to secure advances in the above fields, there is a need to develop the capacity and capability for landscape research.

The LRG will help researchers and others develop the knowledge and understanding, skills and relationships necessary to conceptualise, design and undertake foundational research in our priority fields, to discuss and debate common concerns, to exchange information and knowledge and to translate research into practice through dissemination, application and other forms of action.

In particular, the LRG will prioritise capacity- and capability-building actions which contribute to the development of trans-disciplinary and integrated approaches to research. Such research requires collaboration between disciplines, between sectors and between researchers and the public.

The LRG will also place particular emphasis on the development of early career researchers and practitioners, in terms of their knowledge and understanding, skills and research interactions and relationships. We take a longer-term view and will help to build the future research capacity and capability which will contribute to addressing the major challenges facing society.

PART 2: MEASURES

The Landscape Research Group will advance research in its priority fields through direct actions (undertaken by the LRG itself) and indirect actions (undertaken by others but enabled, supported and promoted by the LRG). The list of actions below includes actions already being undertaken and actions we intend to undertake, subject to capacity and resources. This list is dynamic and will periodically be updated to include new actions which are agreed and come on stream.

Our definition of appropriate actions is broad and includes primary research activities of various kinds, activities which foster and support research and activities which help to ensure that the public benefits of research are realised. The LRG will be pro-active in developing and delivering actions in all of these areas, and it will respond to relevant external requests for support, collaboration and partnership.

Measure	Description
Leadership & Collaboration	
LRG Research Strategy	This Strategy will be maintained, updated, disseminated and promoted, in order to direct LRG's own work as a charity and as a contribution to wider debate concerning directions in landscape research.
LRG Strategic Research Fund	The LRG has allocated funds to support innovative projects which align with this Strategy, especially projects which will stand as exemplars of the kind of innovative research and practice which is needed in our priority fields.
Direct collaboration in research	The LRG is a partner in the EU-funded <i>HERCULES</i> project (www.hercules-landscapes.eu), with specific responsibilities relating to awareness raising, communication, stakeholder dialogue and dissemination of the research results. This project will run until 2016. Direct involvement in a major research project after a hiatus in such activity of several decades represents an important development for the LRG and the Group will seek other such collaborations in future.
Research networks	<p>The LRG has in the past provided developmental assistance for landscape research networks (e.g. in the Nordic countries and in Germany) and remains interested in assisting others to develop networks and organisations with aims similar to our own.</p> <p>The LRG also participates in networks. For example, the Group is an official observer at the meetings of the Council of Europe devoted to the European Landscape Convention and at the meetings of UNISCAPE, a network of universities in support of the implementation of the ELC. The LRG also sends representatives to the meetings of CIVILSCAPE (a network of NGOs relating to the implementation of the ELC).</p> <p>The Group will continue to participate in formal and informal networks in order to promote and advance the concerns outlined in this Strategy, and will seek to develop new partnerships with other bodies and interest groups with similar aims.</p>
Research advocacy	The LRG will seek to advocate the concerns of this Strategy to researchers, practitioners, administrators and policy-makers, and research funders.
Communication & Dialogue	
<i>Landscape Research</i> journal	The LRG's established and highly-rated journal <i>Landscape Research</i> will remain a central plank of our research dissemination strategy. The journal will expand from 6 to 8 issues per year from 2015 onwards. The content will continue to reflect the diversity of excellent landscape research and the journal will continue to accept unsolicited submissions by authors. Beyond that, the LRG welcomes submissions relating to the specific priorities and concerns outlined in this Strategy and will also pro-actively develop journal content relating to these themes, in the form of special issues of the journal and commissioned papers.
<i>Landscape Research Extra</i>	The LRG newsletter <i>Landscape Research Extra</i> will continue to act as a means of communication between LRG members and will remain publicly available on the LRG website. LRE will carry updates concerning this Strategy and we will also seek to encourage use of the newsletter for discussion and debate relating to our priority research fields.
LRG Digital Newsletter	The LRG intends to establish a digital newsletter for communication to a wide audience of academics, practitioners and students, with information on events, calls for papers, new projects, calls for project proposals and recent publications.

LRG Website	The LRG website (www.landscaperesearch.org) provides an on-line platform for dissemination and communication. An up-to-date version of this Strategy will be available there and the website will continue to provide information concerning key measures and actions being undertaken.
New publications	In addition to its academic publications, the LRG has from time to time commented upon, endorsed, supported and authored or co-authored policy-focused publications (e.g. <i>Blueprint for Euroscape 2020</i> , http://www.landscaperesearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Blueprint-for-Euroscape2020-copy.pdf). Building on this tradition, and its concern for research-practice and research-public interactions, the LRG Board is currently considering the case for developing new publication initiatives which will complement <i>Landscape Research</i> and <i>Landscape Research Extra</i> . The focus here is on publications which disseminate cutting-edge landscape research to non-academic constituencies and help to translate research into policy and practice.
LRG Network of International Correspondents	The LRG is setting up a network of international correspondents to develop exchange information about landscape research as it is developing across the globe and to provide opportunities for collaboration on international conferences and other activities. North America has been identified as a particular focus for effort at this point in time.
LRG Annual Lecture	The LRG annual lecture was established in 2011 and normally takes place in December. Through this event, LRG highlights particular themes and questions by inviting a recognised speaker to consider them in some depth. The lectures are recorded and made widely available through the LRG website. The LRG intends to devote a significant proportion of its future annual lectures to themes prioritised in this Strategy.
LRG International Conference	The LRG intends to establish an annual or biennial LRG International Conference. The first conference will be in 2015 in Dresden, Germany, and will directly address issues raised by this Strategy through discussion of the theme of <i>Energy Landscapes: Perception, Planning, Participation and Power</i> . A second conference will be delivered in 2017, the 50 th anniversary year of the LRG.
Event funding & organisation	The LRG organises and funds research workshops, symposia and conferences and will continue to act in this role. The LRG has allocated significant funds to support LRG-organised events and events organised by others as well. The intention is to devote a significant proportion of our annual events programme to the promotion of the concerns highlighted by this Strategy and to advancing research in our priority fields.
Capacity & Capability	
LRG Student Awards	The LRG awards annual prizes for undergraduate and postgraduate dissertations and theses, and will continue to do so. These awards are a means of recognising excellent work from emerging landscape researchers and practitioners across a wide range of disciplines. We will, in particular, seek to recognise work in integrated and trans-disciplinary research and practice which links to our priority fields, outlined in this Strategy.
Early career events and networks	The LRG has, in the past, sponsored student-led events and is interested in supporting events and networks led by students, early career researchers and early career practitioners where those events and networks connect with LRG's own aims.
LRG membership	The LRG is seeking the increasing involvement of postgraduate students, early career researchers and early career practitioners as active members of the Group. Amongst other things, the intention here is for those at the beginning of their landscape research and practice careers to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and professional relationships through their active membership of the LRG.