Read now an explanation from those who know……

"Phytophthora ramorum (P. ramorum) is a fungus-like pathogen of plants that is causing extensive damage and mortality to trees and other plants in parts of the United Kingdom". (I am quoting now from the Forestry Commission website). “It has also been found in a number of European countries, but mostly on plants and shrubs, especially rhododendron, viburnum and camellia, and has caused significant damage and mortality to many trees and other plants in parts of the USA. However, few trees in the UK were affected until 2009, when P. ramorum was found infecting and killing large numbers of Japanese larch trees in South West England. Then in 2010 it was found on Japanese larches in Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and in 2011 it was confirmed at locations in western Scotland. This sudden change in the pathogen’s behaviour was the first time in the world that P. ramorum had infected and spomulated (reproduced) on large numbers of a commercially important conifer tree species. It was also an unexpected setback to efforts to tackle ramorum disease. We (the Forestry Commission) and our partners have moved quickly to respond to this development. Full details about the pathogen and what’s being done to research it, minimise its impact, and support affected woodland owners are available at the links on this page. The end of season report on the P. ramorum management programme during 2011 is now available. As is an update report. The Forestry Commission have published a one-stop-shop ‘update report’ in accessible language summarising all aspects of the P. ramorum outbreak in larch. It summarises a range of topics including the current scientific knowledge, symptoms and treatment, its impact on the timber market, and advice and assistance to woodland owners’.

Note
I am grateful to the Forestry Commission website for this explanation. My first instinct as I looked this up was to read about it in Nature but found that this would have cost me $18!

THE LAWNS
by Philip Pacey

After leaving Southampton, the train from London to Christchurch and beyond, wends its way through the New Forest, stopping at Brockenhurst and, rarely, at Beaulieu Road, a station, a handful of cottages and a hotel surrounded by heath, exposed on all sides, in the middle of nowhere. The heath doesn’t quite reach the horizon; this vast open space is — distinctly — enclosed; the train emerges from woodland and, after crossing the heath, is reclaimed by woodland, immersing its passengers once again in the depths of the forest, running through patches of dreary, regimented plantation but also, exquisitely, allowing glimpses of lawns, sunlit glades where cropped grass grows beneath the trees where, or so it seems to me, grass shouldn’t be able to grow — where it should by rights be underbrushed, suffocated by shade and fallen leaves and whatever plants succeed on the forest floor. This forest floor is a carpet, kept trim by the constant grazing of ponies and cattle, not natural but a by-product of forest management over hundreds of years, but, to my eyes, utterly magical.

The Lawns, for so they are called, are scenes from a mythic, pastoral landscape which nymphs and shepherds have only just left and to which they may return at any moment.

‘The fairies break their dances/ and leave the printed lawns?’ wrote Housman, not of this landscape but of somewhere equally enchanted.

After leaving Southampton, the train disappear into the distance, taking (as it seemed) civilisation with it, leaving us without concealment, alone under the sky in a silence embroidered by birdsong. Here, as I had known there would be, there was at least a hotel.

After partaking of some local ale, I set out across the open moor, on a path of white sand. I soon found myself under the trees, amid a silence broken only by occasional trains and aircraft high overhead, the mocking laugh of the green woodpecker, and a deer crashing through bracken. If I had hoped to see birds I would have been disappointed; what I did see were butterflies in abundance, including Silver-washed Fritillaries. So much larger than most British butterflies as to seem even larger than they actually are. At close quarters I witnessed the green sward growing under the trees (oaks and birches), sur-
The running order of papers given was:

**Landscape and heritage: the parallel lines of emerging landscapes of heritage (David Harvey)**

**Heritage and geography: national content of Finnish geographical landscape imagism (Hannu Linkola)**

**Romolslia as a landscape of heritage, with Iain Setten and Hilde Nymoen Rørtveit**

**Heritage and suburbia, as rural contexts (Divya Tolia-Kelly)**

**A special place: a study of signage and the representation of indigenous history in Australian protected areas (Annie Clarke and Emma Waterton).**

**Signs of a Distant Past: interpretive signages and the representation of indigenous history (Gunhild Robertson).**

From the outset, the session’s ambition was to showcase the growing interest in both ‘heritage’ and ‘landscape’ as categories of scholarship, identity, experience and performance, as well as for purposes of entitlement, commerce and policy engagement. For us, the two concepts have always seemed to fit nicely together, tagged as being cultural and natural; tangible and intangible; personal, collective and especially ‘national’. The session, then, was an attempt to provoke international and interdisciplinary discussion and conversation between those working within the realms of landscape and heritage studies, and explore the tensions and opportunities that exist with the pairing of these most slippery of terms. When putting the session together, we hoped to include papers that covered the range, intensity and quality of the relationships between landscape and heritage, with each paper providing explorations of the elements of, and linkages between, the production, consumption and circulation of heritage landscapes within a variety of contexts. We were not disappointed. Indeed, the papers presented collectively canvassed an array of relationships, including those occurring in the city and suburbia, as well as rural contexts.

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THE final paper of the session was offered by Annie Clarke and Emma Waterton and their examination of how indigenous cultures and their connections to country are presented to the public in protected areas. For this, Annie and Emma drew upon the lenses of public in protected areas. For this, Anifer and Emma were astonished to find very old yew trees (usually called venerable or ancient but let’s say v. old) their bases entrenched in masonry. We have visited scores of churches over the years but this landscape architectural detail is new to us.

BY / RY

YEW TREES IN VASES

Bampton, Devon is a surprisingly attractive small town once famous for a huge sheep market. Surprising as we have never been there! It lies in steep land at a site on the River Batherm just north of its confluence with the River Exe. Its on the south side of Exmoor.

A good high street, in one building some exceptionally interesting masonry, geologically that is — is this a radiolunar chert of the lower Culm — a one time station, a wonderful archaic latrine at the bridge flushed by a river offake — a gushing leach which is the river. The churchyard stands on a low hill right in among the town and there we were astonished to find very old yew trees (usualle called venerable or ancient but let’s say v. old) their bases entrenched in masonry. We have visited scores of churches over the years but this landscape architectural detail is new to us.

HOW TO BECOME A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

PART TWO

By Owen Manning

I ended the first part of my stroll into the landscape profession around 1968 with lessons learnt from charmingly eccentric Frank Clarke and Laurie Fricker in Edinburgh to question everything, to work things out for oneself and to start from a belief that ordinary people mattered. Reinforced by the writing of Jane Jacobs and Nan Fairbrother, this was a golden thread to weave into my perceptions of what landscape design was all about. Meanwhile Scotland itself was opening my eyes to still more.......

It already had done shortly before, during three months on a volunteer project which took me to far north-west Sutherland. I did such things previously: laying out water supply for an Austrian village, fencing and sheepfeder on Fair Isle, and other worthwhile activities, in situations ten times new to someone of my own background. Sutherland, however, was a more profound experience altogether.

Alighting at Lairg railway from my first ever journey to the ‘Real North’, I cycled (how else?) the sixty narrow miles to Durness in a state of lonely exhilaration through a landscape of growing scale and wildness, in which I found experience altogether. Meanwhile Scotland itself was opening my eyes to still more.......

Sutherland, however, was a more profound experience altogether.

The lack of focal points for the new community became tragically evident. The two opposite tendencies only produced a jumble: industry, finding housing established, followed in the hope of recruiting local labour, while unrelated trading estates, or ‘parks’ of industry on the one hand, and isolated factories on the other hand, largely abandoning the traditional industrial sitings, wallowed in the sea of suburban housing.

The relationship between housing and industry was almost entirely ignored. Huge schemes of decentralised dwellings were carried out by local authorities, and vast housing estates were created by private enterprise, while unrelated trading estates, or ‘parks’ of industry on the one hand, and isolated factories on the other, largely abandoning the traditional industrial sitings, wallowed in the sea of suburban housing.

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My role this time was to assess landscape character across a vast area for a regional planning study by another unusual partnership, this time of Gillespie and John Prebelski, thatgrim expertise on Scottish history, The Clearances. Now I knew what to look for, and found the evidence of it in every strath and glen throughout the country; a land neglected because deliberately depopulated, and kept so by human action. Communities had suffered in those now-emptied wastelands, and surely could again in favoured locations; trees had clothed those eroding hills, and certainly could again – but not only by afforestation: just remove the sheep! Native shrubs and trees were surviving, even flourishing, wherever sheep could not safely graze.

I attempted a scheme of landscape evaluation across Sutherland based on my own insights of topography, scale, wildness, human impact and potential for people and nature: well understood though somewhat arbitrary. What I nonetheless missed and have regretted ever since was the possible impact of creeping afforestation in one unique part of Sutherland: the vast lonely mountain-rimmed peat lands of its centre, the Flows Country. Only now, by a sad irony, is this precious landscape being clawed back, inch by expensive inch, as rural. As students we had glimpsed awareness of urban degradation as well of nature, and of our relations with it. My role this time was to assess landscape changes through renewable energies, which is driven by the ‘energiewende’ in Germany. By way of explanation, the German Government passed a law in 2011 to phase out nuclear power by 2022 and ambitious targets for the replacement of nuclear energy with renewable energy have been set. In the UK there is no requirement to meet MW or GW (mega or giga watt) targets, but there is a need to meet the EU Renewables Directive which sets the UK the obligation to produce 15% of its energy requirements from electricity, heat and transport from renewable sources by 2020.

The discussions focused on exploring some of the reasons for resistance amongst citizens against landscape changes brought about by renewable energy, primarily wind turbines but also biomass crops such as maize. Baerbel Francis gave a presentation introducing a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Onshore Wind Energy & Field-Scale Photovoltaic Development that had been undertaken by consultants for the District Council she works for. The study was carried out in order to help understand how best to accommodate wind and solar electricity generation installations in the landscape. Apart from further insights into the everyday practice and academic research, a challenging observation has to be made: The results of research suggest that e.g. slowing down the speed of landscape changes, participation at early stages as well as awareness of emotional aspects are crucial for constructive planning of landscapes. In everyday practice, however, partly due to constantly changing policy frameworks, considering and implementing these very aspects is often rendered impossible.

The event was also intended to discuss the future of the German language network of landscape researchers, an initiative founded in Hanover in May 2011 that aims to connect landscape researchers and practitioners in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Bulgaria, an initiative that in Edinburgh was so far limited in most cases to talking about a possible replacement of nuclear energy with renewable energy. It was decided that the work under the name “Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung” (Working Group Landscape Research, see http://www.landschaftsforschung.de) for the time being the network to publish the papers delivered in Erkner; to hold annual seminars (the next one will take place in Rottenburg in Baden-Württemberg in autumn 2013) and to inform its members about on-going events, publications etc. via an e-mail newsletter. The German initiative is interested in developing and deepening its contact with LRG and it was therefore agreed that Vera Vicenzotti could act as a contact person for the time being.

The seminar at Erkner was a successful inaugural event for the German language network, and we are sure that both, the Arbeitskreis Landschaftsforschung as well as LRG, will profit immensely from future cooperation: new energy for landscape research!

The seminar entitled “New energy — new energy landscapes — new perspectives of landscape research?” was held at the IRS in Erkner near Berlin, Germany. The event was financially supported by LRG, and two LRG members, Baerbel Francis and Vera Vicenzotti, attended the event. Around 30 academics and practitioners came together to discuss the challenges that arise from the landscape changes through renewable energies, which is driven by the ‘energiewende’ in Germany. By way of explanation, the German Government passed a law in 2011 to phase out nuclear power by 2022 and ambitious targets for the replacement of nuclear energy with renewable energy have been set. In the UK there is no requirement to meet MW or GW (mega or giga watt) targets, but there is a need to meet the EU Renewables Directive which sets the UK the obligation to produce 15% of its energy requirements from electricity, heat and transport from renewable sources by 2020.

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across the Olympic site. The archive film extends to the full area of the Olympic regeneration and in 1971 shows a series of run down landscapes developed piecemeal.

**Notes**

*Airphoto copyright of the Ordnance Survey. The vertical airphoto is identified as frame OS/71.71.51. Taken in 1971.*


**Take a backseat…..**

Eleanor Young, Editor of *RIBA Journal* in LRE 38 Feb 2006. “Blowdown and Loss of the Familiar” refers to the Olympic site in this way.

“The problem of speed is exacerbated by modern computer generation that allows this [visualisation] even on projects that will take years to complete. Walking through the scrubland and playing fields of the Lea Valley in East London it is all too easy to visualise animations of Olympic development sweeping across the landscape with gleaming stadia and happy people. But the mourning for what will soon be lost has already begun”.

**Soundscape**

SounScapes: Careggi Landscape seminar Florence 14th June 2012

“Soundscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of both the environmental sounds and the interacting organisms. These contribute the characteristic of the soundscape of a geographical context, how organisms perceive the acoustic configuration of the landscapes and the effects of anthropogenic acoustic disturbance across scales. Professor Almo Farina 2012

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Soundscape can be defined as the acoustic property of every landscape according to a species' specific perception and is the result of features and dynamics which may be physical (geophones), biological (biophones) and human (anthrophones). Soundscape is an important component of the terrestrial and aquatic environment especially from a human perspective, but it represents also an indispensable informative and communicative medium for every vocal animal. When lost or degraded it reduces the quality of a landscape and impacts on human well-being and more widely — that is on the biological activities of several organisms. Arguably the well-being of the people, the local community may be the most important reason for evaluating soundscapes. Landscapes, we would say, should be lived and valued in a multisensory way.

**The first step in raising soundscape awareness is to improve listening skills. This can be achieved by a series of activities eg soundwalks, sound recognition exercises etc. Sounds are perceived not only on a perceptive level but also on an emotional level thus informed sound-making and sound-art is relevant to enhancing awareness.**

Modern human societies have strongly impacted on soundscapes, especially in urbanized areas, reducing the acoustic quality and functions of the surroundings. Noise pollution in urban areas is a problem for the health of millions of people at every latitude; huge sound generating cities are mushrooming around the World. Sound comes from traffic on land and in the airspace, ventilation systems and industrial processes. At an important lesser level, but affecting rural tranquility and the appreciation of beauty, soundscape quality is an important aspect not only in natural areas but also in ‘identified- as-cultural’ landscapes.

Surveys on a multidisciplinary basis among inhabitants and visitors are crucial to define the perceived values of the landscape, and the measure to which these characterize specific landscapes. ‘Sound-marks’ (including local dialects) may be defined just as well as landmarks. Soundscapes are by definition dynamic, and more characterized by rhythm (day-night, season) than by continuity. Within such surveys we agree that narratives describing typical landscapes and associated soundscapes are more powerful than maps.

**Soundscape is a focal point for many scholars (e.g. acousticians, bio-acousticians, engineers, planners, artists, philosophers etc.) and we would recommend a permanent universal forum to disseminate ideas, research projects, and management.**

Those involved

Anna Marson Minister for Spatial Planning and Territory, Tuscany Region podium photo left; Bas Pedrol, University of Wagonin, Director UNISCAPE podium photo right; with presentations by: the coordinator of the seminar Almo Farina (Urbino University); Nadia Piretti (Urbino University); Henrik Brumm (Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Seewiesen) second photo; David Monacchi (Pescara Music Conservatory) third photo; Luigi Malfeti (Seconda Universita di Napoli); Antonella Radicesci (Tempo Reale, Firenze) top photo.

[For a more detailed point by point account of this seminar will be published on the Careggi website; third Careggi Seminar]

**LANDSCAPE EUROPE**

is an interdisciplinary network of national research institutes with expertise in landscape assessment, planning and management at the interface of policy implementation, education and state-of-the-art science in support of sustainable landscapes

www.landscape-europe.net is a must to those who wish to inform themselves on all the recent and anticipated events and significant publications.

Left, in the absence of Crista Ermiya, with the unenviable job of translating LR Abstracts into ‘plainspeak’ for my readers I was at first irritated to read Ian Thompson’s opening page on Landscape Urbanism (Third biennial LR 37/1). I sought a definition but none emerged. Flipping to the end I then read something entirely to my liking, so much so that I have now read the whole paper — interesting. It went something like this:

“The purpose of this paper was to raise questions rather than to answer them. The fact that after a decade of scholarly and professional discussion, a high profile review such as Topos thinks that it is worth devoting an issue to Landscape Urbanism, shows that it is more than a fad. Nor is it just landscape architecture under a different guise, though it draws upon many shared historical precedents, including Haussmann’s boulevards, Olmsted’s connected park systems and Ebenezer Howard’s Garden Cities. Waldheim is surely right when he says that its discourse is now being absorbed into the global discussion about the future of cities, but, at the same time, the series of questions raised above indicates contractual, theoretical shortcomings and practical lacunae which participants in the discourse could usefully address. Waldheim is also honest enough to acknowledge that, even after
a decade, the “urban form promised by landscape urbanism has not yet arrived” (Walheim, 2010, p. 24). At the time of writing, Landscape Urbanism is on the verge of transforming itself into Ecological Urbanism, indeed a conference on that theme was held at Harvard in 2009, out of which a publication has already emerged (Mostafavi & Doherty, 2010). Whether the environmental design professions are ready for a newism before the old one has been adequately digested is moot. Nevertheless, there are ideas within the Landscape Urbanism discourse which have great merit, among which I would include the breaking down of professional distinctions, the integration of ecological thinking, the foregrounding of infra-structure, the interest in the positive use of waste materials and the emphasis upon functionality rather than mere appearance.”

There follow observations which I relished:

“There is also a quantity of dubious philosophy, unhelpful imagery and obscurantist language that Landscape Urbanism ought to dump. The attack on the rural-urban binary is misguided, and in any case doomed to failure beyond the academy because of the persistence of ordinary ways of talking. Larding the case for Landscape Urbanism with Deleuzian and Derridean references was a mistake, since it was done principally to impress an academic elite, and it has even left large sections of its intended audience bemused. Couched in such language, Landscape Urbanism (or its successors) has little prospect of conveying its better ideas to a larger public, including politicians, activists, professionals and citizens. However, if Ecological Urbanism can develop a critique of Landscape Urbanism, resolving some of its inherent contradictions, and can pay more attention to the social and political realities of city conditions, giving more voice to citizens and finding ways to involve them in the creation of new imaginaries which are surely needed, then it deserves a cautious welcome.”

Editor

DISTANT LANDSCAPES: PATTERNS BECOME PLACES

Those who have perched out of their jet liner as they crossed Siberia will have felt appalled at the enormity of the terrain. From that height (33 000ft) it is barely possible to see small settlements. Patterns begin to substitute for places, conjointed straight lines may indicate roads or railroads locating a town but all detail is lost. I travelled some years ago to China and as an airphoto interpreter found myself short of answers.

Some of the terrain patterns are weird and unearthly. The pattern of ice lakes or frozen rivers in central Siberia and their whitened shores looked as much like the stained microscope slide of Kesseler’s disease as a part of Planet Earth. Those landscapes drifted in and out of my view-consciousness as covered by haze and cloud or distorted by the heat of the jet’s turbine gases; they fished short and were then no more. Are these frozen lakes with white shores — or is that salt? Is it hot down there? I see a darkness and say it is forest, but is it the dark edge of a clouded landscape. Not enough corroborating evidence. I believe that I am seeing mountains because ‘I see snow’. I look for a snow line to confirm one way or the other. I look for the hospitable valley — a pattern of fields — but nothing. For half the width of a mountain chain there is desolation. In this remoteness and to this poorly bred observer built land suggests raw industry, mining, forestry, nuclear plants, there is nothing of humanity. I need to see something I recognise but nothing comes.”

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A new take on this today (it is some years since my flight to China) As I browse in Google Earth. ‘By’ between London and Beijing. Half an hour before I need to work? — then ‘Where to today?’ Go where your eye leads you. So I rotate the World. Today Siberia! Here are landscapes unimaginable! They are way more startling than the Canadian muskeg and great wilderness lands embedded blandly and casually in my school geography.

Landscape Research? Mmmm. The Landscape Research Group? Are we in ‘landscape studies’ missing something. Have we consigned real landscapes to geography? Are we perhaps — and I must murmur this very gently but with irony — ‘missing the wider picture’. Examine the landscapes here. Get into them. Imagine that you make films; or that you are a prospector, an explorer, a ‘resource mapper’ (my one picture profession). One just out of frame river is wider than the Amazon.