



Landscape Research Group Ltd

Directors' Report, 2006

Landscape Research Group Ltd:
a company limited by guarantee (Registered No: 01714386) and registered charity
(Registered No: 287160)

8 September, 2007

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH GROUP LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT, 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

The Directors are pleased to present their Report and enclose Accounts for the twenty-fourth period of business of Landscape Research Group Limited, from 1st January to 31st December 2006. The company (referred to below as "the Group" or "LRG") was incorporated on 12th April 1983 as a company limited by guarantee (registered number 1714386). The objects for which the Group is established are:

"to advance education and research, encourage interest and exchange information for the public benefit in the field of landscape and any related fields".

The Group is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission (number 287160). It is also recognised as a Charity by the Inland Revenue for taxation purposes.

2. DIRECTORS, BANKERS, AUDITORS AND SECRETARY

Directors who served during the year were:

Dr G. Revill	(Chair)
Dr C. Brace	(Vice Chair; and Deputy Editor)
Dr S. Shuttleworth	(Company Secretary; and Treasurer)
Dr I.H. Thompson	(Editor)
Dr M. Roe	(Deputy Editor)
Mr R.N. Young	(Editor, <i>Landscape Research Extra</i>)
Prof. P.J. Howard	(International Officer)
Prof. K.R. Olwig	(Associate Overseas Editor) [from 20 September 2006]
Prof. K Taylor	(Associate Overseas Editor) [from 31 December 2006]
Dr T. Collins	[from 1 April 2006]
Mr J. Gittins	
Prof. B. Goodey	
Dr R. Hughes	[to 20 September 2006]
Dr D. Matless	
Dr M. Miles	
Dr A. Noussia	
Prof. E.C. Penning-Rowse	[to 20 September 2006]
Mr G. Roberts	
Prof. P.H. Selman	
Dr S. Seymour	
Ms N.H. Stedman	
Mr P. Tabbush	

All Directors are British, except Dr Noussia who holds Greek citizenship, Prof. Olwig and Dr Collins who hold United States citizenship, and Prof. Taylor who holds Australian citizenship.

Bankers are: Lloyds Bank plc, 34 Moorgate, London EC2R 6PL.

Reporting Accountants are: Hepburn and Co, 89A The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1QE.

The Company Secretary is: Dr Steven Shuttleworth, 4 Gwyns Piece, Lambourn, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 8YZ.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP: INTRODUCTION

The past year has been a very important one for the Group. During 2006 the Board has made a number of key decisions which set a clear basis for an expansion of future activity, based on strong financial foundations. As part of these decisions, the Board agreed at its meeting on 20 September 2006 to re-organise its activities by re-casting the role of two existing committees and setting up a new one (being the last of the three named below), each with a clear remit and working to a devolved budget:

- Executive Committee;
- Editorial Committee; and
- Research & Networking Activities Committee.

This (and future) Directors' Reports are set out to report on the work of each committee.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(i) Role of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the Group, except insofar as they are delegated to other committees; for coordinating the work of all committees; and for formulating and recommending on all issues of strategy and policy to the Board. It is empowered to make all decisions and take necessary actions to this end on behalf of the Group within the budget that is set by the Board, subject to the constraint that any proposals that have contractual or legal implications for the Group, and/or financial implications beyond the agreed budget, are required to be approved by the Board.

The Committee comprises the Officers of the Group, namely the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary, Editor of *Landscape Research* (ie the Chair of the Editorial Committee) and the Chair of the Research & Networking Activities Committee.

The Committee's Chair is the Chair of the Board, George Revill.

(ii) Key decisions about the Group's Future Business Strategy

The key purpose of the reviews undertaken by the Board was to identify how best to expand activity to ensure a proper use of the Group's funds to help promote its overall charitable objectives. Expanding activity is made possible by the context of a stable financial reserve and good prospects for increased income from the Taylor & Francis Publishing Agreement – particularly if the frequency of publication of *Landscape Research* was increased.

The Board, with advice from the Executive Committee, therefore considered a number of inter-related issues before agreeing (in September 2006) the following as the basis for future work:

- The Group's financial reserve is substantial enough to give the Group a secure 'emergency fund' and is unlikely to need increasing (by deliberately budgeting for a surplus of income over expenditure).

- There is a clear potential to expand the frequency of *Landscape Research* initially to five issues per annum, and within two or three years to six issues. Taylor and Francis Ltd consider this to be sensible in commercial terms and were keen to negotiate a revised and long-term successor to the current Publishing Agreement. The Board recognised that successfully negotiating an agreement with improved financial terms would provide a sound basis for expanding other activity as well as expanding the journal.
- On this basis it should be possible to plan for an expansion of activity financed from an increasing income, on the basis that the Group should aim for a broad balance of income and expenditure each year.
- To achieve this expansion of activity depends on the Board reinvigorating its efforts to ensure all Directors have an active role in promoting activity, and in particular:
 - the capacity of the Editorial Committee needs to be increased to enable expansion of the journal to five issues from January 2007, especially to:
 - (i) provide more support to the editorial team based at Newcastle and Exeter (Falmouth) Universities, and especially to formalise support arrangements from the former;
 - (ii) secure more overseas material (specifically from Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific regions), by appointing Associate Overseas Editors to take forward this objective; and
 - (iii) provide 'non-executive' capacity, to take forward strategic issues related to the future of the journal, for example planning how to further expand the journal to six issues or succession planning for a new editorial team.
 - a new Research & Networking Committee needs to be established to plan and implement an expanded programme of activity, especially to:
 - (i) be responsible for all activity of the Group other than *Landscape Research*, ie including (but not confined to) *Landscape Research Extra*, events (eg research seminars, sponsorship of conferences etc), website activity, international activity; and the Student Prizes scheme;
 - (ii) formulate and recommend on related issues of strategy and policy to the Board via the Executive Committee, and in particular to identify what activities would most successfully meet the Group's objectives *and* be capable of delivery; and
 - (iii) develop and implement a programme of activity to achieve the agreed strategy, making full use of the budgets available (ie the balance of income over expenditure after allowing for the needs of the Executive and Editorial Committees) – which the Board envisages steadily increasing over time.

Following these decisions the Board and Executive Committee agreed a budget strategy for the period 2007 to 2009, which will be rolled forward each year; has negotiated and agreed a new seven-year Publishing Agreement with Taylor and Francis which will result in significantly improved income to the Group; and negotiated and agreed a contract for support to the editorial team with Newcastle University. The Board has also appointed two Associate Overseas Editors, and ensured they have financial support for their work.

As noted in last year's Report, the Board recognises that there are strong links between the different focuses of activity now to be the responsibility of the Editorial and the Research & Networking Activities Committees. It is keen to enable landscape research to be made more easily available to the wider community of landscape researchers by linking events, the activities of associated international networks, and the content of both *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Research Extra*

to directly reflect the Group's growing level of involvement in international contacts and events. The Chairs of the two committees are therefore required to manage their work to maximise impact in this regard.

5. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

(i) Role of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for producing *Landscape Research* on behalf of the Board, and ensuring the journal maintains standards appropriate to a respected international academic journal; and for formulating and recommending on related issues of strategy and policy to the Board via the Executive Committee. It is empowered to make all decisions and take necessary actions to this end on behalf of the Group within the budget that is set by the Board, subject to the following constraints:

- the content of the journal shall at all times seek to further the Group's charitable objectives;
- any editorial policy or objectives the Committee proposes to set itself shall be agreed by the Board; and
- any proposals that have contractual or legal implications for the Group, and/or financial implications beyond the agreed budget, are required to be approved by the Board.

The Committee comprises the Editor, Deputy Editor(s) and any overseas Associate Editor(s) of *Landscape Research*; two other Board members not directly involved in *Landscape Research* production, responsible for ensuring that the editorial approach to the journal meets the Group's wider charitable objectives; and on an *ex officio* basis the Chair and Treasurer of the Group. The Committee is also empowered to co-opt up to two additional members from the Board as it sees fit, to add to the breadth of its expertise, and a representative(s) from Taylor & Francis Ltd.

The Chair of the Committee is the Editor of *Landscape Research* – during 2006, Ian Thompson.

(ii) *Landscape Research*

The key responsibility of the Committee (and a major focus for the Board as a whole) continues to relate to maintaining *Landscape Research* as a respected international journal, and ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Publishing Agreement with Taylor & Francis Ltd. The extension of the Agreement on improved terms for the Group is a measure of the success on these responsibilities.

A related focus of effort has been to achieve citation index status for *Landscape Research*. As noted in last year's Report, the Board has recognised this as an important and urgent objective in terms of ensuring the journal maintains its academic standing. The Board is pleased to report that these efforts have borne fruit in 2006, with the journal now cited in several abstracts and indexes.

Four issues of the journal (comprising Volume 31) were published during the year. The contents were as follows:

- (i) The **January** issue contained five varied papers covering landscape issues in Europe. They include a paper assessing landscape and nature conservation issues affecting Norwegian national parks; a study of the complexities affecting urban fringe landscapes, in Malmo, Sweden; a review of the history of English country parks; a study of the landscape and outdoor physical factors affecting childhood development and quality play at child-care centres; and a study of the uses and benefits of new IT technologies in German landscape planning. The issue also included various book reviews.

- (ii) The **April** issue contained four papers on the theme of “Water and Landscape” which were originally presented at the annual conference of the International Committee for the History of Technology in Bochum, Germany in August 2004. The papers are supported by an editorial which draws together the themes emerging from the conference. The papers examined the impact on the landscape of Wales of water engineering schemes in the period 1870 to 1960; the conflicts between heavily engineered and urbanised flood control designs with modern ecological approaches to river management, using the case study of the Los Angeles River in California; an assessment of British and French colonial approaches to irrigation in Africa, and their impact on the landscape, using case studies from Algeria, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia; and a study of the impact of water resource development in shaping the landscape of Victoria, Australia. The issue also included various book reviews.
- (iii) The **July** issue contained six papers on varied topics: a study of perceptions of Antarctic tourism, as part of a wider study investigating the nature and meanings of Antarctic heritage; the importance of the landscape components of *irim* and *kesik* in Anatolia, Turkey; a literature review of key concepts used in analysing visual landscape character, and the development of a framework for landscape assessment; a study of the way people value their landscape, in particular trees and forests, based on case studies in Vermont, USA; research into the development of landscape change models, based on analyses in Michigan, USA; and a study of the nature of ‘virtuous change’ in cultural landscapes, and how this might best be modelled. The issue also included a short communication about the new landscapes of gated communities, based on a case study in the Sovereign Islands, Queensland, Australia, together with various book reviews.
- (iv) The **October** issue was a theme issue, exploring “Cultural Landscapes in the 21st Century”, again supported by an editorial. The papers result from the international conference on that topic, held at Newcastle University in April 2005. Five papers examine: a review of the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscapes programme, 1992 to 2006; lessons and good practice emerging from management plans for UK world heritage sites; a review of the European Landscape Convention; the role of historic landscape characterisation in understanding and representing landscapes, including a case study from Devon, England; and the use of eco-museum indicators to evaluate the Robben Island, South Africa museum and world heritage site.. The issue also includes several book reviews.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research's* Editor and Deputy Editors – Ian Thompson, Catherine Brace and Maggie Roe – and their supporting editorial team for their work during the year; and to thank the Editorial Assistant – Rosemarie Gilbert – for her excellent support to the editorial team.

6. RESEARCH & NETWORKING ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

(i) Role of the Committee

The Committee is responsible for developing and implementing on behalf of the Board the Group's programme of research and networking activity in all areas other than publication of *Landscape Research*, and for formulating and recommending on related issues of strategy and policy. It is empowered to make all decisions and take necessary actions to this end on behalf of the Group within the budget that is set by the Board, subject to the following constraints:

- the activities shall at all times seek to further the Group's charitable objectives;
- any activity expansion policy or objectives the Committee proposes to set itself shall be agreed by the Board; and

- any proposals that have contractual or legal implications for the Group, and/or financial implications beyond the agreed budget, are required to be approved by the Board.

The Committee comprises the Editor of *Landscape Research Extra*, the International Officer, and six other named members of the Board; and on an *ex officio* basis the Chair and Treasurer of the Group. The Committee is also empowered to co-opt additional members from the Board as it sees fit to add to the breadth of its expertise and capacity to implement the activities programme.

The Committee elected Bud Young as its Chair.

A key first task for the Committee was to assess the potential for more activity and how different activities may most effectively achieve the Group's charitable objectives, and to formulate a programme. The Committee held its first meeting in late 2006 to do so. The Board approved this recommended programme at its December 2006 meeting. It includes continuing to publish four issues of *Landscape Research Extra* each year; organising a varied programme of events (including field trips, seminars and conferences) at a range of venues throughout the country; expanding website and information activity (including enhancing the website, preparing an web-searchable index to *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Research Extra* by fully updating existing material, and undertaking a membership survey); expanding the "annual prize" scheme; and further development of international activities.

Activities undertaken in 2006 are reported below.

(ii) *Landscape Research Extra*

Landscape Research Extra was published four times in 2006 (issues 38 to 41) and totalled 48 pages of illustrated column text. As in previous years, the editorial team aimed to present short pieces written in a clear style, aiming to stimulate readers to a very wide range of landscape topics and issues, and to provoke thought about them. All issues included colour print illustrations.

The issues included a range of reviews and short features. Key ones discussed landscape character assessment; experiences of Japanese landscape; a re-visit to the New Agricultural Landscapes project study areas; English landscape as a part of English culture; the loss of the familiar; and two articles considering whether landscape preferences begin in childhood. Various articles related directly to the Group's wider international involvement, including the French research programme into landscape and sustainable development; Albanian landscapes; and landscape conservation issues in the Waddensee coastal area of Germany.

The issues also contained notices and reports of various UK conferences, exhibitions and courses – notably "Where the Light Falls", a review of the Samuel Palmer vision and landscape exhibition at the British Museum (October 2005 to January 2006); "Recovering Landscape as a Cultural Practice" at the University of York (March 2006); and "Imagined Landscapes" at the Cumbria Institute for the Arts (October 2006). Other feature articles included several anthologies in relation to landscape; more in the series 'Meet the Board'; and a note about a research programme at the University of Central England on recent design approaches in landscape architecture. One issue included a review of the winning dissertations in the 2005 prize scheme. Finally, the issues also included a 'Should you Read' listing of some of the more significant or provocative papers landscape-related papers abstracted from a range of journals in the fields of geography, land-use planning, ecology, landscape design, art, psychology and countryside recreation. They also included a review and commentary on a think-tank publication on residential expansion onto green field land.

The Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued commitment of *Landscape Research Extra's* Editor Bud Young, Rosemary Young, and the varied correspondents (both overseas and domestic) who supply much of the source material.

(iii) Events

The Group did not organise any events in 2006. Instead, effort was focused on planning a programme of events for 2007 (and beyond). These will be reported next year, but are hoped to include field excursions to the Lea Valley Olympic site, the Derwent Valley (Derbyshire) and Snowdonia, and an event in Sheffield in relation to the European Landscape Convention.

(iv) Website and Information Activity

Initial work to enhance the website has been undertaken, by reviewing good practice from the sites of other bodies similar to the Group, with the intention that the site is upgraded in 2007. Part of this upgrade will include preparing an web-searchable index to *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Research Extra* by fully updating existing material, for which initial work has been undertaken. In addition, the Group has undertaken a survey of its members interests and reasons for involvement with the Group; this material will be analysed and used to identify how best to develop research and networking activity in a way that responds to members' needs. The survey has already identified potential reviewers for and contributors to *Landscape Research Extra*.

The Group's promotional leaflet has been redesigned and updated, and is set up so that it can be printed in small runs to facilitate easy update as needed.

(v) Annual Prize Scheme

The Group has organised a prize scheme for student dissertations that contribute to our understanding of landscape issues, since 2000. The scheme was originally started on a small-scale basis to continue the work originated by the Nan Fairbrother Memorial Trust, which transferred its assets to the Group when the Trust was wound up (see Directors' Report for 1998). Last year's Report noted that the scheme is now well-established and attracting a growing number of entries from a wider range of academic institutions. The judging panel has started work to draw up more precise guidelines for judging the dissertations in future.

The 2006 prizes were awarded for both undergraduate and graduate work, in a range of landscape-related fields. Five entries were received for best dissertation based on original academic research and showing conceptual sophistication in the study of landscape, and eight for best dissertation addressing a practical problem or landscape design issue. The thirteen dissertations were from students at ten institutions, and initial assessment indicated that they presented a strong field of entries. The judges – Suzanne Seymour, Tim Collins and John Gittins – awarded five prizes – three first prizes of £100 and two 'highly commended' prizes of £50. The winning entries covered a wide variety of issues within the themes of landscape design and environmental aspects of landscape planning.

(vi) International Activity

The Group has continued to fund a range of networking visits by Peter Howard (in his role as International Officer) during the year, to raise the profile of the Group at national and international conferences across a range of disciplines, and to contribute to the work of the European Landscape Convention. This has included attendance at events in Cologne, Saumur, Tönning (Schleswig), Florence and Paris as well as in Glasgow, London and York. The meetings in London, Paris and Florence were directly related to the Group's involvement in the work of the European Landscape Convention.

At all of these events, LRG promotional literature has been distributed, and it is known that several new members have joined - particularly as a result of the events at York (landscape archaeologists)

and Glasgow. The meeting in Tönning was run by GKSS, one of the big German research groups, and led to much interest in the Group's work. Two German members decided to try and set up a German LRG Network, and the International Officer is supporting this idea

The London meeting of ICOMOS (February 2006) was originally intended to pressure the United Kingdom Government into signing the European Landscape Convention, but actually was a celebration that it had been signed. Due credit was given to the LRG Blois conference in being a prod and precursor to the Convention.

The Paris meeting (July 2006) related to the French government's Comité Scientifique MEDD programme research projects on the theme of "Landscape and Sustainable Development", which it is hoped will lead to a series of joint workshops with Cemagref (the research arm of the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development), in November 2007.

The Florence meeting of PECSRL (the Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape) (September 2006) was a major conference. The event was a significant opportunity for the Group to extend its membership, and the International Officer distributed literature and has contacted all participants by email since the meeting. PECSRL invited LRG to be involved in its next meeting in Lisbon in September 2008. The meeting will be focused around three themes which have a clear relationship with the Group's interests: landscapes as a constitutive dimension of territorial identities; landscapes as development assets and resources; and landscape research, development planning and management.

7. FINANCES

The Group made a surplus for the year of £3180 (income of £24222, less expenditure of £21042). The Group's accumulated fund at 31st December 2006 was £60797 (2005, £57617).

This surplus is slightly less than last year's, reflecting a planned increase of activity and expenditure that was offset by a greater than expected increase in income. The Group had planned to achieve a broad balance of income and expenditure, or a small surplus, in 2006. This plan reflected the move by the Board to expand activity to ensure a proper use of the Group's funds to help promote its overall charitable objectives, in the context of a stable financial reserve. However, overall income increased (from £22801 in 2005), particularly because the royalties from the Publishing Agreement were greater than expected. The planned increases in activity that resulted in higher expenditure were the expansion of *Landscape Research Extra* to four issues (previously two), increased international activity and a small increase in the annual prizes. In addition, there were expected increases in Board and Executive Committee costs due to the level of activity to develop and agree the new strategy, and associated agreements, and in the costs of the Administrative Assistant.

In relation to prospects for 2007 and beyond, as discussed above in relation to the newly agreed financial strategy, the Group is now planning for a broad balance of income and expenditure by expanding research and networking activity as well as increasing the frequency of *Landscape Research* to five issues. Whether this is achieved will, of course, largely depend on how successful the Research & Networking Activity Committee is in delivering its planned programme.

The Accounts, the Auditor's Report and the Treasurer's Report give a fuller assessment of the Group's finances. The financial reports have been prepared taking advantage of the exemptions conferred by the Companies Act 1985 on the grounds that in the opinion of the Directors the company is entitled to these exemptions as a small company.

Registered Office

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8 September, 2007

Dr Steven Shuttleworth

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