

Summer 2008
NEWSLETTER

ialeUK
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY • UK REGION

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Blencathra (Lake District) © Chris Young, 2008

IALE International - <http://www.landscape-ecology.org/>

IALE(UK) - <http://www.iale.org.uk>

Landscape ecology is the study of the interactions between the temporal and spatial aspects of a landscape and its flora, fauna and cultural components.

The core objectives of IALE (UK) are to promote communication, inter-disciplinary research and the development of knowledge and interaction between scientists and those engaged in the planning and management of the landscape.

Name The Newsletter

An aside in a recent meeting led us to consider a thorny issue: what to call the newsletter? Every time it is referred to it is 'The IALE(UK) newsletter' which is not only a bit of a mouthful, but also more than a little dull. We therefore would like members (or their colleagues...or prospective members as we like to call them) to suggest a short, pithy, yet informative name for the newsletter.

There may well be a prize for the winning name, above and beyond the honour of seeing your suggested title hitting the presses.

Suggestions please to newsletter@iale.org.uk.

Landscape Ecology & Conservation IALE (UK) Annual Conference 2008 (in conjunction with the Cambridge Conservation Forum)

A final reminder to all that this year's annual conference will be running from **8th-11th September 2008**. There is a diverse programme including sessions on Conservation Planning at Large Scales, Conservation in Farmed Landscapes, Dispersal in Fragmented Landscapes and Culture and Landscapes among others (for full details see the provisional programme on the IALE(UK) website). This is followed by an excursion to the Great Fen Project and Wicken Fen on the afternoon of the 10th September. If you still haven't booked your place, then please contact Conference2008@iale.org.uk, or check for further details via the website.

Forthcoming Conferences

Landscape ecological topics often fall within many different potential areas, There are a large number of conferences globally which may be of interest to members, below is a small selection that you may wish to attend.

The Right to Landscape: Contesting Landscape and Human Rights (Dec 8-10, Jesus College, Cambridge). http://www.cclp.group.cam.ac.uk/rtl_workshop.html

European IALE 2009 (July 12 – 16, Salzburg) 70 years of Landscape Ecology in Europe: "European Landscapes in Transformation - Challenges for Landscape Ecology and Management" <http://www.iale2009.eu/>

International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology Ecosystems Interfacing with Groundwater and Surface Water. (20-23 April, 2009 Vienna). <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/hydroeco2009/index.php>

Latin American IALE Conference (Oct 4-7, Campos do Jordão, São Paulo State, Brazil) "Landscape Ecology in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives." <http://www.usiale.org/pubs/iale.2009.brazil.pdf>

World Congress 2011 (August 18-23, Beijing) "Landscape Ecology and it's role in sustaining culture and the environment"

The IALE (UK) website now includes an events diary holding details of forthcoming landscape ecology events including IALE international conferences. If you are organising an event related to landscape ecology, you can request a free listing by sending an email to events@iale.org.uk

Follow this link to view the landscape ecology events diary <http://iale.org.uk/landscape-ecology-events>

LANDECOL - Landscape Ecology Discussion List

The LANDECOL discussion list has been established to facilitate communication and debate amongst those interested in landscape ecology, particularly academics and practitioners. LANDECOL is open to all and can be used via email or a web browser. You can access the page via the IALE(UK) website, where you can also find succinct instructions for using the list. The web link is at: <http://iale.org.uk/discussion>.

IALE(UK) Membership

A reminder to any colleagues who are not yet members of IALE (UK) that joining can bring multiple benefits. Not only does it keep you in touch with fellow practitioners of landscape ecology from the UK and beyond but it also brings money-saving rates on conferences and publications.

For full details check out the IALE(UK) web site at:

www/iale.org.uk/join

Alternatively contact Dr Peter Carey (temporary membership secretary) CEH Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 2LS. UK (pdca@ceh.ac.uk)



▲ Haveswater, looking north from Small water, Lake District (© Chris Young).

Landscape Fragmentation & Urban Sprawl

With the current trend towards trying to estimate and understand urban sprawl and the impacts this has on fragmentation of landscapes, colleagues may be interested in the publication from Switzerland outlined below.

Urban sprawl (dispersed urban development) has a number of negative ecological, aesthetic, and economic effects. Urban sprawl has increased considerably over the last 20 years, even though several political declarations have called for a trend reversal. Therefore, data on the degree of urban sprawl that take into account the spatial configuration of the settlement areas (not just total amount) and on how it has developed (time series) are needed that are suitable for comparing different regions, especially according to different natural landscape types. This paper develops a new method to quantify urban sprawl, quantitatively investigates the development of urban sprawl and of landscape fragmentation in Switzerland since 1935, and analyses their relationships.

Do regions that have a high degree of urban sprawl have a high degree of landscape fragmentation (and vice versa)? Do increases of urban sprawl follow increases of landscape fragmentation (or vice versa)? How effective were instruments such as the BLN inventory (designated landscapes of national importance) for protection of landscapes against urban sprawl (based on a comparison of landscapes within and outside of BLN areas)? The results are planned to be used as environmental indicators in the national monitoring system of Sustainable Development of Switzerland (MONET). The time series of the degree of urban sprawl are also useful for practitioners as indicators of the endangerment of biodiversity and as a foundation for setting goals in planning and politics and for proposing appropriate measures.

Authors: Jochen A.G. Jaeger, Christian Schwick, René Bertiller, Felix Kienast,

The project is funded through the Swiss National Research Programme 54 "Sustainable Development of the Built Environment": <http://www.nfp54.ch/e.cfm>

Our project: http://www.nfp54.ch/e_projekte_raum.cfm?Projects.Command=details&get=4&kati=1

English: www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/02/22/publ.html?publicationID=2992

You also find more information here: <http://gpe.concordia.ca/about/facultystaff/jaeger.php>



Many thanks to Jochen Jaeger for the information and links.

A History Of Countryside Survey *Part II*

Countryside Survey has evolved since 1978 to become a world-leader in the study of change in our natural resources. Today it represents the forefront of such research; yet the 2007 Survey is only the most recent in a long history of study into how the countryside is changing.

Early approaches to measuring countryside change

Ever since the first vegetation maps at the turn of the 20th Century, there have been many attempts to develop a system for measuring change in the countryside. Early approaches include the first UK land use survey, undertaken by Dudley Stamp in the early 1930s, which along with other studies formed the basis for the initial selection of national nature reserves from the 1940s onwards.

In 1948 the Nature Conservancy was created in Britain and charged with establishing and managing national nature reserves. Its first research station was opened at Merlewood in 1954, at time of increasing awareness among ecologists of the need to place ecological science on a more exact or quantitative basis – ie. involving analysis of statistical amounts, rather than relying on expert judgements alone.

1971: National Woodland Classification

The need for a National Woodland Classification provided opportunity to encourage a more quantitative approach to vegetation survey. A pilot study of some 200 woods in the Lake District proved sufficiently encouraging to prompt statistical analysis of data for the whole of England. Data was punched onto tape at Merlewood and transferred by the Atlas Computer at Cambridge University into a card format suitable for the computer at Southampton University, the only one capable at that time of handling such large datasets.

1974: The Cumbria Survey

In 1975 the Cumbria Survey was launched as the first major project in the UK to test the full methodology of environmental classification, as the basis for assessing the vegetation resources of a region. Following visits to a random sample of 1km squares, analysis showed that the vegetation classes were strongly and significantly correlated with the land classes. The high correlations meant it was possible to predict the vegetation composition of squares which had not been visited, but where the land class was known.

1978: the first Countryside Survey

A visit to Merlewood by Martin Holdgate (Director of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, ITE) in May 1975 proved of pivotal importance in using the Cumbrian experience to embark upon an Ecological Survey of Great Britain.

A total of 256 1km square samples were taken at random across the UK. A field survey of land use, land cover type, landscape and linear features within each square was completed in 1978 (the first Countryside Survey). Statistical analysis of the data collected enabled the production of estimates for the whole of the UK.

The 1984 Survey

Despite considerable funding difficulties, the ITE concluded in March 1984 that a further Ecological Survey of Great Britain should be carried out. A comparative study of the scale and nature of change since the 1978 survey, and the establishment of a more comprehensive dataset with which to measure future change, were deemed of strategic importance.

The number of 1km sample squares was extended from 256 to 384, with the field survey undertaken by teams from each of the six ITE research stations. Not only did the survey largely confirm trends already recorded by the annual Agricultural Census, but also it further demonstrated how changes in such attributes as hedgerow length could be detected, even with such a small sample size.

1985: The ECOLUC Project – birth of the Countryside Information System (CIS)

The Ecological Consequences of Land Use Change (ECOLUC) project was established to help develop predictive models required by policymakers to better understand the implications of countryside change. A sketch of an 'ideal' landscape was published for each land class, providing policymakers with a visual representation of the landscape consequences of different land-use strategies.

A further module of the project, focussing on expert systems and their application in ecology, concluded that information systems were more appropriate in the policy context. A further contract was awarded to ITE in order to develop a pilot information system, which quickly became known as the Countryside Information System (CIS).

A History Of Countryside Survey *Part II (cont'd)*

1990 Survey

The UK government's first Environment White Paper included a commitment to provide a statistical report on the state of the environment. As part of the process, the 1990 Survey was intended to help monitor the impacts of policy initiatives. It would also contribute to the Biodiversity Action Plan being developed by the Department of Environment as part of the UK commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in June 1992.

Drawing heavily on the insights gained from ECOLUC, the ITE were able to develop a Countryside Survey in the widest sense, which focused on those common features and habitats most likely to influence the public perception of rural Britain. The 1990 Survey represented a first attempt to integrate satellite mapping with detailed field survey of vegetation, soils and freshwaters at a national scale. The Land Cover Map of Great Britain was itself the first to provide a national coverage.

The 1990 Survey involved a total of 509 sample squares. Results showed a continuation of habitat loss, but at a slower rate than previously. The most striking result was, however, the species loss of up to 20–30% recorded in some habitats, which provided the basis for an overall policy review of the results.

The 2000 Survey

Countryside Survey 2000 further extended the sample to 569 1km squares, so as to obtain sufficient samples to treat Scotland separately from England and Wales. For the first time the results from the Northern Ireland Countryside Survey (NICS) were included to provide a first estimate for the total extent of UK habitats. A land cover map was again included. The results showed a further stabilisation of habitat decline, with improvement in some categories.

The 2007 Survey and beyond...

The 2007 Survey is nearing completion and due to report in November of this year. A total of 591 1km squares have been surveyed across Great Britain, coupled with a further 270 in Northern Ireland – making it the largest ever 'audit' of the UK's natural resources. Recent work has also demonstrated how principles established in the UK might be extended to a European scale: not only to examine the implications of climate change, but also to link them with land use. Several European countries have already undertaken programmes of work using comparable principles, with many further studies planned.

The findings of Countryside Survey 2007 will be published in November and used to support a range of objectives – from monitoring climate change and Government policy, to improving scientific understanding of the countryside. For more information visit the project website at www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk

Reference:

J. Sheail & R.G.H. Bunce (2003) *The development and scientific principles of an environmental classification for strategic ecological survey in the United Kingdom*. Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.



▲ Surveyor Collecting spoil samples for the Countryside Survey. Image is copyright (c) Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

A History of the Countryside Survey Part I can be found in the Spring 2008 edition of the IALE(UK) newsletter and is accessible via the website.

The Green Light Really On: The Current State Of Green Infrastructure Thinking.

From its initial reference by the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PSCD) (1999) Green Infrastructure thinking has developed extensively in the UK, Europe and North America. As a research area that encompasses a number of the fundamental ideas of Landscape Ecology, Greenway development, Sustainable Communities and the Countryside in and Around Towns (CIAT) agenda, Green Infrastructure has brought together geographical, planning and ecological ideas into a coherent research area. Since 1999 a growing number of organisations and agencies have published interesting research relating to Green Infrastructure. These articles have drawn the attention of other researchers and planning officials to the multi-faceted value that Green Infrastructures holds. Due to these diverse antecedents it has been suggested that Green Infrastructure may provide a 'toolkit' of ideas promoting best practice mechanisms for planners and environmental managers. Green Infrastructure however may be a relatively new term but is not necessarily a new idea.

Drawing its foundations from a number of diverse geographical, ecological and planning backgrounds Green Infrastructure thinking promotes the development of spaces that fulfil a number of diverse functions whilst supporting sustainable ecological, financial and social activities. These are themes that have been historically developed when reviewing alternative ideas of sustainability. Consequently the current thinking about Green Infrastructure has moved it to a confluence of conceptual and practical planning initiatives. This is a position where Green Infrastructure can, and has been, utilised to plan for, or manage diverse, issues including climate change, social inclusion, the promotion of sustainable communities urban regeneration.

Following its use by the PSCD Green Infrastructure has gained value as a practical landscape management process in North America. In the United States the Conservation Fund has championed the concept promoting its value for the conservation and management of North America's threatened and degraded landscapes. Using an overarching ecological-conservation focus the Conservation Fund has been able to develop an extensive evidence base that supports the combined principals of strategic conservation and Green Infrastructure allowing them to lobby state and national planning officials. In contrast the UK has not had such a prominent champion. However Natural England, the Environment Agency and several UK government departments and offices (i.e. the Department for Communities and Local Governance) have been at the forefront of Green Infrastructure thinking alongside England's Community Forest network. The role of these agencies does however show positive comparisons with the role of the Conservation Fund. In the UK Natural England and the Community Forests have been at the forefront in developing of a holistic approach to Green Infrastructure planning. By focussing on the relationship between people, the environment, and the economy Green Infrastructure thinking in the UK has been able to synthesis the wider debates linked to ecological and social sustainability.

This synthesis can also be seen in the most recent round of England's Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Examination in Public (EIP). These documents show that there is a proportional increase in the use of Green Infrastructure from the initial RSS drafts through the EIP's and into the final RSS plans. Subsequently this increased focus on Green Infrastructure offers an interesting insight assessing how far the concept has been used by planners in the UK. A review of the most recent RSS's and EIP's highlighted a number of ideas that underpin the use of the Green Infrastructure concept by planning officials. These ideas relate to a) scale as an important aspect of Green Infrastructure development, b) Green Infrastructure thinking should have a strategic focus, c) Green Infrastructure needs to have an ecological and social focus, iv) access to Green Infrastructure is important and finally v) connectivity between different Green Infrastructure is essential to allow capitals to flow freely between different regions. These ideas also support themes discussed elsewhere in the research literature as being important or crucial elements in Green Infrastructures development.

Is it hopefully clear when reviewing how far Green Infrastructure has developed since 1999 that the 'green light may be on' for the prominence. However, further evidence is still needed to provide additional sources of evidence with which researchers can use to lobby central government with. The values of the concept may have now been widely discussed but there is still a gap to travel between current research and actual planning policy. Closing this gap is therefore the next stage in the development of Green Infrastructure thinking and its implementation through real world planning.

Ian C. Mell, Department of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Newcastle

Note: IALE(UK) is currently putting together an information note concerning green infrastructure and its relevance to landscape ecology and landscape ecological principles. This is building on the Green Infrastructure discussion sessions held at the IALE(UK) workshop in Northampton during December 2007.

Focus On IALE(UK) PhD students

One of the main ideas behind the IALE(UK) newsletter is to help promote the activities of members and give an overview of the breadth of activities going on in the field of landscape ecology. One of the key membership cohorts is our PhD students. Below is an outline of the research projects of the current IALE(UK) PhD students, so you can pick them out during the conference. If any IALE(UK) colleagues have research students who are not members, perhaps you could encourage them to join and get the benefits of membership. The names below are in alphabetical order by surname .

Johanna Breyer (Aberystwyth University)

3D Biodiversity Networks

Supervisors: Professor Richard Lucas, Steve Keyworth (Environment Systems)

I generate maps of vegetation types and habitats using a combination of airborne and spaceborne remote sensing data at various scales. From these, the three-dimensional structure of the terrain and associated vegetation is evaluated, using a combination of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data and NextMap Britain data. Spatial information of the distribution of flora and fauna is then integrated to establish links with habitat and landscape metrics. Output products include spatial and temporal (seasonal) assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem function for key components of the Welsh landscape that can be used to support climate change research and policy decisions.



Hugh Devlin (University of Ulster, Coleraine)

The development of restoration strategies for a cutover raised bog.

Supervisor: Dr Alan Cooper

Peatland use as a resource on a commercial scale since the 1950s has coincided with an increased awareness of its environmental, ecological, aesthetic and scientific value. Past research in this area has concentrated on restoring bog function or establishing other types of mire by flooding. Little is known about the vegetation communities and environmental conditions that occur at industrially milled peatlands and the contribution that these can make towards the rationalisation and decision making process of restoration. My research aims to identify and rationalise the restoration strategies through analysis of the environmental and industrial variables driving change.

Steve Dugdale (University of East Anglia)

Modelling the Influence of Changes in the Agricultural Landscape on the Population of Farmland Birds.

Supervisors: Professor Andrew Lovett, Professor Andrew Watkinson, Dr. Phil Atkinson (BTO)

If many species compete for the same resources (e.g. food type) but manage to co-exist successfully, it suggests that those areas have good habitat quality for that resource (guild hotspot). Using a nationwide dataset of farmland bird distributions collected 1968-1972 before populations began to decline, and a similar dataset from 1988-1991 when declines had begun, I am mapping changes in the location of guild hotspots. By relating these changes to habitat data for the same time periods, I aim to identify the landscape scale requirements of declining farmland bird species and present my findings at the conference in September.



Focus on IALE(UK) PhD students (cont'd)

David Gledhill (University of Salford)

Ponds in the Built Environment

Supervisors: Dr Philip James, Dr David Davies

I am working in the Borough of Halton in North West England, investigating the ecology of ponds in a variety of urban settings such as New Town developments, Local Nature Reserves, golf courses and traditional urban housing. I am looking at the influence of surrounding land use, socio-economic factors and urban design on the species composition and diversity of these ponds. I am also investigating how these factors affect the management and creating of urban ponds at the landscape scale and the value of small water bodies in developing greener, liveable, sustainable cities.



Aleksandra Kazmierczak (University of Salford)

Urban green spaces: for nature and for people? Analysis of supporting and cultural ecosystem services of urban green spaces in Greater Manchester, UK

Supervisors: Dr Philip James, Dr Richard Armitage, Adam Barker (University of Manchester)

My research focuses on the ecological and social functioning of the urban green spaces, both in terms of the individual sites and at the wider landscape scale. I am particularly interested in the simultaneous potential of green spaces to support biodiversity and improve social well-being of people, especially in areas of material deprivation and social disintegration. Because of its interdisciplinary character my project involves a variety of different methods (GIS, field studies, questionnaire survey, focus groups) and a wide spectrum of literature, so I get exhausted much more often than bored!



Nicola McHugh (Oxford Brookes University)

Incorporating ecological networks and green infrastructure into spatial strategies – mapping optimal location for habitat banks

Supervisors: Dr Stewart Thompson, Elizabeth Wilson

My research focuses on how landscape ecological structure and function can be improved through the provision of habitat banks. This includes considering how development can contribute positively to improvements in the landscape through the use of mitigation banking. My aim is to link ideas of land use planning and policy with ecological network analyses. I am particularly interested in how planning for ecological systems, accessibility and climate change will shape and impact on landscape functions. My main research approach is GIS based modelling.



Lutfur Rahman (University of Northampton)

Potential of restored landfill sites for biodiversity conservation in the UK and its context to landscape

Supervisors: Dr Duncan McCollin, Dr Jeff Ollerton

Restoration of landfill sites to an acceptable after-use is a fundamental aspect of their post-closure management in the UK. Measuring biodiversity is fundamental to an understanding of the ecology of an area and for developing rational management strategies aimed at conservation and restoration of biodiversity of that area. Cross-taxon congruence of plants (bryophytes and vascular plants), vertebrates (birds) and invertebrates (molluscs and ground beetles) and also their context to landscape scale are being investigated.



Focus on IALE(UK) PhD students (cont'd)

Daniel Williams (University of Wolverhampton)

Urban Small Sites - Landscape ecology and contribution to urban greenspace

Supervisors: Dr. Chris Young, Dr. Ian Hooper, Dr. Peter Jarvis

It has been identified that a large proportion of greenspace in urban settings are sites of less than 1 ha. Their specific contribution, distribution and management has, so far, not been considered. The overall aims of my study are therefore: (a) To assess the intrinsic character and overall contribution of small sites to the totality of urban greenspace; and (b) to establish the contribution of small sites to urban greenspace management.

These aims will be achieved using a combination of landscape ecological evaluation, spatial analysis and interviews with relevant individuals and organizations.



In addition to the students profiled here there are also two further PhD members: Adrian Southern (UEA) and Kevin Coleman (affiliation unknown). If we have omitted anyone then please let either myself or Nicola McHugh (nmchugh@brookes.ac.uk the postgrad committee member) know and we will include you in the next edition.

Research to Support the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in England

This research project, commissioned by Natural England, aimed to provide a better understanding of landscape performance in relation to the incorporation of the measures set out in the European Landscape Convention in present policy, advice and guidance at a number of different levels and over a variety of sectors in England. The project was not meant to be fully comprehensive and offers a "snap shot" in time. It provides a basis to identify the need for further policy advice and guidance.

The study was devised in two parts: the first part was to examine existing performance relating to the implementation of the Convention in England. The second part concentrated on an evaluation of the role of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) within this implementation process.

Part 1 Research Aims were to:

- Gain an understanding the current performance against European Landscape Convention objectives
- Identify where performance is effective
- Identify where performance could be improved

Part 2 Research Aim was to:

- Gain an understanding of the opportunities that SEA and EIA regulations and processes could bring to further support and implement European Landscape Convention objectives.

The main researchers on this project were: Maggie Roe and Ian Mell, School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape, Newcastle University, and Dr Carys Jones, EIA Centre, University of Manchester.

The research report, published in March 2008, can be downloaded from the Landscape Character Network website at the following address:

<http://landscapecharacter.org.uk/elc/research>



Landscape Ecology

(ISSN: 0921-2973 electronic 1572-9761)

Landscape Ecology (2008) 23(5) :

Research Papers

Metzger, J.P. **Landscape ecology: perspectives based on the 2007 IALE world congress** (pp. 501-504)

Shao, G. & Wu, J. **On the accuracy of landscape pattern analysis using remote sensing data** (pp. 505-511)

Gardner, R.H., Lookingbill, T.R., Townsend, P.A. & Ferrari, J. **A new approach for rescaling land cover data** (pp. 513-526)

François, C., Alexandre, L. & Julliard, R. **Effects of landscape urbanization on magpie occupancy dynamics in France** (pp. 527-538)

Singkran, N. & Meixler, M.S. **Influences of habitat and land cover on fish distributions along a tributary to Lake Ontario, New York** (pp. 539-551)

Oneal, O.S. & Rotenberry, J.T. **Riparian plant composition in an urbanizing landscape in southern California, U.S.A.** (pp. 553-567)

Morilhat, C., Bernard, N., Foltête, J-C. & Giraudoux, P. **Neighbourhood landscape effect on population kinetics of the fossorial water vole (*Arvicola terrestris scherman*)** (pp. 569-579)

Billings, S.A. & Gaydess, E.A. **Soil nitrogen and carbon dynamics in a fragmented landscape experiencing forest succession** (pp. 581-593)

Bianchi, F. J. J. A., Goedhart P. W. & Baveco, J. M. **Enhanced pest control in cabbage crops near forest in The Netherlands** (pp. 595-602)

Coulon, A., Morellet, N., Goulard, M., Cargnelutti, B., Angibault, J.-M. & Hewison, A.J.M. **Inferring the effects of landscape structure on roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) movements using a step selection function** (pp.603-614)

Hinsley, S.A., Hill, R.A., Bellamy, P.E., Harrison, N.M., Speakman, J.R., Wilson, A.K. & Ferns, P.N. **Effects of structural and functional habitat gaps on breeding woodland birds: working harder for less** (pp.615-626)

Book reviews

Keane, R.E. **New Geographies of the American West: Land Use and the Changing Patterns of Place**, by William R. Travis

Drew, C.A. **Seeking Sustainability in an Age of Complexity** by G. Harris

Landscape Ecology (2008) 23(6) :

Research Papers

Nassauer, J.I. & Paul Opdam, P. **Design in science: extending the landscape ecology paradigm** (pp. 633-644)

Van Dessel, W., Van Rompaey, A., Poelmans, L. & Szilassi, P. **Predicting land cover changes and their impact on the sediment influx in the Lake Balaton catchment** (pp. 645-656)

Viedma, O. **The influence of topography and fire in controlling landscape composition and structure in Sierra de Gredos (Central Spain)** (pp. 657-672)

Plue, J., Hermy, M., Verheyen, K., Thuillier, P., Saguez, R. & Decocq, G. **Persistent changes in forest vegetation and seed bank 1,600 years after human occupation** (pp. 673-688)

Augustine, D.J., Dinsmore, S.J., Wunder, M.B., Dreitz, V.J. & Knopf, F.L. **Response of mountain plovers to plague-driven dynamics of black-tailed prairie dog colonies** (pp. 689-697)

Duval, C.S. **Human settlement ecology and chimpanzee habitat selection in Mali** (pp. 699-716)

Lundberg, J., Andersson, E., Cleary, G. & Elmquist, T. **Linkages beyond borders: targeting spatial processes in fragmented urban landscapes** (pp. 717-726)

Fletcher, R.J. & Hutto, R.L. **Partitioning the multi-scale effects of human activity on the occurrence of riparian forest birds** (pp. 727-739)

Marchesan, D. & Carthew, S.M. **Use of space by the yellow-footed antechinus, *Antechinus flavipes*, in a fragmented landscape in South Australia** (pp. 741-752)

Book reviews

Chen, J. **A changing world: challenges for landscape research** by F. Kienast, O. Wildi, & S. Ghosh (eds),

A.A. Royo **Ecology of Woodlands and Forests: Description, Dynamics, and Diversity** by P. A. Thomas & J. Packham

Articles concerning landscape ecology applications are increasingly being found in a range of journals. For practitioners in the UK some of the more useful ones are: *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Landscape Research*, *Conservation Biology*, *Biological Conservation*, *Environmental Management* and *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Message From The Editor

One of the most surprising problems that I've encountered so far as a member of the IALE(UK) committee has been trying to decide what should be the focus of annual meetings and workshops. We all have our own agenda, yet in order to appeal to the widest possible group of people it is necessary to look for issues of contemporary interest or topical relevance. While, a workshop on the historical evolution of the landscapes of the Orkneys would no doubt draw an enthusiastic audience, it is likely to be a small audience, so something more generic is often appropriate.

As anyone who has either given a presentation at a conference or has attended a conference as a delegate will recognise there is often a wide range of 'niche' papers that fall at the fringes of the conference theme. This has happened to me on a number of occasions as the main focus of my research so far has been in the urban area and so often conference organisers don't know what to do with me. As an example, a few years ago I was lumped in a 'odds and sods'-type session at an ecological conference with people looking at the fungus of garden wood chips. As it was presented this had absolutely no relevance to landscape ecology, however it was a fascinating insight into the weird world of mycology and I now get odd stares at garden centres because I look as much at the wood chippings as I do at the plants.

Whatever the conference or meeting, then, these odd assignments have resulted in me finding out about things I would not otherwise have even thought about; so my advice is look on this diversity as a positive thing. At this year's IALE(UK) conference the theme is 'Landscape Ecology and Conservation', but if you are thinking 'there will be little for me there', then come along anyway, you never know where it will lead.. There is a diverse range of speakers from the UK and further afield and there will be something for everyone.

Some of the committee visited the conference venue in June and it looks to be a fine location, with everything close at hand. The only major stumbling blocks appear to be (a) where to put the band, and (b) the lack of draught beer in the college bar. So as long as these are resolved, I am sure we can look forward to a successful conference 2008.

As a final note the suggestion was made that the focus of this year's winter workshop could be the landscape perspective on green walls and green roofs. Any comments on this would be welcome.

Please send any comments/articles/snippets etc. to: newsletter@iale.org.uk

Axiophytes—More Maps

For those of you who were interested in the Axiophytes article in the last newsletter (see Spring 2008) there are more maps drawn up on a per habitat basis. These can be viewed at:

www.naturalshropshire.org.uk/Projects/Indicatorspeciesmaps/tabid/69/Default.aspx

Landscape Web Links

Here are some landscape-related web links that you may find useful. If there is a theme, it is starting points for exploring the topic.

Landscape Information Hub (mainly landscape planning, but a useful start point) <http://www.lih.gre.ac.uk/>

Green Infrastructure (US organisation) <http://www.greeninfrastructure.net/>

UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme (follow the relevant links for landscape ecological info) <http://www.unesco.org/mab/index.shtml>



▲ A neglected, life-filled corner of the urban landscape (© Chris Young).