

## Presenting past landscapes, I

Dr David Gwyn: Govarmon consultancy and University of Wales, Bangor, School of Business and Regional Development

Mae *Dr David Gwyn* yn wreiddiol o Fangor. Graddiodd o Brifysgol Caergrawnt ac o Goleg y Drindod, Dulyn a gweithiodd gyda Ymddiriedolaeth Archeoleg Gwynedd am nifer o flynyddoedd cyn cychwyn ei ymgynghoriaeth ei hyn yn 2002. Mae'n arbenigo mewn archeoleg diwydiannol, tirlun a diwylliannol, yn enwedig o'r 250 mlynedd diweddaraf ac hefyd yn olygydd yr *Industrial Archaeology Review*. Mae'n cyfrannu i nifer o fodiwlau yng nghwrs MA Prifysgol Bangor ar Reoli Treftadaeth a hefyd yn gweithio ar nifer o brosiectau, yng Nghymru a dramor.

*Dr David Gwyn* is a native of Bangor, North Wales. A graduate of the University of Cambridge and of Trinity College Dublin, he worked for the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for a number of years before setting up his own consultancy in 2002. He specialises in industrial landscape and cultural archaeology, particularly of the last 250 years, and is editor of *Industrial Archaeology Review*. He contributes a number of modules to the University of Wales Bangor MA course in Heritage Management, and is involved in a number of both Welsh-based and international projects.

*Dr David Gwyn* est né à Bangor dans le nord du pays de Galles. Diplômé de Cambridge et de Trinity College Dublin, il a travaillé pour le Gwynedd Archaeological Trust pendant plusieurs années avant de fonder un cabinet de conseil en 2002. Il se spécialise dans l'archéologie industrielle, paysagère et culturelle des 250 dernières années et édite *Industrial Archaeology Review*. Il contribue à plusieurs modules du cours de maîtrise en gestion du patrimoine de l'université du pays de Galles, Bangor et participe à plusieurs projets gallois et internationaux.

## Abstract

Caiff tirlun hanesyddol ei gynnwys fwyfwy fel ystyriaeth mewn cynllunio a chadwraeth; mae Cytundeb Tirlun Ewrop yn rhoi cyfle i ddatblygu dealltwriaeth o'i photensial. Ac eto, er bod arbenigwyr tirlun, yn enwedig archeolegwyr, wedi ymgynghori a'r gymuned heb arbenigedd, hyd yn hyn bu'r ymrwymiad a swyddogion a chynrychiolwyr llywodraeth

leol yn gymharol fach. Dadleuir bod y rhain yn cynrychioli rhan allweddol ac yn flaenoriaeth frys ar gyfer y dyfodol agos os ydynt am gael y wybodaeth a'r ddealltwriaeth a fydd yn cyflwyno dyfodol cynaliadwy yn economaidd. Bydd hyn yn cael ei gyflawni trwy drafodaeth rhwng llywodraeth leol, prifysgolion a sefydliadau statudol gyda chylch gorchwyl treftadaeth.

Historic landscape is increasingly admitted as a consideration in planning and conservation; the European Landscape Convention provides an opportunity to develop understanding of its potential. Yet although landscape specialists, particularly archaeologists, have consulted with the non-specialist community, hitherto there has been comparatively little engagement with local government officers and representatives. It is argued that these represent a key constituency and an urgent priority for the immediate future if they are to be equipped with the knowledge and understanding that will deliver an economically sustainable future. This will be accomplished through dialogue between local government, universities and statutory organisations with a heritage remit.

Le paysage historique entre de plus en plus souvent en considération lors des activités de planification et de conservation ; la Convention européenne sur les paysages offre une opportunité pour établir une vision commune de son potentiel. Mais bien que les spécialistes paysagistes, et en particulier les archéologues, aient consulté la communauté non spécialiste, il y a eu jusqu'ici relativement peu d'engagement avec les fonctionnaires et les représentants des administrations locales. Il est pourtant clair qu'ils représentent un groupe d'intérêt primordial et une priorité urgente pour l'avenir immédiat s'ils veulent bénéficier des connaissances et de la compréhension qui ouvriront la voie à un futur économiquement viable. Ceci sera seulement possible avec des dialogues entre l'administration locale, les universités et les établissements publics qui assurent un rôle lié au patrimoine.

## Synopsis

The concept of historic landscape is now widely admitted as a consideration in the planning process and in conservation policy throughout Europe.

In particular, although the UK has yet to do

so, 28 national governments within the Council of Europe have signed the European Landscape Convention and 11 have ratified it. Others may follow. Its provisions now underpin landscape co-operation measures from the Azores to the borders of Kurdistan, and from Narvik to Valletta. As Dr Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons pointed out in her paper, the ELC is seen as both central to human rights within the areas to which it applies, and assumes that every citizen has a part to play in preserving the quality of the European landscape. Public authorities have a duty to define the general framework for establishing this quality.

Both in countries where the European Landscape Convention applies and where it so far does not (such as the UK), specialists and professionals with an interest in landscape issues have an important part to play in the development of policy, best practice and statutory framework. Archaeologists, particularly those actively engaged in the teaching, management and presentation of heritage, have a central part to play in these processes, and a duty to make their voice heard.

Sustainable and appropriate management of the historic landscape can only come about if specialists, including archaeologists, present their work in such a way that their significance and potential are understood.

This involves a two-way process. Archaeologists and other landscape professionals need themselves to understand the variety and nature of lay perceptions of the historic environment both in order to grasp the contribution that these perceptions can make to policy formulation, and also in order to present their own perceptions in an accessible way. A number of projects at both national and European level have sought to address the question of how both professionals and non-specialists understand historic landscapes and how they can communicate their perceptions to each other. These projects have for the most part been sponsored by national and local government institutions, and have often placed particular emphasis on children's views of their environment.

This approach is vital to the future of the historic landscape; yet it neglects equally and more immediately vital sectors of the community.

In particular, in marginal economies and post-industrial economies within the European Union, such as Wales, and among the EU's neighbour- and accession states, there is too often a temptation to find a quick-fix development solution which will only bring a short-term remedy to economic problems and which will impact adversely on the environment.

This problem is compounded by several others. One is a tendency only to regard landscapes of great natural beauty as endowed with regenerative potential. Another is to regard historic landscape as only of worth or of significance if they are particularly ancient. Perceptions of what constitutes an 'archaeological' landscape vary considerably from one national and official culture another, but the focus is very frequently on pre-Modern periods alone. The approaches developed in Wales, Scotland and England have therefore much to commend them, in that they admit the historical significance and regenerative potential of modern and multi-period landscapes. However, even with the UK, this approach has as yet had only a limited impact and is still not generally accepted.

For these reasons, there is frequently little awareness of the possibilities of informed historic landscape management within local government. One result is a reluctance to move beyond point-data, or beyond the assumptions which underpin site-based approaches, or to see traditional forms of statutory protection (such as, in the UK, scheduling and listing, as well as the creation of national parks and AONBs) as the last word in heritage management. Very different strategies are evolved for rural and urban environments, yet in many ways the challenges they offer are similar, and their historic inter-relatedness can be understood.

The asset-value of the historic landscape needs therefore to be communicated effectively to decision-makers at a local and regional level, to the county planners and conservation officers, and to elected representatives. These individuals therefore constitute a key constituency.

In order to accomplish this, statutory organisations should make a point of explaining to them the options for the historic landscape through the provision of seminars, site-visits and study-tours.

Heritage Management courses at University level also have an important part to play, both by developing new courses in landscape management and by ensuring that existing course-provision reflects latest thinking. Closer liaison between academic departments in different universities can inform course-development, as can liaison between universities and statutory organisations with a heritage or conservation remit.

Local government officers and representatives will, in turn, be equipped with the knowledge and awareness that will enable them to encourage sustainable development in both general and specific senses.

This can also lead to more appropriate presentation of historic landscapes to the broader community. This needs to be couched in terms that are appropriate and accessible. Wales once again provides an example of how this might be undertaken. It is axiomatic that the focus of understanding the historic landscape in Wales is as a 'people story' rather than in terms of the survival of material evidence, though this may be equally true of many other cultures as well. 'Repopulating' the historic landscape is not necessarily a sentimentalisation of the past nor does it represent 'dumbing down', but highlights the role of human agency in the evolution of the environment, and can be carried out at academic level as well as in terms of presentation at popular and at official level.

Appropriate management of the historic landscape is an enabling, rather than a restrictive, process. It is central to delivering the 'green economy', and a sustainable economic future. Archaeologists have done as much as any section of the professional community to raise awareness of the landscape as a resource as well as a matter of academic enquiry, and to evolve a vision of landscape as central to the world in which we might live. The time has come for them to join with the rest of the professional community in helping to raise awareness and to share understanding.

It is vital that this vision be communicated to all members of the community, but in the crucial years that lie immediately ahead of us it is particularly imperative that front-line decision makers, landscape managers, conservation officers and the elected representatives be equipped with the knowledge and understanding that will make this possible.

## Presenting past landscapes, II

Dr Delia Hooke, University of Birmingham

Mae *Delia Hooke* BA, PhD, FSA, yn ddaearyddwr hanesyddol/archeolegydd tirlun sydd wedi ymhyfrydu ym maes tirlun drwy ei hoes. Mae wedi cyfuno ymchwil academiaidd a darlithio â gwaith ymgynghori ymarferol, wedi iddi fod yn Gymrawd Ymchwil yn yr Ysgol Ddaearyddiaeth ym Mhrifysgol Birmingham ac yna'n Uwch Ddarlithydd yng Ngholeg Addysg Uwch Cheltenham a Chaerloyw (Prifysgol Sir Gaerloyw bellach). Ers y 1970au hwyr, mae hefyd wedi bod yn gweithio ar ei liwt ei hun fel ymgynghorydd mewn Archeoleg a Thirluniau Hanesyddol a chymerodd ran, gyda David Eagar, yn un or asemiadau Cymeriadaeth Cefn Gwlad cyntaf, a gynhaliwyd yn Swydd Warwick. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n gwerthuso cytundebau Stiwardiaeth Cefn Gwlad DEFRA gydag ADAS. Mae wedi cyhoeddi nifer o lyfrau, yn bennaf am dirlun cynnar yr oesoedd canol, gan gynnwys *The Landscape of Anglo-Saxon England* (Leicester University Press 1998), ac mae ar hyn o bryd yn ymchwilio ac yn ysgrifennu am dirlun gorllewin canolbarth Lloegr ar gyfer cyfres 'England's Landscape' newydd English Heritage.

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*Delia Hooke* BA, PhD, FSA, is an historical geographer/landscape archaeologist with a life-long love of landscape. She has combined academic research and lecturing with practical consultancy work, having been a Research Fellow in the School of Geography at the University of Birmingham and then a Senior Lecturer at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education (now the University of Gloucestershire). Since the late 1970s, she has also acted as a freelance consultant in Archaeology and Historical Landscapes and was involved with David Eagar in one of the first Countryside Character assessments, carried out in Warwickshire. She is currently evaluating DEFRA Countryside Stewardship agreements with ADAS. She has published numerous books, mostly on the early medieval landscape, including *The Landscape of Anglo-Saxon England* (Leicester University Press 1998), and is currently researching and writing the west midland landscape for English Heritage's new 'England's Landscape' series.

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*Delia Hooke* BA, PhD, FSA est une géographe historique/archéologue des paysages qui apprécie les paysages depuis toujours. Elle a combiné la recherche et les conférences avec des services de conseils pratiques et a été

chargée de recherche à l'École de géographie de l'université de Birmingham puis maître de conférences au Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education (actuelle université du Gloucestershire). Depuis la fin des années 70, elle est également consultant free-lance en archéologie et paysages historiques et a participé avec David Eagar à l'une des premières évaluations du caractère d'un paysage, qui a été menée dans le Warwickshire. Elle collabore actuellement avec le cabinet ADAS à la reévaluation des accords du Countryside Stewardship Scheme (Programme de gestion du paysage) du ministère britannique de l'Environnement, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales. Elle a publié de nombreux ouvrages, portant principalement sur le paysage médiéval à ses débuts, y compris *The Landscape of Anglo-Saxon England* (Leicester University Press 1998), et prépare actuellement un ouvrage sur le paysage des West Midlands pour la nouvelle série « England's Landscape » d'English Heritage.

## Abstract

Mae'r papur hwn yn cynnig ystyriaethau ar y cyflwyniad a'r disgrifiad o agweddau diwylliannol a hanesyddol ar y tirlun. Er y gall mapiau yn aml fod yn fan cychwyn defnyddiol iawn i archwilio hanes tirluniau, mae'n amlwg bod cyfyngiadau mawr i ddarlunio tirluniau ar fapiau, ni waeth faint o fanylder y gellir ei ddangos. Yn yr un modd, mae cofnodion ysgrifenedig yn dangos sut y gall dirnadaeth o dirlun newid dros genedlaethau. Faint bynnag y byddwn yn ceisio darlunio neu ddisgrifio tirluniau, mae'n dal i fod yn anodd esbonio beth mae tirlun yn ei olygu i'r rhai sy'n byw ynddi, ac mae'n amheus a allwn wir ddeall unrhyw dirlun sydd heb gysylltiad a'n profiad ein hun. Er hyn, mae disgrifiadau mewn geiriau a delweddau, gan gynnwys mapiau a GIS, yn bendant o ryw werth ymarferol.

This paper gives some reflections on the presentation and description of cultural and historic aspects of the landscape. Although maps can often be a very useful starting point to examine the history of landscapes, it is clear that the depiction of landscapes on maps, however much detail can be portrayed, has severe limitations. Equally, written records show how perceptions of landscape can change over the generations. However much we try to depict or describe landscapes, it remains difficult to explain what a landscape

means to those who live within it, and it is doubtful if we can truly understand any landscape that does not relate to our own experience. Nevertheless, descriptions in both words and images, including maps and GIS, are certainly of some practical value.

Cet exposé contient des réflexions sur la présentation et la description des aspects culturels et historiques du paysage. Bien que les cartes constituent souvent un point de départ très utile pour l'examen de l'histoire des paysages, il est clair que la représentation des paysages sur les cartes, toutes détaillées qu'elles soient, présente de sérieuses limitations. De même les descriptions écrites illustrent à quel point les perceptions du paysage peuvent évoluer au cours des générations. Quels que soient les efforts que nous faisons pour dépeindre les paysages, il reste difficile d'expliquer ce qu'ils représentent pour les habitants et il est douteux que nous puissions vraiment comprendre un paysage dont nous n'avons pas une expérience personnelle. Néanmoins, les descriptions aussi bien verbales que picturales, y compris les cartes et les systèmes d'information géographique, présentent certainement une utilité pratique.

## Synopsis

Having been involved for many years in attempts to portray historical landscapes in mapped form, I have been intrigued by the achievements of early mapmakers to do just this. Before the constraints of the Ordnance Survey, excellent as modern maps are, they were free to experiment with what they and their patrons felt suitable. Sir William Dugdale illustrated his *Antiquities of Warwickshire* published in 1656 with maps that showed the Warwickshire Arden covered in trees, together with the great deer parks of the castles of Kenilworth and Warwick and others elsewhere. Here he was already showing the characteristics that made this region unique. This was the mythological 'Forest of Arden' described by Drayton as 'rough woodlands' that stretched from Trent to 'Severne's side', the hunting forest that was the setting for Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Yet Arden had never been unbroken woodland, at least in the last 1,000 years.

True, there were scattered patches of ancient woodland, medieval parks that preserved a forest-like landscape, and the remnants of old wood-pasture commons but it was more often

the tree-lined hedges that surrounded the small, irregular fields that preserved the bosky appearance. I have tried to illustrate these characteristics by reconstructing maps of historical land use for the area (Hooke 1993), for it is features like this that make every region unique. The small woods, remnant parklands, a few of the commons and even the small hedged fields are still there today, the setting for mainly dispersed farmsteads (many early ones moated) and hamlets linked by narrow winding roads (Fig. 1) (Warwickshire County Council & Countryside Commission 1993).

Parks have often preserved early landscape features in other areas, too. Moccas Park in Herefordshire, now managed by English Nature, may incorporate the earlier park of Dorstone and it still possesses many venerable old trees (PL II), some of which may date back as far as c.1400 although most are younger — planted in the early 16th century or later, and referred to by the Revd Kilvert as 'grey old men' (Wall 1999). Staverton in Suffolk is another superb example of an old wood-pasture park. In England, the government's Countryside Stewardship scheme is now helping to conserve many historic parklands throughout the country.

What is clear is that if decisions about future landscape management are to be made, it is essential that they operate within an informed framework in which the evolution of the present-day landscape, together with all consequent ecological implications, is fully appreciated and understood.

This has led me to consider afresh the problems of portraying the cultural implications of landscape. It is clear from travellers' writings that perceptions of landscape can change over the generations. Seventeenth and eighteenth-century travellers like Daniel Defoe and Celia Fiennes disliked, for instance, the barren moors of the Dark Peak, 'so full of moore and quagmires and such precipices that one that is a stranger cannot travell without a Guide' (Fiennes cited in Morris 1995, 110). Yet today many find the open moorland landscapes, occasionally broken by stark gritstone edges, exhilarating in their open unbroken wildness (PL III).

While the public must be involved in landscape conservation if it is to be successful, public perception is not always a reliable factor — after the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak

many were bemoaning the possible loss of the open Lake District fells, even preferring areas that were eaten down by previous overstocking to a threadbare and ecologically unsustainable sward.

It is clear that the depiction of landscapes on maps, however much detail can be portrayed, has severe limitations. One has only to read literary sources to see how much can be conveyed by the written word (Hooke forthcoming). Mary Webb uses her deep knowledge of the landscapes and legends of her native south Shropshire hills in her novels such as *Gone to Earth* and *Precious Bane*, published in 1917 and 1924, in which she captures a rapidly disappearing parochialism played out within the narrow confined world of a remote countryside. She uses local legends of the death pack hunting over the wild heights of the Stiperstones, their baying carried on the wind, to convey a dark terror only words can describe. Similarly, Francis Brett Young describes the timeless backdrop of the Wyre Forest, his 'Werewood', in his *Far Forest* (1936), in which only gentle seasonal changes are perceptible.

Landscapes can offer a sense of belonging to a given area, and many have been recalled with nostalgia in circumstances of exile, war or old age: from A. E. Houseman's 'blue remembered hills' of Shropshire seen from his native Worcestershire, to the 'Hills, vales, woods, netted in a silver mist' of Elizabeth Barrett Browning seen from near her childhood home at Upper Colwall below the Malverns, or the image of the 'shapely Malvern Hills' that Lascelles Abercrombie carried with him after the First World War.

Artists are able to portray their interpretations of landscapes in water colours and oils, returning to something of the original meaning of the term *landskip* as something to be seen, able to enrich the view with their own particular interpretation. Some of us try to do the same by photography.

However much we try to depict or describe landscapes, it remains difficult to explain what a landscape means to those who live within it, and it is doubtful if we can truly understand any landscape that does not relate to our own experience. I personally find that I need to see the countryside with my own eyes, but at the same time I welcome any means that can increase my understanding of that countryside, whether

rural or urban, and maps and GIS systems are able to do just that.

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## Illustrations

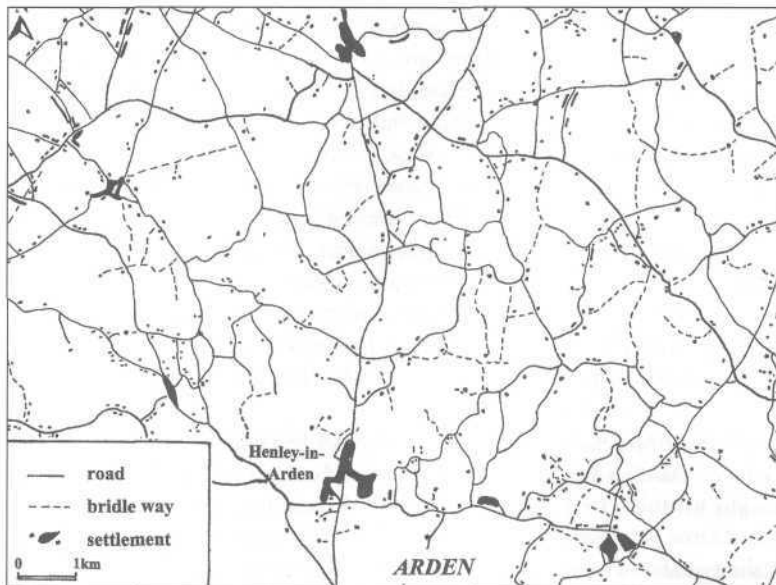


Figure 1: Settlement and road patterns in Arden.



Plate I. View over part of the Warwickshire Arden  
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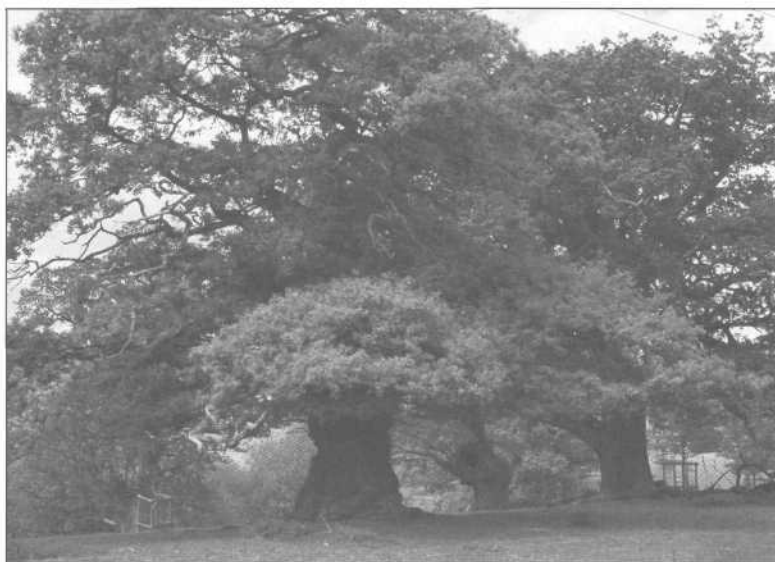


Plate II. Ancient oaks in Moccas Park, Herefordshire  
© D. Hooke.





Plate III. The Dark  
Peak: Axe Moor,  
Derbyshire  
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