Planning History Bulletin

1981 Volume 3 Number 2

Planning History Group
Election for membership of the Planning History Group Executive, 1981-82, has been held; voting closed on Friday 10th July. Forty-six voting slips were returned, and the result, in order of votes cast, is as follows:

**U.K.**

**Elected:**
- R.J.P. Kain
- M. Cuthbert
- S.M. Gaskell
- M. Hebbert

**Not Elected:**
- P. Dickens
- D. Whitham

**Overseas**

**Elected:**
- M.J. Bannon
- Eugenie Birch
- B.A. Brownell
- Christiane Collins
- Joan Draper
- D. Hulchanski

**Not Elected:**
- D.A. Kreuckeberg
- P. Kaufman

The Group wishes to congratulate the successful candidates, and commiserate with those who were not. The fact that so many people were prepared to stand for election was a healthy sign of the vitality of the Group.

A great feature of the Planning History Group to date has been its openness and flexibility of approach. We have been very pleased to see interesting new developments in the USA, and Eugenie Birch informs me of some recent meetings full of potential for future development. The Organisation of American Historians (OAH), the Urban History Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) and the American Planning Association (APA) have established contact with a view to establishing organisational links. The Executive is glad to hear of these initiatives and looks forward with pleasure to new arrangements which will foster the development of planning history studies. The Executive takes the view that where forest fires of this kind can be lit, it can only be beneficial for our wide-ranging interests.

It is now nearly a year since our last Annual Conference, and for those who attended, the memory, I am sure, will still be fresh. Tony Sutcliffe has edited a book which draws together the major papers and this should be published next year. We shall not lose sight of the need for further International Conferences.

Local meetings will take place wherever there is demand for them. We hope to hear of these meetings if they take place. In Britain over the years a regular pattern of meetings has developed and it
has been the practice for reports of these meetings to appear in the Bulletin. It will be recalled that the Cambridge Conference in November and the Swansea Conference in March were both very fully reported, and readers will be aware of the impressive contributions that were made. Rather less convincing, however, are the somewhat small attendances which have been recorded at recent meetings. The Meetings Secretary (Tony Butcliffe) is not at all sure that we have yet got the right approach to local meetings, and he would be glad to hear from anyone on this point. The Birmingham meeting in September already promises to have a far better attendance and I would take this opportunity of drawing this particular venture to your attention again.

The last Bulletin contained an up-to-date membership list. Our numbers continue to be fluid, as might be expected, and we are always glad to welcome new members. On the final page of this Bulletin you will find the names of those who have joined our network since the last list was prepared. There are still uncomfortable gaps in our membership, both according to academic discipline and territorial distribution. With regard to the latter, Third World countries are regrettably sparse in our Group membership, and I invite your help in suggesting names who might be approached to consider joining us. Do not feel that I should do all the approaching: please write letters of invitation yourselves!

The Editor will always be glad to hear from you. Do draw his attention to publications, conferences, research proposals, visits that you might be making to other countries, and of course if you can let your pen flow and produce short articles for the Bulletin, this would be even better.

Gordon E. Cherry
Chairman
self an authority on Welsh economics, history and folklore, and even was elected a "White Druid".

"In 1958 he was made a CB.

"Returning to headquarters after seven years in Wales would have been an anti-climax. Gillie re-attached from the Civil Service and became a consultant in town and regional planning with the intention of offering his unique experience to the poorer developing countries.

"As a consultant for the United Nations in new planning projects and in the establishment of planning authorities he visited Turkey from 1963-65, Afghanistan two years later, and more recently Nigeria. In 1967 he acted from 1967-70 as project manager to the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research and from 1970-71 as Regional Planning Adviser to the Irish Industrial Development Authority. During 1970-72 he was connected with the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague and at the American University of Beirut."

Urban and planning history is a central interest of the new Institut d’Histoire du Temps Présent (Institute for Contemporary History) founded by François Bédarida at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique, Paris. The Institute now publishes a quarterly bulletin (annual subscription: 200 francs) including methodological articles, bibliographies, archive lists, conference and seminar reports, and scholarly news.

Subscription forms may be obtained from: Bulletin de l’Institut d’Histoire du Temps Présent, 80b rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

During 1981 we propose to try out the possibility of bringing together a correspondence group among people interested in the study of Housing History. If such a group can be formed, we intend to go on to compile and circulate a Housing History Newsletter.

We define Housing History in broad terms as the study of the mass habitation of the poorer members of both industrial, and wage-earning (or serf) agrarian, societies. We see this as a field recognisably distinct from the History of Houses of individual dwellings - and from Vernacular Housing and Current Housing Studies. We do not intend this definition to be unduly restrictive or controversial; we propose no geographical limits, and will be happy to hear about work in any field related to the History of Housing.

Jeremy Lowe and Chris Powell, Welsh School of Architecture, UWIST, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF1 3NU, Wales.

Tony Sutcliffe reports that he is keeping a close eye on Public History, a recent development in the teaching of history at postgraduate level in the U.S. The idea is that they will increasingly find employment outside universities 'in a wide variety of research and writing positions in private corporations, local, state and federal government, and in communications and research organisations'. The Department of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, runs a graduate programme in Public Historical Studies. Now in its sixth year, the programme is the standard-bearer for a movement which since 1980 has been organised on a nation-wide basis, with its own journal, The Public Historian. The programme 'blends traditional academic work in history with seminars and other specially designed learning experiences including team research and writing; the use of quantitative methods; the using of non-traditional sources (trade journals - plans and maps); exposure to leaders in the fields of historic preservation, research, and fund-raising'.

We in the Planning History Group have always emphasised that our work can, and should, be of considerable help to the planners of today. Some of our members (like those who have written histories of New Towns, sometimes outside the university environment) have experience of precisely the kind of applied historical research envisaged for the products of the Santa Barbara programme. The progress of Public History in the U.S. should therefore be of great interest to postgraduates researching in planning history, and their supervisors.

Anyone wanting to know more about Public History should write, in the first instance, to:

Tony Sutcliffe, Department of Economic and Social History, Sheffield University, Sheffield S10 2TN.
Mr Richard Pepler is writing up a
history of the Town and Country
Planning Summer School for the
School's Golden Jubilee in 1983
(1933-83). Records for the early
years of the School have been
destroyed, and so he is anxious
to put to material drawn from his
father's files (Sir George Pepler).
He would be glad to receive any
general information relating to
the School. Please write to him
at:
Greystones, Welton by Lincoln,
LN2 3JP.

Historical Planning Records at
Risk

Members of the Group will probably
know by now that a Working Party
on historic planning records has
been set up. At present it con-
stitves of Michael Simpson (Conven-
ee, Department of History, University
College, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP),
Pat Garside (North London
Polytechnic), Alison Ravetz (Leeds
Polytechnic) and Roger Smith
(Trent Polytechnic). It is hoped
to add a Scottish representative
soon.

We hope eventually to produce a
guide to historic planning records
in Britain but we see our
first task as a rescue mission. We
feel that there are many plan-
ing records of vital importance
to members of the Group which
are 'at risk'. These fall into
three groups:

a) records held by individuals,
who may have no idea of
their value to the historian;
b) records held by voluntary
bodies, who have insufficient
space, concern or facilities
for their invaluable docu-
mants;
c) records held by local author-
ities, especially planning
departments. It is likely
that many of these never
reach County Record Offices.
Many are bulky or of very
large dimensions and hence
awkward to store.

The members of the Working Party
have identified some of these rec-
ords but we are appealing to Group
members in general for information
on other records 'at risk'. If
you know of any historic records of
potential value to planning his-
torians or those in related fields
which are in danger of being lost,
damaged or destroyed, we shall be
very pleased to hear from you.
Clearly, the business of approach-
ing custodians of these records is
likely to be a delicate one and it
is suggested that members should
send details of the records in con-
fidence to the Convenor of the
Working Party:

Mr Michael Simpson, Department of
History, University College,
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP.

The information should be as full
as possible, including the title
and the general nature of the rec-
ords, the approximate period, the
present custodian (with full address)
and the specific danger to which
they are exposed. We assure corres-
pondents that we shall not reveal
the sources of our information un-
tless they authorise us to do so.

It is our hope that when we have a
definite list of records 'at risk' we
shall be able to advise the
current custodians on their proper
care, which might include their
transfer to a professionally-run
repository, and on making them
available to scholars.
We would emphasise that our work
is for the benefit of members of
the Group, and we would urge mem-
bers, therefore, to give us their
full and prompt co-operation.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Michael Simpson, Convenor,
Working Party on Historic Planning
Records.

Planning History Group
Meetings

UGC Seminar, 19 September 1981
University of Birmingham

High density housing policies

List of contributors, in order of
speaking:
1. Hon. Professor N. Borg
   University of Birmingham
2. Dr A.R. Sutcliffe
   University of Sheffield
3. Dr Patricia Garside
   Polytechnic of North London
4. George Atkinson, OBE
   Consultant Architect
5. Alan Geeson, MRTP
   Planning Department,
   Borough of Milton Keynes
6. William Ogden, FRTP
7. Professor Gordon E. Cherry
   University of Birmingham

Full details and booking forms are
mailed with this issue of the
Bulletin.

Meetings and
Conferences

The Political-Economy of Canadian-
American Urban Development: An
Urban History Conference
August 24-28, 1982
University of Guelph

The conference will focus on the
political-economy of urban develop-
ment in Canada and the United
States, with particular focus on
the nature of social, economic, and
political power at both the theoreti-
cal and empirical levels. Those
with suggestions for papers should
contact the conference co-ordinator,

Gilbert A. Stelter
Department of History, University of
Guelph, Guelph, Ontario NIG 2W1

A Day Conference of the Historical
Geography Research Group of the
Institute of British Geographers
will be held at the Institute of
Historical Research, Senate House,
London, on Friday 27 November,
1981. The theme will be "Studies of
the Housing Market, 1860-1930".

The speakers will be:

Peter Kemp: Housing Landlordism
in the late nineteenth century.

Martin Daunton: Rents and revenue:
working class housing, 1880-1914.

Jim Yelling: The compensation
question in slum clearance.

Richard Dennis: Philanthropic
housing in London: questions and
sources for research.

Colin Pooley: The development of
corporation housing in Liverpool:
some preliminary observations.

The day will end with a general
discussion on the problems and
potential of research on nineteenth
and early twentieth century housing.

All papers will be pre-circulated
to allow maximum time for dis-
cussion. The conference fee is £3.50
and covers the cost of tea, coffee
and the reproduction and circu-
lation of papers. It does not
include lunch, which may be taken
in a variety of university and
college refectories, or restaurants.

Further information and booking
forms can be obtained from:

Dr R.J. Dennis
Department of Geography
University College London
26 Bedford Way
London WC1H 0AP

Completed booking forms must be
returned to Dr Dennis not later
than 19 October, 1981.
History of Planning Methodology Workshop

The first meeting of the History of Planning Methodology Workshop, organised through the British section of the Regional Science Association, was held at the London School of Economics on 22nd May. This inaugural meeting was intended to introduce the activities of the Workshop and to provide an opportunity for participants to explain their interests. Five presentations were made, as follows:

M. Hebert
London School of Economics

"A Bibliographical Review of the Evolution of Planning Methodology, 1909-1969"

M. Breheny
University of Reading
and
P. Batey
University of Liverpool

"The History of Planning Methodology: Some Problems of Interpretation"

A. Hooper
University of Reading

"Paradigm Development in Planning"

I. Masser
University of Sheffield

"Procedural Methodology: A Review of the Last Twenty Years"

M. Batty
University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology

"The Systems Approach to Planning: The Impact of the Manchester School"

General discussion focussed on the problems involved in different approaches to the study of planning history; the problems of chronological or thematic presentations; the problems of divorcing methodology from the context of planning, and so on. The factors influencing the introduction and adoption of the systems approach in Britain in the sixties were also the subject of much discussion.

Overall, this was a very useful first meeting in that a range of interests and perspectives were uncovered, and many ideas on the future activities of the Workshop were proposed.

Two further meetings are to be organised for the autumn. They are to be on the themes of:

"The New Planning, 1: Methodologies in the Forties"

and

"The New Planning, 2: Methodologies in the Sixties"

Anyone wishing to know more about these two meetings or about the activities of the Workshop in general, should contact:

Michael Breheny
Department of Geography
University of Reading
Whiteknights
Reading
RG6 2AB

Publications


An account of the historical development of the concept of 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' and the shifts in emphasis between conservation and recreation.

J.B. Cullingworth, Environmental Planning, Vol. IV, Land Values, Compensation and Betterment, HMSO, 1980. Pp 582. This is the fourth volume of the official history of environmental planning. It deals with the compensation-betterment scheme of the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, and traces the history of that and subsequent schemes up to the end of the sixties. It is the 'return to market value' in 1959 and the establishment of the Land Commission in 1967.

David Hardman, The History of the Holiday Fellowship, 1913-1940, pp 96; The Holiday Fellowship Ltd., 142-144 Great North Way, London, NW1 6EG, £2.50. An account of the first 27 years of the Fellowship's existence, of the 'access' lobby, the work of the organisation, the development of the organisation, the future of the organisation, and the work of the organisation.

Archival Documentation Relating to the Protection of Amenity and Provision of Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Britain in the Inter-War Period, 33 reports each separately priced, total cost £74.50.

As previously reported in JMR, between 1978 and 1980 Mrs Philippa Bassett, Research Fellow at the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham, located and listed the bulk of the surviving private archives of a wide variety of organisations whose interests are relevant to research in respect of countryside planning in Britain between the wars. The study, funded by the Social Science Research Council, was jointly directed by Professors Gordon E. Cherry, CURS, Birmingham, and Dr Sadie B. Ward, Institute of Agricultural History, University of Reading.

The product of Philippa Bassett's work is now available from the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies in 33 separate reports, each in respect of the organisation listed. Those included are local authority associations, learned and professional societies, and national amenity, recreation, sporting and natural history bodies, together with a small number of important local groups.

The reports now form a unique collection which will provide opportunities for further research relating to the inter-war period. The location and nature of this material until now has been largely unknown. Considerable light has been brought to bear on topics in the field of environmental planning including: the role of pressure groups among the recreation and amenity bodies, the origins of the National Park movement and the 'access' lobby, the work of the conservation movement, the amenity and countryside protection network, the development of leisure and outdoor activities and the evolution of land planning philosophy and practice.

Each report is prefaced by an introduction which contains an account of the organisation's history, extending overall to about 65,000 words. Also in the introduction is a summary of the content and potential of the archive, drawing attention, for example, to the comprehensiveness of the records, indicating the existence of any gaps and giving details of any damage. There is also an explanation of the way in which the records have been listed.
Each study is a concise and up-to-date account of a significant social and design experiment. The fully referenced, and illustrated texts share a common introduction.

The studies will be of interest to those involved in urban design, planning and architecture, as well as to geographers and social historians.

For further information contact The Secretary for Publications, Department of Town Planning, Oxford Polytechnic, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP.

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Three Studies of the Design and Development Process in New Communities: New Ash Green, Kent £1.80
South Woodham Ferrers, Essex £1.65
Vlaastranda, Copenhagen £1.75

All plus 30p per copy for postage.

These three case study monographs have been prepared by Carl Bray of the Joint Centre for Urban Design at Oxford Polytechnic. Bray's intention was to analyse the obstacles, processes and development stages involved in the creation of new 'village' settlements.

Each study is based on extensive interviews with those concerned. Hence the New Ash Green study document the work of SPAN, evidence recently endorsed as important by the Architects Journal. The South Woodham study reports on discussions with past and present members of the Essex County Council Planning Department team involved. The Vl astranda study is based on discussions with past and present members of this alternative urban village community as well as with officials of the Copenhagen city, and Danish government.

This collection of papers from the Urban History Symposium of the Congress of Americanists held at Vancouver, British Columbia in August, 1979, provides a multidisciplinary approach to urban development.

The authors, distinguished scholars from around the world, address themselves to questions of economic growth and regional development, demographic and social change, and the process of city-building.

For further information contact The Publications Officer, Joint Centre for Regional, Urban and Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.

This is an in-depth case history of the Vieux Carre riverfront expressway controversy - a battle between downtown businessmen who believed a riverfront expressway would provide better automobile access to the center city and, therefore, was indispensable to the vitality of the central business district, and environmentalists who believed the proposed elevated freeway would irremediably harm the quaint and distinctive character of the Vieux Carre and, thereby, threaten the authenticity and attractiveness of a distinctive and important urban historic district.


Book Reviews


The history of towns and countries (British) planning and its pioneers is in part about attempts to intervene in what was seen as the natural order of things. In part it is about attempts to assert various aesthetic notions in relation to town and country, notions which require regulation and control of market forces, especially the market in land. Throughout a century of economic and urban growth the planning movement challenged the supremacy of utilitarian values, and yet was profoundly influenced by them. It challenged the workings of the market system, and yet attempted in practice to adapt its utopian and visionary concepts to that system. Now in the face of economic decline and growing feelings of confidence in our ability to cope with the inner city's problems, planning is in disarray. It has no utopian and
editor with disarming frankness Osborn makes it clear that the choice of one by the editor, who also prov-
his or her ' character ' including Patrick sketches, each by a specialist in offering. This 225 page volume consists of eight biographical models that will provide the tern-
his latest book from Gordon Cherry and timely, relevant and enjoyable conflic ts are as live and germane, perhaps Thomas Sharp whose later years were attended by sense of failure and bitterness. The sketches raise many issues and critical questions. Is it possible to leave Ebenezer Howard out? Why include a contemporary living planner? Have there been a concluding essay that attempted to evaluate the contribution of the pioneers in the light of today's realities? One could go on. Nevertheless, this is a useful collection which does not purport to be a definitive evaluation. It represents a con-
siderable achievement that the contributors have published their respective essays between one set of covers. Moreover, it remains an exceedingly interesting and read-
able book which will be of value to many students of planning who want to know more about their antecedents.

Edgar A. Rose

The introductory essay touches on some of the difficulties in pre-
senting planning history through the work of its famous men. Is it correct to assert that 'when a discipline or profession can show interest in its history, it is a demonstration of a growing institutional maturity'? Can the social historian 'get the record straight', "destroy myths" and "do homage to famous men"? These questions deserve further because they illustrate the dangers that can arise in pragmatic selection of characters from the planning pantheon.

If the history of town planning, as Cherry asserts, tends to be viewed as the history planners have done, is this a sufficient reason to focus on the contributions of particular individuals and persons? Can such an approach produce biography rather than history? Perhaps it depends on how it is done. Whilst recognising the value of a more 'scientific' history and explanation in terms of a political-economy of the city, competing ideologies and clashes of interest, Cherry argues that the role of the individual in society in both word and deed is undoubt edly important, if not decisive, in a non-deter-
ministic world. In his own words: "We are selecting particular people to see both how the course of planning history has been affected by their work, and how a set of 'influences has acted on them". He sees biographical studies as correctives, men make their own history.

The introduction and individual sketches make stimulating reading. Some of the essays break new ground in attempts to reevaluate previously published work. They do vary considerably in approach and focus. They are in this sense disparate, irrespective of their individual quality. Personal preferences count for much in biographical sketches. Helen Møller's excellent piece on Geddes will not surprise those who know her previous published work. By way of contrast Michael Simpson gives us an account of Thomas Adams, probably the least known of the pioneers, though widely accepted as a leader of his profession in Britain, Canada and the United States. Michael Hibbert provides a splendidly rounded and critical appreciation of F.O. C. Rosewick and inquires in a series of questions about the relationship between planning activity and political action. Of special importance is Kathy Stansfield's well-delineated portrait of the little under-
stood Thomas Sharp whose later years were attended by sense of failure and bitterness. The sketches raise many issues and critical questions. Is it possible to leave Ebenezer Howard out? Why include a contemporary living planner? Have there been a concluding essay that attempted to evaluate the contribution of the pioneers in the light of today's realities? One could go on. Nevertheless, this is a useful collection which does not purport to be a definitive evaluation. It represents a con-
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able book which will be of value to many students of planning who want to know more about their antecedents.

Edgar A. Rose

A.R. Sutcliffe, Towards the Planned City: Germany, Britain, the United States and France, 1780-1914, Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1981. This title has now been published and will be reviewed in the next issue of Planning History Bulletin.

Notes and Articles

MAKESHIFT LANDSCAPES

Dennis Hardy and Colin Ward

In Planning History Bulletin Vol.2, No.1, 1980, a note was included on the authors' joint research, 'Development of Plotlands in South-East England', a two-year Social Science Research Council Project. This article will also indicate some of the locational aspects of the research.

"£1 FREEHOLD LAND FOR THE PEOPLE!

For Houses, Bungalows, Rustic Cottages in Poultry Farms, or Garden-
ing. Pretty Scenery. 20ft. by 200 ft. £10 per plot. Possession on payment of £1, balance by 18 half-yearly instalments."

(From an advert in Dalton's Weekly House and Apartment Advertiser, April 19th, 1913.)

Most of the 'plotlands' - tracts of scattered and makeshift development - were developed in the first half of the twentieth century, some before 1914 but the majority in the inter-war period. Though many have survived since then, their continuing formation came to an abrupt end with the coming of effective planning legislation in 1947. With localised exceptions they never really constituted a large propor-
tion of early twentieth-century development. Yet they were quite widely dispersed and attracted a degree of public concern that far exceeded what might have been expec-
ted in terms of their limited acreage. They figured prominently in the debate, throughout the 1930s and early 1940s on the question of the emer-
gence of new planning legislation. Few parts of the country escaped at least, isolated examples of makeshift developments - though larger concentra-
tions of plotland development were more restricted.

So where were they located? (1) Undoubtedly there was a great att-
racion in being close to an urban centre, especially if proximity could be combined with a special landscape feature such as a lake, some hills, a river or woodland. In the days before Green Belt restrictions it was little to check the proliferation of make-shift huts and shacks in prime sites for a day or weekend break. As the largest centre of population, London and the South East generated the greatest concentrations of plotland development.

The banks of the Thames and Lea were always popular for Londoners, in spite of perennial flooding and waterlogged conditions. Little chalets were built on vacant sites that others had spurned on account of their marginal setting. Less popular were the drier slopes of the North Downs, with clusters of huts wherever opportunities arose along the entire length of the chalky ridge. Many of these clusters were tucked away in the woodland that characterises the area, with its distinctive presence of week-ends in the Chilterns to the north-west of London. Writing in the late 1930s, S.B. Mais deplored the fact that "there are many instances of these hideous settlements". (4)

City-dwellers elsewhere found their own distinctive retreats. Man-cunians escaped to the Pennine fringes, to places like Marple and Mottram. Elsewhere river valleys were a source of attraction. Huts took their place at various points along the River Severn, within reach of the industrial towns of the West Midlands. Complete with examples of conversions as many as 200 survive in the Bridgnorth area, with further clusters in north Worcestershire. During the 1930s, a smaller concentration can be found on the River Dee, some ten miles upstream from Chester. Serving a wider catchment, the River Wye also proved an attractive choice - especially what others regarded as "those unsightly booths that ring the Wye bank at Tintern". (3)

Sometimes Arcadia took the form of a lakeland setting, albeit perhaps a stretch of water resulting from the nearby reservoirs. Lower Flash in Cheshire. Pickmore is another Cheshire example, while further south in North Staffordshire timber hills retreats lined the western shore of Rudyard Reservoir. In contrast, others sought relief from urban life in the shade and security of a nearby woodland. East Midlanders made for Charnwood Forest; with more localised examples elsewhere, like Hardwick Wood and Sutton Spring Wood near Chesterfield, or the Middlesbrough venue of Holmwood Wood near Aisbyl.

When it came to the coast, though, distance was rarely an obstacle; sites beyond reach for a weekend visit were no less attractive as seasonal retreats. Right round the coast, as Professor Steers (who surveyed its extent in his "observatory") noted, "there are many instances of these hideous settlements". (4)

Sometimes these 'hideous settlements' amounted to little more than a small group of huts, though these were seen to be "often as disfiguring as mass". (7) The example of a cluster of make-shift structures on a remote stretch of Lancashire coastline near Cockermouth Abbey was a case in point. Other examples included the string of huts, mixed with older fishermen's homes, along the Dunegeness peninsula in Kent, and a variety of sites in south-west England.

In the wake of the Steers survey, regional civil servants took a closer look at the South West. (6) They confirmed that its greater distance to London and its population centres had not saved it from a widespread incidence of holiday huts and motley encampments.

From Severn Beach on the north coast, through Redcliffe Bay, Croyde and Hayle Towan; and then along the south coast to include Whitstable and Beer, sizeable clusters were noted. It was the larger colonies along the south coast, though, which attracted greater attention at the time. Aesthetes deplored them, but Londoners loved the self-made rings in the South coast. Shoreham Beach, Peace-haven and Camber Sands were sizeable settlements in their own right that lasted from the early years of the twentieth century. Obsolete rolling stock, London trams and minibuses faced seawards, alongside more conventional wood, brick, and asbestos bungalows.

Likewise the open aspect of the east coast eased the way for numerous examples of individual opportunism - enormously popular for coastal holidays, but consistently deplored for their impact on the scenery. Professor Steers found much of which to complain on the east coast. "Amongst the worst is Flamborough Head where a whole town of hutsmans has completely ruined the scenery of a fine chalk headland ... Miles of the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coasts are disfigured by long lines of jerry-built wooden erections, and parts of Essex are notorious for it". (7) With Jaywick Sands and Canvey Island not to mention the smaller groupings around its estuaries, Essex was indeed 'notorious for it'. This notoriety, however, had a totally different meaning for the East Londoners who came to experience Arcadia than it did for the coastal surveyors and officials of the day.

As well as coastal settlements, there are also interesting examples of plotlands designed for permanent occupation. These include schemes where farms were sold speculatively in plots of an acre or more for smallholdings.

From Seaview on the Isle of Wight or St. Leonards in Hampshire, in cases like this the unrealistic expectations of speculative investors led to a mixed landscape of vacant plots, rough grazing, the odd workshop here and there, storage yards, and boarding kennels. But Londoners loved the self-made rings on the east coast. Shoreham Beach, Peace-haven and Camber Sands were sizeable settlements in their own right that lasted from the early years of the twentieth century. Obsolete rolling stock, London trams and minibuses faced seawards, alongside more conventional wood, brick, and asbestos bungalows.

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From Severn Beach on the north coast, through Redcliffe Bay, Croyde and Hayle Towan; and then along the south coast to include Whitstable and Beer, sizeable clusters were noted. It was the larger colonies along the south coast, though, which attracted greater attention at the time. Aesthetes deplored them, but Londoners loved the self-made rings in the South coast. Shoreham Beach, Peace-haven and Camber Sands were sizeable settlements in their own right that lasted from the early years of the twentieth century. Obsolete rolling stock, London trams and minibuses faced seawards, alongside more conventional wood, brick, and asbestos bungalows.

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dismissal from the other two became known. His unfortunate family shunted its belongings on a cart from one village to another, ending in the allotment gardens. Boys who lost their jobs at the mines would be obliged to leave their parental colliery-owned home, and move into a hut on the allotments, returning at weekends for a bath. One family at Horden Colliery, resigned to living on the allotments, bought with their savings a hut from the mail order firm of J. Thorn and contrived a kitchen and other amenities.

The story of permanent plotlands is certainly not always associated with hardship. Quite commonly, modest ventures designed for weekends and holidays in the 1920s and 1930s have evolved over the years into expensive and sought-after properties. With services now laid on, their choice sites overlooking the sea or commanding a fine countryside view have become highly marketable assets—far removed from the simplicity of their original form. In fact, it is probable that the trend from temporary to permanent occupation accounts for the most striking changes in the plotland landscape since the years of its inception.

Relatively few of the original makeshift structures remain in the present landscape. Perhaps surprisingly, in spite of all the rhetoric and the advent of a comprehensive planning system, their disappearance has only in a limited number of cases been the result of a deliberate clearance policy. In some cases, time has taken its toll; flimsy properties have decayed, or plot-owners have disappeared without trace. More commonly, though, the process has been one of market evolution—"traded-up" over the years to replace one landscape with another. It has become a landscape of "nouveau" house-styles and outward signs of wealth, consciously rejecting its humble and even illegitimate past. Yet with its irregular layouts and conspicuous locations, not to mention the persistence of an odd shack, such areas never entirely throw off their makeshift ancestry.

Notes
1. In tracing the extent of plotlands, the assistance of County Planning Officers is gratefully acknowledged. Evidence of the distribution of plotlands has also been gleaned from a wide variety of sources, referenced below and in relation to the particular case studies which will constitute a major part of the research report.
3. ibid, p.219.
5. ibid, p.11.
7. Steers, op cit., p.11.
8. The rationale for designating the land for a new town was frequently couched in these terms; in for instance, 'Basildon's Special Problems', an article in Town and Country Planning, (October, 1953), Brigadier W.G.D. Knaptton said that the task confronting the local authorities 'almost amounted to a rural slum clearance scheme'.

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