DESIGNING THE LANDSCAPE OF RECREATION

This lecture will cover:

• The wider countryside landscape;
• The experience of being in the forest and other natural places;
• Designing new rural and forest landscapes
• The design process of recreation areas.
THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE LANDSCAPE

• In the lecture on planning and the design of the visit the importance of achieving a contrast between the urban landscape and the countryside landscape was emphasised.

• As well as designing facilities to fit into existing landscapes there are opportunities to create new landscapes
DESIGNING THE NEW URBAN FOREST

• This is a recent area of development.
• Where woods and forests already exist they can be made more attractive for recreation.
• Where natural areas are not available they can be created.
Stuttgart : view from Birkenkopf
Helsinki: Central Park
The Netherlands: Amsterdamse Bos
Moscow: Losiniy Ostrov
The Netherlands: Mastbos
St Petersburg: Sosnovka
DESIGN OF VEGETATION

• Woodland design concerns mass and space
• Views are important
• Path layout in relation to the spaces and masses
• Opportunities for different experiences
• Different styles can be used
A path leading into the woods, a view out to a landmark, a sense of mystery, an invitation to enter.
Paths designed to lead around and to catch people entering from houses
Contrasting design styles – formal or informal
Grading from mass to space, open to enclosed
Some safe paths, some wild paths
Different edge structures give different character
Conversion of a gridiron layout to something more informal
Break up the grid, introduce more paths
DESIGN PROCESS

• Follows the normal steps
• Relates the design to the landform – possibly of reclaimed land eg mineral workings.
CONCEPT; predominantly wooded hills/mounds to achieve a strong character. Recreation concentrated on the restored colliery area. Nature conservation concentrated in the valley with difficult access and natural soil. Open space is concentrated in the valley area and lower slopes with easiest access. Separated circulation for pedestrians and all terrain (mountain) bikes is maintained.
CASE STUDY: VICTORY WOOD

• Located in Kent in the south of England
• A new woodland restoring an area where the forest had been removed.
• Inclusive access and recreational use a major objective
• Commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar (1805) and HMS Victory.
Slope rises from road, screening much of the view.

Unattractive set of buildings.

Several valleys provide modelling to the face of the slope.

Slope is steeper to the north compared with the south of the ridge.

Main ridge runs SW-NE, dissected by several saddles.

Wide panoramic views are possible from the summit of the ridge.

KEY

Site boundary

Visual forces lead the eye down ridges

Visual forces lead the eye up valleys
This subsidiary ridge, with a small patch of woodland, is also part of the site.

The ridge here, connecting with the woodland, is a dominant skyline element in this view.

This viewpoint is from the road just descending from the flyover over the A299, an open view seen by travellers on the road as it descends the hill.

This view is mainly obtained by motorists crossing the A299. It is a focal view where the open landscape gives a deceptive sense of scale. The size of the Lambourn Farm site shown up here—ranging from the middleground lower ridge to the skyline and beyond.
Victory Wood
Design Concept

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Recreation Design Process

- Scale – from large-scale planning of an area down to site design and details
- Need for vertical integration
- Need for attention to detail
Clay plain

Sandy moraine

Kettlehole lake

River flowing north

Kettlehole lake, deeper, with steeper edges

SURVEY: GEOLOGY AND SOILS
Very valuable lake and wetland complex with river running through.

Coniferous forest that has been managed, with some old growth in it.

Intensive farmland with little ecological value.

Part of large, extensive forest area.

SURVEY: ECOLOGICAL ELEMENTS
Natural wetland and lake complex, not used for any economic activity

Private forest with rights of access

Old village centre with manor house

Intensive agriculture

SURVEY: LAND USE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
Access by boat

Water recreation

Good topography for activities

Main area with potential in public ownership

Potential accommodation

Access directions

Potential recreation sites

Main area with potential in public ownership

Road access from the north

Road access from the south

ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION POTENTIAL
1. Lake complex, low horizon, quiet, big scale, full of wildlife

2. Forested moraine ridge, diverse, natural, contains mystery; enclosing, high visual carrying capacity

3. Deep lake surrounded by forest; enclosed and quiet

4. River valley, enclosed, diverse, movement of water

5. Open farmland; houses, settled, traffic, noise, man-made

6. Village. Old manor, historic features give identity

ANALYSIS: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND QUALITY
Protected areas – no active recreation permitted

Potential access and day or overnight use areas

Constraints on recreation around archaeological sites

Potential accommodation in farmstead

Opportunity to use existing access to river

Opportunity to develop recreational services in the village

ANALYSIS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS
Complex made up of several different wetland patches and corridors

Old growth forest

Early successional forest

Forest matrix

Animal movement corridor

Protected area

Primary and secondary people movement corridors
Lake and river access for nature watching and other quiet activities

Deeper lake suitable for water-based recreation but no motorised types

Forest-based recreation of a more active nature

RECREATION STRATEGY
Walk-in campsite along the trail

Walk-in campsite along loop

Beach and bathing

Parking, toilets and information for camping area

Buffer between zones

Entrance

Parking, boat launch, toilets and information for day use area

Day use area separate from campsite

Picnic and barbecue area for day use

Trail
Campsites in separate spaces along the trail
Parking and toilets for campsite
Boat launch and jetty
Picnicking
Trail connects into larger network
SKETCH DESIGN
Main sign

Information sign

Small trail sign

Bollard and barrier

Large train sign