

LAVISICIO, Raffaella

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: Cultural dimension of urban agriculture

Short Term Scientific Mission Report

London, United Kingdom 18-31/05/2014



COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Cultural dimension of urban agriculture

London, United Kingdom 16-31/05/2014

Author:

LAVISICIO, Raffaella. Adjunct professor
PaRID - Ricerca e documentazione internazionale per il paesaggio
Politecnico di Milano

e-mail: raffaella.laviscio@polimi.it

Host:

BROWN, Pat. Assoc.
Landscape Interface Studio
School of Architecture and Landscape,
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
Kingston University

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe is chaired by:

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Frank Lohrberg
Chair of Landscape Architecture
Faculty of Architecture
RWTH Aachen University

e-mail: science.cost@la.rwth-aachen.de

Professor Lionella Scazzosi
PaRID - Ricerca e documentazione internazionale per il paesaggio
Politecnico di Milano

e-mail: parid@polimi.it

This publication is supported by COST



ESF provides the COST Office through an EC contract



COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework programme

Index

Introduction	5
Purpose of the STSM	5
Description of the work carried out during the STSM	7
Description of the main results obtained	9
Landscape Characterization assessment and Historic Landscape Characterization: two methods to discover cultural heritage in agricultural landscapes	9
Cultural Heritage in urban agriculture: a proposal for the reading and the evaluation	12
The main descriptors of cultural heritage in urban agriculture: meanings and range	14
A check list to understand cultural heritage in urban agriculture	15
Cultural heritage in urban agriculture in London metropolitan area:	16
a. The Great Barn, Halden Place, Rolvenden, Kent	17
b. The Woodlands Farm Trust, Welling, Kent	19
c. The Holyfield Hall Farm, Lea Valley, Waltham Abbey, Essex	21
d. The Surrey Docks Farm in London	23
e. The Forty Hall Farm, Enfield, Middlesex	25
Discussion	27
Bibliography and references	28
Confirmation by the Host Institution of the Successful Execution of the STSM	30

Introduction

This report is the first result of the Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) that has been done between May 18th and 31st within the Cost Action iUrban Agriculture Europe.

The aim of the action is to develop a common European approach to urban agriculture (defined as the agriculture that spans all actors, communities, activities, places and economies that focus on biological production (crops, animal products, biomass for energy, etc.), in a spatial context that, according to local opinions and standards, is categorized as urban on the basis of existing research projects and reference regions in the partner countries.

The action is composed of four working groups which focus on different topics:

- WG 1: Urban Agriculture definitions and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- WG 2: Urban Agriculture and governance
- WG 3: Entrepreneurial models of Urban Agriculture
- WG 4: Spatial visions for Urban Agriculture

In particular WG1 has worked, during these months, to the definition of the dimensions according to which urban agriculture firstly differs from conventional agriculture. We have identified a number of dimensions according to which it makes sense to differentiate various forms of UA; these dimensions comprise Cultural heritage.

The subject of the STSM London metropolitan area has been this specific issue, trying to find a method to discover cultural heritage in urban agriculture and specific descriptors that guide the enhancement of this specific landscape, testing it on sampled case studies.

The STSM has been conducted at the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture of Kingston University in collaboration with Professor Patricia Brown and Carine Brannan whose support has been of great importance to select case studies and to contact stakeholders and other scientific institutions that are interested in the topics of urban agriculture, landscape and historic farmstead.

The report is only a brief description of the work carried out, the main results obtained and the places visited. During the STSM a lot of documents have been collected and studied, many interviews have been carried out and many contacts have been made. In particular, in addition to Kingston University, I have had the opportunity to work with English Heritage and to discuss with them about agricultural activities and new functions in relation with historical rural building in areas that have a strong relationship with the city of London.

The case studies visited are presented with a brief text description, photos and images that want to summarize the huge amount of knowledge carried out during the STSM but that the short time available doesn't allow to be presented in a more comprehensive way.

A further development of the work is desirable with the purpose of a scientific paper in collaboration with Kingston University and English Heritage.

Purpose of the STSM

Within the COST Action iUrban Agriculture Europei, the Working group 1 on a definition of UA in Europe through the making of a dictionary that not only provides a common vocabulary but will set out the special qualities UA can provide to sustainable development.

Therefore the first specific aim is to define a classification system that can segment types of Urban Agriculture.

UA types are characterized by a number of dimensions, according to which this form of agriculture firstly differs from iconventionali agriculture. In the WG 1 meeting in Barcelona a number of dimensions were agreed upon that should synthesize the characteristics and properties of UA. These dimensions comprise i Cultural heritagei (before named iCultural identityi) defined as one of the dimension that contribute to recognize urban agriculture: i It is well accepted that agriculture performs cultural services to the society by maintaining traditional cultural landscapes and traditions, maintaining crop varieties etc. In an urban context farms may be a significant bearer of cultural traditions otherwise vanished from the areai.

In the WG1 Dublin meeting, we have worked to understand what is i cultural heritagei and which factors it includes; the next step, at Warsaw meeting, has been to understand how we can measure i cultural heritage and which indicators allow us to recognize it in the different UA types.

The proposal of my STSM was on one hand to study in deep the existing methods for the description and evaluation of agricultural landscapes (with particular refers to the cultural dimension of the landscape), on the other hand to apply the criteria proposed in Warsaw to some case studies in a different country (to test also the opportunity to access to the same sources or kind of studies).

The choice of England depends on the long tradition of this country in the study of landscape; in particular two landscape reading methods elaborated in UK are very common and valued around the world:

1. the iLandscape Character Assessment (LCA)i: " The tool that is used to help us to understand, and articulate, the character of the landscape. It helps us identify the features that give a locality its 'sense of place' and pinpoints what makes it different from neighbouring areas." (Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland, The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
2. the iHistoric Landscape Characterization (HLC) i: i The Historic Landscape Characterization programme is a powerful tool that provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributes to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscapei. (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>).

My STSM aims to define which aspects of the English landscape reading methods are more relevant to urban agricultural landscapes and, through the application on some case-studies, which are the more suitable descriptors of the UA cultural dimension.

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

The study has been structured in two main steps:

- a researching and desk study step before the STSM
- a field survey step during the STSM

The discussion about the topic is started a month before the beginning of the mission due to a meeting in Milan with the host institution. The discussion focused on the objectives, the methodology, the identification of the other British institution to involve, the possible case studies.

The month that preceded the official start of the STSM has been engaged in:

- the study of the iLandscape Character Assessment (LCA) and the iHistoric Landscape Characterization (HLC): collecting the guidelines available on the official website and contacting local representatives of Natural England (responsible for LHC) and English Heritage (responsible of HLC);
- the collection of the information about urban agriculture in London through web and library researches,
- the discussion (by electronic communications) about the topic with several institutions and research centers identified according to the host institution. In particular the institutions above have been contacted:
 - English Heritage: it is an executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It has been the reference for the HLC and to select historical farmstead with ancient and new agricultural activities;
 - Natural England: it is the government's advisor on the natural environment; it provides practical advice, grounded on science, on how best to safeguard England's natural wealth. It has been the reference for the LCA;
 - Campaign to protect Rural England: it is a charity that work to protect, promote and enhance English towns and countryside;
 - Capital growth: it is a partnership initiative between London Food Link, the Mayor of London and the Big Lottery's Local Food Fund that supports the creation of new community food growing spaces across London by the end of 2012. It has been a reference for understanding the general situation of urban agriculture in London;
 - Sustain. The alliance for better food and farming: It is a charity that advocates food and agriculture policies and practice that enhance the health and welfare of people and animal. It has been another reference for understanding the general situation of urban agriculture in London;
 - University of Reading
 - Newcastle University
- the selection of case studies according to a first selection of host institution. Case-studies have been selected according to the urban agriculture types defined by WG1 of Cost Action and in order to ensure some variety among the cases. They have also been selected according to their accessibility during the mission and the availability of the farm manager to be visited and interviewed;
- the collection of the knowledge already available on the web about the selected case studies.

The main result of the desk study has been the comprehension of the context in

which the STSM has been developed and the definition of a framework for the evaluation of the cultural heritage of urban agriculture based on LCA and HLC.

This framework focuses on the different components that describe cultural heritage and the descriptors that allow to measure each of them.

The basis of this framework has been the development of a check list used for the interviews of the stakeholders. Therefore the interview has been a defined structure, with key questions aimed to investigate the characters of the agrarian landscape in terms of cultural heritage.

The second crucial step of the research, conducted during the STSM in London, has been the field research whose aim has been to describe several case studies and how their cultural heritage is a significant component of the agricultural activity.

Cultural heritage has been investigated by field visits and interviews structured in order to understand, according to the method carried out by desk study, the cultural components depending on:

- tangible heritage;
- sensory perception (visual, olfactory, sound),
- intangible heritage

Case studies have been chosen in different areas of the London metropolitan area that refers to different landscapes; all of them have strong relationship with the city, for the short distance but also for the pressure of the urban area to the countryside.

Interviews have been mainly conducted with the farm manager but also sometimes involve other people of different provenance (visitors, other workers). The interviews, conducted in English, have been recorded.

The last step of the research has been the processing of the collected information, within this written report; the case studies are explained with the use of images, photos and historical maps when available.

Discussion also highlights some critical issues and opportunities on the work method and the visited experiences.

Description of the main results obtained

Until now the STSM have had three main results:

1. a review of the methods of Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Character based on the collection of the documents produced by their respective institutions, but also collecting best practices of their application and verifying how the methods are used through the participation at some practical activities carried out during the STSM period¹ and with visit to authorities that normally use them²;
2. a proposal for the reading and the evaluation of cultural heritage in urban agriculture based on the two English method and to the experience gained during the visits. The proposal focus on the description of the main factors through which cultural heritage can be identified, the identification of the idescriptorsⁱ that allow to imeasur eⁱ cultural heritage and to com pare case studies on the basis of the axis defined by WG1. This phase of the study has also led to the compilation of a checklist that has been of help in the reading of case studies during the visits;
3. a checking of the proposed method by applying to cases studies identified in the metropolitan area of London. The case studies have been selected in different areas around London trying to represent different landscapes and different UA types within the main type of iUrban farmingⁱ. This choose is due to a less knowledge of the iUrban farmingⁱ than the iUrban food gardeningⁱ, within the dif ferent forms of UA and also because, based on previous experiences, cultural heritage is more related to long term activities rather than recent activities as the various types of gardening more characterized by a social dimension.

Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Character: two methods to discover cultural heritage in agricultural landscapes

According to the general definition of landscape established by the European Landscape Convention: - "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors", studying landscape means studying cultural heritage of a place.

Great Britain is a continuous workshop of landscape reading and assessment experiences. The two main methodologies today in use are the Landscape Character Assessment (dealing with landscape geographical and visual aspects) and Historic Landscape Character Assessment (mainly focusing on the historical and time-depth dimensions). Both methodologies are applied in the Anglo-Saxon countries though with some local specific initiatives. This report refers to the specific experience of England.

Landscape Character Assessment

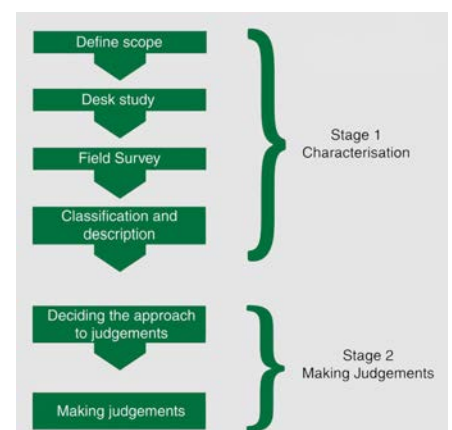
The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) methodology has been developed in England by Countryside Agency (now Natural England) and specially focuses on the aesthetic and geographical aspects of the landscape.

It is a tool for identifying the features that give a locality its sense of placeⁱ and pinpointing what makes it different from its neighboring areas.

Landscape character results from a particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field pattern and human settlements.

¹ Particularly I have had the opportunity to be involved in a workshop organized by English Heritage in collaboration with iHigh W eald Area of Natural outstanding beautyi for the launch of the iKent farmstead guidancei. The workshop took place at Halden Place (an historical agrarian landscape presented as the first case study in the next pages) and has involved farmers, planners, architects and other specialists potentially interested in working on historic farmsteads; they were asked to perform a site survey on the basis of HLC.

² Particularly I have visited the East Sussex County Council and observed the practical use of the LCA and HLC and discussed about the critical issues of the methods.



Landscape Character Assessment process
Source: Landscape-east.org.uk

Landscape Character Assessment comprises two stages - **characterization**, and then **making judgments/evaluation**.

The **characterization** process comprises several stages; two are the most important to describe a landscape: 1) a desk study and 2) a field survey.

The desk study includes the review of information as:

1. past character descriptions of the area;
2. designations (landscape designations, historic parks and gardens, Conservation Areas, scheduled monuments and listed buildings);
3. literature on geology, local architecture, archaeology, history and wildlife;
4. relevant policies in public and formal documents.

The information gathering concerns natural factors (geology; landform; river and drainage systems; soils; land cover) and cultural/social factors (land use including farm types; settlement pattern; patterns of field enclosure)

The field survey step confirms and consolidates the desk study results and in particular the landscape aesthetic qualities, also showing how the landscape is seen by people.

Some of the more aesthetic aspects of landscape character can still be recorded in a rigorous and systematic way (as shown in figure below); Other aspects of landscape perception may be more subjective and responses to them might be more personal and colored by the experience of the individual. Such factors include a sense of wildness, sense of security, the quality of light and perceptions of beauty or scenic attractiveness. There are also some factors that can be perceived or experienced by senses other than sight, such as noisiness or tranquility and exposure to the elements.

Box 5.1: Aesthetic aspects of landscape character

SCALE	Intimate	Small	Large	Vast
ENCLOSURE	Tight	Enclosed	Open	Exposed
DIVERSITY	Uniform	Simple	Diverse	Complex
TEXTURE	Smooth	Textured	Rough	Very rough
FORM	Vertical	Sloping	Rolling	Horizontal
LINE	Straight	Angular	Curved	Sinuous
COLOUR	Monochrome	Muted	Colourful	Garish
BALANCE	Harmonious	Balanced	Discordant	Chaotic
MOVEMENT	Dead	Still	Calm	Busy
PATTERN	Random	Organised	Regular	Formal

Source: Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, Landscape character assessment guidance for England and Scotland, 2002

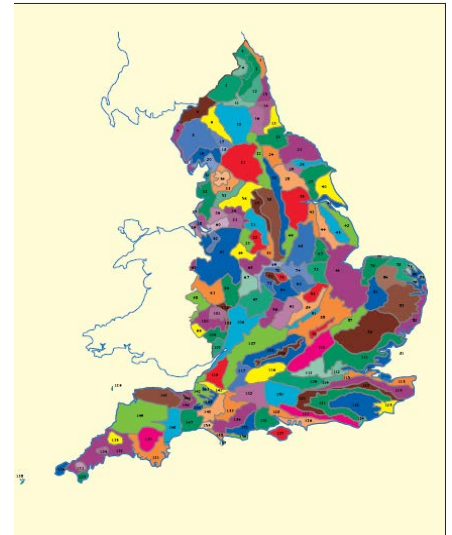
The following step in the characterization process is the classification of the landscape into areas of distinct, recognizable and consistent common character (Landscape Character Areas) and grouping areas of similar character together in types (Landscape Character Types)

At a National level The Character of England map, produced in 1996 by Countryside Commission and English Nature with support from English Heritage, provides a picture of the different landscape character for the whole of England (Figure 1). The map is accompanied by descriptions of the character of each of the 159 landscape character areas, the influences determining that character, and some of the main pressures for change in each area.

The landscape evaluation step of LCA consists in making judgments about landscape. Judgments must be based at least in part on the concept of landscape value. This refers to the relative value or importance that stakeholders attach to different landscapes and their reasons for valuing them. The reasons may be set out according to a range of more detailed criteria that may include the following:

- landscape quality: the intactness of the landscape and the condition of features and elements;
- scenic quality: the term that is used to describe landscapes which appeal

- primarily to the visual senses;
- rarity: the presence of rare features and elements in the landscape, or the presence of a rare landscape character type;
- representativeness: whether the landscape contains a particular character, and/or features and elements, which is felt by stakeholders to be worthy of representing;
- conservation interests: the presence of features of particular wildlife, earth science or archaeological, historical and cultural interest can add to the value of a landscape as well as having value in their own right;
- wildness: the presence of wild (or relatively wild) character in the landscape which makes a particular contribution to sense of place;
- associations with particular people, artists, writers, or other media, or events in history.
- tranquility, that is a composite feature related to low levels of built development, traffic, noise and artificial lighting
- capacity refers to the degree to which a particular landscape character type or area is able to accommodate change without significant effects on its character
- sensitivity... relates to the stability of character, the degree to which that character is robust enough to continue and to be able to recuperate from loss or damage³.



The Character of England map: the picture shows the 159 landscape character areas in which England is divided.

Source: Countryside Character Volume 7: South East & London

Historic Landscape Character

The Historic Landscape Character, proposed by English Heritage, analyses the interactions of the people with nature and should reveal their time and space changes. The present of the time dimension makes HLC different from LCA. The HLC focuses on the understanding and explanation of present-day landscape physical patterns, as well as on the evidence of past human activities and systems. It analyses, from a time perspective, the interaction between men and places, focusing on places historic characters. As LCA, also HLC suggests a data analysis and characterization step and an assessment and classification step.

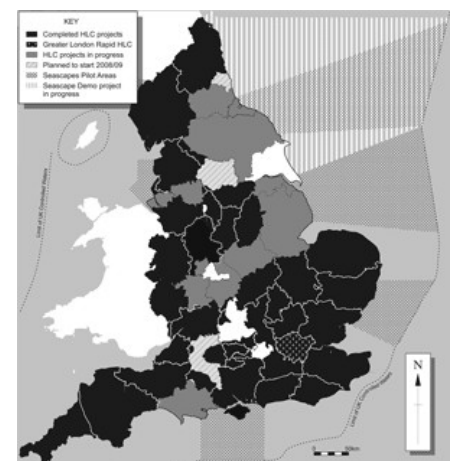
It begins with the systematic identification and description of many of the historic attributes of the contemporary rural and urban landscape as:

- Current land use
- Past land use
- Field morphology (size, shape, group patterns)
- Boundary types
- Distribution and types of other resources (e.g. woodland, water, minerals)
- Distribution and types of buildings
- Place names and earliest references
- Settlement types and patterns
- Communication types and patterns
- Archaeological and historic sites recorded

These attributes include aspects of the natural and built environment that have been shaped by human activity in the past – the distribution of woodland and other semi-natural habitats, the form of fields and their boundaries, the lines of roads, streets and pathways, the disposition of buildings in the towns, villages and countryside. Data gathering is followed by the grouping of attributes into Historic Landscape Character Types.

The characterization step is followed by the evaluation step that deals with the comparison between relative values. The evaluation depends on the study objectives. A conservation perspective refers to:

- Evidential value: the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- Historical value: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present – it tends to be illustrative or associative.
- Aesthetic value: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- Communal value: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or



Historic Landscape Character: the picture shows in black the areas covered by HLC projects.

Source: english-heritage.org.uk

³ Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, Landscape character assessment guidance for England and Scotland, 2002
COST Action UAE: STSM Report - Cultural dimension of urban agriculture, London, May 2014

for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.⁴

The sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place represents the significance of a place.

The measure of significance is based on the evaluation of the authenticity, defined as those characteristics that most truthfully reflect and embody the cultural heritage values of a place, and the integrity, defined as wholeness, honesty of a place.

Each of the above aspects can be assigned a high, medium and low value.

Cultural Heritage in urban agriculture: a proposal for the reading and the evaluation

The work carried out by WG1 until now focuses on this definition of cultural heritage: cultural heritage is a complex concept that involves tangible and intangible components, historical and contemporary values.

It requires an interdisciplinary approach for the reading of the many aspects and the relationships among them that constitute it.

Summarizing, **Cultural heritage** consists of:

- a **Tangible Heritage** that pertains to the material elements of agricultural landscape, to the historical value and its permanence in the time;
- an **Intangible Heritage** that pertains to the interpretation and to the significance attributed by the population to places, to the techniques and skills that have enabled landscapes to be created, to the features dictated by economic and behavioural factors;
- a **sensory perception** that pertains to the aspects readable by the human senses: visual perception, sound perception, olfactory perception, taste, touch.

The review of the English method explained above put in evidence two main factors that constitute landscape and therefore the cultural heritage of a place:

- **Landscape aesthetic qualities**, that concern how the landscape is seen by people
- **Landscape historic characters**, that concern the present-day landscape physical patterns related to the past activities and the changes through the time.

This approach confirms the WG1 work already done and allows better definition of the values associated with the categories described above and to define indicators to measure them.

The results of the comparison of the studies are shown in the table below.

The table represents a proposal for the reading and the evaluation of cultural heritage in urban agriculture.

⁴ English Heritage, 2008, Conservation principles. Policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment, published by English Heritage

Category	Elements	Associated values	Descriptors
Tangible heritage	<p>Historic characters of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size, shape, groups patterns; - Settlements types and patterns; - Distribution of types of buildings; - Distribution and types of other resources (woodland, water, minerals) - Material and substance; - Land use; - Boundary types; - Place names. <p>Presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archeological and historic sites recorded 	<p>Historic value</p> <p>Evidential value</p>	<p>Authenticity</p> <p>Integrity</p> <p>Rarity</p>
Sensory perception	<p>Aesthetic aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scale - Enclosure - Texture - Colour - Pattern - Form <p>Sound aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sounds - silence 	<p>Aesthetic value/scenic quality</p> <p>Sound recognizability</p>	<p>Recognizability</p> <p>Rarity</p> <p>Tranquility</p>
Intangible heritage	<p>Meaning attributed by people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Techniques and skills - Associations with particular people, artists, writers, or other media or events in history - Typicality - Customs and traditions 	<p>Communal value</p>	<p>Representativeness</p>

The main descriptors of cultural heritage in urban agriculture: meanings and range

The table below summarizes the meaning of the main descriptors that allow to recognize cultural heritage and also to define a range for them.

Category	Descriptors	Meaning	Range		
Tangible heritage	Authenticity	those characteristics that most truthfully reject and embody the cultural heritage values of a place	Low	Medium	High
	Integrity	wholeness, honesty of a place			
	Rarity	the presence of rare features and elements in the landscape, or the presence of a rare landscape character type			
Sensory perception	Recognizability	when the landscape is distinguished from the context due to its formal characters, its grandiosity, its diversity, its specific sounds and smell	Low	Medium	High
	Rarity	the presence of rare features and elements in the landscape, or the presence of a rare landscape character type			
	Tranquility	a composite feature related to low levels of built development, traffic, noise and artificial lighting			
Intangible heritage	Representativeness	whether the landscape contains a particular character, and/or features and elements, which is felt by stakeholders to be worthy of representing	Low	Medium	High

Cultural heritage as a dimension of UA may turn out as a synthesis of the descriptors exemplified above; each descriptor has a relative weight (not an absolute weight) and, therefore, it is weighted taking into account all factors. This synthesis expresses represents the cultural heritage significance of a place.

A check list to understand cultural heritage in urban agriculture

About tangible heritage

What is the landscape in which we are?
 Which is the history of the place?
 How has the place changed over time?
 What are the aspects of continuity and those of discontinuity over time?
 Were there special events that have transformed the place?
 Are there historical traces of the past?
 Is the place a listed, protected place?
 Are there specific public protection schemes like landscape parks, agricultural parks,....?
 Are there traditional materials already observable?
 What about the ages of the rural buildings?
 What about architecture? Are there traditional building types?
 Are there other cultural values?

About intangible heritage

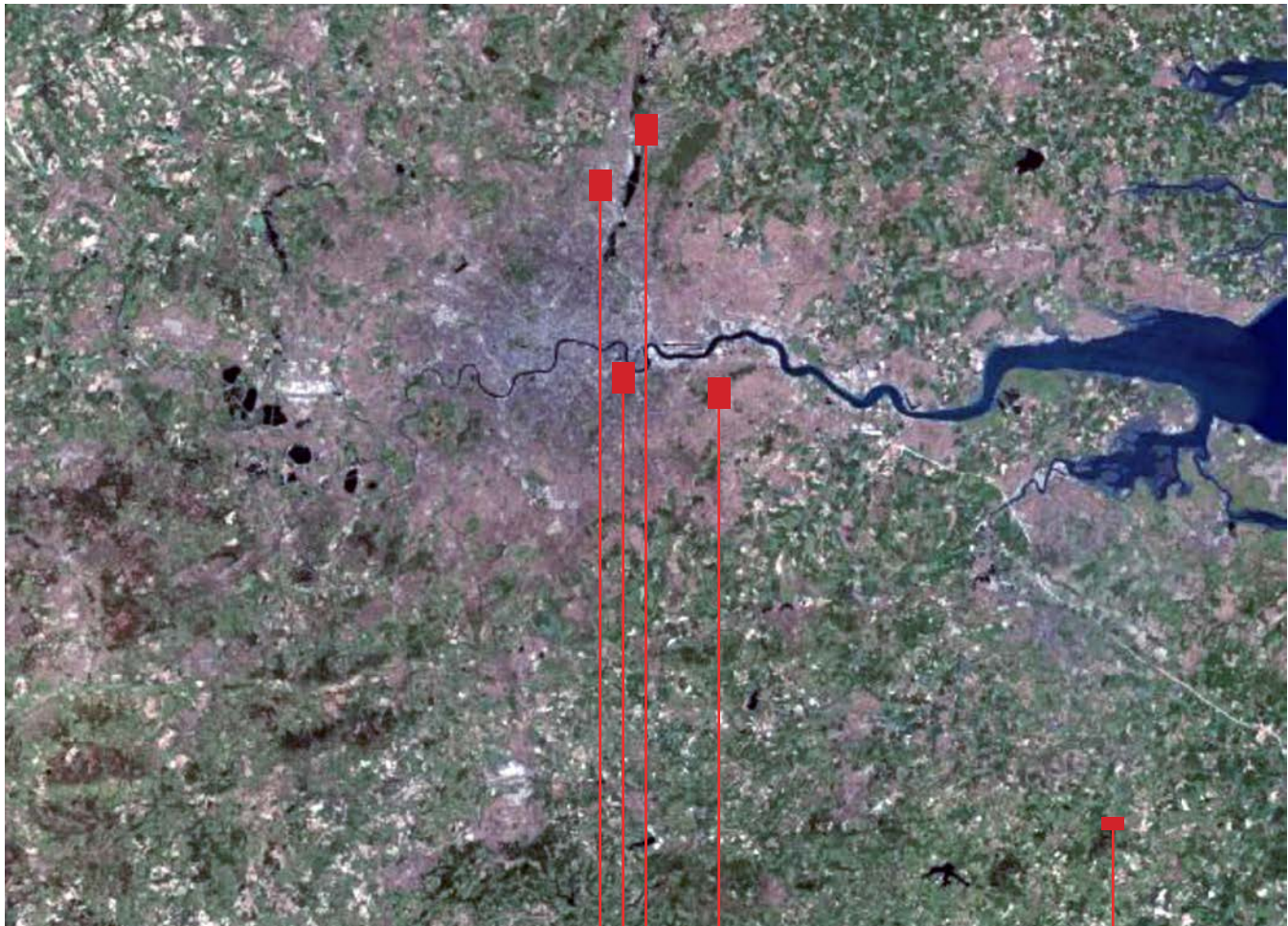
Today what is special about being here?
 Have you particular family relationships with the area?
 Is there a special memory or story of the place?
 Is there a specific place linked to it? Can you show this on a local map?
 Are there special meanings attributed to the place by people?
 Are there traditional agricultural techniques?
 Is the place connected with special events?
 Is the place connected to people of special importance for history?
 Is the place well-known by people?
 Is the place mentioned in books or are there other references?
 Do agricultural activities support or conserve traditional/historical landscape?
 Are there specific local breed of cattle?
 Are there typical products?
 Is there a quality label for your food production?
 What is most important to conserve and protect?

About sensory perception

What are your everyday experiences of the land? Your regular routes?
 What are the special sights, sounds, smells, taste and things to touch?
 How does the landscape change during the seasons?
 What is the visual perception of the place?
 Is the place well recognizable from the context? Is it emergent, different from the context?
 Is the landscape a complex, differentiated landscape or not?
 What are the predominant colors? Are there many colors or just a dominant color?
 Is the visual picture of particular significance?
 Does the place give you a sense of tranquility or not?

Cultural heritage in urban agriculture in London metropolitan area

Case-studies have been selected according to the urban agriculture types defined by WG1 of Cost Action and in order to ensure some variety among the cases. They have also been selected according to their accessibility during the mission and the availability of the farm manager to be visited and interviewed



The Great Barn, Halden Place

The Woodlands Farm Trust, Welling

The Forty Hall Farm, Enfield

The Holyfield Hall Farm, Lea Valley

The Surrey Docks Farm in London

The Great Barn, Halden Place, Rolvenden, Kent

Identity Card

UA type: Leisure farm

Main function: events, wedding

Other functions: the cattle sheds are tenanted by six small business

Actors: The Great Barn form part of the farmstead at Halden Place owned by Hole Park Estate which covers 300 acres; the land is farmed by contract farmers.

Designation: the Great Barn is a listed Kentish Barn; it is inside the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Great Barn form part of an historical farmstead at Halden Place that is situated in Rolvenden Kent, about 50 miles from the center of London. It is a traditional agricultural landscape where agricultural activities are linked to multifunctional activities as meeting, events, wedding, small other business and the rent of little paddock for private horses. This multifunctionality is due to the fact that this area suffers greatly the pressure of the city; it is a destination for holidays and weekend of the inhabitants of London and increasingly home to people who work in the city.

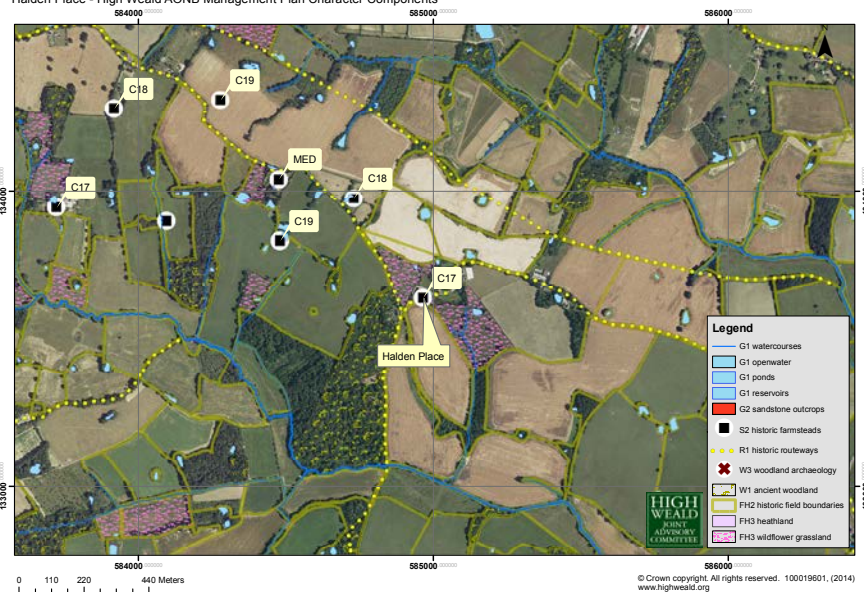
Cultural Heritage

Tangible heritage

The Great Barns landscape reflects the typical character of the High Weald, which was as its name suggests a huge woodland, forest, until circa 800AD. Weald comes from the German word *NWald*. The reason it was a wood is that the inhabitants of the time regarded the landscape here as the worst soil and being heavy clay, very wet in places it was not easily accessible. It has remained a secondary area for agriculture ever since, with many woods and a generally historic landscape which was *N*enclosed *i* from forestry in the Middle Ages. The landscape is the product of the interaction between physical conditions and historical evolution.

Physical conditions as a highly varied topography, cold, ill-drained soils and cold

Halden Place - High Weald AONB Management Plan Character Components



Landscape historical traces

Source: Hygh Weald AONB

winters have always favoured tree growth. Nevertheless, between 1086 and 1346, 50% of the woodland cover was removed by farmers to create landscape which largely remains intact to this day: small farms characterized by small irregular closes or fields set within a framework of remaining small woodlands and shaws (wooded field boundaries).

This essentially ancient landscape derives from a once highly integrated and labour intensive land management system where agriculture and woodland management were in a mutually beneficial economic symbiosis on every farm holding.

The layout is therefore medieval and identifiable from the very first maps of the area, largely unchanged. The heavy soil type meant that ploughing the land was generally very difficult with a few exceptions. With the woods it also lead to growing high value horticultural crops, particularly hops which had need of the shelter provide by woodland and large volumes of timber for the hop gardens and to fire the kilns.

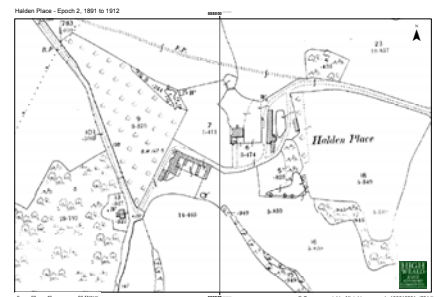
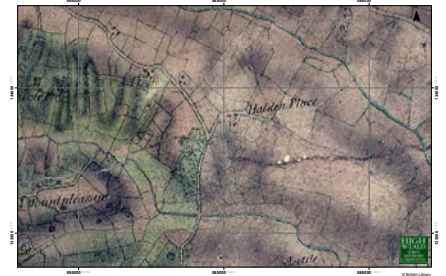
Today the landscape of the High Weald is a small scale and highly diverse landscape and combines great intimacy with open views from the major ridge lines.

COST Action UAE: STSM Report - Cultural dimension of urban agriculture, London, May 2014



Localization

Halden Place - OS Surveyors Draft Map Circa 1800



Historical maps since 1800 to 1939

Source: Hygh Weald AONB



Historical buildings and traditional landscape at Halden Place
Source: Raffaella Lavisio

It is an archetypal Medieval landscape with a unique patchwork of wood-bounded fields.

Agricultural character are:

- Small farm size
- A high percentage of part-time farms
- Farm types dominated by grassland enterprises (dairy, beef and sheep)

Halden place has some of the better and easier soil types in the area and was able to support a significant farm house built in 1742 from the mix of arable, live-stock and hops.

The surrounding farms are far more humble in comparison.

That wealth is reflected in the Great Barn constructed 250 years ago. The Great Barn is a listed Kentish Barn dating from the 18th century; it forms part of a range of traditional brick and timber farm buildings last used for agriculture in the mid-1980s. It is constructed entirely of a heavy timber frame with the outer walls clad in weatherboard under a tiled roof.

The hops at Halden Place would have been the major income earner for the farmers of the day, a process continued until 1995 when the agricultural mechanization has required different and bigger buildings with the construction of new, modern buildings next to the holder ones.

The Great Barn is now functionally detached from the land that surrounds it which is now occupied by a tenant farmer based 15 KM away. The land around retains its Medieval character and is well maintained. The farmer farms the fields and retain all the hedges and woods in good condition. The maintenance of the traditional character of the landscape is due to the existence of specific EU & UK law and regulation but also to a great sense of the place by people that manage and live it.

The maintenance of this landscape system is guaranteed by a unique landownership that allow different functions in the same place.

Intangible heritage

The Great Barn as part of Halden Place is quite notorious in the present as in the past. It is mentioned in several documents and a quite large bibliography is available about it.

Some of them link Halden Place to the name of Sir John Guldeford knight; in the arms of Guldeford still remain, carved in stone, on the stables belonging to the Great Barn.

Nowadays the farm is well known as wedding place (already booked for all 2014) and many people use the landscape for open-air recreation. The sense of the place is strongly felt by the population that has also launched specific studies on the site and its parish.

It is a landscape recognized to be of national importance as conferred in its Area of Outstanding Natural beauty. To many it is quintessentially English.

Apart from the existence of specific laws and rules, the diffused knowledge that this landscape is really an historical permanence makes that traditional techniques are adopted for the maintenance of hedges. Also measures on the historical buildings to allow adaptation to new functions are minimal and respectful of the existing.

The Great Barn is a listed building and reflects the special meaning attributed to it.

Sensory perception

The landscape of the Great Barn is a highly distinctive area with a mosaic of small hedged fields and sunken lanes which together with the wooded relief provides a sense of remoteness within lowland England. It is a small scale landscape, slightly wavy and quite enclosed with a complex texture characterized by wooded binderies, irregular fields that create a harmonious overall picture. People value the scenic beauty of the landscape: its ancientness and sense of history enhanced by the presence of the historic building and wonderful views. They enjoy the relative sense of tranquility and intimacy that this human scale landscape provides; the ability to get out and about through myriad public rights of ways and the opportunities to get close the nature. The colours that stand out in this season are various shades of green. Nearby of the farm does not stand strong odors, while resonate the sounds of nature (wind, birds).

The Woodlands Farm Trust, Welling, Kent

Identity Card

UA type: Educational farm
Main function: education
Other functions: leisure
Actors: professional farmers, volunteers
Designation: the farmer house is a listed building; the farm is included in the Higher level Stewardship with Natural England.

Originally more than 122 acres, Woodlands Farm Trust now covers an agricultural area of approximately 82 acres with some eight acres of associated farm land. It is a working city farm: the agricultural activities include livestock, management of arable fields and woodland. There is also a local market of the products produced on site. The agricultural activity is linked to educational purpose but also to the conservation of heritage landscape and to the promotion of biodiversity. Activities at the Farm include organised educational visits, healthy walks, orienteering and experience of the countryside as an environmental and cultural heritage feature. The Woodlands Farm Trust is a registered charity; the day to day running of the Farm is supported largely by volunteers.

Cultural Heritage

Tangible heritage

Woodlands Farm was created sometime between 1800 and 1830 from a dense forest known as Bushy Lees Wood.

There is evidence to suggest that parts of Bushy Lees Wood were being cleared for farming as early as the mediaeval period. This small-scale clearance could account for the complex field system shown on early maps of the area. Some of the more mature hedges at Woodlands Farm are approximately 600 years old, while the younger hedging dates from various stages after the clearance.

The shape of the Farm's perimeter can be dated back to the original boundaries laid down in the clearance of Bushy Lees Wood.

At the early XX century the outbuildings included a large barn with a clock, stables and cottages forming a courtyard. Adjacent to the house was a brick-built wash-house, more stables and a harness room with a granary above. Behind the barn was a cow-house, pig yard, chaff house and a brick cart lodge. Nowadays only the farmer house remain of the ancient buildings.

Officially known as Woodlands Farm, various local names have included Bullock Farm, Baldock Farm, Clock Farm and Clock House Farm. However, in 1919 the Farm was purchased by the Royal Arsenal Cooperative Society and became known to local residents as the Co-op Pig Farm. As well as keeping pigs, the Farm remained a commercial arable farm, producing barley and hay for many more years.

In 1983 the Farm was threatened with extinction by plans to build a motorway link across the site and gradually ceased to function. The Farm lay derelict for about ten years until 1995 when it was applied for planning permission to build housing on some of the cleared site of the abattoir. Local people fought to save the land and the Woodlands Farm Trust was founded in 1997 with the aim of regenerating the Farm.

Another important historical permanence around the farm is the Roman road Watling Street that attests that history, since the time of Romans, has passed right alongside the site of the Farm.

Intangible heritage

The landscape of Woodlands Farm Trusts is rich of the memory of historical events.

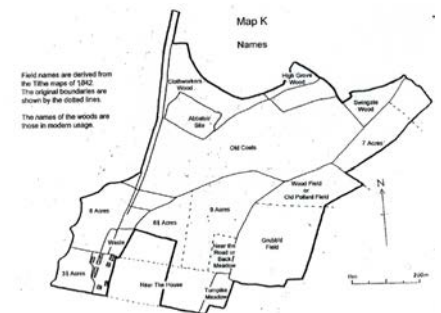
Historical events witnessed by the Farm would include marching Roman legions for more than three hundred years; the Peasants' Revolt led by Wat Tyler in 1381, from Kent to Smithfield via Blackheath; at least one of Henry VIII's May Day celebrations in the 16th century and highwaymen playing their trade in the Shooters Hill area in the 1700s. It was also one of the main drovers' routes from Kent to the London meat markets. There have even been suggestions that there may be the remains of a small Saxon or late Roman settlement on one of the farm fields bordering Shooters Hill.

The use of the road by Highway robbers is well documented. To protect travelers from violent practices, Henry IV ordered the clearing of the woods adjoining the road at Shooters Hill. However, even in 1661 Samuel Pepys reported riding under the filthy remains of a man hanging on a gibbet. A grisly public display used as a warning to highway robbers. The gibbet refers to was on Woodlands Farm land.

These anecdotes come from local people who used to work at Woodlands Farm or the Abattoir or knew somebody who did, as well as from a family history by Mrs. Weekes (nee Baldock) who lived at the Farm early in the 1900s until she was married in the 1920s. They attest the great significance attributed by people to this agrarian

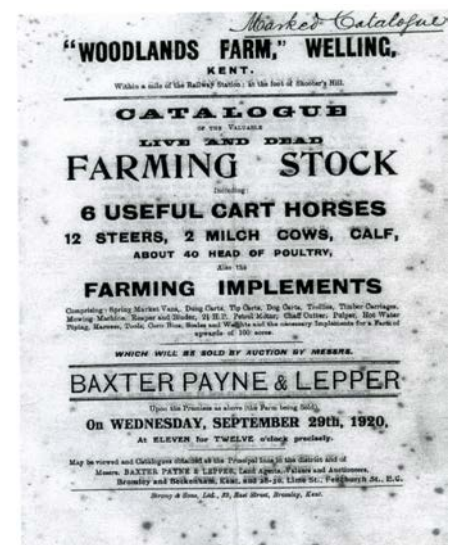


Localization



Woodlands Farm - Tithe Map 1842

Source: Woodlands Farm Trust



Woodlands Farm for sale in 1920

Source: Woodlands Farm Trust



The farmer house

Source: Raffaella Lavisio



Traditional maintenance of old hedgerows

Source: Raffaella Lavisio

landscape.

The great attention to the history of the place is also attested by the farming of typical local breed of cattle (Gloucester Old Spot Pig, Irish Moiled Cattle, Lley Ewe and Lambs, British White Calf) and the permanence of traditional techniques to manage the hedgerows. The traditional maintenance of old hedgerows by layering begins in autumn and continues until March. A dedicated group of farm volunteer hedgelayers carries out this work. Woodlands farm has about 2.5km of hedgerows and it is paid by Natural England to maintain the hedges in this traditional manner.

Sensory perception

Approaching the farm it does not have the perception of the agricultural landscape that lies within a highly urbanized area. Inside the area the visual perception of the landscape is guided by the paths that run into the farm's area. The view is, at the beginning, of a small landscape closed by little woodland boundaries. However, along the road that goes from the buildings to the fields, bounded by hedges built in a traditional manner, panoramic views are opened to a bigger slightly wavy landscape characterized by a wider variety of colors, small groups of trees and especially hedges that delimit irregularly shaped fields. It is a landscape harmonious and pleasant.

The senses are very impressed by the sounds and colors related to the presence of flowers and fruits, of wild creatures such as birds, bats, butterflies, frogs and toads and, of course, of cows, sheep and pigs plus chickens and ducks.

The sensory perception changes a lot during the seasons due to the presence of a big variety of crops and wild creatures linked to the vegetation.



Ancient hedgerows that once defined boundaries between Kent and London (now Greater London)

Source: Raffaella Lavisio



Typical local breed of cattle Source: Raffaella Lavisio

The Holyfield Hall Farm, Lea Valley, Waltham Abbey, Essex

Identity Card

UA type: Nature preservation farm
Main function: nature preservation
Other functions: educational
Actors: Holyfield farm is owned by Lea Valley Regional Park Authority and it is managed by five professional farmers
Designation: the farmer house is a listed building

The Lea Valley Farms provide both a commercial dairy and arable farm unit, and a visitor attraction and education resource. These farms also support biodiversity with a range of habitats within the farms themselves, and by providing livestock which graze areas throughout the Park and help maintain grassland and wet meadow habitats.

Cultural Heritage

Tangible heritage

Holyfield Hall Farm is located within the Lea Valley Regional Park. The Park forms a valuable green corridor through built-up urban areas, creating large zones of natural landscape that contributes to the East London Green Grid.

The key natural signature of the Lea Valley landscape type is the river itself, although highly modified, and the marshes that typify its floodplain.

The weaving water courses, opening out into bodies of open water at the reservoirs, allow for extensive wetland habitats at the fringes. Of very high value and ecological importance are the marshes with rich meadow grasses with rare plant species. These represent the natural habitat of the area which would have been present across the whole area prior to the development of London and, despite the modifications to the river profiles, the marshes remain true to their landscape location.

In any case it is a highly altered landscape, having undergone significant human intervention. The river channel is heavily modified into culverted flood relief channels and the River Lee Navigation canal system which enabled the waterway to be used as a transport artery through the 19th and 20th Century.

The historic settlements of Tottenham, Enfield, and Waltham Cross are located in this area, along the A10, a Roman Road originally, that follows an approximately parallel course to the Lea. A small amount of Victorian expansion occurred in this area, but the building stock is predominantly inter and postwar. The area is also synonymous with

industry, historically because of the low quality land, which is subject to flooding, and for the transport convenience in its proximity to the river. The river was made navigable as early as the 12th century. More improvements were made in 1424 and 1430 and extensive canals dug in the 18th century. However, the land is still relatively undeveloped and provides an open expanse between dense urban communities to the east and west. Heritage assets, buildings and places, located throughout the Park are a reminder of its rich history and industrial heritage.

One of this is the farm house of Holyfield Hall Farm, that is a listed building of the early XX century. The other historic buildings of the original farmstead have been destroyed and replaced with new buildings.

The role of the farm in the maintenance of the landscape is quite important, thanks to agrarian activities that respect the shape of the landscape, although unconsciously, the farm provides to maintain the traditional aspect of what remains of an originally huge agrarian landscape.

Intangible heritage

Holyfield Hall Farm doesn't present special meanings attributed by people, memory or story linked to the place.

Also agricultural activities use conventional techniques without particular references to traditional techniques.

In any case it is quite well-known by people for its educational purpose and also for its environmental protection purpose. People consider this aspect of a big importance.

As it is located within the park, it is mentioned in some books and video that tell about the history of Lea Valley.

It is part of the system of the interesting places of the park and therefore it is quite frequented.

Sensory perception

The visual perception of the landscape of Holyfield Hall Farm is characterized by a huge vision due to the existence of little hills that allow to have panoramic views.

The landscape looks as a complex, diversified landscape, characterized by tree boundaries, hedges, isolated trees, woodland, water channels, ponds.

It is a large, open landscape, quite diversified, formed by irregular fields where green colour is predominant.



Localization



Holyfield from the south-west in 1938

Source: www.britainfromabove.org.uk



Orthophoto in 1990

Source: Holyfield Hall Farm



The farmer house

Source: Raffaella Lavisio



The new barn

Source: Raffaella Lavisio

The visual perception changes a lot during the seasons; during the spring the trees on the edges completely hide the view of the city and the impression is of a very inaturali landscape.

It is a landscape of a certain scenic quality.

Regarding the sounds, you can perceive clearly the sound of nature (wind, water, birds); agricultural activities are most linked to the smells though the techniques of breeding cows, the precautions taken in the burns greatly reduce odors.



The visual perception of the landscape of Holyfield Hall Farm is characterized by a huge vision due to the existence of little hills that allow to have panoramic views. The landscape looks as a complex, diversified landscape, characterized by tree boundaries, hedges, isolated trees, woodland, water channels, ponds.

Source: Raffaella Laviscio

The Surrey Docks Farm in London

Identity Card

UA type: Educational/therapeutic farm

Main function: education and health

Other functions:

Actors: The farm is managed by the Surrey Docks Farm Provident Society Ltd, a tax exempt charitable organization registered with the Financial Services Authority, and with HM Revenue & Customs.

There are two professional farmer that manage land and animals; other people are volunteers.

Designation:

Surrey Docks Farm is a working city farm in the heart of London. It occupies a 2.2 acre site on the south bank of the river Thames in Rotherhithe.

The farm works with local communities and the people of Southwark to provide opportunities for people to learn about farming and food production. A very important project of the farm is iPlot to Shop and aims to provide adults with learning disabilities the opportunities to gain confidence and independence through the development of horticulture and retail skills.

Animals reared on the farm include a herd of goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys, bees and donkeys. There are a variety of green and horticultural about Surrey Docks Farm areas such as the orchard, herb garden, dye garden, vegetable plots, and the wild area. Fresh food and produce are on sale to the public.

Cultural Heritage

Tangible heritage

Surrey Docks Farm occupies a riverside site with a rich history. Some traces of this history are still visible all around the site and on the Thames foreshore.

The site now occupied by Surrey Docks Farm was once part of one of the largest shipyards in Rotherhithe, with naval and merchant ships being built here from at least the 1740s until around 1820. Part of the shipyard's northern boundary wall remains at this end of the Farm and it is possible to see a section of the original red brick wall, which is thought to date to around 1750-1800.

With the end of shipbuilding on this site, it became a timber wharf. For over 60 years,

timber was imported, stored, treated and traded here. Some signs of this activities are visible on the brick pillar along the riverside path, parallel with the tower.

Later the Metropolitan Asylums Board used the site as a Receiving Station for their River Ambulance Service, to transfer smallpox and fever patients to isolation hospitals downriver. The River Ambulance Service was at the side of the today Blacksmith's forge. When this structure was built, it wasn't actually a solid building, it was simply an open-sided shelter, at which ambulances would arrive to deliver their patients, who would be taken into the adjacent examination room. The original shelter is almost unrecognizable now, with the sides having been later filled in with brickwork and the roof replaced

with corrugated iron. These changes would almost certainly have been made after the WWII bombing which destroyed the adjacent buildings but left this shelter's structure intact. Over the decades, this site became the main wharf and headquarters of the River Ambulance Service. Dozens of new buildings were constructed, including a substantial three-storey block for female staff accommodation and family cottage for the married male staff. The south wharf receiving station was located on the path between the orchard and vegetable plots, just past the beekeeping shed, and alongside the brick wall on the right.

Surrey Docks was pounded by hundreds of bombers on the night of 7th September 1940. Some buildings were destroyed, and many others badly damaged. Some buildings were destroyed, and many others badly damaged with some surprising survivals such as the 18th century brick wall.

Then in the 1980s it became the today urban farm. It is one of the oldest city farms; the riverside location has been responsible for much of the site's eventful history, and the Farm and its foreshore preserve much of the physical evidence.

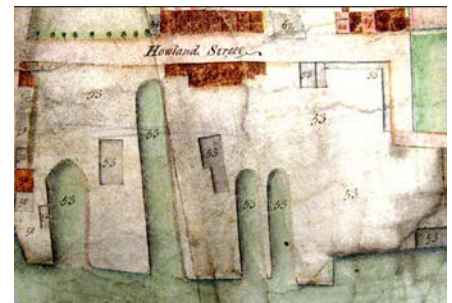
Intangible heritage

The story of the place is narrated by six information boards sited around the Farm. They are the results of a big project created from the research and contributions of dozens of volunteers and local people, and the findings of investigations with the Thames Discovery Programme, as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund project at the Farm in 2013/14. It is the evidence of the big importance attributed by people to the place.

The creation of the city farm has been the result of a process of re-appropriation



Localization



Detail of 1743 plan of the Duke of Bedford's Redriff Estate, showing the full shipyard.

Source: Reproduced with kind permission of the London Metropolitan Archives



Aerial photo from 1926: the yellow line shows the boundaries of the site. The orange outline marks the structure which is now the forge.

Source: Southwark Local History Library & Archives



of land very felt by local people.

Sensory perception

The landscape of Surrey Docks Farm is a urban landscape. The boundaries of the site is defined by rather recent tall buildings and there is not perception, approaching the farm, that there is an agricultural activity.

Inside, the farm is characterized by many buildings for human activities and for the livestock of the animals. The views are always short views closed by constructions. The impression is of a messy place.

The characteristic odors are those related to the presence of animals while the sounds, rather than related to animals, are prevalent those of the city (although the farm is located in a quite urban zone) and of the Thames.



Source: Raffaella Laviscio

The Forty Hall Farm, Enfield, Middlesex

Identity Card

UA type: Educational farm
Main function: education/training
Other functions: local market
Actors: The landowner is the Enfield Council. The farm is run by Capel Manor College and is managed by 4 professional farmer and some volunteers.
Designation: the building are Grade I and Grade II listed buildings

Forty Hall Farm is an organic farm in Enfield, on the outskirts of London. It lies about one mile north of the centre of the town of Enfield in former Middlesex and now Greater London. Its southern boundary marks the very edge of the suburban development of North London which spreads around the east side of the Estate and to the north and west is countryside of London's Green Belt which is cut through by the M25 motorway about one mile north of the Estate.

Forty Hall Farm is run by Capel Manor College, the only further education college in London specializing in learning about the environment.

Forty Hall is a mixed farm with a variety of animals, including many rare breeds. It manages the Forty Hall Community Vineyard, a community orchard, a forest garden and a market garden. The Farm provides educational opportunities for Capel Manors students, as well as hosting events like the annual Lambing Weekend.

Cultural Heritage

Tangible heritage

Forty Hall Farm forms part of the Forty Hall Estate, a rare example within Greater London of a relatively unaltered seventeenth and eighteenth century country estate landscape.

It comprises the remains of a seventeenth century and later estate landscape associated with the surviving house, called Forty Hall and built for Nicolas Rainton in 1629-32 and a group of important buildings constructed either to serve the original house as a Home Farm for an expanded agricultural estate.

The main barn, the stables and the enclosing farmyard wall are all Grade II Listed Buildings. In addition to these statutory designations there are a large number of other policies which are relevant for the Forty Hall Estate (Planning Policy Guidelines, Planning and Historic Environment, Local planning Policies)

Most stories of Forty Hall begin with the great hunting forest of Enfield Chase and the place within it of an important medieval manor house, first mentioned in 1380, which was converted to the Royal Palace of Elsyng in 1540. There is, however, evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the Estate from prehistoric and Roman times.

By 1656 the remains of the former Royal palace formed part of the estate purchased by Sir Nicolas Rainton who built Forty Hall when they were described: 'One very ancient house called Enfield House with the courtyards, gardens, orchards and the field adjoining called the Walks'⁴.

On the west side of the house is the original early seventeenth century courtyard: service buildings were constructed within what became the inner courtyard. An outer courtyard still contained within the original wall but separated from the inner courtyard by one of the service wings was essentially for farmyard buildings and included a barn and stables (second half of the seventeenth century). The present barn, which was constructed in the eighteenth century, is probably on the site of the earlier one. The so-called bullock shed was added by 1785 and a group of farm buildings were added outside the original courtyard during the nineteenth century. The cattle shed is a well-designed agricultural building probably built in the first half of the nineteenth century and certainly before 1866. A number of buildings have been added in the twentieth century.

The main barn and stables have recently been the subject of repair with grant-aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The current state of the buildings reveals a high degree of authenticity and integrity.

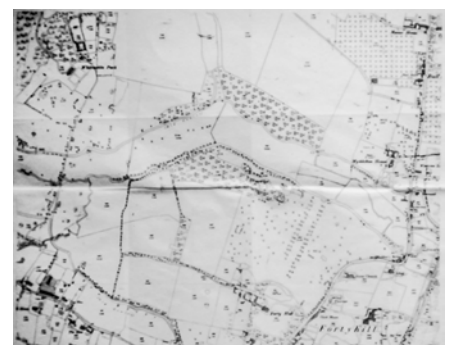
Also landscape presents a great permanence of the ancient design, attested from the comparison between historical maps: apart from little changes the shape of the fields, the boundaries and the hedges are recognizable since the end of the nineteenth century. There is also attention to the permanence of the same crops and nowadays the Forty Hall Farm Orchard occupies a one acre site, alongside Forty Hall's walled garden that, as the old maps show, was used to be an orchard in the 1830s.

Intangible heritage

The Forty Hall Farm as part of Forty Hall Estate is quite notorious in the present



Localization



Historical maps: ordnance survey 1866, 1896, 1913.

Source: Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage

⁴ Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage, A Conservation Management Plan for the Forty Hall Estate, Enfield, May 1999



Source: Raffaella Laviscio

as in the past. It is mentioned in several documents and a quite large bibliography is available about it. Recently, for example, Forty Hall Farm has been object of a research by National Archives that describe the farm activity in 1941-1943: 'About three-quarters of its 260 acres were given over to grass. No fruit or vegetables were grown for human consumption apart from a small amount of potatoes, although root vegetables were grown for animal fodder. A variety of animals were raised: sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens and geese.

The livestock listed include 420 fowls and three geese. Only two of the farm's nine workers were women. The workers had four horses to help with the labour and one tractor. The land was not naturally good for farming 'a quarter of it was considered to be of poor quality' but there were no infestations of pests. The state of the buildings, roads, fences and ditches was good. The arable land was fairly well kept and adequately fertilised but the pasture was in poor condition.'

⁵ The farm has also been the set for films and videos.

Nowadays the farm is frequented a lot during the weekend with a proposal of different initiatives with a recreational purpose; there are also big events as, for example, music festival and the Apple Harvest which attract a large number of people.

Traditional techniques are adopted for the maintenance of hedges and also for working the land: they are not used large machines but mainly human work. There is also a big attention to cultivate typical local variety of apple trees. Also measures on the historical buildings to allow adaptation to new functions are minimal and respectful of the existing.

Many buildings of Forty Hall Farm are listed building and reflect the special meaning attributed to them.

Sensory perception

Access to the farm is via the parkland of Forty Hall that is an historic designed landscape which acts as a gateway to the wider countryside beyond and allows views over the surrounding agricultural and woodland landscape. It is a very attractive undulating agricultural landscape, with small fields drained by a criss-cross of watercourses and marked by ancient hedges and old trees. It feels like a traditional landscape and its features allow to perceive the history of the place.

The impression is of a very rural area even though we are on the edge of the town.

⁵ Andrew Janes, 2014, Digging for Victory?, National Archives

Discussion

The study of the cultural dimension in urban agriculture is a complex study that requires the contribution of different disciplines.

The English methods analyzed during the STSM focus on the importance on one hand of the visual aspects of the landscape, on the other hand of the historical component of landscape.

Both aspects require a demanding work in the acquisition of knowledge as in their transmission.

The survey is certainly one of the main tools for the collection of the knowledge (it is needful for the visual analysis) but the comprehension of the sense of a place, of certain specific meanings requires also more detailed studies that are worked out from a desk study: bibliography research, documents collection and so on.

These researches usually take a long time and often require an expert culture.

In order to a proposal of a common reading of the cultural dimension in urban agriculture (desirable output of the COST Action) it is necessary to point out a clear and detailed method that can be applied in each European situation and that suggests easily available and usable tools and sources.

Bibliography and references are in any case fundamental but also a check-list that inquires the different factors of cultural heritage seems a good tool for a quicker construction of the knowledge of a place and a good tool to involve people and stakeholders too. The interview allows to understand which is the atmosphere of a place, how the place is lived, which is the social perception, which are the meanings attributed.

People can often be a living memorial referring to a minor story that literature can not be returned instead.

The characterization step of the landscape analysis ends in an evaluation step that helps to a comparison between different experiences of urban agriculture.

This aims to establish how much an experience is of significance in order to the transmission of cultural heritage.

The evaluation of landscape significance has the risk to be a subjective operation if the process is not documented and conducted according to shared and easily comparable criteria.

In this sense, it is useful to establish a grid that makes clear the criteria to use, their meaning and also a range of gradation values.

London case studies shows as cultural heritage is a diffused character in urban agriculture.

It is a character and not an activity; in the most of analyzed case-studies there is not a declared purpose of the conservation and enhancement of their own cultural heritage (this happens more or less unconsciously) but it is quite recognized that it could play a very important role in the enhancement of the agricultural and not agricultural activities.

On the other hand the interviewees have always demonstrate a great knowledge of their history and of their heritage and all of them show interest to promote project of transmission of the cultural heritage of their place and activity.

Cultural heritage is not necessarily and exclusively linked to a long history. Also recent experiences have a considerable cultural heritage linked to the meaning attributed by people.

On the other hand the richest experiences are those in which agriculture takes place in contexts traditionally intended for this use (through new kinds of agriculture too).

It remains perhaps difficult to establish a weighing between the different components of the cultural heritage and the judgment on the significance is therefore the result of an overall assessment.

A further development of the research could involve the specification of weights to be assigned to the various cultural components.

Bibliography and references

- Broadway Malyan Cultural Heritage, 1999, A Conservation Management Plan for the Forty Hall Estate, Enfield
- Cadwalladr Carole, 2010, Urban farms: can you source a complete meal from inside the M25?, The Observer
- Clark Jo, Darlington John, Fairclough Graham, Using Historic Landscape Characterisation, © English Heritage & Lancashire County Council 2004
- Coulson, Charles, 2007-8, On Crenellating, in Kent and Beyond - A Retrospective Castle Studies Group Journal Vol. 21 p. 189-201
- Countryside Agency, 1999, Countryside Character Volume 7: South East & London. The character of England's natural and man-made landscape
- Countryside Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, Making sense of place. Landscape Character Assessment. Guidance for England and Scotland
- Countryside Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, Making sense of place. Landscape Character Assessment. Summary guidance for England and Scotland
- Countryside Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, Topic paper 1: Recent practice and the evolution of Landscape Character Assessment
- Countryside Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, Topic paper 5: Understanding Historic Landscape Character
- Countryside Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002, Topic paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity
- Emery, Anthony, 2006, Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales Vol. 3 Southern England (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- English Heritage, 2008, Conservation principles. Policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment, published by English Heritage
- English Heritage, 2012, Seeing the History in the View
- English Heritage, 2006, Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement: South East Region
- Garnett, Tara, 1999, CityHarvest. The feasibility of growing more food in London
- Garnett, Tara, Urban agriculture in London: rethinking our Food economy
- Hasted, Edward, 1798 (2edn), The history and topographical survey of the county of Kent
- Igglesden, Charles, 1909, A Saunter Through Kent with Pen and Pencil Vol. 5
- Natural England, 2013, National character area profile: 112 Inner London, © Natural England
- Natural England, 2013, National character area profile: 122 High Weald, © Natural England
- Natural England, 2013, National character area profile: 113 North Kent Plain, © Natural England
- Oldakre Associates, 2013, Settlement form, Character and building design within the Parish of Rolvenden, Kent
- Petts, James, 2001, Urban agriculture in London, World Health Organization

Sitography

www.capitalgrowth.org

www.cpre.org.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk

www.fortyhallfarm.org.uk

www.greatbarnweddings.com

www.highweald.org

www.leevalleypark.org.uk

www.naturalengland.org.uk

www.sustainweb.org/cityharvest

www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2010/jun/20/urban-farms-local-food -

www.thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Assoc. Prof Pat Brown
Landscape Interface Studio
School of Architecture and Landscape,
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture,
Kingston University
KT1 2QJ

02 June 2014

Raffaella Laviscio
Department of Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering A.B.C.
Politecnico di Milano
Via Bonardi 9,
20133 Milano

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to confirm that Raffaella Laviscio has completed a Short Term Scientific Mission within the Cost Action Urban Agriculture Europe here at Kingston University, London between the dates of 19th-31st May 2014. I have now received the first draft of Raffaella's report for comment.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Brown

Assoc. Prof Pat Brown
Landscape Interface Studio
School of Architecture and Landscape,
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture,
Kingston University
KT1 2QJ



COST- the acronym for European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research- is the oldest and widest European intergovernmental network for cooperation in research. Established by the Ministerial Conference in November 1971, COST is presently used by the scientific communities of 35 European countries to cooperate in common research projects supported by national funds.

The funds provided by COST - less than 1% of the total value of the projects - support the COST cooperation networks (COST Actions) through which, with EUR 30 million per year, more than 30.000 European scientists are involved in research having a total value which exceeds EUR 2 billion per year. This is the financial worth of the European added value which COST achieves.

A bottom up approach (the initiative of launching a COST Action comes from the European scientists themselves), à la carte participation (only countries interested in the Action participate), equality of access (participation is open also to the scientific communities of countries not belonging to the European Union) and flexible structure (easy implementation and light management of the research initiatives) are the main characteristics of COST.

As precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research COST has a very important role for the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA) anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, constituting a bridge towards the scientific communities of emerging countries, increasing the mobility of researchers across Europe and fostering the establishment of Networks of Excellence in many key scientific domains such as: Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences; Food and Agriculture; Forests, their Products and Services; Materials, Physical and Nanosciences; Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies; Earth System Science and Environmental Management; Information and Communication Technologies; Transport and Urban Development; Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health. It covers basic and more applied research and also addresses issues of pre-normative nature or of societal importance.