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THE 'SHEFFIELD METHOD' AND THE FIRST
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
IN GREAT BRITAIN

The establishment of a landscape course at the University of Sheffield in 1969 is revealing about both environmental and university politics. The funding for the new Chair in Landscape Architecture was made available by a private organization linked to Granada Television and was seen as a way of ensuring a more attractive physical environment. Landscape design appears to have been particularly valued for the potential contribution it might make to the post-industrial landscape of the North of England. Arnold Weddle, who had previously worked for the University of Liverpool, was the founding professor of the course, which from the beginning was given its own department within the recently founded Faculty of Architectural Studies. This provided a sound basis for the development of a new curriculum, which was loosely based on the methodology employed at Liverpool, with practice-based projects. The history of the establishment of the new department provides an interesting case study with regard to the perception of landscape architecture within a whole spectrum of professions taught at university level. This paper traces in detail the political process and roles of the leading figures involved in the establishment of the department and programme at Sheffield.

The establishment of a new course or department at any university embodies value judgments about our intellectual and physical environment. Landscape design, as a relatively new academic topic that has as much to do with professional qualifications as with intellectual pursuits, has to establish its position in a university context. Landscape education has generally only come into its own during the second half of the twentieth century, with the increase of environmental awareness and the finding that this profession can make a physical contribution towards the environment. Yet the establishment of a new course is never straightforward and involves politics, preconceptions and beliefs as to what should be taught at university level, and indeed how landscape architecture ought to be taught. This is subject to fashion and change. The example of the course at the University of Sheffield provides evidence of the priorities of universities, precedents of other courses, and a desire to establish courses that are distinctive. In this case the postgraduate course was set up with a solid scientific basis, while later on the undergraduate landscape course was not designed as a single honours degree course, but as a dual degree in partnership with other departments and faculties of the university. This distinctive feature and the way of teaching in project-based modules were envisioned as the 'Sheffield method'. By investigating this specific case study in detail, this paper is a first contribution to this field, revealing the politics of landscape design education and the perception of the profession of landscape architecture within an academic institution. It thus provides not only a

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contribution to the history of landscape design, but also an insight into the perception of the profession of landscape architecture or design.

ORIGINS OF FORMAL EDUCATION IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Formal education in landscape design in Britain has a relatively recent history; until the twentieth century it was primarily taught through apprenticeship schemes, although there had been a School of the Art of Landscape Gardening and Improvement of Estates at Crystal Palace in the 1880s. It was also taught at garden design courses for ladies, such as Swanley College, Kent, or Glynde, Sussex. It later sometimes was a component of architecture and town planning courses, but the first time it became part of a university course was at Liverpool, where between 1909 and 1920 Thomas Mawson taught a lecture course at the Department of Civic Design. However, a formal course was only founded after the establishment of the Institute of Landscape Architects (ILA) in 1929. The first full-time landscape course was a diploma course at the University of Reading starting in 1930. Landscape architecture remained a small profession, but the Institute, which had a very limited number of active members, was amazingly successful in promoting its cause. In the immediate post-war reconstruction landscape architects were assigned tasks in official documentation and soon landscape architects were in great demand, with their field of work extended considerably from garden design to issues relating to the wider landscape.

While there were a number of educational establishments that commenced new courses, student numbers remained low. At the same time educational establishments were slow to respond to the increasing demand by providing training that was adequate to the nature of the job. There were concerted efforts to address the issue, first in 1945, and again in 1960. It was the second sustained effort, as a result of a review of existing education, that finally affected change in the establishment of a number of full-time courses. The University of Sheffield launched one of these courses; it was the first establishment brave enough to give landscape architecture its own department, to create a degree course, rather than a diploma course, and to provide the first professorship in landscape architecture.

THE POST-WAR LANDSCAPE PROFESSION

With changing socio-economic circumstances after the Second World War, the scale and nature of employment of landscape professionals changed. The traditional work in garden design had dried up already before the war and within the post-war climate there were no immediate possibilities of this being substantially revived.¹ New fields of employment emerged, however, in which landscape architects became members of consultancy teams with engineers, town planners and architects, who had often been considered as rivals, and were therefore lifted out of relative isolation into the thrust of society. With the more general availability of industrial-scale machinery the process of exploitation of the land accelerated and created a more prominent environmental issue. Increased accessibility provided by good roads and motorways created more awareness of these issues, so that a greater urgency was felt to address them. The creation of New Towns as result of the New Towns Act 1946 required landscape plans to be drawn up and provided an additional stimulus for the profession. Housing became a more prominent issue also with a *Report on the Recruitment, Training and Employment of Landscape Architects* written by Arnold Weddle in 1960 quoting an official statement from a HMSO publication entitled *Flats and Houses* (1958):

The landscaping of schemes is accordingly a matter to which time trouble and reasonable expenditure are well worth devoting. A specialist consultant should be called in, for it

usually needs a trained eye to see the full potentialities of the site, and to evolve a fresh approach to a site overlain by the pattern of old foundations and streets. The consultant should be appointed to work with the architect at an early state, for a great deal can be achieved in the design of the buildings themselves, in their arrangement on the ground, and in the right choice of materials, to provide the landscape architect with the fullest possible scope.²

Changes to the landscape profession had already been foreseen in 1945, when Gilbert Jenkins, Chair of the Education Committee of the ILA, which included prominent town planners William Holford and Thomas Sharp, saw the future role of the landscape architect as a person who 'works within the framework of the town and country planner ... able to undertake the detailed plans and supervision of work in regard to the design of all open spaces'.³ This clearly did not take it far enough, with the evolving role being defined in the 1960 ILA report as follows:

The landscape architect is not merely responsible for detailed layout, design and execution of all open spaces not covered by other professions, as once defined by the Jenkins Committee. The landscape architect is not merely concerned with the design of spaces left over; he is also concerned with what spaces should be used and what uses they should contain. It is understood that for large scale developments in National Parks for example, the official view is that it would be helpful if the landscape architect could be appointed before the drafting of a Parliamentary Bill, in order that among other things his advice would be available on the form of amenity clause to be incorporated. The appointment would be made at the same time, or might precede that of the consultant engineer. In certain cases the early appointment of a landscape architect is welcomed by the County Planning Authority when outline application is made for permission to develop. In the case of New Towns the advice of the landscape consultant has proved to be valuable at the very earliest stage of layout. The landscape architect must now work as a designer and co-ordinator helping by advice and construction to relate objects to each other and the landscape in which they are contained. His sense of design must be highly developed, and his techniques of consultation and administration are no less important than those of planting or construction.⁴

Landscape architects were the obvious professionals to address these issues, but the profession was both too small in number and inadequately educated. Even in 1960, of a total membership of 434 members, there were only 120 associates qualified to work independently. In 1966 there were some 230 qualified members of the ILA, plus twice that number of students and probationers. There were however about a hundred times as many architects in the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).⁵ Like these other professional bodies, the ILA set examinations in order to maintain professional standards. There were intermediate and final examinations with the former including 'simple testimonies' of study in design, measured drawings and surveying, with written papers on the 'history of landscape and gardens, theory of landscape design, plants, soils and cultivation and landscape construction'. A design project (or 'set piece') taking about a month to prepare, formed the prelude for the final examinations, with written papers on 'ecology (with the inclusion of geology soils and climate), plants and planting, landscape construction, advanced theory and practice of landscape design, law relating to landscape'. Twelve months later this would be concluded with an oral examination primarily concerned with professional practice.

As the majority of examination candidates consisted of those already qualified as architects or town planners, one of the main difficulties in passing examinations identified were issues relating to plants and planting.⁶ This situation was summarized in a review carried out by the ILA in 1960:

If the estimated twenty-two course completions per annum were to become ILA final standard course completions, then the estimated employment requirement could be met. But the courses or students or both fail to come up to the necessary standard. The Institute must attempt to secure an improved intake and improved training if qualified members are to be available to meet the estimated employment requirements.⁷

By 1960 there were three principal ways to be educated in the profession; the oldest course was at the University of Reading, established within the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture in 1930. The emphasis of this three-year Diploma course in Landscape Architecture had been on training for garden design, but it had been re-established in 1946 after having been closed during the War. It was the largest course with an average of ten students annually, deriving from all over the country. The emphasis was on horticulture and botany, with the latter considered as the 'basic discipline', with other subjects including art, surveying and garden construction. The 1960 review stated that a dependence on more than one department or faculty had resulted in administrative difficulties and a lack of identity, the reason given for the discontinuation of the course, with the last intake in 1959. There was also an issue in that the academic standard of the majority of applicants was 'rather low'.⁸

The Durham University course held at King's College, in the Newcastle division of the University, was established in 1949 with the assistance of the ILA for a Senior Lecturer in Landscape Design post. It was the first full-time lectureship in this subject. This one-year Diploma course came under the Department of Town and Country Planning with an average of three students per annum, with a high proportion from countries overseas.⁹ Additionally there were two part-time evening courses run by part-time staff. There was a Certificate Course in Landscape Design within the Department of Town and Country Planning of University College London set up in 1949. Run over two full years it was intended for horticulturalists, architects and planners in employment, and set out to achieve the standard of the ILA Intermediate Examination.¹⁰ There was a similar Landscape Course at the School of Architecture and Town Planning in the College of Art in Leeds. The total number of students of these courses catering for a local market was three or four, with two or three completing.¹¹

INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ON EDUCATION

Following the publication of the *Report on the Recruitment, Training and Employment of Landscape Architects*, a meeting was convened at the Institute's premises on 24 March 1961 in which members aired their thoughts on the subject. The emerging discussion was difficult to sum up and did not really lead to conclusions, although there were some useful observations as to what members thought training of landscape architects ought to achieve. Sylvia Crowe referred to 'the principle that landscape architecture was visual design based on human and plant ecology'. It was felt by some that 'the very nature of landscape architecture, the wide scope of its practice and its close associations with the other arts and professions' suggested that 'the landscape student should be given, not technical training, but a broadly based education which would stimulate him into enquiring into the nature of things, teach him initiative, give him the ability to co-ordinate'. Some considered the subject of landscape architecture as an 'educational discipline'. There were different suggestions as to the training of landscape architects; sharing for the first one or two years of education in combined courses with planners and architects was one suggestion, while others suggested a two-year period of training in the fine arts. From this emerged a discussion 'on the importance of training the eye in the appreciation and understanding of the nature of form and the importance of composition'.¹²

Without losing the momentum in the plight of accelerating educational establishments to adopt the teaching of landscape architecture, the ILA Secretary Alison Dale wrote to individual establishments. One such letter arrived at the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University of Sheffield, Professor J. M. Whittaker, enclosing a copy of Weddle's report. The well-crafted letter highlighted the concern about the training of landscape architects and suggested that:

My Council appreciates that suitable training may be provided in a variety of ways, providing they are firmly based on the application of the various techniques to the art of design. One of the best ways would be a comprehensive undergraduate course leading to a degree in landscape architecture. Indeed it is doubtful whether the intellectual approach essential to the promotion of fundamental research into the various aspects of landscape design could be forthcoming other than through the stimulus which would be provided by a Chair.

The lead provided by Britain in the field of landscape design has influenced its application throughout the world. Interest in the subject has been developed regionally with very happy results in the development of local styles and it is felt that what is now becoming a tradition in Britain provides opportunities for universities to develop undergraduate courses with a distinctive regional flavour and significance.

It is hoped that you and the Senate of your University will give due consideration to the continued development of the art of landscape and so contribute to the considerable development of British status in this field.¹³

This letter was forwarded to Professor John Needham, Head of the Department of Architecture, with the observation that it was rather remarkable that Reading was giving up its Diploma Course 'if there is really a need for a University School of Landscape Architects'.¹⁴ Needham responded that the latter course was 'much too strongly based on horticulture, and was not very well balanced, particularly regarding the broader aspects of design'. He, however, believed that 'any study of Landscape Architecture should be closely related to studies of architecture and town planning, preferably in a Department of Architecture, which includes Town Planning, or else as a separate Department linked with these'. Needham's priorities were the establishment of a senior lecturer in Town Planning, which he had already included in his plan for the next five years (or quinquennium) with Landscape Architecture to be included in the one after that. By that stage any accommodation problems might be resolved also with the proposed Arts/Architecture building being completed.¹⁵ This was proposed for October 1964.

The lobbying of the Institute nevertheless appears to have had some success elsewhere with new courses being established in Birmingham (1960) and the Gloucestershire College of Art, Cheltenham (1961), and at Edinburgh (1962). Yet the situation with respect to qualified landscape architects remained an issue in 1965. An angry Brian Clouston and John Kelsey complained about the fact that the number of qualified members had not increased that year from 220. Clouston reported on the large number of vacancies as a result of a greater awareness created by the Institute, but pointed at the fact that there were no landscape architects to fill these positions. The position in the North-East was particularly highlighted, reporting that there were then nine vacancies, but calculated the shortage as at least seventeen, and that this area alone thus 'could "syphon off" the entire growth of membership for the next five or six years!'. Clouston saw the fault in the stringent examination process and proposed changes to enable some of the 450 probationers and students supporting the Institute to qualify.¹⁶

There was now an acute awareness of the shortage of landscape professionals, which was highlighted, for example, at a series of conferences, 'The Countryside in 1970', initiated by Max Nicholson (1904–2003), Director General of the Nature Conservancy

since 1952, at the request of Prince Philip, organized during 1964–65. At one of these, organized jointly between the Nature Conservancy and the ILA in September 1964, the concluding discussion session provided a number of resolutions that included recommendations on education: ‘Provision should be made for University Chairs of Landscape Design and should be further expanded at University level for education and research related to the land-linked professions.’ The conference also called for ‘A Field Centre’ to be established ‘for research and education in the environmental sciences with special emphasis on landscape design’.¹⁷

STRIVING AFTER A PROFESSORSHIP IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The shortage of landscape professionals created a general feeling of urgency to provide a more solid basis for landscape architecture. The long-held desire of a chair in landscape architecture, which had been pushed for by various members of the Institute, now became even more of a necessity. In the end the initiative for a first British professorship in landscape architecture to be founded at Sheffield came from Sir Gerald Barry (1898–1968), acting for the Northern Arts and Science Foundation, set up by Granada Television. Granada Television had started to broadcast in 1956, and some of its profits were, at the initiative of its socialist owner Sidney Bernstein (1899–1993), redirected to the Northern Arts and Science Foundation to benefit good causes.

After the Great War Barry had been a journalist and, later, Editor of *Saturday Review*, which had included environmental and biological issues from an early start, with Nicholson being one regular contributor. He had continued his career by setting up the *Week-End Review* in 1930, switching to the leftist daily *News Chronicle* in 1934. He continued to promote good causes and champion new ideas, but he was noted for strong views also. For example, in 1943 he had initiated, at the suggestion of Professor Charles Reilly, an ‘Adventure in planning’ to ‘foreshadow’ post-war planning problems relating to English country towns. A team of planners, architects and Geoffrey Jellicoe as landscape architect was assembled and set the task to determine how ‘orderly expansion’ of country towns might continue by taking Knutsford near Manchester as an example (Plate V).¹⁸

After the War Barry became Director General of the 1951 Festival of Britain, which promoted modern design as a source of inspiration for the post-war gloom. He was able to continue his ideology whilst working for Granada, using profits generated for good causes, including the built environment, setting up the Northern Arts and Sciences Foundation in 1965 ‘to encourage and promote the Arts, Sciences and Education in “Granadaland”’.¹⁹ What better place to do this than at Sheffield which, in that year, had been the first British university to set up a Faculty of Architectural Studies that incorporated Departments of Architecture, Building Science and Town and Regional Planning? Sir Gerald had contacted the VC towards the middle of 1966, the two meeting at the Sheffield Club, George Street, in the city centre near the railway station, on 13 June.²⁰ When putting the suggestion of a Department of Landscape Architecture to Professor Needham, Head of the Faculty of Architectural Studies, it was met with great enthusiasm. It was believed that this ‘initially at any rate, would be predominantly a postgraduate concern aiming at a wide regional, and possibly national, influence’.²¹

At a further meeting, Mr Bernstein and Sir Gerald arrived in Sheffield to meet the VC, Needham and Dr Gerard Young, a local industrialist and Chairman of the University Council.²² Then things moved quickly, with Sir Gerald issuing a draft press release in early November, with the VC suggesting some minor alterations to the wording to avert criticism from some members of other faculties, who at the Senate meeting had expressed

concerns about allocations for the next quinquennium, and the uncertainty that created for their own schemes. However, the VC privately pledged his ‘full matching support and indeed, if we get the right man, I would expect the scale to go beyond this’.²³ It is not clear who initiated an approach to Sir Gerald to encourage him to offer funding to a university for this purpose, but this might have been one or several of many landscape architects.²⁴

As a result of his central position Barry was friends with many environmentalists and landscape architects; one member of the Institute, the town planner Professor William Holford (1907–75), who moved from Liverpool to University College London in 1948, was known for his desire to establish a Chair in Landscape Architecture and might have approached Barry to aid the cause.²⁵ On the other hand, this might have been encouraged by Nicholson, who had written a regular column for Barry whilst Editor of *Saturday Review*, becoming his Assistant Editor for *Week-End Review*, and chairing the committee that organized the Festival of Britain in conjunction with him.²⁶ Another person who might have influenced the issue is Professor Roy Clapham (1904–90), a botanist with an international reputation who appeared in the same circles as Nicholson, in his position as Acting VC of the University of Sheffield in 1965.²⁷ He continued to champion the establishment of a course in Sheffield after he resigned as VC, and was elected as a member of the Committee on the Chair of Landscape Architecture ‘in view of his special interests in matters concerned with natural environment’.²⁸

Another possibility is Peter Shepherd – an architect, landscape architect and ornithologist – who had designed the gardens around the Homes and Gardens Pavilion at the Festival, and had just become the new President of the Institute when the whole issue of the lack of professionals flared up. He immediately felt the need to respond to the issues raised on the examinations and set out his policy for the Institute shortly after.²⁹ He noted that he saw the ILA ‘as a tiny band of gallant pioneers, in the van of a movement which could, and I hope will, revolutionise the national attitude to our physical environment’. Shepherd stated that he saw landscape as ‘a continuation of architecture by other means’, the latter being for the purpose of ‘the creation of an environment in which men can be civilized and happy, and the object of specialisation is to get this job done better’ setting aside any squabbles between the various professions. In this he saw education as the key, and ultimately full university courses, with the aim of landscape architecture becoming the most sought after of the environmental professions and ‘the true mother of the rest’, just as architecture once was.³⁰ Shepherd, therefore, would have been interested in getting a Chair in Landscape Architecture established somewhere, and when the issue was being discussed at Sheffield, he was one of the first to express his interest in providing ‘his help in any way that was appropriate in filling the Chair’ with the VC travelling to London to see him.³¹

THE FIRST DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN

At the Senate meeting in November 1966 Professor Norrie Robson, the VC, reported that the ‘Northern Arts and Science Council’ (*sic*) had offered the University a sum of £5000 per annum for a period of ten years to assist in the establishment of a Chair in Landscape Architecture, and that the Faculty of Architectural Studies and the Academic Development Committee had welcomed the proposal. The debate around the proposal had perhaps not been as straightforward as suggested by the VC in his letter to Sir Gerald. In fact, one of the professors had been ‘voluble in the bar of the Staff Club in his opposition of the proposed Granada Chair’. Both in the bar and at the Senate meeting he had strenuously opposed the establishment of a ‘Chair in Landscape Gardening’ (*sic*), and was also opposed to the idea that a self-respecting University should accept money

from a commercial television company. Yet his criticism to the recommendation did not have much support.³² As a result, the minutes of the meeting concluded that the offer was ‘accepted with thanks’ and that ‘opposition ... to these recommendations was noted’ without detailing the objections.³³

The concerns with respect to the financing of the proposed Chair were renegotiated in the light of criticism in that the Northern Arts and Science Foundation now agreed to pay £7500 per annum for three years, £5000 per annum for four years, and £2500 per annum for three years.³⁴ The official announcement declared that the funds were provided by the brothers Sidney and Cecil Bernstein of the Granada Group, and it was emphasized that this was ‘independent of Granada Television and the Granada Group, who have themselves endowed a number of chairs and fellowships at Universities in “Granadaland” and made numerous grants to aid the arts and sciences’.³⁵

In the discussion on the proposed Chair the existing field of education was reviewed, with the central position of the ILA noted in that it conducted its own examinations for associate membership. At this time there were three courses (at the universities of Newcastle and Edinburgh and at the Gloucester College of Art) that were recognized by the Institute as equivalent to their final examination and therefore received exemption from having to sit these. This was not the case at various centres of higher education ‘leading to a Diploma or similar award’. This included Leeds College of Art, Birmingham College of Art, London University, Nottingham College of Art, Manchester College of Art, and Hammersmith College of Art and Building. The scope of the new appointment at Sheffield was understood to include a new department within the Faculty of Architectural Studies, and it was unanimously agreed that this department ‘should at the outset be “design based”’. Candidates for the Chair would be required to have had ‘initial education and training in the field of design, with subsequent specialisation in Landscape Architecture’. It was felt that scientific fields ‘relevant to the topic were already covered by other Departments in the University, such as Botany and Geography’. One post of Lecturer was supposed to be made available, with the Faculty seeing the initial function of the Chair ‘as the establishment of undergraduate service teaching [for the other departments within the Faculty] ... together with postgraduate work and research’.³⁶ It was subsequently recommended that the Chair should be the head of a new Department of Landscape Architecture.³⁷

Concerns expressed by Senate, however, necessitated a long discussion that raised the following points: Landscape Architecture was considered as a subject in its own right ‘and that since the Faculty of Architectural Studies ... is organised on a departmental basis, it was appropriate for Landscape Architecture to be treated in the same way as Architecture, Town Planning and Building Science’. Additionally, ‘the holder of the Chair would be working in a field of study relatively independent of other subjects of the Faculty’, and ‘the establishment of a separate department would be more likely to attract a good candidate than if the chair were placed in one of the existing departments’.³⁸

THE FIRST CHAIR IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN

After Senate approved the recommendation that a separate Department of Landscape Architecture be established in the Faculty of Architectural Studies the VC retained a strong involvement in the procedures, taking responsibility for the task of liaison with Sir Gerald Barry and also chairing meetings of the Committee on the Chair of Landscape Architecture.³⁹ Other members of the Committee included Professors Clapham, W. Eastwood, Mainland, J. Needham, J. K. Page, Mr A. C. Sutherland (Head of Town

and Country Planning), Professor R. S. Waters and Dr Gerard Young with Mr A. M. Currie, Registrar, as Secretary. The latter, in conjunction with Professor Needham and Mr Sutherland, then prepared a draft advert for the vacancy which was amended at the next meeting and then circulated. By this stage the name of the new Chair was agreed as ‘Granada Chair of Landscape Architecture’, clearly acknowledging the source of funding.⁴⁰

A total of fifteen applications were received with four candidates invited for interview: Brian Hackett, Michael Laurie, Derek Lovejoy and Arnold Weddle, all well-known landscape architects.⁴¹ Russell Page, who had taught at the Reading course before the War and build up an international career afterwards, with work including a series of gardens in Battersea Park for the Festival of Britain (through which he would have been well known to Barry), also applied. He was, however, rejected on the issue of age, which was explained by the VC to Barry, who had read the applications and given his recommendations in favour of Page:

As the establishment of this department will be a pioneering kind of venture where everything will have to be built up from scratch the general thought was that it would probably be desirable to have a younger man. At present we have a very strict retiral age of 65 and this would give Page only a very few years. It would be a disadvantage for a young and growing department to have to face a change of leadership within a few years of commencement.⁴²

While Barry was invited to the interviews on 12 July 1967 he was unable to attend, and sent Leslie Diamond, Honorary Secretary of The Northern Arts and Sciences Foundation, instead.⁴³ The VC reported the results of the interviews in a rare handwritten note to Barry afterwards:

We saw four candidates, Hackett, Laurie, Lovejoy and Weddle. Laurie could be discounted at once – immature and inexperienced. The general feeling about Hackett was that he had probably reached his full potential already and so it really lay between Lovejoy and Weddle. Many members of the Committee felt that Lovejoy’s primary interest would continue to be his private practice and were hesitant on this score, though he was clearly a very strong contender. Weddle impressed everyone with his enthusiasm and vision combined with realism as to the practical problems of the job. So Weddle has been recommended. Diamond agreed with the choice and we all feel we have made a very good appointment.⁴⁴

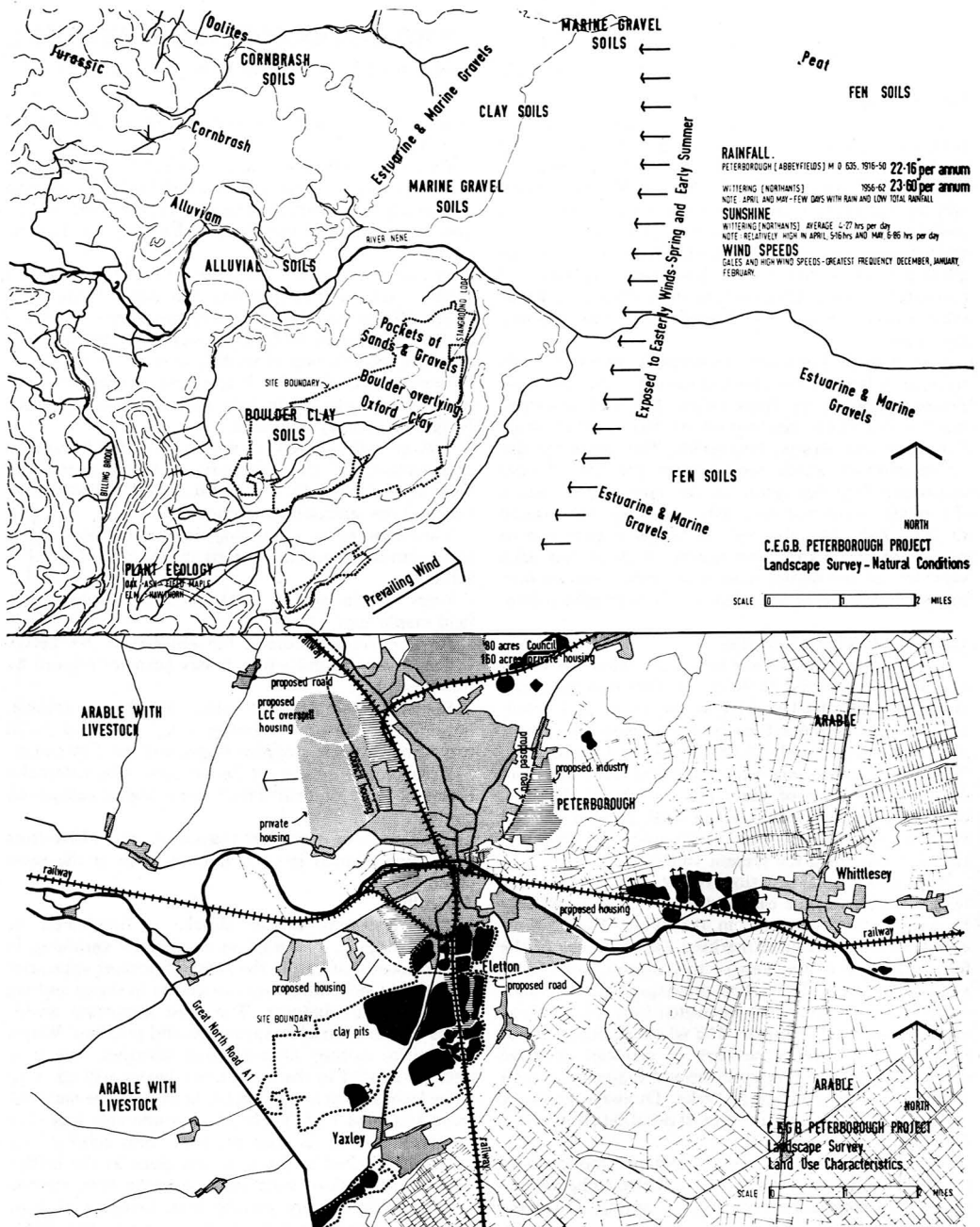
Thus, on 1 November 1967 a forty-three-year-old Arnold Weddle commenced as first Professor in Landscape Architecture of the first independent Department of Landscape Architecture in Great Britain (Figure 1). After his military service in Italy and Greece during the War, Weddle (1924–97) had trained as an architect and town planner in Newcastle upon Tyne, continuing with external examinations of the ILA, being elected as an Associate in 1954, and becoming a Fellow in 1963. He had commenced as an assistant architect in 1951, becoming a planning officer in 1954. In 1956 he started as a Lecturer in Landscape Design at the Department of Civic Design (Department of Town and Regional Planning) of the University of Liverpool, while also practising as a Town Planning and Landscape Consultant. Much of his early consultancy was in conjunction with Professor Myles Wright, including the preparation of a Regional Plan for Dublin, urban planning of the Borough of Bootle, and the development of the University of Liverpool. He had branched out into landscape work, working as landscape consultant at Skelmersdale New Town and advising the Central Electricity Generating Board ‘on matters of site layout and landscape’, including work on Drax Power Station, as well as the National Trust on coastal problems.



Figure 1. In 1967 the forty-three-year-old Arnold Weddle became the first Professor in Landscape Architecture of the first independent Department of Landscape Architecture in Great Britain. Source: Weddle archive

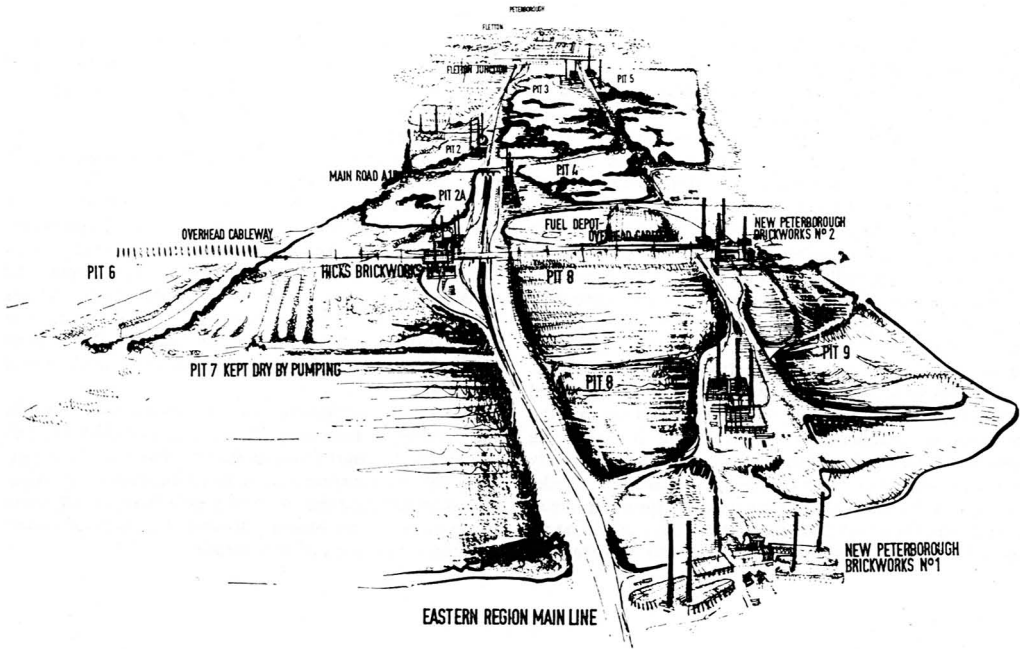
Liverpool, as the earliest Department of Town and Regional Planning in Great Britain founded in 1908, had developed an international reputation in postgraduate education, with normally one-third of the annual intake of approximately twenty-five students being from overseas. Much of the teaching was based on 'direct programmes of field survey, analysis and planning problems in urban and rural areas'. During the first year there was an emphasis on training individual students or in small groups, while they ultimately all worked jointly in a single team. By the 1960s teaching had developed 'in the form of research projects to train groups of students to undertake systematic survey and evaluation of large scale planning problems and to design and test development and redevelopment proposals'. Students were able to select either local urban problems, or wider territorial areas with proposals developed to full presentation standard.⁴⁵

Weddle had also been active in the ILA, acting as Secretary in drafting the *Report on Recruitment, Training and Employment of Landscape Architects* in 1960, chairing the Education Committee from 1961 to 1963, and becoming a member of Council also. His articles concentrated mainly on large-scale landscape issues, showing a wide interest in the emerging field. An example of one of these landscape issues was 'The Peterborough Project', the reclamation of worked-out brickworks with waste ash from power stations in the Trent Valley, presented at the ILA and Nature Conservancy Joint Conference in Attingham Park in 1964 (Figure 2).⁴⁶ He additionally took on the editing of a volume *Techniques in Landscape Architecture* (1967) for the Institute that was about to be published at the time of his appointment (Figure 3). This book on technical aspects was designed as an accompaniment to 'attractive publications dealing with visual aspects of garden design' and 'some specialised publications dealing with gardens, reclamation, playing fields and other subjects'.⁴⁷



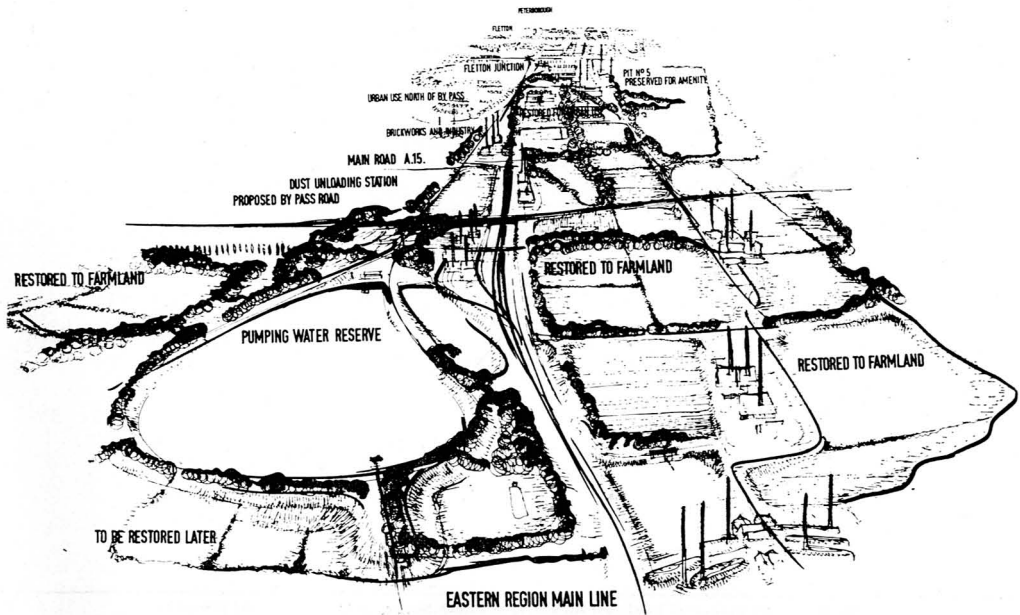
ABOVE AND OPPOSITE Figure 2. 'The Peterborough Project' by Weddle's practice was a prototype for large-scale reclamation of worked-out brickworks with waste ash from power stations in the Trent Valley; from *JILA*, No. 69 (February 1965), pp. 13-18

There would have been considerable pressure on Weddle to produce a proposal for a course as it would have been necessary both to obtain university approval for any proposals and advertise the course for the next year (October 1968). Some months after his appointment it was possible to report on progress in planning a course. The *Journal of the Institute of Landscape Architects* reported that 'An advanced stage of planning has



Above: Area before work has begun.

Below: Area when work is completed.



been reached for a course in landscape design' and that 'Subject to the necessary approvals, it is hoped to have a two year's course leading to a Masters Degree.' It was proposed that

The course will include a high content of project work and be devised to serve the needs of a wide range of skills able to profit from landscape studies and to make substantial contributions when trained as professional landscape architects. Interdisciplinary working should offer opportunities to those with backgrounds in design, biological sciences and the land use professions.⁴⁸

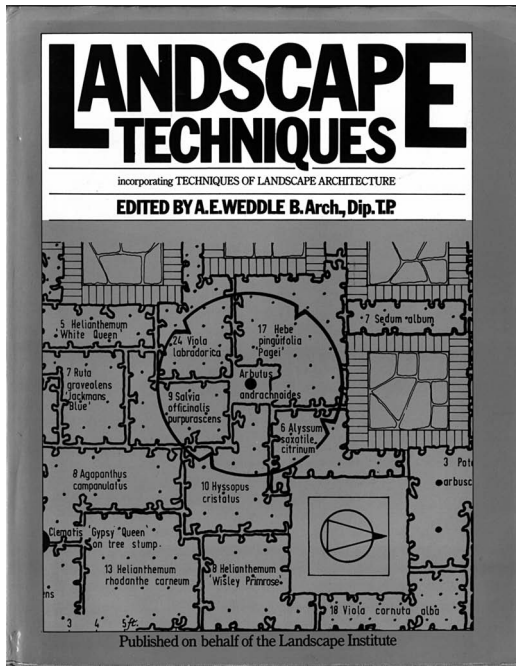


Figure 3. *Techniques of Landscape Architecture* (1967), published at the time of Weddle's appointment at Sheffield and which helped to establish his reputation as one of the main proponents, became a popular textbook that was reprinted on a number of occasions; this is the cover of the revised edition of 1979

The fact that Weddle produced a proposal for postgraduate education, rather than undergraduate, may have resulted from the fact that there was so little time to develop this for something with which he had had little experience. Hence the proposal appears to be based on the type of education undertaken at Liverpool. It may also have been influenced by the fact that during the process of appointment the part-time course at Leeds had suddenly transformed into a full-time course in 1966, with further undergraduate courses at both Manchester Polytechnic and Manchester University (1967).⁴⁹

Yet it appears to have remained an issue for the ILA, which with the appointment of a Chair now saw Sheffield as a main centre of landscape education. A concerned Geoffrey Jellicoe, the most prominent landscape architect, expressed these concerns to the VC directly. Noting that he was pleased to see Weddle's appointment as Professor, he was also glad that 'Newcastle had risen to the occasion' and had made Brian Hackett – who had been discounted as a candidate for the Chair in Sheffield – a personal Professor. This had provided 'a great stimulus to landscape architectural education'. He then expressed his concern that this course would only be postgraduate:

I should appreciate it if I could have your views about this because Newcastle are poised to start a [under] graduate course provided funds could be made available. If Sheffield remains post-graduate, then I think those of us who are concerned in the promotion of landscape education would feel justified in supporting an appeal from Newcastle. On the other hand we might not wish to do so if we knew that Sheffield were proposing to establish a full degree course. It is of some interest that in fact two degree courses could soon be supported in this country, even though they are both in the north of England.⁵⁰

Noting that he had not consulted Weddle, Jellicoe asked for clarification on this issue, which the VC sought from Needham, Dean of the Faculty. He responded to Jellicoe that 'while this Department will start immediately with postgraduate and research work, there is every intention to commence undergraduate courses as soon as possible'. The main uncertainty here was the funding and the availability of teaching staff:

Since there is also something of a problem of the availability of suitable teachers I am sure you would expect me to say that I hope that if Newcastle are unable to start an undergraduate course this will not prejudice the intention of the opportunity to commence such courses here.⁵¹

This correspondence must have created awareness with the VC that there was now a need for wider consultation, writing to Diamond on the same day as his letter to Jellicoe, suggesting that it might now be timely for Weddle to meet members of the Northern Arts and Sciences Foundation to hear Weddle's 'own account of what he hopes to achieve'. He was invited over to the TV Centre in Manchester, meeting Sidney Bernstein and Diamond on 23 January 1968,⁵² maintaining relations afterwards by sending annual reports detailing the progress of the Department.

FORMULATING A RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Over the subsequent few weeks Weddle was busy formulating a research programme for the Department. In a policy paper he noted that he considered that 'landscape design (or landscape architecture, or if more widely developed landscape planning) is an activity rather than a discipline', and that a wide range of skills and disciplines, 'in many branches of the social and environmental sciences', contributed to studies in landscape design. Seeing the landscape architect's task as being 'to promote or temper change in an existing landscape in a designed and scientifically controlled manner', he noted that little was known about the interaction of 'landscape phenomena' in an ecological sense, nor about 'applied ecology necessary for landscape design to be carried out with a reasonable degree of certainty of long term consequences and so success'. He therefore indicated that he wished to promote research work that would give 'a clearer understanding of interaction within defined landscape and land use situations'. Thus there was an emphasis on techniques and practical application, with respect to contemporary issues, which in the region was primarily concerned with land reclamation.

This choice of course reflected Weddle's personal and professional interest, and a possibility in combining and presenting consultancy projects as scientific research. Secondary to this was what he referred to as a 'rural land programme', which was concerned with other uses of the countryside, rather than agriculture, primarily with respect to recreation. Thirdly, he saw possibilities in an 'urban landscape programme' primarily concerned with the practice of landscape design and techniques in existing urban situations and proposed developments. More reflective and historical-theoretical approaches were notably absent from Weddle's research programme, and this perspective reflected on the teaching.⁵³

DEVELOPING A CURRICULUM; THE SHEFFIELD METHOD

In the notes prepared for the discussion on the Chair of Landscape Architecture, committee members had relied on the ILA examination requirements when devising a provisional curriculum, noting that as in architecture the majority of teaching took place in the studio:

Part I. Testimonies of study: (1) a garden design (2) a land survey (3) measured drawings. Written papers: (1) History of landscape and gardens (2) Theory of landscape design (3) Plants, soil and cultivation (4) Landscape construction.

Part II. Testimonies of study: (1) Sketch design of park or landscape, perspective sketch. Detailed design (2) analysis of a 60 acre semi-wild area (3) design for shelter and hedgerow planting with a detailed planting scheme.

Written papers: (1) Ecology (Geology, soils, climate and ecology) (2) Plants and plant material (3) Landscape construction (4) Advanced theory and practice of landscape

design (5) Law relating to landscape.

Part III. Testimonies of study: (1) Plant studies (notes on 100 to 150 species) (2) Material and construction studies (3) Essay on landscape history, design or practice (4000 words) (4) Design set piece. Programme set by Institute.

Examination: Oral examination of candidates.⁵⁴

In his letter of application Weddle had stated that he wished to develop landscape studies on two fronts: 'teaching, including landscape architecture as design at the local level; and regional landscape planning, where there is need for substantial research efforts to provide an adequate basis for teaching'.⁵⁵

A year later the advertisement for the proposed two-year Master's course in Landscape Design was intended to cater for the emerging demand 'for professionally qualified landscape architects to deal at urban and regional scales with a wide range of problems, including development of New Towns, recreation in towns and in Countryside and National Parks, and to tackle problems of dereliction and land reclamation'. Commencing in the autumn of 1968, it sought candidates 'with a degree or approved professional qualification in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geography, Town Planning, Agriculture, Botany, Forestry, Horticulture'. The course was to comprise 'FORMATION OF LANDSCAPE – Ecological and plant studies/ LANDSCAPE OF LAND USE – Land use studies/ LANDSCAPE DESIGN – Design and construction studies/ SPECIAL STUDIES, PROJECT WORK.' It noted that project work would constitute a high proportion of the course and included 'surveys, field studies and design projects of various kinds'. The slightly modified emphasis of the course from Weddle's personal intentions suggests the influence of Clapham and the Department of Botany. It was also confirmed that there were opportunities in the Department to undertake research, working for the award of the degree of MA by dissertation.⁵⁶

In the spring of 1968 Weddle explored 'landscape courses and emerging trends of employment for the profession' in North America. In the United States he visited a number of universities, including the University of Georgia, Athens, where he lectured and gave criticism of student work. At Harvard, Boston, which he thought of as 'the most buoyant intellectual atmosphere', he met his American counterpart in his role as Chairman of the Education Committee of the ILA, explored possibilities for future staff and student exchange, and attended their annual Urban Design Conference. He then continued to the Congress of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), held in Montreal, Quebec, where he was asked to join their Education Committee. Afterwards he travelled to the Niagara Falls where the American Society of Landscape Architects had gathered to discuss training for the profession. In a letter to the VC on his return, an optimistic Weddle noted that he

found keen interest in our proposals at Sheffield and details of our course proposals were very much in demand. It may well be that in two or three years time we shall see the Sheffield method emerging in various part of the world.⁵⁷

SOME INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

When in 1970 Weddle became Chairman of the IFLA Education Committee, he inherited the Education Committee Report, which had been prepared by Professor H. L. Vaughan for editing. This document included a listing and description of the main courses in the world with a description of course content. This was preceded by an analysis of 'Percentage of time spent by students on various areas of study', which would have provided an opportunity for Weddle to highlight the distinctiveness of the Sheffield course

as being project based with an emphasis on landscape planning (Table 1). However, the ten categories of Natural Science: Plant Science & Agriculture; Graphics; Engineering, Landscape Construction; History; Landscape Architecture & Design; City & Regional Planning; Social Sciences; Free Electives; and Other, had already been set and did not enable such a comparison to be drawn. It revealed that the University in Tokyo and Hokkaido University placed an emphasis on plant science and agriculture; the Ecole Nationale d'Horticulture de Versailles emphasized graphics more than other courses; the courses at Vilvoorde in Belgium, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Denmark and the Beta direction in Boskoop, the Netherlands, engineering and landscape construction; and history was the focus in Hanover, Germany, and several of the American universities (North Carolina State and Ohio State Universities and the University of Oregon). Town planning found a greater emphasis at the Technische Universität in Berlin and North Carolina State University and landscape architecture and design at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, followed by the University of Toronto. Social sciences were emphasized at Wageningen, the Netherlands, and at Utah State University. The American Universities placed an emphasis on free electives, with the highest proportions at the universities of Massachusetts and California.

The categorization Weddle inherited did not fit well with that he had imposed at Sheffield, i.e. formation of landscape – ecological and plant studies; landscape and land use – land-use studies; landscape design – design and construction studies; project work; and special studies. It also left no possibility of highlighting the main teaching method as being by means of project work, including 'surveys, field studies and design projects of various kinds'.⁵⁸ It seems likely therefore that this was the reason why he decided not to include the course at Sheffield in this table.

EMPLOYING LANDSCAPE STAFF AT SHEFFIELD

From the start it was intended that the staff of the new Department would include a lecturer position. The first of these positions was advertised in February 1968:

As well as lecturing, the person appointed will be required to organise and conduct field and studio projects for students with first degrees in any of the land use and land managing professions, including Architecture, Planning, Geography, Engineering, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry.

Applicants were to have university qualifications in landscape design and preference would be given to those able to offer specialist teaching in plants and ecological studies. The proposed annual salary was between £1470 and £2630. At the same time Weddle rebuilt his practice in Sheffield, advertising for specialist staff: a conservation assistant, a forestry assistant and a landscape architect, with the former being offered a salary between £900 and £1400 and the latter between £1500 and £2000.⁵⁹ David Thirkettle, an Associate of the ILA interested in education, who applied for the University post was the first lecturer to be appointed, but did not materialize and the post was re-advertised.⁶⁰

Professor John Page of Building Sciences, who specialized in environmental issues, had just been over to lecture at the Department of Biology at the University of York where Professor Mike Chadwick had a team to work on land reclamation. As Chadwick was ill, Page was looked after by Dr Susan Cornwell, a junior research fellow. Cornwell (b.1939) had first studied horticulture at Wye College, completed a Diploma of Landscape Design at King's College, Durham, and a PhD at Cornell University in New York, where she had submitted a thesis on 'Anthracite mining spoils as media for plant growth' (1966).⁶¹ Page considered her a good candidate and recommended her to Weddle, who employed her

Table 1. The table 'Percentage of time spent by students on various areas of study' was included as a summary in *International Federation of Landscape Architects: Education Committee Report 1970* (Sheffield: University of Sheffield, 1970), pp. 2-4, compiled by Professor H. L. Vaughan and edited by Professor A. E. Weddle. Weddle did not include the Sheffield course in this table, probably because he considered the categorization outdated and it did not enable him to reveal the specific emphasis of project-based teaching

Country and School	PERCENTAGE OF TIME SPENT BY STUDENTS ON VARIOUS AREAS OF STUDY									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Natural Science	Plant Science & Agric.	Graphics	Engineering, Landscape Construction	History	Landscape Architecture & Design	City & Regional Planning	Social Sciences	Free Electives	Other
BELGIUM										
*Ecole d'Horticulture	8.6	13.3	8.5	22.9	1.4	33.0	1.3	10.0		
CANADA										
University of Guelph	2.1	15.0	4.2	13.6	2.8	29.3	5.9	9.1	17.0	
*University of Toronto	8.6	11.8	3.0	11.8	1.6	56.6	1.6	5.0		
DENMARK										
Royal Vet and Ag University	18.0	17.1	10.5	22.1	0.9	23.0	6.4	2.0		
ENGLAND										
Birmingham School of Planning and Landscape	20.0	20.0	1.0	15.0	2.7	40.0	1.3			
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	5.5	6.0	2.6	12.0	1.3	65.0	1.3	6.3		
FINLAND										
University of Helsinki	7.9	13.0	9.6	1.4	1.1	46.8	4.8	1.4	14	
FRANCE										
*Ecole National d'Horticulture de Versailles	4.0	16.4	18.0	8.1	3.7	42.0	5.8	2.0		
GERMANY										
*Technische Unive Berlin	11.4	12.7	8.0	18.0	3.3	28.0	13.3	5.3		
*Technische Hochschule Hannover	17.3	22.1	7.5	18.3	8.0	17.4	9.4	4.0		
*Technische Hochschule Munchen	15.2	21.9	8.5	8.6	2.0	32.3	9.5	2.0		

*Not verified by the school.

PERCENTAGE OF TIME SPENT BY STUDENTS ON VARIOUS AREAS OF STUDY

Country and School	1 Natural Science	2 Plant Science & Agric.	3 Graphics	4 Engineering, Landscape Construction	5 History	6 Landscape Architecture & Design	7 City & Regional Planning	8 Social Sciences	9 Free Electives	10 Other
HUNGARY										
University for Horticulture, Budapest	16.5	18.2	3.76	14.9	1.55	22.6	2.46	16.91		3.12
JAPAN										
*Chiba University	6.7	24.7	8.0	20.6	4.7	28.0	7.3			
*University of Tokyo	12.2	40.0		7.8		35.4	4.6			
Hokkaido University	18.8	47.0	1.3	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	8.1	6.0	
NETHERLANDS										
Rogere Tuintechnische Opleiding Te Boskoop	10.2 14.5	19.4 18.4	9.2 7.8	15.3 25.2	3.1 1.0	20.4 14.5	10.2 5.8	12.2 12.6		
*Agricultural University, Wageningen	10.0	10.0	5.0	10.0	5.0	30.0	10.0	20.0		
NORWAY										
Institute for Hagekunst	11.1	15.1	18.9	18.3	4.2	24.5	2.5	5.4		
POLAND										
Warsaw Ag. University	15.8	29.0	4.4	17.2	1.7	18.5		13.4		
PORTUGAL										
Institute Superior de Agronomia	15.5	32.0	4.3	8.7	5.4	27.7	2.7	3.7		
SWEDEN										
Royal Institute of Agriculture	20.7	28.5	3.2	10.0	3.0	22.4	2.0	10.2		

*Not verified by the school

PERCENTAGE OF TIME SPENT BY STUDENTS ON VARIOUS AREAS OF STUDY

Country and School	1 Natural Science	2 Plant Science & Agric.	3 Graphics	4 Engineering, Landscape Construction	5 History	6 Landscape Architecture & Design	7 City & Regional Planning	8 Social Sciences	9 Free Electives	10 Other
USA										
California Polytechnic College	10.0	10.0	6.0	10.0	8.0	25.0	10.0	15.0	6.0	
Iowa State University	16.0	11.0	3.0	9.0	5.0	25.0	5.0	13.0	13.0	
Kansas State University	4.4	10.0	3.8	15.0	3.18	44.3	3.8	12.5	13.0	
Louisiana State University	5.6	9.3	10.6	10.0	5.6	27.0	1.8	5.6	17.0	8.0
Michigan State University	6.7	8.3	3.9	14.4	2.2	26.2		6.7	18.3	13.3
North Carolina State University	6.7	6.0	6.0	16.0	11.4	21.3	13.7	6.7	12.2	
Ohio State University	11.0	11.0	13.0	10.0	13.0	20.0	included in /6	8.0	14.0	
Pennsylvania State University	8.7	8.7	5.8	15.2	4.3	28.3	4.3	6.5	8.7	9.5
Syracuse University	8.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	3.0	25.0	3.0	7.0	13.0	13.0
University of California	9.0	6.3	3.3	4.4	3.9	20.0	2.3	17.8	20.0	13.0
University of Georgia	11.2	9.0	6.7	9.0	9.0	33.6	2.2	14.8	4.5	
University of Illinois	• 8.1	4.4	9.6	11.0	8.8	27.2	8.1	6.6	7.4	8.8
University of Massachusetts	9.0	4.0	11.0	3.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	29.0	14.0
University of Michigan	3.1	11.5	6.2	16.9	6.9	27.7	4.6	6.2	16.9	
University of Oregon	5.0	10.0	3.0	11.0	11.0	32.0	9.0	4.0	4.0	11.0
Utah State University	8.0	15.0	3.0	12.0	4.0	19.0	9.0	20.0	8.0	

as a lecturer commencing on 1 August 1968 just in time to prepare for the first students who arrived in October.⁶²

THE FIRST INTAKE

The first intake consisted of six students of forty-five applications, of whom one withdrew for personal reasons after the first term, but the rest completed the first year. These students were taught primarily by project work in which they were 'engaged on a wide range of survey and design problems dealing with actual sites within the University, including the Halls of Residence area of Endcliffe and at the University's Experimental Gardens at Taptonville Road' (Plate VI). One of these projects was presented to the external examiner Peter Youngman. The final project involving a major housing scheme in the city was reviewed by the City Architect and Town Planner Bernard Warren, together with members of his staff, with the drawings afterwards on display in the Town Hall. Various departments, including Architecture, Botany, Building Science, Civil Engineering and Geography, assisted in the establishment of the course by providing lectures for students. The first field visits were to the Nature Conservancy Experimental Station at Monks Wood, the Cawdor Estate, Nairn, and Brathay Field Centre Ambleside.

During the summer holidays students were required to complete a period of employment 'in activities related to landscape construction'. This included a range of work including a civil engineering contractor on an open-cast coal site, preparation of a report on dereliction for English China Clays in Cornwall, work with the Sheffield Corporation Parks Department, and with one student returning to Israel to do his work there. By the end of the first year Weddle was able to demonstrate sufficient commitment for the two-year postgraduate course to be recognized as giving exemption from Part I and Part II examinations.⁶³ The new Department was temporarily accommodated in a Victorian villa at 7 Shearwood Road, a small cul-de-sac off Glossop Road, while it had originally been the long-term intention of the VC to see the whole Faculty of Architectural Studies occupy the top of the Arts Tower (Figure 4).⁶⁴ Yet even with the small numbers of students space proved to be an issue that required highlighting.

One of the greatest problems concerning student numbers on the course was the issue of grant support for the MA Course, which was difficult to find. For the second intake there was the first studentship, a so-called 'quota award', but this was to undertake research as defined by the Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC). This was obtained by a student who had recently completed an MSc course in conservation at University College London and intended to study the effects of recreation in The Peak District National Park. The second intake consisted of eight students. This low number was despite an increasing number of applicants which amounted to eighty-three in 1969, and together with the issues about accommodation and staff shortage this became the subject of a review by the Policy Committee of the University. A specially formed 'Working Group on Landscape Architecture', chaired by Professor Clapham, with Professors Miller, Newland and Page, set out 'to consider the needs for the teaching of landscape architecture in the University, to consider and report on the position of Landscape Architecture should take in the University, to consult widely and to make recommendations'.

Meeting four times and taking evidence from Professors Weddle, James and Needham, the group was 'convinced that Landscape Architecture is an appropriate subject for university instruction and that it is desirable that leading practitioners of landscape architecture should have received training in a university, in view of the requirement for an informed taste and broadly-based judgment'. Finding that there were seventy unfilled positions for landscape architects of a total of some 400 posts throughout



Figure 4. The Department of Landscape was initially located in one half of a Victorian villa at 7 Shearwood Road, which soon proved inadequate. Photo: author

the country, it was thought that the demand for the coming years would be similar, but it was thought to be unlikely 'to be multiplied by a factor of more than two or three in the foreseeable future' and remain fairly restricted. It noted the requirement of the ILA which only recognized four-year undergraduate and two-year postgraduate courses. Sheffield's unique position was highlighted in that certain local authorities ran four-year courses leading to a Diploma, and the universities of Edinburgh, Manchester and Newcastle ran two-year postgraduate courses, whereas only Sheffield offered a postgraduate course leading to a Master's degree. The group agreed that university training of landscape architecture should mainly be at an undergraduate level and thought it desirable for only a few large university departments to teach the subject, since if it were taught by too many they would each be 'too small to be academically and economically efficient'. It therefore thought it desirable for the Department of Landscape Architecture 'to reach a size that can combine high academic efficiency with a reasonable output of trained students'.

As a result it thought it imperative that there should be one additional lecturer, with the start of the new academic year when there would be two separate classes, as it would be impossible for them to be taught by Weddle and only one other member of staff. This would also enable an annual increase of intake to nine or ten. Only if this were to be accepted would it be possible to remain a separate Department of Landscape Architecture. Further increases in staffing were envisaged at a later date. Thus the group recommended an additional lecturer, and consideration for a technician. It also recommended additional accommodation, and if these demands could not be met 'steps should be taken to discharge the University's outstanding obligations to donors, staff and students and to end the separate existence of the Department of Landscape Architecture'.⁶⁵ These recommendations were therefore supported by the Board of the Faculty and Senate afterwards.⁶⁶

In the meanwhile Susan Cornwell handed in her resignation as she was intending to marry and live in Canada, and her post was advertised, with Dr Oliver Gilbert (1936–2005) being employed as from 1 January 1970 (Figure 5). Gilbert had trained as a botanist at Exeter University and had completed a diploma in plant pathology at Imperial College prior to working at the Malham Tarn Field Centre. In 1963 he became an assistant lecturer at Newcastle upon Tyne University as an ecologist. Here he had also completed his PhD as a staff candidate.⁶⁷ While this appointment was in progress Cornwell terminated her engagement and was reappointed on a temporary basis until the end of September.⁶⁸ As from January 1970 there were therefore two lecturers in place.

Interesting projects during 1969–70 included a study of the area around the University, with detailed proposals for the redesign of Weston Park (Plate VII), reviewed by A. L. Winning, Director of Parks and Recreation, and the design of a new motorway service area on the M62 at Hartshead, West Riding, reviewed by M. R. Porter, Landscape Architect to the Ministry of Transport. In addition to support from lectures given in other departments of the University, there were visiting lectures from the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds, Sheffield Polytechnic, the Sports Turf Association, and the City Parks Department. There were many local visits additional to the main field trip, organized by Cornwell, and a ten-day trip to Germany during the Easter break, which visited reclamation sites, parks and autobahn projects (Figure 6). Peter Youngman continued to act as external examiner.

CONCLUSIONS

The quest to increase the numbers of landscape architects after the War has been extremely successful; it has exceeded even the stoutest expectations of the early pioneers of the ILA. There is now a membership of 5700 members of the Landscape Institute (the new name for the ILA since 1978). The RIBA with some 40,000 members is now only seven times as large as in the late 1960s, whereas there are more than twenty times as many landscape architects. The Sheffield course has contributed to this by producing a substantial number of the graduates. It is remarkable that a small department consisting of two members initially, which at the time was not expected to grow much, has been able to continue gradual, but sustained growth, clearly reflecting a general optimism about landscape architecture as a profession, and its increasing importance in shaping the environment. As from its inception Sheffield steered away from the association of landscape architecture as a visual issue – landscape gardening and by association gardens were considered as taboo – and it concentrated on large-scale environmental issues



Figure 5. From January 1970 Dr Oliver Gilbert (left), a trained botanist with a special interest in lichens, was employed at the Department of Landscape



Figure 6. A study tour formed part of the curriculum; a Sheffield student group with Sue Cornwell (right) in the sculpture garden of the Technical University in Lyngby, Denmark, June 1972. Photo: David Jacques

instead. While this was pioneering work, it was by no means unique, with other courses seeing similar developments.

Where the Sheffield course was unique was in the general acceptance in Sheffield of vocational training as an MA degree course. Based loosely on the type of training in town and regional planning as taught at the University of Liverpool, it transformed landscape architecture education, and was promoted by Weddle as Chairman of the Education Committees of the ILA and of the International Federation of Landscape Architects. It thereby might be concluded that in pursuing this through these avenues, the 'Sheffield method' – the way in which landscape architecture was taught by means of project work – was advanced by Weddle as setting a general standard for postgraduate education. Since then the Department has branched out to undergraduate education, which for many years has been the majority group, in various different dual-degree courses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This first attempt to provide a narrative history of the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield has made use of a wide range of sources. Interviews with various people, acknowledged in the endnotes, have helped to set the basis and provide information on missing detail; I am grateful for the generous help received. The most important documentary sources, however, are provided by the Archives Department, headed by Matthew Zawadzki, who with his staff has been helpful in providing guidance and access to the sources. The Minutes of the Senate and the Faculty of Architectural Studies have been important sources, but lacking detail on specific issues. Important lacunas are the fact that policy papers do not appear to survive, and this includes proposals for new courses. Also external examiners' reports, which might provide important indicators on the development of courses, are systematically destroyed after a five-year period. Thus useful archival information consists primarily of centrally collated minutes. However, they also contain the VC's archives; this includes material of a more

incidental nature, and in this case contained letterbooks that proved very helpful and annual reports of the Department, which though concise, provide a scarce insight into the developments of a particular year. Unfortunately their survival appears to have been dependent on actions, or neglect, of the next incumbent, without specific policies for systematic archiving. Remarkably little survives at the Department itself; within a world of large student numbers and pressing research requirements space always comes at a premium. Combined with the occasional move, both physically and organizationally, and changes in leadership, and it is clear that archiving becomes a low priority.

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- ²⁰ Letterbook No. 20; *ibid.*, ref. US/VC/1/64, VC, f. 183.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, f. 260.
- ²² *Ibid.*, f. 353.
- ²³ Letterbook No. 21; *ibid.*, ref US/VC/1/65, VC, f. 195.
- ²⁴ Jellicoe had fallen out with Barry over a detail relating to the Knutsford project and, therefore, when Barry became Director General of the 1951 Festival of Britain he was not allocated the job of the Festival Gardens in Battersea Park – it went to Jellicoe's former partner, Russell Page, instead. Jellicoe finally made up with him and they became good friends; Sheila Harvey, *Reflections on Landscape: The Lives and Work of Six British Landscape Architects* (Aldershot: Gower, 1986), p. 16.
- ²⁵ Myles Wright, *Lord Leverhulme's Unknown Venture: The Lever Chair and the Beginnings of Town and Regional Planning 1908–1948* (London: Hutchinson Benham, 1982), p. 180; Clark, 'The schools' (November 1956), pp. 10.
- ²⁶ Jeremy J. D. Greenwood, '(Edward) Max Nicholson (1904–2003)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004) (available at: <http://oxforddnb.com/view/article/89908>) (accessed on 13 March 2009).

²⁷ A. J. Willis, 'Arthur Roy Clapham. 24 May 1904–18 December 1990', *Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society*, Vol. 39 (February 1994), pp. 73–90 (p. 85).

²⁸ Minutes of a meeting (4 November 1966); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate, Vol. LXXVIII, ff. 2, 3.

²⁹ Peter Shephard, 'Examinations: a note from the president', *JILA*, No. 72 (November 1975), p. 1.

³⁰ Shephard, 'Where next?', pp. 2–3.

³¹ Minutes of a meeting (21 February 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Sundry Committees Vol. XXII, f. 494.

³² Personal communication with Professor Graham Battersby (16 March 2009).

³³ Minutes of a meeting (4 November 1966); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate, Vol. LXXVIII, ff. 2–3.

³⁴ Minutes of a meeting (21 February 1967); *ibid.*, f. 493.

³⁵ 'Granada Chair of Landscape Architecture', p. 24.

³⁶ Minutes of a meeting (12 January 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Faculty of Architectural Studies, Vol. 1, ff. 153–7.

³⁷ *Ibid.* (26 January 1967), ff. 159–60.

³⁸ Minutes of a meeting (21 February 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate, Vol. LXXVII, f. 537.

³⁹ *Ibid.* (8 March 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Sundry Committees, Vol. XXII, f. 562.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* (8 March 1967, 9 June 1967), ff. 562–3.

⁴¹ *Ibid.* (9 June 1967), f. 653.

⁴² Letter from VC Robson to Sir Gerald Barry (12 June 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. VC Letterbook No. 23, US/VC/1/67, f. 166.

⁴³ Letter from VC Robson to Sir Gerald Barry (14 July 1967); *ibid.*, f. 279.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Letter of application and curriculum vitae of A. E. Weddle (dated 26 May 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Department of Human Resources.

⁴⁶ A. E. Weddle, 'The Peterborough Project', *JILA*, No. 69 (February 1965), pp. 13–18.

⁴⁷ A. E. Weddle, *Techniques of Landscape Architecture* (London: Heinemann, 1967), p. vii.

⁴⁸ 'Progress at Sheffield', *JILA*, No. 81 (February 1968), p. 3.

⁴⁹ Arnold Weddle, 'From ILA to LI', *Landscape Design*, No. 125 (February 1979), p. 16.

⁵⁰ Letter from Geoffrey Jellicoe to H. N. Robson (6 December 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/VC/2/A/28.

⁵¹ Letter from Robson to Jellicoe (13 December 1967); *ibid.*

⁵² Letter from Robson to Diamond (13 December 1967); letter from Secretary to VC to Weddle (22 December 1967); letter from Diamond to Weddle (29 December 1967); *ibid.*

⁵³ A. E. Weddle, 'The University of Sheffield, Department of Landscape: Preliminary paper No. 5. Departmental research programmes' (February 1968); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/VC/2/A/28.

⁵⁴ Minutes of a meeting (12 January 1967); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Faculty of Architectural Studies, Vol. 1, ff. 155–6.

⁵⁵ Letter of application (26 May 1967); *ibid.*

⁵⁶ *JILA*, 82 (May 1968), p. 41.

⁵⁷ Letter from Arnold Weddle to VC H. N. Robson (28 June 1968); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/VC/2/A/28.

⁵⁸ A. E. Weddle and H. L. Vaughan (eds), *International Federation of Landscape Architects: Education Committee Report 1970* (Sheffield: University of Sheffield, 1970), p. 13.

⁵⁹ *JILA*, No. 81 (February 1968), p. 29.

⁶⁰ Minutes of a meeting (25 March 1968); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate LXXX, f. 156; *JILA*, No. 82 (May 1968), p. 42; David Thirkettle, 'Development of education policy', *Landscape Design*, No. 103 (August 1973), p. 9.

⁶¹ New appointments; U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Faculty of Architectural Studies, Vol. 1, f. 237; US/Senate LXXX, f. 404.

⁶² Personal communications: with John Page (13 January 2009); and with Sue Kohler (née Cornwell) (13 March 2009).

⁶³ A. E. Weddle 'The University of Sheffield. Department of Landscape; Annual Report 1968–1969'; U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/VC/2/A/28.

⁶⁴ Personal communication/interview with John Page (13 January 2009).

⁶⁵ A. M. Currie, 'Policy Committee, Report of the Working Group on Landscape Architecture', in U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Minutes of the Board of the Faculty of Architectural Studies, Vol. 1, ff. 393–5.

⁶⁶ Minutes of meetings (Faculty meeting 26 June 1969, Senate meeting 2 July 1969); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate, Vol. LXXXII, f. 249.

⁶⁷ U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Minutes of the Board of the Faculty of Architectural Studies, Vol. 1, f. 403; US/Senate LXXXII, f. 433.

⁶⁸ Minutes of a meeting (2 July 1969); U-Sheffield Archives, ref. US/Senate LXXXII, f. 217; letter from Dean J. K. Page to VC (23 October 1969), *ibid.*, US/VC/2/2A/27.

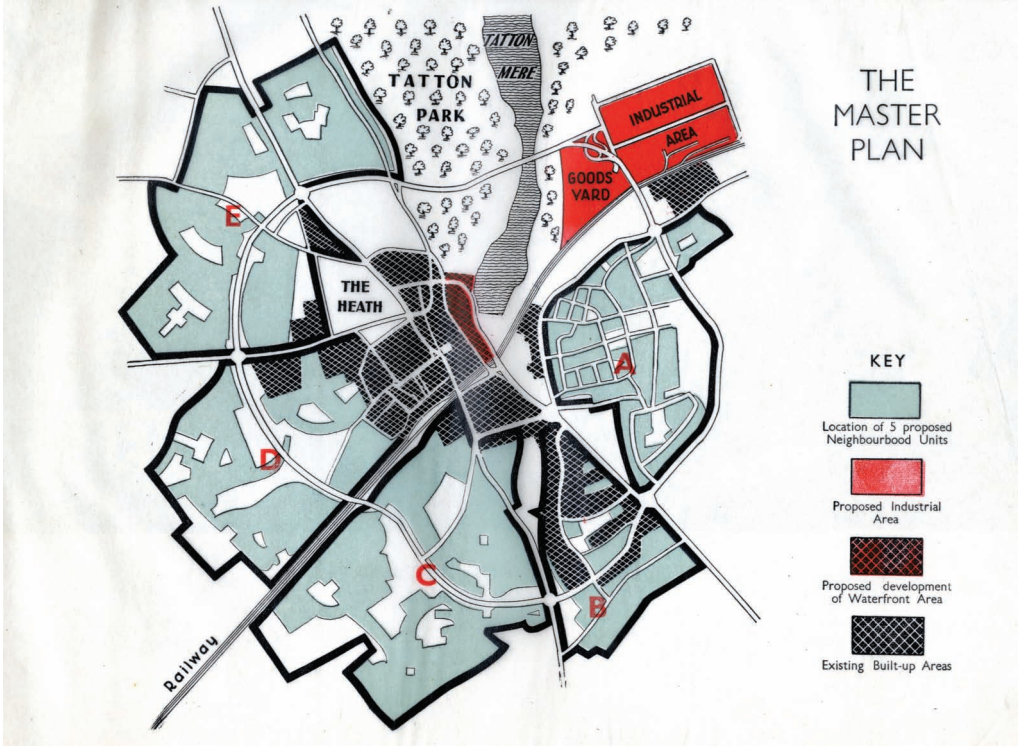




Plate VI. The University of Sheffield's Experimental Gardens at Taptonville Road were one of the project sites for the first intake of students. Here shown in 2009, just before disbandment



Plate VII. During the second year, proposals for the 'redesign' of Weston Park were reviewed by Arrol Winning, Director of Parks and Recreation. Shown is the park with Weston Park Museum after a redesign of the early twenty-first century. Photo: author

PREVIOUS PAGE Plate V. Knutsford, near Manchester, was subject of a multidisciplinary planning project that became a prototype for the development of the New Towns after the War: 'The Master Plan' and bird's-eye view; from *Adventure in Planning: Your Town: A Plan for Expansion – The Knutsford Example* (London: News Chronicle, 1946)