Landscape as ‘space’ and ‘place’

Emigration township – Glen Feshie

rod.lovie.perth@uhi.ac.uk
@theA9guy
My research

• The dualling of the A9 is an opportunity to investigate how local communities perception of their landscape are considered at a time of change.

• This research seeks to explore local experiences and ask how intangible attributes can be included when planning major developments.
The A9 Dualling

A9 Dualling
Dalraddy to Slochd project
Public Exhibitions

Public exhibitions are being held on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th June 2016. These will give local communities and road users the opportunity to see the proposed junction layout for the Dalraddy to Slochd dualling project—part of the A9 Dualling Programme.

We are inviting local residents and businesses to help inform the ongoing development and assessment of the dualling proposal for the project. Transport Scotland officials and design consultants will be on hand to discuss the proposals and answer any questions.

Details of the public exhibitions are as follows:

Thursday 16 June, 12 noon - 8pm
Aberdeen Community Centre (The Shred)
Muirburn Avenue, Aberdeen, AB24 3JU

Friday 17 June, 12 noon - 8pm
Carisbrooke House, New Street, Carisbrooke, PH5 3BR

For further information please visit www.transport.gov.uk/dualling
So how do we analyse landscape perceptions?

The European Landscape Convention (2000) conceptualises ‘Landscape’ as being made up of both space and place - but including the latter in landscape planning is complicated.

According to Tuan (1977) ‘Space’ is a location which has no social connections for a human being. It has observable boundaries but no meaning has been ascribed to it.

In contrast, ‘Place’ is a location created by human experiences. It has no observable boundaries but exists as space that is filled with meanings.
Change in landscape & roads

At a time of societal change, people prefer traditional and known landscapes. They associate these with the stable or ‘wholesome’ society of the past which they still identify with or romanticise (Soliva et al., 2008).

Road development can be the precursor to further change and challenge the emotional boundaries communities have created which allows them to differentiate their place from other places (Hafstein, 2000).

This means that road developments, perhaps more so than other developments, can force the local community to examine not only the change but their own place and identity as a community.
Fieldwork overview

After a series of interviews with community representatives and landscape professionals, I am now working with volunteers in Kingussie and Newtonmore to explore what local place means to them.

Use photo-elicitation to identify local places or views that represent how they see or use the local landscape.

Interviews will discover the connotative (why) elements to compliment the denotative (what) element and spatial location (where) of the photograph.
Some initial results
Belonging

Craig dhubh – invests a sense of belonging to those living in the area

Clan Macpherson Museum – invested with a sense of belonging by a community
Continuity

community sense of ownership... ... or lack of control
Layers of meaning

Glen Banchor – a spiritual homeland? ...

... or is it the shinty pitch?
Young People

“It is the only place I can go from my house, there is a bench in the woods... and I get 4G there.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Amenity</td>
<td>1.1 leisure (relaxing)</td>
<td>1.2 recreation (activity, participation)</td>
<td>1.3 sport (organised)</td>
<td>1.4 volunteering</td>
<td>1.5 outdoor learning (formal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Aesthetics</td>
<td>2.1 natural beauty</td>
<td>2.2 scenery (more managed)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Naturalness</td>
<td>3.1 tranquility (peace and quiet)</td>
<td>3.2 absence of modern developments</td>
<td>3.3 the historic remains of past human activity</td>
<td>3.4 presence of iconic species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Historic Importance</td>
<td>4.1 historic buildings</td>
<td>4.2 other physical remains</td>
<td>4.3 historical associations (present)</td>
<td>4.4 historical associations (past i.e. no longer visible)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cultural Associations</td>
<td>5.1 cultural associations (wider, outward, link to past/future, continuity)</td>
<td>5.2 shared/community associations (internal, cohesion, for the present)</td>
<td>5.3 local produce</td>
<td>5.4 inspiration (creative arts, festivals etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Exceptional personal meaning</td>
<td>6.1 feeling of peace and security</td>
<td>6.2 feeling of belonging (to community or area)</td>
<td>6.3 feeling of spirituality (connection to other/divine)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Skills and knowledge</td>
<td>7.1 personal development (informal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from SNH (2016): 'Cultural Ecosystem Services – towards a common framework for developing policy and practice in Scotland' https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/value-ecosystem-approach/how-apply-ecosystem-approach

Additional aspects are from:
- MEA (2005) – Spiritual and religious values etc
Case study volunteer Event

An event will be held for the volunteers to discuss the connotative elements and determine their sensitivity to change.

This will try to mimic the process for visual impact analysis in landscape planning with the community taking the role of professionals to look at how change impacts the emotional qualities of place.
Mapping the data

The data will be used to produce a map in consultation with professional landscape planners. This will be useful for wider community consultation.

There are many ways of doing this. For example it could be overlaid with ‘objective’ cultural elements as in this example from Czech Republic.
Thanks to all those who have been interviewed, my supervisors, academic institutions and funders.

Thanks also to Cairngorm National Park Association for all their help.

rod.lovie.perth@uhi.ac.uk @theA9guy
Landscape as ‘space’ and ‘place’

Emigration township – Glen Feshie