Managing the Historic Rural Landscape.
JANE GRENVILLE, editor
Routledge, New York, 1999. xvi + 179 pp., 23 figs., 3 tables. $90.00 ($135.00 CDN), $27.99 ($39.99 CDN) paper.

Managing the Historic Rural Landscape is a collection of 13 papers presented at the Society of Antiquaries in London (1997) and provides a snapshot of the current policy and practice of rural landscape management in Britain. Jane Grenville, a lecturer at the University of York, organized the session. While focusing on British policy, the book confronts many of the issues and challenges facing rural landscape preservationists worldwide. This book provides an educational introduction for heritage management professionals and students.

Grenville’s intention is to outline the changes and practices over time in agricultural and land management policies in Britain in terms of the global, European, and national agendas. Recent interest in “agri-environmentalism” focuses on sound environmental conservation policy through regulation of agricultural practices and land management. Concern for historic landscape and archaeological site preservation within this context has a long history. In the late 1980s, archaeologists responded to the “green movement” by examining the relationship between ecological and archaeological conservation in a series of conferences and papers, outlined by L. MacInnes and Jones C. Wickham in All Natural Things: Archaeology and the Green Debate (1992, Oxbow Monograph 21, The David Brown Book Co., Oakville, CT). Grenville’s book details the integrated policy structure and practices in Britain that resulted from these historic debates and how social perceptions of countrysides have also been incorporated. Not only does Grenville provide a timely update of this ongoing process, but she also brings to light the tensions, successes, and inadequacies of current multidimensional policies.

To accomplish this, Grenville arranges the book into 4 sections with a total of 13 short chapters. Contributors represent a variety of disciplines, including academics, archaeologists, land managers, conservationists, and museum planners. Many hold positions with government agencies, such as English Heritage, the National Trust, and the Forestry Commission.

Part I, “Policy Background,” consists of three chapters designed to ground the discussions of emerging policies. Agricultural policy dominates the framework for historic landscape conservation in Britain, especially since the adoption of the European Union’s (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 1973. The results have been unfavorable, and it is likely that farmers will see a significant decrease in support in the near future. This will serve to worsen preservation issues, as farmers are forced to restructure their methods in order to remain profitable. David Thackray examines the use of conservation plans to determine the historic, environmental, and ecological significance of landscapes, which helps managers to look at all factors when determining priorities. Most importantly, they also allow local involvement in the process by identifying vernacular features of unique significance and serve as bench marks for assessing the impact of change. Conservation plans are very similar to environmental impact statements of the American system.

Graham Fairclough evaluates the policy and legislative tools that protect the cultural landscape, such as scheduling, listing, and designating properties. Although many avenues are available, they tend to constrain the process to discrete areas, as opposed to districts. English Heritage, the agency established in 1979 to take charge of Britain’s cultural preservation programs, and other land-use agencies are currently conducting historic landscape survey programs to establish policies that are broader and farther reaching.

Part II, “Mechanisms and Instruments,” consists of two chapters that cover in great detail the implementation of policies and legislation that are used to manage archaeological and environmentally sensitive areas in the face of new development and agriculture. These chapters stress the importance of total landscape management and demonstrate how current policies can be applied to access, plan, and manage landscapes effectively. It is difficult to follow how these chapters differ in scope from the previous section, other than by providing real management examples.

Part III, “Users and their Objectives,” identifies three primary users of the rural landscape and demonstrates how their specific interests are integrated into historic landscape management. While mining, forestry, and military operations are inherently destructive to cultural and environmental resources, the results of these activities are more predictable and, consequently, manageable than modern agricultural practices. All chapters give attention to how these activities...
are mitigated to reduce their impacts, especially upon areas of archaeological sensitivity, emphasizing the importance of in situ preservation. The final chapter demonstrates how Britain’s national parks landscapes are under multiple use pressures from industry, development, and recreation. Sustainable management of archaeological resources involves balancing modern development and public needs with preservation, through better understanding of resources, a wider application of their significance within the entire landscape, and more public involvement. This section provides a clear path for understanding some of the modern demands placed on the British landscape and demonstrates how policy and law are applied toward sustainable management in each individual case.

The final section, “Integration,” contains three chapters that demonstrate the mutually beneficial and essential integration of environmental conservation and historic preservation. The first chapter, for example, notes that aorestation of Britain is an issue of debate among historic preservationists, environmentalists, and industrialists. Detailed ecological information that is collected in pursuit of forest and habitat management also contains valuable information on the location and condition of archaeological sites. Sharing these data among the groups results in the development of an integrated replanting plan that satisfies the needs of all three. The next chapter describes how ecological conservation programs are supported by historic properties in Norfolk County. Patterns of lawn mowing and the maintenance of stone structures follow specific techniques that preserve and promote on-site ecological systems. Here, the mutual benefits of integrated, whole landscape management are described in functional detail. The final chapter, “A Sense of Place,” summarizes why a sense of place is important, and suggests that the elements that confer a sense of place include both physical and human factors. Carefully maintaining the ever-changing landscape is essential today, in face of our ability to impact the environment profoundly in such short time. Integrated policies and a deeper public understanding of the sense of place ultimately lead to the proper balance between all of the interests at hand.

Managing the Historic Rural Landscape provides the archaeological community with contemporary insight into an issue that has developed internationally, particularly over the past 50 years. Although focused on British policy, one of the many outstanding points of the book is its explanation of national policies in response to international and European policy making. The majority of the contributors are involved with Britain’s national policy agenda, which accounts for the primarily institutionalized viewpoint that sets the dominant tone of the book. Grenville consistently attempts to bring threads together, pointing out where similar issues are discussed. Although her editing may seem ultimately positive, at times it is not clear who is writing the article, or what the differences are between authors.

The short, concise articles provide a comfortable format for this policy-laden topic. As a book specifically about management, it makes sense of national policy and legislation by using actual case studies. These examples give the book relevance to a wider audience, particularly archaeologists in the United States, who are dealing with similar issues within a heavily institutionalized framework. In this way, the book provides an excellent overview of the values and practices of the British system as well as to the topic in general.

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Archaeology of Colonial Pensacola.
JUDITH A. BENSE, editor

Pensacola, Florida, is probably best known as a Navy town, a frequent site of hurricanes, and the home of the Blue Angels. As this volume documents, however, it is also one of the oldest sites of European occupation in the country and arguably has one of the most diverse and turbulent colonial histories anywhere in North America.

Tristan De Luna first settled Pensacola Bay in 1559, but the fledgling colony was destroyed by a hurricane after only five weeks. The Spanish did not resettle the area until 1698, in response to French presence in the Gulf of Mexico, and over the next 150 years Pensacola was governed variously by Spain, England, France, and the United States. It was also a home and active trading center at different times for the Panzacola, Apalache, Choctaw, Creek, Tallapoosa, Alibamos, and other Native American groups.

The settlement around the bay was destroyed by hurricanes, rebuilt, and relocated at least three times during the colonial period, which, although a tragedy for the unfortunate inhabitants of Pensacola, provides an unusually clear-cut physical periodicity for archaeologists. In 1964, Hale Smith directed a short excavation on Santa Rosa Island in the Bay of Pensacola, where the town was located between ca. 1723 and 1752, but no systematic archaeological work at the present site of Pensacola (settled in 1756) was done until some 20 years later. In that year, Judy Bense, who had just joined the faculty of the University of West Florida as a geoarchaeologist and prehistorian, was propelled into historical archaeology by witnessing a common-enough sight at that time on a construction project in the heart of historic Pensacola: “People were metal-detecting, collecting, digging and sharing with their children how to destroy an archaeological site in broad daylight in downtown Pensacola” (p. xv.).

Bense, together with her colleagues and students, developed a program of salvage, research, education, and public archaeology in collaboration with the city and citizens of Pensacola that has been underway since 1983. They lobbied for and succeeded in getting a city-wide ordinance and archaeological review process implemented and, since then, have combined University of West Florida field schools and research projects with salvage excavations, state and federal CRM programs and local volunteers to build one of the most successful community archaeological programs in the country. Archaeology of Colonial Pensacola is the first widely available synthesis of that public archaeology program’s accomplishments.

Bense’s introduction to the book is followed with two chapters by historians William Coker and Jane Dysart,