

D. Bas No = 001316

Yer No = md1316

JH.
050

Basic ideas and principles
for the safeguarding of
historical landscape

Hans Friedrich
WERKMEISTER



ÇEKÜL KÜTÜPHANESİ

DEMİRBAŞ NO. 2450

SINIFLAMA NO. 711.4/ WEB/ -

BAĞIŞCI

YILKAY BALIÇ

GELİŞ TARİHİ 15/09/2001

Basic Ideas and Principles for the Safeguarding of Historical Landscapes

In a strict definition of the term "historical landscapes", the word "historical" means "connected with an historical event". In this article the expression "historical" is to be extended to include all those landscapes providing evidence of the past and which are no longer self-supporting.

To these belong:—

prehistoric landscapes

e.g. places of worship on mountains

late prehistoric landscapes

e.g. sacred groves, blocks of stone with runes etc.

landscapes dating from the time of the early settlements

lake villages, moor settlements, salt roads, army roads, post roads etc.

historical town and village landscapes

e.g. gallows hills, battlefields in front of town gates etc.

landscapes connected with church history

e.g. monastery grounds, places of pilgrimage etc.

landscapes connected with popular history

e.g. sites of battles of particular importance.

The official safeguarding of objects of historic importance is undertaken by the authorities whose structure is described in part 1. The usual procedure for placing historic objects under official protection in Germany can be shown by the example of the State of Lower Saxony.

The stages are as follows:—

1. Recommendations usually come from the general public. These are submitted to a sub-department of the Department for the Protection of Natural Resources (Naturschutzbehörde), which in turn investigates the case by means of a committee consisting of independent laymen and specialists. (Naturschutzstelle)
2. If the recommendations are accepted by the local committee, they are then passed on to higher authorities in the Department for the Protection of Natural Resources. There they are examined by specialists as potential national monuments, protected landscapes or National Parks. The registration of the object or area

concerned is then confirmed by an announcement in the government circular. The authorities responsible possess both a map and a description of the area.

The procedure described above presupposes that any objections by those concerned can be overcome.

3. When considerable objections are raised by those affected, the case is decided by the highest authority of the department at state government level.

The official procedure as is described here seems awkward and long-winded. It should however be noted that a temporary protection of the object follows from the very moment that registration is applied for.

This procedure applies only to natural objects and landscapes. Man-made structures and buildings situated in the area are under the jurisdiction of the authority responsible for the preservation of national monuments (Denkmalsschutz). They are classed in the category of architecture or art history and are the responsibility of the individual state governments. Although a closer cooperation between the authorities for the protection of natural resources and national monuments is aimed at, it is by no means always satisfactorily achieved.

The principles according to which the protection of historic landscapes is carried out depend on general opinion and public awareness. Fortunately the increasing public awareness of our environment is helping to emphasise the necessity for the safeguarding of natural resources and public monuments.

It is essential that we are aware of the reason for putting an object under official protection. The purpose can be cultural or social utility. The feasibility of the project must also be considered — purely theoretical scientific methods certainly have their attractions, but they are often totally impracticable. This feasibility is more likely if the method includes a detailed catalogue of criteria which can be assessed either statistically or verbally. This set of criteria must however be flexible, so that the needs of individual objects can be catered for. For example, the prehistoric objects mentioned earlier could be assessed according to:—

uniqueness
rarity

importance as a typical example
traditional importance

It should also be mentioned here that the criteria could have different importance at different levels — for instance, at local, regional, national or global levels.

In order to establish some principles for the safeguarding of historic landscapes, there must be taken into consideration —

built-up areas

these often form the main content of a historic landscape. Here one must take into account both:

- a) the existing old structure
 - when rebuilding, the regulations must be observed,
 - additional financial aid must often be given for restoration.

and b) new constructions which in structure and design should be blended into the historic landscape.

natural vegetation

- a) the maintenance of the existing vegetation,
- b) eventual replanting.

Because here we are dealing with biological and therefore, relatively changeable material, intensive care and constant partial renewal or a complete replanting may be needed.

All the existing norms and recommendations can only be effective, if the awareness and the wishes of the public identify with them. This, however, often entails a voluntary or compulsory restriction of personal freedom. For example, someone living in the protected area might be restricted in his economic effectiveness, or current measures concerning the infrastructure may have to be abolished or changed. Whatever the case may be, the people's awareness that they are giving their contribution to the safeguarding of their cultural heritage, or that of the whole of mankind, is the deciding factor. Laws alone are a blunt instrument. They can only be fully successful if the understanding, the will and, where possible, the enthusiasm of the population ensure that they are carried out.

Dr. Hans Friedrich Werkmeister