Credibility in the absence of legitimacy

Katie McClymont (UWE Bristol)

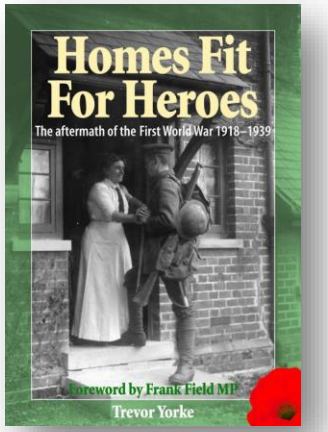
Adam Sheppard (UWE Bristol)

Credibility and legitimacy

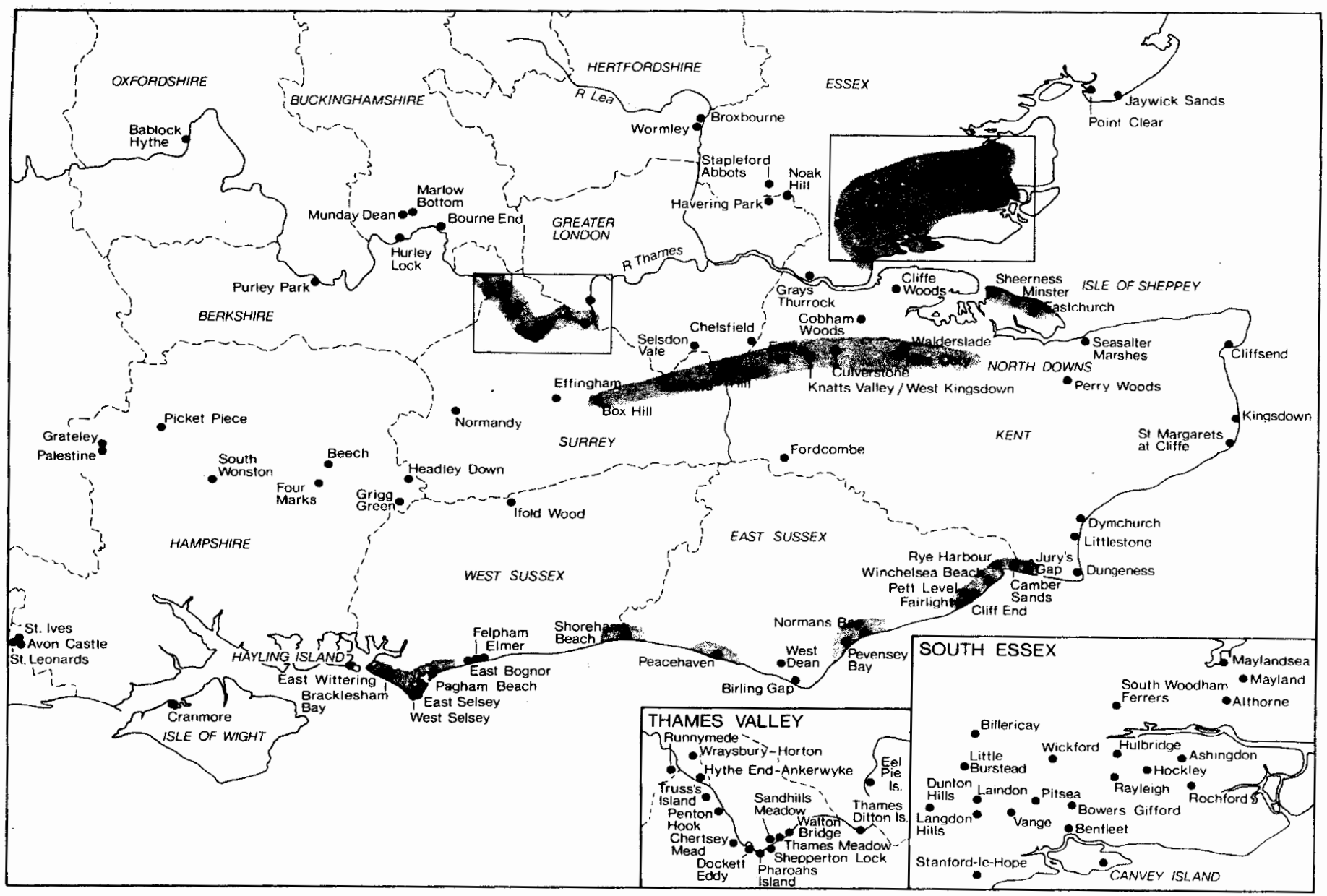
- Credibility without State defined legitimacy?

- *"….credibility is here defined as "the perception of endogenously, autonomously shaped institutions as a common arrangement." Therefore, credibility is a measure of how actors' perceive institutions as a jointly shared rule."* (Ho, P. 2014. Pg. 16)

Plotlands – *the Interwar Phenomenon*



- Availability of land
- Economic challenges, political changes
- Social change
- Quest for home ownership
- Demand for housing post WWI – 'Homes for heroes'
- Societal expectations, State intentions (1909 Act) = derived credibility
- Transport enabled 'commuting'
- **'Quest for arcadia'**
- Breakup of land ownership
- Declining farm fortunes
- 'Holiday homes' and holiday time
- Land sales
- Speculators – land purchase, division (grid derived plots), resale
- Legislative weaknesses / inadequacy



South-East England: plotlands in the 1930s.

Hardy, D & Ward, C (1984) *Arcadia for All: The Legacy of a Makeshift Landscape*. London: Mansell

“The Plotland settlers were quite often described as squatters, with the word being used as a term of abuse. It was, in fact, inaccurate since most had paid for their sites…”

(Ward, C. 2002. Pg. 158)


Copyright © 2011 Hamish Fenton

Plotlands – *Alignment with the Zeitgeist*

William Webb-Ellis, of Port Meirion fame*:*

"It was easy to do nothing but revile those who thus spoiled the country with nauseous little buildings, or merely to laugh darkly at their tragic failure to achieve an imagined rusticity. But it was unjust, cynical and lazy – like cursing a stricken family because in escaping from its burning home it trespassed over lawns and flower-beds"

(William Webb-Ellis cited in Hardy and Ward, 1984: 39)

"I know Ern South, of 'Maple Leaf' in Berry Drive, didn't wanted [sic] to leave his house unless he could move somewhere similar. But where else could be similar?"

(Walker, D. 2001. Pg. 112)

"…a means of achieving a simple but fulfilling life, the elusive goal of townsfolk then and since……"…As an expression of libertarian ideals, there is much to be found in the Plotlands. In their way they embraced powerful elements of a persisting popular dream: property of one's own, a house built with one's own hands, mutual aid in place of external controls, and a rustic setting with all that could be."

(Hardy, D and Ward, C. 1984. Pg. 29).

Low-Impact Development

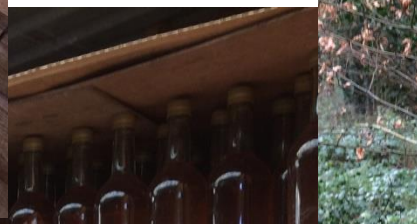
- ‘off-grid’
- Sustainable development
- Hippies?
- Less mainstream rural development, including those engaged in land-based livelihoods and low impact settlements

- Lack of consistent policy approach in the English system

Source: Guardian/Alex McNaughton


Put a handfull of
sawdust in the
loo after your poo
Thank You


TINKERS
BUBBLE
Apple Juice
FOR SALE



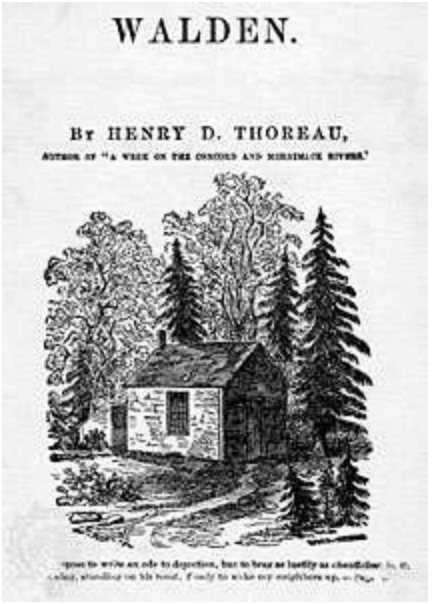

STACK 9
BRAMLEY
BATCH N°
154
152
152
152
152
Skea Organics

Low Impact Development: a greater credibility (denied)?

planning has 'neglected to acknowledge the wider benefits to the biosphere' (The Crossing Crowdfunder, 2017, no page numbers). They describe themselves as part of 'the small army of people who are ready and willing to commit to a life of small scale, low impact farming, to work co-operatively to produce food for their communities' (The Crossing Crowdfunder, 2017, no page numbers),

'the SCW have been experimenting with permaculture food growing and woodland management, I consider that these activities are not of a scale that amounts to farming or forestry in the context of criterion a) of Policy COR2. Neither do I consider that these activities can be properly described as small scale development for the growth of an existing business in the meaning of criterion d) that Policy, in that the project at SCW began as an experiment in permaculture and has continued on the basis of temporary permissions. It is therefore not an established business in the context of Policy COR2. (Freer, 2016, p18-19)'

Plotlands and Low Impact Development- common concerns?

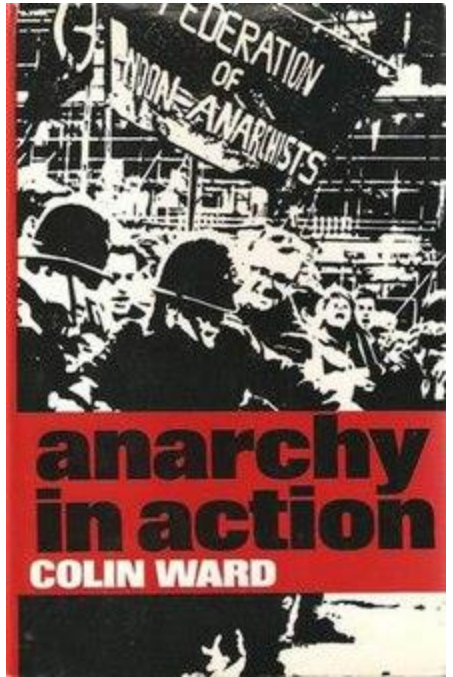


Credibility from 'the aggregate perceptions of institutions as a common arrangement' (Ho, 2016, p18)

The idea(l) of rural England

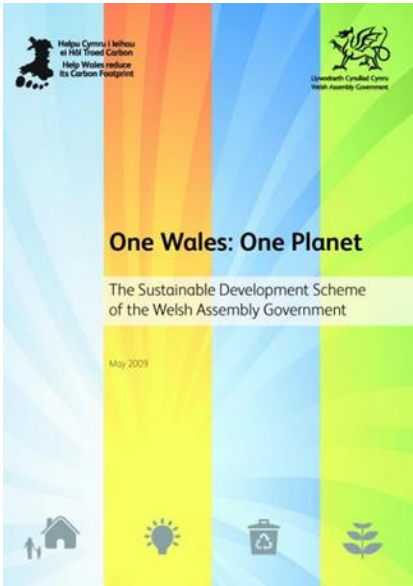
- Credibility derived from alignment with intention and motivations, and a parallel (if poorly defined) State intent/zeitgeist
  - Legitimacy lacking due to inadequacy of State construct?
  - Inability of the State to provide, or provide adequately?
  - Inherent limitations of a regulatory construct?

- **Legitimacy beyond the state?**



Conclusion/further questions

- Can State instruments better enable capacity for credibility to be legitimised?
- Rules and policy versus situated discretion?
- Possibility of accommodating different lifestyles based on very different understandings of society



UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

Questions?

Katie.McClymont@uwe.ac.ak

Adam.Sheppard@uwe.ac.uk