

New lives, new landscapes: rural modernism in 20th century Britain

**Thursday 1 - Friday 2 August 2019
Northumbria University, Newcastle**

In association with the Institute of the Humanities,
Northumbria University

Convenors:

Professor Matthew Kelly, Northumbria University

Dr Ben Anderson, Keele University

Dr Katrina Navickas, University of Hertfordshire

Dr Iain Robertson, University of the Highlands and
Islands

Linda Ross, University of the Highlands and Islands

Dr Ian Waites, University of Lincoln



The British Academy

Day 1: Thursday 1 August 2019

09:00 *Registration and refreshments*

09:30 Professor Matthew Kelly (Northumbria University)
Introduction

Session 1: Energy

09:45 Linda Ross (University of Highlands and Islands)
Nuclear modernity: countering the Highland narrative

Dr Marianna Dudley (University of Bristol)
New power generation: the development of renewable energy in
post-war Britain

Dr Grace Millar (University of Wolverhampton)
'The deliberate, premeditated murder of an industry':
modernisation and campaigns against pit closures in the
nationalised British coal industry, 1947-1994

11:15 *Refreshments*

Session 2: Sight/Site

11:30 Professor Clare Griffiths (Cardiff University)
Scenic modernity? Cooling towers, aesthetics and the English
landscape

Dr Jeremy Burchardt (University of Reading)
'What to Look For' in a changing countryside: Ladybird Books
and the representation of rural modernity, 1959-1980

Dr Moa Carlsson (University of Edinburgh),
Brokering rurality: computer aided visions of the postwar
industrial landscape

13:00 *Lunch and posters*

Session 3: Heritage

14:00 Gary Willis (University of Bristol)
Fields into Factories: the impact on the post-war rural landscape
of Britain's Second World War, 1936-1946

Dr Iain Robertson (University of Highlands and Islands)
'Heritage from below': rural modernism and the curious case of
the Hebridean wind farms

Professor Paul Readman (Kings College London)
Martial landscapes: modernity, the military and the past in 20th
century Britain

15:30 *Refreshments*

Session 4: Crafting

15:45 Professor Kristin Bluemel (Monmouth University)
Modern impressions: print culture, rural change, and the 1930s
wood engraving revival

Professor Ysanne Holt (Northumbria University)
'Think Rural: Act Now': Northern Arts Association and some
rural contexts

Professor Karen Sayer (Leeds Trinity University)
Producing farm recreation: landscapes of modernity and
amenity

17:15 End of first day of conference

Day 2: Friday 2 August 2019

09:15 *Registration and refreshments*

Session 5: Landscape

09:45 Dr Katrina Navickas (University of Hertfordshire)
Amenity and modern structures: The Southern Pennines, c.
1950-70

Dr Ian Waites (University of Lincoln)
The post-war British power station as rural picturesque
ornament

Dr Otto Saumarez Smith (University of Warwick)
The shifting meanings of derelict landscapes in 1970s planning
documents

11:15 *Refreshments*

Session 6: Mobilities

11:30 Dr Ben Anderson (Keele University)
Landscaping for leisure: mountain biking as an inscription

Dr Sian Edwards (University of Winchester)
'Bright lights on the horizon': modernity and the rural teenager
in post-war England

Jeremy Goffin (University of Lincoln)
The impact of surfing on coastal environments, through the lens
of a wave

13:00 *Lunch and posters*

Session 7: Round table

14:00 **Panelists:**
Dr Rosemary Shirley (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Professor David Matless (University of Nottingham)
Professor William Whyte (University of Oxford)

15:00 *Refreshments*

15.15 **Session 8: Next steps**

16:30 End of conference