

Landscape Memory as a Planning Tool: Integrating Eco-Cultural Heritage into Land Consolidations and Landscape Planning

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Historical landscape structures, such as ancient path networks, traditional boundary hedges, and historical field patterns, represent a crucial yet frequently neglected component of our eco-cultural heritage. In contemporary spatial planning, these elements are often overlooked and replaced by large-scale monocultural fields. This practice leads to a severe loss of regional landscape identity, reduced biodiversity, and a significant decrease in natural water retention capacity. This paper demonstrates how landscape memory—reconstructed through a combination of stable cadastres, old military mappings, historical aerial photography or modern satellite and aerial data—can be systematically integrated into practical planning processes. Specifically, we focus on Complex Land Consolidations and Landscape Plans as the primary legislative and technical instruments for rural development. By identifying persistent landscape lines and restoring historical segments, planners can effectively design robust Territorial Systems of Ecological Stability (ÚSES), enhance rainwater infiltration, and mitigate severe soil erosion. Furthermore, resurrecting these historical elements strengthens local cultural identity and provides new opportunities for recreational and educational use. Using specific model areas, this interdisciplinary study proves that reviving landscape memory is not a sentimental return to the past. Instead, it serves as a highly functional, data-driven strategy for mitigating climate change impacts and building resilient, culturally rich rural landscapes for future generations.

