ECOVAST AUSTRIA

European Council of the Village and Small Town

SMALL HISTORIC TOWNS & their Landscapes along the „EUROPEAN GreenBelt“ that follows the former (?) Iron Curtain

Focus: Central European Section
Andorra La Vella, October 2015
...New Iron curtains in Europe? September 2015...
Thanks a lot for your interest – Gracias ;-)

ECOVAST AUSTRIA & INTERNATIONAL
www.ecovast.org

Core-Team ECOVAST AUSTRIA

Brigitte K. Macaria, PhD
ECOVAST Austria
Secretary General
1090 Vienna
AUSTRIA
Sobieskigasse 9/14
Phone: +43 (0)1 317 37 26
Mob.: +43 (0)660 14 24 005
Email: b.macaria@a1.net

Arthur Spiegler, PhD
ECOVAST Austria & International
Vice President of Ecovast International
Chairman of Landscape Working Group
1180 Vienna
Austria
Pötzleinsdorfer Strasse 34
Phone/Telefax: +43 (0)1 479 78 35
Email: a.spiegler@reflex.at
Matrix for landscape identification

List of determining character elements

10 Feelings and associations
9 Historic features (e.g. castles, monasteries, archaeological sites)
8 Other man-made features (e.g. industry, tourism, infrastructure)
7 Characteristic features of houses and settlements
6 Characteristic features and patterns of agriculture and forestry
5 Land cover (vegetation, wildlife, habitats)
4 Soil
3 Land form (geomorphology)
2 Climate (hydrology, rivers, lakes, glaciers)
1 Rocks (surface geology)
ECOVAST
Landscape Identification
A guide to good practice
March 2009
Matrix for landscape identification

PR – GREENNET - GRABFELD (DE)
"The Two Sentinels"

List of determinant character elements
(Number in brackets indicate the sum of the red points given by the participants. dominating=80-100%; strong 50-80%; moderate: 20-50%; low <20% of the highest sum of points collected in a line)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Character Element</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Feeling and associations (e.g. emotions, associations)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Historic features (e.g. castles, monasteries, archaeological sites)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other man-made features (e.g. industry, tourism, infrastructure)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Characteristic features of houses and settlements</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Characteristic features of agriculture and forestry</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Land cover (vegetation, wildlife, habitats)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Landform (geomorphology)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Climate (hydrology, rivers, lakes, glaciers)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rocks (surface geology)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of the Landscape unit: Grabfeld (DE)
Elevation from approximately 300 m up to 679 m (Gleichberg)

The area consists of two distinct zones: There are the eastern parts of the Rhön mountains and the Bavarian portion of Grabfeld.

Relative strength of the features (graduation 1-4): dominating strong moderate low

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Smooth, harmonic hill land</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Historic border area</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Linear land countryside structures/Green Belt</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Compact settlements, traditional house features</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Wide, open fields and green land, „Talaue“</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forests on hilltops, linear shrubs extending into fields, various orchards</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The two higher „Gleichberge“ and lower extending hill land</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Geology is visible indirectly (vegetation)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short description: Wide, smooth, low, open landscape, with the „Two Guardians“, the „Gleichberge“, (basalt cores). They are distinctly higher than the surrounding lines of hills, carrying wood at their top. This low, open green land is called “Talaue”, using an old German, almost poetic term (like Goethe and others). From the woods on top of the hills, lines of trees and bushes often are extending into the farmland. The Green Belt itself is a clear, distinct landscape structure. The geology is indirectly visible through the differentiation of the vegetation and the different landform (Keuper, Buntsandstein, Basalt). The villages are built in a very compact way (very rare single houses in the countryside). The house forms show traditional features like wooden frameworks, covered with shingle plates that carry ornaments.

Additional comments: In this open and smooth – not totally flat – landscape, longer stretches of the “Green Belt” very often are still remarkable clear visible, causing a linear structure. This specific situation is preserved through measures of “agricultural land care”.

View over the wide, open fields, in the regional German terminology called “Auen”, surrounded by ridges of low hills. The latter carrying forests mostly at their top. Some “solitaires”, a few orchards (not visible in this picture) and rare linear landscape elements.